

Written for the Record.

Watching.

With the stars set in the sky,
And our hearts set in the sky,
We are watching—ever watching,
Watching through the midnight gloom,
Watching for each hope that gleams
Through the darkness of our dream,
Ever watching.

Watching from the shore each sail
Swept by sweet and generous gale,
We are watching—ever watching,
Watching in the sky so bright,
Stars that once gave peerless light,
Quench'd behind the clouds of gloom,
How our hearts watch in each tomb,
Ever watching.

Watching from each mountain peak
Freedom dawn for ever watching,
We are watching—ever watching,
Watching for a brighter hour,
More of truth and less of power,
Hearts that beat with muffled roll—
Manhood's pure and struggling soul,
Ever watching.

Watching from our tent of tears,
Watching through our strength of years,
We are watching—ever watching,
Watching for the dawn of morn,
Before the ripening corn,
Watching hope for every birth,
Wing its way from heaven to earth,
Ever watching.

—THOMAS O'HAGAN.

THE LATE ARCHBISHOP HANNAN.

Eloquent Oration of Father Wissell.

Halifax Recorder, April 22.

From an early hour this morning, people were flocking from all directions to St. Mary's Cathedral, to be present at the closing solemnities over the remains of Archbishop Hannan. At 8 o'clock, every seat in the Cathedral was filled, and standing room could not be obtained within the sacred edifice. The streets on the route of the cortege were crowded, and walls, fences, and even trees bore their living weight, all anxious to behold the pageant that will attend the tribute of respect to the most revered of our prelates.

At 8 o'clock in St. Mary's the office for the dead was sung by all the Bishops and Priests present in the city. After this had been gone through with, Rt. Rev. Bishop Sweeney, of St. John, celebrated Solemn High Mass, assisted by the Very Rev. Monsignor Power, as Deacon, Rev. Fr. O'Brien, of Prince Edward Island, as Sub Deacon, and Father Dowd, of Montreal, as Assistant Priest. Rev. Father Murphy officiated as Master of Ceremonies. Among the clergymen within the Chancel were Bishop Fabre, of Montreal, Bishop Cameron, of Arichat, Bishop McIntyre, of Prince Edward Island, and Bishop Rogers, of Charlottetown, N. B. Nearest to the close of the Mass the Rev. Father Wissell of the Redemptorist Fathers, delivered the following funeral oration over the late Archbishop of Halifax, N. S., the Most Rev. Michael Hannan, D. D.

"Remember your Prelates who have spoken the word of God to you, and who have considered the end of their conversation."—Hebr. 13:7.

All on a sudden the hand of God has struck us. He has taken away our chief Pastor. Once more the Church is left a widow. Who would have thought of it when two weeks ago the exercises of the Mission were going on under the auspices and with the blessing of the Most Rev. Archbishop, that to-day this Cathedral would be thronged to mourn over his death? When might I kneel at his feet to catch his blessing? For the sermon, how little did I think of the awful duty devolving upon me to-day, to stand over his lifeless form and pronounce his funeral oration. "Oh how incomprehensible are the judgments of God and how unsearchable His ways." Rom. 11, 33. The unexpected event has cast a deep gloom over the whole city, and every stroke of the tolling bell seems to drive the sword of grief deeper into the hearts of the people.

But let us for a few moments put a check to our grief, to hear the solemn lesson which St. Paul teaches us in this mournful occasion: "Remember your Prelates." We are therefore to learn a threefold lesson—first, never to forget those who have worked for our salvation here on earth, secondly, to reflect on their holy lives and their pious conversation in this world; and, thirdly, to imitate their virtues; all of which resolve to deal with regard to our most beloved Archbishop before his remains are consigned to their last resting place.

