

MONSIGNOR ROONEY DEAD.

HE PASSED AWAY ON THURSDAY MORNING.

Seventy-two Years of Age; Born in Armagh, Ireland; Came to Canada Fifty-three Years Ago; A Sketch of a Grand and Noble Career.

It is thus the Empire gives the account of Mgr. Rooney's death: Although the veteran priest has been ailing for three years past, and was at the point of death a year ago, his sudden demise this morning will be a shock to the people of the Roman Catholic faith of the city.

On Saturday last the aged prelate visited His Grace Archbishop Walsh at his residence on Sherbourne street, and paid his respects to the head of the church in Toronto. He had his medical adviser's permission to make the trip, and returned to his residence during the afternoon, evidently much brightened by the interview with His Grace. That night Rev. Father Rooney's strength failed him, and one sinking spell followed another until death.

Father Rooney was a whole-souled Irishman, whose great heart found a charitable word for everybody, and whose work among the poor of the city will be greatly remembered by the thousands who have shared his mite.

AN INCIDENT BEFORE DEATH.

Ill unto death as he was on Christmas morning, he desired to give his blessing to all who called upon him. A lady of his parish told last evening of a pathetic scene she witnessed at his bedside on the afternoon of Christmas day. A poor woman who has been kept for years from starvation by the deceased was kneeling at his bedside and asked his blessing. Turning to her he held his hands above her head and pronounced the benediction, after which he said, "It will not be long before I shall make your wants known personally to God."

REV. FATHER ROONEY'S CAREER.

Francis Patrick Rooney was born in the county of Armagh, Ireland, where he received his classical education in the diocesan seminary. About the time he was finishing it was commonly reported that Father Dowd, who was well known in that part of the country, was to be appointed coadjutor bishop of Toronto. This determined Father Rooney to come to Canada, and writing Bishop de Charbonnel he received a letter in reply which was a most cordial invitation. Father Rooney reached this city in July, 1853. When St. Michael's College opened the following September he entered upon his theological course, and became prefect of studies. He continued in the college as professor until after his ordination as priest, which took place August 30, 1857. He remained in the college for a year, combining with his duties as professor that of parish priest of St. Basil's. The following summer he was appointed pastor of St. Paul's. This parish was at that time in a state of excitement and anger. It required prudence and firmness to adjust matters. Father Rooney, notwithstanding his inexperience, acted with such caution and determination that in a short time he had the satisfaction of reigning over a peaceful and united people. For 12 years he labored at St. Paul's earnestly, zealously and successfully. When he took charge of the parish there was no presbytery; he built a large one, which stands to-day. He provided for the spiritual wants of the people in repairing and decorating the church, in establishing new schools and enlarging old ones, and equipping all at his own personal expense.

WHAT HE DID FOR SEPARATE SCHOOLS.

At this time the separate schools were in their infancy; the means at their disposal for their sustentation were very limited. It was largely owing to the efforts of Father Rooney, who purchased school sites and erected school houses, that the separate schools of Toronto were brought out of the swaddling clothes of poverty, weakness and inefficiency and placed in the satisfactory position they occupy to-day. Father Rooney's influence was soon felt. He had secured not only the hearts of his own people, but also the respect and confidence of the many Protestants in the city who knew him. Archbishop Lynch ap-

pointed him vicar-general in 1867, an appointment which met with universal approval. When Archbishop Lynch died, Vicar-General Rooney was appointed co-administrator of the diocese with the late lamented Father Laurent. This appointment was made at Rome and lasted until Archbishop Walsh was inducted to his high office. In 1870 Vicar-General Rooney was appointed parish priest of St. Mary's, where it was thought necessary that a brilliant executive mind should dominate. He found the parish disunited and its finances in bad shape. The first fruit of his labor in the new field was the building of St. Helen's church at Brockton. A presbytery for St. Mary's was next erected. He next purchased land at the corner of Bloor and Bathurst streets, where a school was soon erected. Mass is said in this building every Sunday. Following in quick succession came several separate schools in the parish, until at last the parish is one of the most flourishing in the province. All this is to a large extent due to the zeal and prudence of Father Rooney, who watched and fostered it for the past twenty-three years. Last year he was signally honored when he was created a noble of the church, with the title of Monsignor, conferred by His Holiness the Pope. Beloved by all who knew him, he died leaving his name inseparably connected with the history of the Catholic Church in Toronto during the past forty years. In the parishes where he had served his name is a household word, and for many years to come he will be remembered as a holy priest, a noble man and a true friend to the poor and needy.

SIR JOHN'S FUNERAL.

