

St. Michael's Palace.

To the Clergy of the Archdiocese,
Rev. and Dear Father:

I received, today, authentic information that I am relieved of the title and duties of Archbishop of Toronto. The relief is welcome, for of late I have felt the burden keenly.

My successor is the Most Rev. Fergus McEvay, hitherto Bishop of London. I feel confident that you will give him a hearty welcome, and honest support in the fulfillment of his duties. He, himself, will announce the date of his taking possession of the See. Until then, I am, by appointment of the Holy Father, Administrator of the Diocese. After that I will go into retirement to prepare for death. Help me by your prayers to make it a happy one. When the end comes, give me the Masses said for those belonging to the Diocese. I have always said them scrupulously, and will continue to do so.

Thanking all, clergy, religious and laity for kindness shown me for more than eight years, I remain Rev. and Dear Father

DENIS O'CONNOR, Administrator.

Toronto, May 22, 1908.

This, the only official communication, gave all the information to be had and expressed all he had to say to his people. The Bishops of the Province did not conceal the fact that they had urged him over and over to remain in his See and ask for an assistant feeling that even as an invalid his influence was too precious for the Church in his own diocese and even abroad to be deprived of. The only answer to their appeals was expressed in some such words as the following: "When a man cannot do his work the only right thing for him is to get out and let some one in who can."

On Sunday June 6th three days before the installation of his successor he administered Confirmation in one of the city churches, whence he was driven directly to the Novitiate-house of his community where he was to spend the remainder of his days.

What may have been his feelings at that hour no one, not even any of his most intimate friends, had ever the least information. That one whose life had been of the busiest for forty years, whose mind was constantly occupied with the discharge of important business, who studied the movements of his time with the closest scrutiny, to whose interest everything in the cause of religion appealed, whose influence was recognized in every sphere, whose power Catholics of