1. How shall we remember the dear Prelate whose soul is already gone from us? We shall indeed hold in grateful remembrance all he has done for the good of souls in his diocese, the thousands of acts of kindness he has shown to his people—but above everything must we be mindful of him in our prayers and fervent supplications. Let us not be carried away by the high esteem we have had for him, so as to believe his soul to be in heaven already. Holy Church forbids us to do so, and, therefore, she gathers the Bishops and Priests from great distances around the altar to offer up prayers, and especially the holy sacrifice of the Mass for the soul of a deceased Prelate. And there are strong reasons for it. St. Peter tells us "that the just man shall scarcely be saved before the tribunal of God." 1 Peter, 4, 17, 18; i. e. shall be found so pure as to deserve to be admitted to the beatific vision without delay. "For even a just man shall fall seven times," Prov. 24, 61. St. John relates in the Apocalypse that he was commanded by the Lord Jesus himself to write to certain Bishops of his time assuring them of the great satisfaction they gave to the Lord by their great patience and endurance for His Holy name, and by the great amount of good they did, but still, "that he had against them a few things" which required them to amend to avoid punishment. Apoc. 2. St. Paul I, Cor. 3, 11, 15, compares the works of the just with a lump of unrefined gold mixed with a quantity of foreign substances, which is to be tried by fire. A man's life may be full of virtues to which, however, many imperfections may be attached, that remain to be removed. "The man himself shall be saved, yet so as by fire."

Not must we forget what the wise man says of the judgment over those who are placed as Rulers over the people: "Power is given you by the Lord and strength by the Most High, who will examine your works and search out your thoughts. . . . horribly and speedily will he appear to you; for a most severe judgment shall be for them that bear rule." Wisd. 6, 4, 6.

The late Archbishop, whose soul was full of faith, was truly sensible of this. For in the paper which he handed to the worthy priest whom he appointed as his

administrator, he wrote these words: "I beg of you to ask the priests and the people often to pray for me." And were he permitted to rise from his bed, what would he say to us now concerning this humble request? A Bishop descends into the grave in full pontificals. Holy Church orders a Bishop to be buried, attired as he is at the most solemn functions of the Church, nor are these insignias of his sublime office taken from him, with the exception of the pastoral staff, because his administration is closed. What is the meaning of all this, but that the dying Bishop must appear before the tribunal of Christ as a Bishop.

Remember, therefore, your prelate who has spoken the word of God to you, and lovingly faith must manifest itself by good works. Every good tree bringeth forth good fruit. . . . An evil tree cannot bring forth good fruit." Matt. 7, 17, 18.

What a life of virtue has just now been brought to a close by the death of our most venerable Prelate! Divine faith planted in his infant soul by baptism, was constantly and most abundantly irrigated by Divine Grace, "and that grace in him hath not been void." 1 Cor. 15, 10. Michael Hannan was born of pious Catholic parents on the 20th July, 1827, at Kilmallock, near Limerick, Ireland. From his early boyhood the true religion inherited from his pious ancestors, who had preserved it for him amidst so many trials, took full possession of his soul. As a young boy he felt himself drawn to God, and his only ambition was to consecrate himself to God entirely in the holy priesthood, not, indeed, "for filthy lucre's sake." 1 Pet. 5, 2; for his parents were wealthy—but to promote the glory of God, and the salvation of souls. For this purpose he devoted the earlier years of his youth to the study of Latin and Greek literature, in which he made remarkable progress. It required a great sacrifice to aspire to the priesthood in those days in Ireland, but young Hannan was ready for it; yet, more than that, he thought to devote himself to the foreign missions in a country in which nothing but hardships were in store for him. When a little over 18 years of age he came out to Nova Scotia, "not considering to flesh and blood." Gal. 1, 16, leaving father, mother, brothers and sisters, to go into a foreign land to propagate the kingdom of Christ. He came to finish his philosophical and theological studies here in the College of St. Mary's, recently established by the celebrated Dean O'Brien. At the same time he taught younger students their classics. Not yet a priest, he assisted others in the same holy cause. He taught class in the same room in which he was laid out after his death. Little did the youthful Professor Hannan think that after forty years he would lie dead as Archbishop in that room. On 27th July, 1845, he was elevated to the Priesthood by Archbishop Walsh, and was immediately charged with the same duties, that he was laid out after his death. Little did the youthful Professor Hannan think that after forty years he would lie dead as Archbishop in that room. On 27th July, 1845, he was elevated to the Priesthood by Archbishop Walsh, and was immediately charged with the same duties, that he was laid out after his death. Little did the youthful Professor Hannan think that after forty years he would lie dead as Archbishop in that room.

