

# Enthusiastic Welcome to His Lordship Bishop O'Leary Solemnly Installed in the Pro-Cathedral.

On Wednesday afternoon last, His Lordship, Right Reverend Dr. O'Leary, Bishop of Charlottetown, arrived here via Pictou, to take possession of his Episcopal See, and was installed with solemn and appropriate ceremonies in the pro-Cathedral in this his Episcopal City.

Rev. Maurice McDonald, Dr. S. R. Jenkins and Messrs Alexander McDonald and James McIsaac of the Reception Committee crossed to Pictou in the morning to meet his Lordship and accompany him hither. The weather conditions were not very favorable, but the good steamer Northumberland made a record trip from Pictou, coming over in three hours, reaching Charlottetown at 7.30.

His Lordship was accompanied from Bathurst by his brother, Rev. Dr. Louis O'Leary, and Rev. John Wheaton, his successor in the Rectorship of the Church of the Sacred Heart there; also by his brothers, Mr. Richard O'Leary of Richibucto, and William O'Leary of Montreal. These, joined by Rev. A. P. McLellan of St. Andrew's and Rev. Ronald McDonald of Pictou and the Charlotte town delegates already named, constituted the Bishop's party from Pictou to Charlottetown.

Extensive and appropriate preparations had been made for the joyous occasion, and notwithstanding the heavy rain during the day the arrangements were admirably carried out. The decorations were on an elaborate scale; flags and bunting were flying from points of vantage. All along the Steam Navigation Company's wharf, George Street, Victoria Row, Queen and Water Streets and the Esplanade strings of flags and myriads of colored electric lights were strung from side to side, while the Provincial Building, many stores and other buildings were brilliantly illuminated and decorated. The electric illuminations in front of the pro-Cathedral and at St. Anthony's Villa were splendid. It had ceased raining shortly before the steamer arrived; but the streets were very muddy. This circumstance in no way interfered with the enthusiasm of the people who turned out in immense throngs. The streets along the route of procession, Queen Square, the Esplanade and every available point from which a view could be had were crowded.

The Societies, headed by the League of the Cross and Fourth Regiment Bands, extended from the landing at the wharf up Great George Street and down Richmond Street to the pro-Cathedral, and were lined up in the following order: Benevolent Irish Society; Ancient Order of Hibernians; Catholic Mutual Benefit Association; Knights of Columbus; League of the Cross.

His Lordship was received at the wharf by Rev. Dr. McLellan, Rector of the Cathedral, and conveyed to the carriage in waiting. The procession then started in the following order: First carriage, with his Lordship, the Bishop, Rev. Dr. Louis O'Leary, Rev. Father Wheaton and Rev. Dr. McLellan; second carriage, Rev. Maurice McDonald, Rev. R. McDonald, Pictou, and Messrs. R. and Wm. O'Leary; third carriage, members of the Reception Committee, already named, and Hon. J. A. McNeill; the Societies, with the Bands, as already described.

The pro-Cathedral was appropriately decorated and brilliantly lit up. Numerous streamers of yellow and white, the papal colors, depended from the ceiling and were caught up and artistically festooned. Union Jacks and Papal flags hung side by side and flanked the entrance and the Sanctuary. The altar was ablaze with candles and colored lights. His Lordship vested in the ante-room of the vestibule and, preceded by some thirty priests in soutane and surplice, entered the church. The acolytes with lighted tapers and the cross-bearer, Rev. Pius McDonald, led the procession. Then came the clergy, and lastly his Lordship, in cope and mitre bearing his crozier, distributing blessings as he advanced. Meantime the choir rendered in excellent style the hymn, "Ecce Sacerdos Magnus." His Lordship was assisted in the ceremonies by Rev. P. P. Arsenault, as deacon; Rev. M. J. Smith, as sub-deacon and Rev. I. R. A. McDonald, as Master of Ceremonies. In the Sanctuary his Lordship occupied a throne on the Gospel side, while Very Rev. Mgr. Phelan, Apostolic Administrator, was enthroned on the Epistle side, and Rev. Dr. McLellan was in charge of the whole ceremonial.

After the proper prayers and invocations, Rev. D. J. G. McDonald read in classic Latin the Papal Bull appointing his Lordship Bishop of Charlottetown. Very Rev. Mgr. Phelan then read the address from the clergy and presented his Lordship with a purse of gold. The address was as follows:

The Right Reverend Henry Joseph O'Leary, D. D., Bishop of Charlottetown.

May it please Your Lordship: We, the members of the clergy of the diocese of Charlottetown, beg leave to give expression to the feelings which animate us on this auspicious occasion.

Our hearts today are overflowing with joy; and the cause of this joy is twofold. Owing to the long continued illness and death of our late lamented Bishop we have been as orphans for the past three and a half years; and, consequently the announcement that our fatherless condition was about to cease was, in itself, most welcome to us.

