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PRICE FIVE CENTS.

# OUR CHIEF PASTOR DEAD

## Mgr. Fabre, First Archbishop of Montreal, Passes Away After a Brief Illness.

### A Wise and Successful Administrator

### A Striking Figure in Religious and Secular Life for More Than Two Generations.

### HIS LAST ILLNESS, DEATH AND BURIAL.

### The Universal Feeling of Sympathy Manifested by Citizens of All Classes and Creeds Throughout Montreal and Other Places in Canada and the United States.

### An Interesting Sketch of His Saintly Career

OUR venerable and beloved archbishop, Monseigneur Fabre, has passed away, full of years and sanctity, from this busy scene of his fruitful labors. The sad event, although it had been daily expected for several weeks, the physicians attending the distinguished prelate having declared that his recovery was impossible, has nevertheless brought sorrow and gloom to the well-nigh half a million souls who have lost in him a loving spiritual father. To our non-Catholic brethren, as is evidenced by the utterances of the Right Rev. Dr. Bond, Anglican Bishop of Montreal; of the Very Rev. Dean Carmichael, and the Very Rev. Dr. Norton, Rector of Christ Church Cathedral, both eminent Anglican churchmen; and of the Rev. Rabbi Veld, one of the most prominent Jewish pastors of the city, it has brought deep and unfeigned regret.

Archbishop Fabre was, in his ecclesiastical career, a signal illustration of the democratic principle of the Catholic Church. Starting as a humble and a zealous curate at Sorel, he rose to be the occupant of the archiepiscopal see of the largest and greatest city in Canada. It is an open secret that, had he lived, he would soon have reached a still higher position in the Church—the highest position except that of the Supreme Pontiff himself—namely, that of a Cardinal. For this princely rank he was marked out not merely by his position as Archbishop of Montreal, but by his fame as a wise and most successful administrator, as an ardent though unostentatious champion of the faith, as a promoter of harmony and peace amongst his vast flock of different nationalities.

The chief of five hundred and sixty priests of diverse nationalities, his relations with them were those of a loving father who knew how to be firm and indulgent as occasion required. Under his providential administration the affairs of the archdiocese went on so smoothly, that the outside world was astonished at the entire absence of any indication of friction or difference in ecclesiastical circles.

### THE FIRST ILLNESS.

About three months ago the Archbishop set out for Rome, on his usual episcopal visit *ad limina*. He stayed in France for a few weeks, visiting old friends there. In Paris he was the guest of a Canadian priest who holds a high position in the French capital, the Rev. Father Bresset, of the Church of St. Augustin. During his sojourn in France he had the happiness to attend the great religious festival at Rheims, where the fourteen hundredth anniversary of the coronation of King Clovis was celebrated with unusual pomp and solemnity. He also attended, in the same city, the congress of French bishops and priests which was made the subject of a debate in the French parliament recently, and to which the *TRAVELER* editorially referred at that time. On his return to Paris he was taken suddenly ill. He consulted several of the leading physicians there, including Dr. Duménil, and they warned him not to carry out his intention of visiting the Eternal City, as he was suffering from a very serious malady—cancer of the pancreas, together with jaundice. With great reluctance His Grace con-

ceded—at six minutes past eleven, on Wednesday night last—he was apprised of the fact. His Grace once proceeded to the death-chamber, where she passed the night in prayer.

### HIS LAST WISH.

Archbishop Fabre, though he thoroughly appreciated the dignity which attached to his exalted ecclesiastical position, and was scrupulously careful in the observance of ecclesiastical ceremonial was in his own person, and in his demeanor towards others, affability and simplicity personified. So deeply interested was he in ceremonial matters that he sent the Very Rev. Canon Racicot to Rome some years ago for the purpose of studying the ceremonies observed at the various offices and celebrations in St. Peter's Cathedral, so that they might be reproduced in his own great Cathedral of St. James, which, as our readers all know, is built in the same form as that greatest of cathedrals in the Eternal City. Notwithstanding his, his last wish was that the mortuary chamber in which his body would lie

### EXEMPLARY CHRISTIAN FORTITUDE

the Archbishop received this sad news. He bowed, he said, to the will of God, to which he was thoroughly resigned. For three long weeks he lingered, growing weaker every day with one or two exceptions, when his strong constitution made temporary headway against the disease which was fast poisoning his life-blood. The weakness, however, was of a purely physical kind, as his mind remained strong and clear till the final attack of syncope ended the helpless struggle. Shortly before this attack came on the Archbishop bestowed his blessing upon the clergy and faithful of his archdiocese. The Rev. Father Filiatrault, S. J., his Grace's confessor, then said to the dying prelate: "Make of your body a sacrifice unto the Lord." "I have made of my body a sacrifice unto the Lord almost every minute," was the response, spoken in a firm clear tone that surprised those who surrounded the death bed, and who, it may be added, were: His Lordship Bishop Emard, of Valleyfield, Vicar-General Bourgeault, Canon Racicot, Canon Archambault, Canon Bruchet, Canon Vaillant, Canon Cousineau, Canon Leblanc, Abbé Perron, Abbé Decarries, curé of St. Henri, Abbé Adam, curé of Hochelaga; Abbé Therrien, Chaplain of Mount St. Louis College; Rev. Father Filiatrault, S. J., His Grace's spiritual adviser, all of whom, had been warm and devoted friends of the Archbishop.