He was strong in his Catholic faith, professed it publicly, preached it and had others to preach it, in its purity of doctrine, but he respected everybody's feelings, understanding well the human heart, which is most sensitive in regard to religious tenets, and he was an enemy to religious strife and the warring of bitter tongues, that loses but gains nothing. "He became all to all to gain all."—1 Cor. 9, 22. He was a true servant of him "who will have all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth."—1 Tim. 2, 4.

Archbishop Hannan was most grateful for this universal sentiment of love and respect, and he gave utterance to his gratitude in his letter to the good priest to whom he entrusted his Diocese after his death, saying that he feels obliged to make provision "for a Diocese from whose people during forty years he had received so much kindness."

As a Bishop, Hannan was as a priest so he was as a Bishop. The dignity of the episcopacy caused only this change in his life, that it brought his virtues to greater lustre. He fully realized the position, together with the responsibility of a Bishop. Knowing that the salvation of the souls of the whole Diocese depended on him, he respected the losses that he would incur if he were to fail in his duty. He had churches built, he added to the number of the clergy, so that their number has increased one-third. He helped, with his own money, in the building of churches and schools, and in the support of priests in poor districts. Fully aware that his respect and prayers could not do the work alone, and that besides the ordinary ministry of God he provided in his Church the extraordinary ministry of the missions to reclaim the most abandoned souls; he from the beginning of his administration had missions given over his diocese, especially in country districts. One of the grandest efforts in this direction he made in the great mission closed just now. But because this event brings us to the close of his life, I wish to draw your attention to a virtue he practised which shows best the high perfection he has acquired.

All that has been said so far, and a thousand times more could be said, culminates in that virtue which St. James calls the climax of all: "Patience hath a perfect work: that you may be perfect and entire, failing in nothing."—James 1, 4. Troubles, trials, opposition, suffering, of the keenest character, are the inseparable companions of the priest and more especially of the Bishop especially when he finds his best intentions misunderstood, his most strenuous efforts for the good of religion misinterpreted, opposed and brought to naught. Sufferings of the kind are felt the more acutely by a heart that loves all and desires nothing more than to live in harmony with all around. Thus this would be so the Lord Jesus predicted to his Disciples, "In the world you shall have distress, but have confidence; I have overcome the world."—John 16, 33. "St. Paul did not conceal his tribulation, which was so great that he became weary of life."—1 Cor. 1, 8. St. Joseph Calasietti, St. Alphonsus Ligouri, died while in disgrace with the Pope. Archbishop Hannan had had his share of trials, too, but his holy patience did not allow him to lose his equanimity of soul. He stood his trials well—like a saint of the Church—all turned out to his greater glory on earth,

and to his immense reward in Heaven. Thus did Archbishop Hannan work for God and the goodly souls to the end of his life, at the same time exhibiting himself as a model of virtue to both clergy and laity. And now let us briefly consider the end of his conversation "on this earth. A life so full of merit deserved a glorious end."

For the last eight months he was making arrangements for a mission to be given to all the Catholics of this city, having in view the total and radical information of his people. The missionaries arrived, He received them with the utmost cordiality, and lodged them comfortably in his own house. He greatly rejoiced in the work as it was going on, assisting whenever he could at the sermons, although the germ of death was in him. And while the mission was given in the city he arranged already for the same work to be done in the country districts. As the mission was drawing to a close Archbishop Hannan breathed his last, and thus closed the life of the greatest usefulness for Religion and the World, for the Church and the State—a life above all most acceptable to God. There in that coffin is enclosed what is left of him on this earth. O, precious body, inhabited by so precious a soul, for forty years it dwelled in the Glebe House, and left it two days ago. 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