But our joy and satisfaction were enhanced by the fact of our knowing that he whom the Holy See had chosen to be our ruler and guide, was a man of ability and character, already distinguished in spite of his comparative youth, for his scholarship and his prudence. Thus the homage and obedience we would naturally tender to any dignitary whom Our Holy Father should send to exercise authority over us, are by reason of these circumstances, accompanied by the deepest feelings of love and respect.

With the fullest sincerity of our hearts, therefore, we welcome Your Lordship as the Spiritual Head of our diocese, to whom we offer unqualified and unquestioning submission.

It is for us a matter of extreme regret that the joy caused by Your Lordship's appointment to the Episcopal See of Charlottetown was marred so soon by the destruction of our beautiful Cathedral which bore eloquent testimony to the spirit of faith and sacrifice which actuates the Catholics of this city and the whole diocese. We felt a pardonable pride in the possession of so magnificent a temple and we looked forward with pleasure to the day when the plenitude of the priesthood should be conferred on Your Lordship within its walls. But God in his wisdom, saw fit to deny us this great satisfaction, and we have but to bow to His inscrutable will. We know full well how great and how numerous are the anxieties and worries inseparable from the task of erecting and paying for the Cathedral that a

to be; but we trust Your Lordship will accept the assurance that we, and the faithful under our charge, are ready and eager to do whatever we can towards the early completion of this noble work.

In conclusion we pray that Our Heavenly Father may be pleased to make your Lordship's reign both long and fruitful, and that our mutual relations may be ever marked by sympathy and tranquility.

**JAMES PHELAN,**  
Apostolic Administrator.

The clergy then made their obeisance to the Bishop, kneeling down two by two and kissing his Episcopal ring. This was followed by the address from the laity, read by Mr. James McIsaac, chairman of the reception committee. The address was as follows:

The Right Reverend Henry J. O'Leary, Doctor of Sacred Theology, Bishop of the Diocese of Charlottetown.

**GREETING**

May it please Your Lordship: On behalf of the Catholic laity of this diocese, especially of the Cathedral congregation and the Catholic societies of Charlottetown, we approach Your Lordship to offer you the homage of our profound respect and sincere congratulations on your elevation to the sublime dignity of the Episcopate. We acclaim Your Lordship's advent among us to take possession of your Episcopal See, to which you have been raised by the Providence of God, the favor of the Apostolic See and your own personal merits; and we greet you with a most cordial welcome.

Although you come from another Province and a sister diocese, the fame of your learning and piety, your wisdom and prudence, has preceded you, and the knowledge that a prelate of such eminent ability has been chosen as our chief pastor fills our hearts with joy.

As loyal Catholics we realize, above all, that you come to us by command of the Vicar of Christ, in the plenitude of the priesthood, under the Sign manual of the Great Commission, "Go teach all nations," as our Bishop—"I placed to rule the Church of God."

We assure Your Lordship that you will always find here loyal, filial hearts, unswerving in their devotion to you, ever responsive to your inspiration and docile to your guidance. After God and the Holy Father we put our trust in you, and we pray you to watch over us, to guide us, to rule our hearts and our souls, so that henceforth we may regard you as our father in Christ.

The intelligence of your appointment was the signal for this widowed diocese to lay aside her trappings of woe, and inaugurate suitable preparations for the reception of her new Bishop. We anticipated with joy Your Lordship's consecration and enthronization, with due solemnity of ritual and splendor of ceremonial, in our beautiful and spacious Cathedral. But the destruction, by fire, of that magnificent edifice necessitated several changes in the original arrangements. As a result your present installation is robbed of much of the pomp and solemnity befitting an event so significant and imposing.

Although misfortune has reduced our splendid Cathedral to a mass of blackened ruins, it has in no way abated, on the contrary it has stimulated the ardor of our loyalty and devotion to you, our Bishop and spiritual ruler; and has inspired us with loftier sentiments of courage and self-sacrifice. We feel sure that, in a brief space, our Cathedral will rise, phoenix-like from its ashes, even more beautiful and stately than before, and we pledge Your Lordship our united support and unflinching co-operation in the work of re-construction.

Your predecessors in the Episcopate in this diocese were wise and holy prelates, inspired with zeal for the extension of the Kingdom of God on earth, and they accomplished much for the promotion of religion, charity and Christian education. We entertain the hope that, under Your Lordship's wise and enlightened rule,

this diocese may prosper, that religion and Christian education may flourish, that our diocesan institutions may throb with the life-blood of rejuvenation, and that your Episcopate may be memorable in the annals of the Church in our beloved Province.

We earnestly pray Almighty God to bless you with health and to give you length in years to rule and govern the flock committed to your pastoral care, and to carry out, in unison with priests and people, the sublime purpose of our divinely inspired and ever beloved Holy Father Pius X. "To renew all things in Christ."

We are with profound respect Your Lordship's most obedient and most devoted children in Christ.

Signed on behalf of the Laity: James McIsaac, Peter McCourt, Peter Courry, M. D. Committee

Dated at Charlottetown this 27th day of May 1913.

