

The Church in Canada.

Under this heading will be collected and preserved all obtainable data bearing upon the history and growth of the Church in Canada. Contributions are invited from those having in their possession any material that might properly come for publication in this department

THE RIGHT REV. JOSEPH EUGENE BRUNO GUGUES.

FIRST BISHOP OF OTTAWA—1805—1874.

Translated from La Revue Canadienne, for the CATHOLIC WEEKLY REVIEW.

The Episcopal See of Ottawa, had for first titular the Rt Rev. J. E. B. Guigues, a native of France, and son of a Cavalry Captain in the imperial army. He was born on the 28th August, 1805, at Gap, diocesan and chief town of the Department of *Hautes-Alpes*.

At the age of nineteen he entered the Missionary Society of Provence, an order founded in 1815 by Mgr. C. J. Eugene de Mazenod, and which became in 1826, by an indult of His Holiness Pope Leo XII., the *Congregation of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate*. This religious order received at the same time as Novice, the future Cardinal J. H. Guibert of Paris—a fellow pupil with whom Bishop Guigues afterwards kept up a regular correspondence.

Father Guigues O.M.I., was ordained priest on the 26 May, 1828. The Congregation of Oblates had already many of its members engaged on foreign missions, and in 1841 Canada received a first contingent in the persons of Fathers Honorat, Lagier, Talmont and Baudrand. Father Guigues arrived on the 18th August, 1844, and at once assumed the functions of Provincial or Superior over the mother house at Longueuil. Three years after his arrival he was named Bishop of Bytown, or Ottawa—a new diocese cut out of those of Montreal and Kingston. Bishop Guigues was then in his 42nd year, and he was solemnly consecrated on the 30th July, 1848, in the Cathedral of Ottawa, which he dedicated to the Patron of his Order—Mary Immaculate. The consecrating Bishop was Mgr. Gaulin of Kingston, and he was assisted by Bishops Phelan and Bourget. His episcopate, which lasted over a quarter of a century, was prolific in good works. In the field opened to his apostolic zeal, the first Bishop of Ottawa authorized the Canonical formation of 20 parishes. The construction of a Cathedral church was soon followed by the foundation of a college, which became so flourishing that it received University powers in August, 1866. Later on were established the parochial schools and a hospital, and the Brothers of the Christian schools, the Grey Nuns, Sisters of the Congregation of Notre Dame and Sisters of the Good Shepherd came successively to found religious houses in the diocese.

In 1849 Bishop Guigues, who was the last Canadian prelate required to take the traditional oath of allegiance to the British Crown, had his See legally incorporated under the title of "The Roman Catholic Episcopal Corporation of Bytown," which empowered him to exercise with in his jurisdiction the civil privileges allowed to all free citizens.

He assisted at the first five Provincial Councils of Quebec, and delivered some striking discourses. Although his addresses and sermons did not merit for him the reputation of being a great orator, yet the annals or historical collections of the Order of Oblates, have no brighter pages than those filled by the reports of the Apostolic labours of Bishop Guigues. His pastorals and other writings—remarkable for profound knowledge and lively piety, are preserved as relics for the edification of the worthy members of the Order, to whom he left an example of grand virtue founded on the true spirit of their motto:—*Pauperes evangelizantur*.

The Bishop's laborious life is characterized by the honour of having been a founder like the Laval, the Lartigues and the Bourgets. Contemporary with the two last named, Bishop Guigues rivalled them in zeal and sacrifices for the propagation of the faith in Canada.

His work, we may say, is identified with the progress of the capital of Canada—old Bytown—and to day, many of the outlying townships, parishes, roads &c. bear his patronal names.

In 1869 Bishop Guigues was one of the number of Canadian Bishops (between 16 and 20) who went at the call of the glor-

ious pontiff Pius IX. to support with their voices the solemn declaration of the dogma of Papal Infalibility. On that occasion he also had an opportunity of visiting the land of his birth, and spending some time with his former superiors, at the Central Council of the Oblate Order in Paris.

In 1872—the 25th anniversary of his episcopal consecration occurred, and his silver jubilee was made the occasion of a beautiful feast in the midst of the Oblate fathers, of whom he was the senior member.

From that time finding the weight of years gradually oppressing him, Bishop Guigues applied himself to perfecting the particular works of the order.

The following are some of the foundations which he inspired and completed; The provincial house was transferred from Longueuil to Montreal on the 8th December, 1848; the Mission of Maniwaki (land of Mary) in the county of Ottawa was opened on the 15th April, 1851; a college at Ottawa 17th August 1853; the house in Quebec, 16th October, 1853; residence at Caughnawaga 15th June, 1855, the mission of Lake Temiscamingue now in the Vicariate of Pembroke in 1861; the novitiate of Notre Dame des Anges at Lachine, on the 24th May, 1867, the house in Hull, 15th November, 1871; besides the seminary in Ottawa.

He died on the 8th February, 1874, having attained the age of 68 years 5 months and 11 days—50 years of his life belonged to the Congregation of Oblates, 36 were spent in the sacerdotal ministry and 29 in the Episcopate.

The body of the venerable deceased remained exposed in the cathedral which he had erected, for eleven days, during which time the most profound grief prevailed among the population of the episcopal city.

The funeral services took place on the 19th February and were attended by nearly all the Bishops of Canada, many distinguished strangers and a multitude of the citizens. The Archbishop of Quebec officiated, and two funeral discourses were delivered—one in French by His Lordship Bishop Fabre of Montreal, and the other in English by Bishop Wadhams of Ogdensburg, N.Y.

The mortal remains of the illustrious prelate have reposed for the last fourteen years in the vaults of the Basilica of Ottawa

In personal appearance Bishop Guigues presented a truly religious cast of countenance. Sweetness of character as well as obstinate zeal in the accomplishment of good were strongly defined, and humility appeared to have been a most intimate characteristic. His manner was simple, modest and sympathetic—he was strongly built and above medium height. His forehead was slightly wrinkled—he had a clear eye; and underneath the old-fashioned bands of the ecclesiastical habit, prominently appeared a large pectoral cross, which the worthy Bishop carried nobly.

The arms which Bishop Guigues chose to be emblazoned on his Episcopal seal, were a cross with two of the principal signs of Calvary—the lance and the sponge placed crossways; above these appeared the motto of the oblates—*Pauperes evangelizantur*.—J. H. Charland, in *La Revue Canadienne*.

GLADSTONE.

For the CATHOLIC WEEKLY REVIEW.

He who in age can look with soul serene
Through the long vista of departed years;
Whose memory is not steeped in secret tears,
Or stung with sad remorse—but who no screen,
Requires his conscience and his God between—
May meditate the future undismayed,
As, Gladstone, thou may'st now.

Thou hast not played
With time as 'twere a toy, or life a scene
For gaudy pageants and a tinsel crown.
Behold, by thee restored, yon ruined isle!
Millions yet unborn shall echo thy renown;
Two nations sundered long, by methods vile,
Through thee brought near, now no longer frown
But, clasping hand in hand, in friendship smile.

Ottawa, Sept. 1888.

M. W. C.

Permission has been granted by the Minister of Militia to St. Mary's College, Montreal, to form a corps of cadets composed of boys of the second division.