ALL ARRANGEMENTS PERFECTED.

The Order of the State Funeral at Halifax—Draping of the Legislative Council Chamber—Their Excellencies' Tribute.

Halifax, N.S., Dec. 27.—The following order was issued by the military authorities to-day.

Headquarters, Halifax, N.S., Dec. 27.

H.M.S. Blenheim, with the remains of the late Premier of the Dominion on board, being due here Monday, 31st. inst., the officer commanding the Royal Artillery will be prepared to fire 15 minute guns as vessel approaches the harbor, five from MacNab's Island, five from York Redoubt and five from George's Island, which last will be fired by Halifax Garrison Artillery under Royal Artillery supervision. When the ship anchors the staff officer will proceed on board at once and receive the report of the Captain for the Lieutenant-General. On being landed at Ordnance Yard the remains will be received by a guard of honor of three officers, 100 rank and file, King's Regiment, and will be at once placed on a gun-carriage in charge of Royal Artillery, which will then proceed direct to Provincial building, guard of honor filing off right and left of gun-carriage, which will be preceded by band playing Dead March. At the Provincial building the remains will be moved from the gun-carriage by 12 selected non-commissioned officers of the Garrison, under Garrison Sergt.-Major, and handed over to the civil authorities. The above arrangements are published subject to modification. Details for funeral will be made known hereafter. By command, (Signed)

DUDLEY NORTH, Colonel.

The draping of the interior of the Legislative Council Chamber is nearing completion. The whole interior is covered with black, relieved with purple about the doors and windows. Silver trimmings are yet to be added. A double row of incandescent lamps have been placed over the main doorway. While the body lies in state in the catafalque erected just opposite the main doorway, the public will enter through one of the two small doorways and pass out through the other. There will be a railing erected from the doors down the centre of the stairway and out the main hallway to the door. To avoid crushing people wishing to view the remains will be required to enter on one side of the rail and leave on the other.

The following, it is thought, will be the order of the funeral, although ar-

rangements are not yet officially completed, and the order may be subjected to some changes:

Squad of Police.
Band 66th P.L.F.
Company 66th P.L.F.
Blue Jackets from H.M.S. Blenheim.
Charitable Irish Society.
Barristers Societies, N.S., and other Societies.
Senate and Faculty Dalhousie College.
Council City Halifax.
Liberal-Conservative Association, Antigonish.
Floral Tributes.
Deputation from Department of Justice, Ottawa.
Officiating Clergy.
Cabinet Ministers' Floral Tribute.
Pall Bearers.
Funeral Car.
Ministers' Crown.
Chief Mourners and Relatives.
Governor-General and Staff.
General Montgomery Moore and Staff.
Lieutenant-Governors Provinces.
Archbishops and Bishops.
The Speaker of the Senate.
Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada.
Chief Justices of Courts of Law and Equity.
Members of the Privy Council not of the Cabinet.
Solicitor-General and Comptrollers of Customs and Inland Revenue.
General Officers Army and Militia.
Members of the Senate.
Speaker of the House of Commons.
Puisne Judges of the Supreme Court of Canada.
Puisne Judges of Courts of Law and Equity.
Members of the House of Commons.
Members of the Provincial Executive Councils.
Speakers of the Provincial Legislative Councils.
Members of the Provincial Legislative Councils.
Speakers of the Provincial Legislative Assemblies.
Members of the Provincial Legislative Assemblies.
Naval and Military Officers.
Non-officiating clergy.
Band 63rd Rifles.
Company of 63rd Rifles.
Foreign consuls and representatives.
Deputy Ministers.
Intercolonial Railway deputation.
Grand Trunk Railway deputation.
Canadian Pacific Railway deputation.
Warden and Council Halifax County.
Representatives Press.
Town and Municipal Council and deputation of citizens of Antigonish.
North British Society.
St. George's Society.
Mayors and Councils from cities and towns, precedence from west.
Deputations of Boards of Trade, precedence from west.
N.S. Historical Society.
N.S. Institute of Natural Science.
Representatives and Officers of the Maritime Penitentiary.
Young Men's Literary Association.
Political organizations, precedence from west.
Band.
Citizens.
Guard of Honor will consist of one from King's Regiment and one from the Militia, probably the 66th Princess Louise Fusiliers.

The rest of the forces, both regular and local, will line the streets through which the funeral will pass. It has been arranged that Bishop Cameron, of Antigonish, will officiate at the funeral service at St. Mary's Cathedral and Archbishop O'Brien will preach.

THEIR EXCELLENCIES' TRIBUTES.