Replying to the address of the clergy his Lordship said he had been deeply impressed by the splendid sentiments with which they had welcomed him. He was a stranger and did not know many of them and they did not know him, but they had welcomed him, and he had come as, the ambassador of God. They had welcomed him with fervor and with enthusiasm. He hoped that the sentiments expressed in the address would always characterize the relationship between them. They had welcomed him and promised submission and obedience, but he hoped he would also enjoy their friendship and co-operation. They must remember that the work of the Bishop and the work of the clergy were the same, and it was necessary he should have their friendship and sympathy in order to carry on the work of the bishopric. One other thing he would ask, and that was their prayers. He asked them to pray for him every morning that he should be enabled to discharge the duties of his office to the glory of God and the good of the diocese.

Turning to the congregation, His Lordship said he was delighted with the welcome they had accorded him. It had the ring of cordiality, sincerity and enthusiasm. As he had said to the clergy, he came to them as a stranger and practically unknown to them, and they had received him thus, not so much for his own sake, but because he came to them in the name of Almighty God. That accounted for the cordiality and enthusiasm of their welcome. They had faith in him and faith was the greatest gift that could be bestowed on anyone. In these days of worldliness and materialism faith was not always so strong as in the days of old. But, by their reception, they had proved that faith was strong amongst them. He had come on a previous occasion, before the formalities had been gone through making him their bishop, and what he saw and heard on that occasion consoled him because he found amongst them the spirit of fortitude and bravery in a time of affliction, which proved to him that he was certain of loyal and cordial support in the work that lay before him. Referring to the disaster which they had sustained in the destruction of their beautiful cathedral he praised the spirit of harmony which prevailed among all classes of the community. He was encouraged when he first came amongst them to find the instances of large heartedness by which some who were not of our faith had contributed so liberally towards the restoration of the cathedral. He would ask God to bless those large-hearted friends who had come to their assistance. He concluded by saying that the hearty and enthusiastic welcome he had received would encourage him to labor earnestly for the welfare of the people under the guidance of, and for the honor of God. He also took the opportunity of expressing his thanks to Mgr. Phelan who had administered so successfully the affairs of the diocese during the interregnum, and to Rev. Dr. McLellan, Rector of the Cathedral, who had labored under such trying circumstances since the destruction of that Church, and faithfully and well discharged his duty.

place among our citizens, and we feel sure that in your endeavor to perform the duties of citizenship, you will follow the example of your distinguished predecessors and be ever ready to lend your aid and encouragement to every movement that will have for its object the betterment of our City and its people. Your reputation as a wise counsellor, also, affords assurance that you will strive to maintain that peace and harmony which have always existed among the different classes of our people, and which is so essential to the well being of every community.

We trust that the oft-boasted hospitality of our citizens will always be extended to your Lordship, and that your intercourse with them may, at all times, be of the most pleasant nature. It is, moreover, our earnest hope that you may long be spared to adorn your high office, and that your labors amongst us may not only redound to the special advancement of those who owe you spiritual allegiance but may contribute to the welfare of the rest of our people as well.

Signed on behalf of the Citizens of Charlottetown: Charles Lyons, Mayor; K. J. Martin, Recorder; W. W. Clark, City Clerk; H. D. Johnson, Medical Health Officer; D. J. Riley, John McKenna, John McNevin, Archibald McLean, W. W. Walker, J. D. Taylor, G. D. Wright, Thos. Campbell, Councillors.

Dated at Charlottetown, this 28th May, 1913.

Replying to this address, his Lordship spoke to the great crowd who had gathered around and in front of the veranda. He thanked them with all his heart for the kind sentiments expressed in the address and for the enthusiasm of the welcome extended him. He felt already that he should be at home in this splendid old city of Charlottetown. He was, in a sense, a stranger in a strange land, as he had come to them from another part of the Dominion, but in another sense he was not a stranger, as they were all bound by the broader and greater bond of patriotism, which included them all in the one great country. He was a Canadian as they were Canadians, and he felt that he was a citizen among citizens of a great country. As a citizen of Charlottetown he would be bound by obligations to fulfill his duties of patriotism and submission or obedience to the civic authorities. His Worship in his address had referred to his predecessors and the cordial relations that had always existed between them and the civic authorities. They labored to promote harmony among all classes and creeds, and that they had succeeded, in a large measure, was evidenced by the fact that among the very first to come forward to assist them on the occasion of the serious disaster that overtook the new ere those public spirited citizens whose names had been heralded throughout the Dominion. (Applause.) With that example set, before him he would do all in his power to further the splendid spirit of harmony which was so creditable to the community. (Applause.)

His Lordship then held a reception in the parlor of the Villa, and a large number of all classes and denominations of the people were present. This concluded the proceedings in connection with the formal reception of his Lordship. It was a memorable occasion and must long continue green in the recollection of all who participated.

It would be difficult to imagine anything more favorable than the impression created by his Lordship upon all who saw or heard him on the occasion of his installation. Words of praise for him were heard on all sides.

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