### CAPITULARY VICAR BOURGEOULT.

Shortly after the great prelate had breathed his last the members of the Cathedral Chapter met, and, conformably to Canon Law, appointed a Capitulary Vicar to administer the affairs of the archdiocese until a successor to the vacant See has been appointed by the Holy Father. The Very Rev. Canon Bourgeault, Vicar General, who was appointed administrator, has issued the following circular letter to the clergy:

Archbishop's Palace, December 21, 1896.

Gentlemen,—You have all learned the news of the death of Mgr. Edouard Charles Fabre, our Archbishop. It was at six minutes past eleven that His Grace rendered his soul to God. In order to administer the diocese during the vacant See, my venerable confreres, the deacons of the Cathedral, conforming with the Canon Law, have appointed me Capitulary Vicar. You will announce to the faithful and to the religious communities the painful loss we have just met with, and you will invite them to pray and partake of Holy Communion for our first pastor. The service for Monseigneur will take place Tuesday at ten a.m., at the Cathedral, and you will have a service in your churches as soon as possible and in the community chapels during the month of January. The formal wish of His Grace is that no flowers or inscriptions be placed in the churches, neither shall any funeral service take place at the time the notice of his death is given, not even in the Cathedral. In order to prevent all uncertainty we declare:

1. We will continue until it shall be otherwise ordered all extraordinary facilities accorded in writing by Monseigneur.
2. As to facilities accorded verbally their renewal should be asked for before the end of January, 1897.
3. We renew and continue all ordinances, statutes and rules of discipline now in force throughout the diocese.

In order to assure the prompt transaction of business we have appointed Rev. Canon Archambault, Chancellor, as our assistant. In again recommending him whom we mourn to the prayers of the faithful, I also ask a prayer for one who has the honor to be your humble and obedient servant.

F. BOURGEOULT,  
Capitulary Vicar.

### THE DISCONSOLATE MOTHER

of His Grace, who had been daily, almost hourly, in attendance upon her son, notwithstanding the weight of her 86 years, and the prostrating grief which his dying condition had caused her, was not present when he breathed his last. She had returned to her residence, at the corner of Dorchester and St. Hubert Streets, to take a little much needed rest after her long and wearying vigils in the sick-chamber, little suspecting that the end was so near. The aged mother was deeply stricken when, shortly after her son's eyes were closed for ever to this earthly

and black. The sanctuary was covered with a carpet of purple, and the throne was draped in purple and black.

### The Requiem Service.

Many imposing and solemn religious ceremonies have been held in Montreal during the present century which have awakened the tenderest feelings of sympathy and appealed in a striking manner to the faithful, but none during the long period have equalled the ceremony held at the Cathedral yesterday morning at the Requiem service over the remains of the illustrious head of the archdiocese.

The spectacle which it presented was sublime. Twenty-five archbishops and bishops, more than seven hundred priests, and thousands of laymen of all classes and professions and creeds, from the city and surrounding districts, from the various provinces of the Dominion and from the United States, were gathered in the majestic temple.

### PRELATES AND PRIESTS PRESENT.

Among the prelates and priests present were: Mgr. Walsh, Archbishop of



should be decorated in the simplest manner, care being taken to allow no flowers to be deposited therein; and that there should be no sermon preached upon his life and career in any of the churches of the archdiocese.

The body was embalmed on Thursday morning and was placed in the reception parlor of the palace, which was turned into a mortuary chamber. In accordance with his wish, it was very simply decorated with yellow and black drapery, which is a sign of Roman mourning, yellow and black symbolizing ecclesiastically sorrow and suffering. The body was placed in a recumbent position, and was habited, of course, with the archiepiscopal vestments, including the pallium, the sign of archiepiscopal authority, around his neck. The pallium, it may be explained, is made of lamb's wool, blessed by the Pope on St. Agnes' Day, and on its white ground are a number of black crosses. The white typifies the purity and holiness of the life which an archbishop must lead, and the crosses are emblematical of the cares and anxieties inseparable from the duties of his high and onerous office. On the wall over the coffin were placed portraits of the late father of the dead archbishop and of his mother, who survives to mourn his loss. There were but two inscriptions—"I.H.S." and "R.I.P."

### THE BURIAL.

The scene at the translation of the body from the Palace to the adjoining Cathedral was one which will never be forgotten by the thousands who witnessed it. It was preceded by a long procession composed of members of lay associations, with banners and emblems, religious communities of women and men, the regular clergy, the seminarians, the secular clergy, the Cathedral chapters, honorary and titular Canons, the Vicar Capitular, and the prelates who had already arrived to take part in the Requiem service, in the order in which they have been named; the coffin bearing the body, in the same position as it had been in the mortuary chapel, was borne in the open air along Cathedral street to the main entrance to the Cathedral on Dorchester street. Archbishop O'Brien of Halifax, presided over the "Levee du corps." Entering the vast edifice, the body was placed on a large catafalque which had been erected to receive it, under the dome, and just outside the sanctuary. The Cathedral was heavily draped everywhere except under the dome, where the drapery was in yellow

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