The pall which Their Excellencies have ordered for use at the late Sir John Thompson's funeral is completed. It is simple and rich, with very little ornamentation. It is made of the finest sheenest white Irish poplin, thirteen feet long by eight broad. The cross extends from one end to the other, and is of dense cloth of gold; the cross is outlined with gold cord which Her Excellency and Lady Marjorie have sewed on personally. The pall is bordered with gold fringe and tassels. Probably the only wreath on the coffin will be the one from Her Majesty the Queen. The maple wreath from Their Excellencies will be at the foot of the coffin; the wreath from the Ministers in the shape of a crown will be carried by four men.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE SCHOOL QUESTION:

To the Editor of THE TRUE WITNESS:

SIR,—This vexed question appears to affect not only the people of Montreal, but those of the whole Province of Quebec, as is evident from the many correspondents who contribute weekly to THE TRUE WITNESS. Some of these able contributors lay particular stress and draw public attention to the way in which "Diplomas" are awarded to parties seeking the responsible position of teachers, having passed a preliminary examination.

Now, Mr. Editor, with your kind permission, I would wish to offer a few remarks, and in doing so it is not my intention to enter into minute detail on the subject, or in any wise, even by insinuation, wound the tender susceptibilities of the most effeminate, or ruffle the tranquility which seems to pervade a certain section of the community. But to begin. Is the holding a "Diploma" a sufficient guarantee of a duly qualified teacher?

Certainly not. It only goes to show that that person made a certain percentage in certain subjects at an examination before perhaps a Board of examiners, and no more. A diploma does not prove that the holder is capable of imparting knowledge, of inculcating sound moral principles, and of moulding the minds of the youths committed to the care of such persons. To my mind a diploma is a crying evil, and one that should be remedied in order to arrive at the point of those ambitious of having a good sound educational system established not only in a secular, but also religious point of view. Again, we have it stated, that the market is crowded with incompetent and incapable teachers. Could it be otherwise?—in face of the fact of the miserable pittance doled out to them by a Board of irresponsible school commissioners, not representing the views, the wishes, or the aspirations of the taxpayers. What talented young man would enter the field of such narrow enterprise, with no hope of promotion, no increase of revenue, no inducement to still further develop the latent talents which lie smoldering in his bosom? It is reasonable to expect that attention would be turned to something more congenial and less laborious than giving their youthful days without any hope of the future save a shattered constitution, and, in all probability, poverty and a premature grave.

Therefore, if I be allowed to offer a suggestion to those interested in so far as the education of the rising generation is concerned, remodel the school-board and have it elective, representative of the people; establish a regular increasing scale of salary, increasing according to merit, proficiency, and competency; and finally, the office of Inspector to be thrown open to competition before a properly constituted tribunal; in a word, by competitive examination. And again, establish a central training school for those aspiring to the important office of teacher, for the purpose of testing their competency, and infusing into their minds the respect due to the great and vital principles of Truth and Honesty.

J. O'S. B.

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COUNTRY SCHOOLS.

To the Editor of THE TRUE WITNESS:

DEAR SIR,—I agree with almost everything Mr. McClosky, of Chelsea, says, in your issue of this week, concerning the ease with which postulant's are made school teachers by means of a farce.

I was, and I am, perhaps, now, the only examiner on the Board for the County of Ottawa, whose natural tongue is English. The secretary receives notice one month in advance from all aspirants. He might, it seems, give the members of the Board a week's notice of the meetings for examinations, for there are not always applicants. As a matter of fact, I have generally received my notices through the mail two or three hours after the time fixed for the ordeal; and as I live eight miles from the rendezvous, and have generally to fix my appointments a few days ahead, you may well imagine that I am conspicuously absent, and Mr. Secretary, who hails from the South of France, alone decides upon the qualifications in Anglo-Saxon of those who come before him.

The same gentleman is School Inspector. (You remember the old joke of the teacher in Massam, whose school was still held up as an actual model by the inspector four years after her death.) In his reports to the Government he persistently protests against the absence of the commissioners during his perfunctory visits.

As chairman, during eight years, of the Aylmer School Board, I can fearlessly assert the Inspector never condescended to give any notice of his *trap door* apparitions to our commissioners, unless happening casually to meet one of the unfortunates on the way, he would bend himself to the withering remark that the commissioners would be expected next day at nine a.m. to meet Pantagruel.

THOS. P. FORAN.

Aylmer, 27 December, 1894.

At High Mass yesterday, the Rev. Father Quinlivan spoke powerfully on the subject of drink; he said it was responsible for a large proportion of the poverty that existed in the parish and asked the parishioners to make every effort to abstain from it during the coming year.