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dec 15, 26

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sep 17, 26

Investiture of Mr. Charles Hutton

WITH INSIGNIA OF KNIGHT OF ST.
GREGORY.

On last evening, at the R. C. Pal-
ace, there took place the official cere-
mony of the investiture of Mr. Charles
Hutton with the insignia of the
Knighthood of Saint Gregory. His
Grace, the Archbishop presided over
the ceremony, and there were in at-
tendance the Right Rev. Monsignor
McDermott, V.G., Monsignor Kitchin,
many of the clergy, representatives of
the Christian Brothers, members of
the family of the recipient, and the
full body of the Cathedral Choir.

The address of the Archbishop, to
the Assembly, was a masterpiece of
eloquence, graced by an exquisite sen-
timent, as he made touching refer-
ence to Mr. Hutton's well known
years of faithful service in the Cath-
edral Choir.

His Grace, first, briefly referred to
the origin of the order as follows:—

"The Order was created by Pope
Gregory XVI in the year 1831—nearly
one hundred years ago. It was not
named after this Pope, but it takes
its name from St. Gregory the Great,
one of the greatest Popes that ever
graced the Papal Throne. The open-
ing words of the brief of the investiture
which the Pontiff had in creating this
noble Order in the Church, 'In the
same brief, the dress and insignia of
the Order are clearly described. The
insignia consists of an octagonal
Cross of gold with a red surface, in
the middle of which is a medallion or
small medal of Pope Gregory the
Great. On the reverse side of the
medal is the name of Pope Gregory
XVI who instituted the Order, 'Pro
Deo et Principe.' For God and the
Prince,' but which by a free trans-
lation would mean 'For God and
Country.' To a subsequent brief, in
the year 1834, the number of Knights
who might be enrolled in the Order
was limited to three hundred; the
reasons being that the more select
and restricted the number of recipi-
ents, the greater would be the honor
conferred. This is, then, in brief, the
distinguished Order or Degree, that
has been accorded by the Holy See to
Mr. Hutton."

Referring to Mr. Hutton's services
and traits of character which obtain-
ed for him such distinguished recog-
nition from the Holy See. His Grace
said, in part:—

"In recommending Mr. Hutton for
this mark of recognition from the
Holy Father, I was influenced by many
considerations. In the first place, by
his many services to the Church. Mr.
Hutton has given the best years of
his life to the service of the Church.
He has been myself connected with
the Cathedral, in one way or another,
for nearly forty years. Just thirty-six
years ago, I entered St. Bonaventure's
College, and since that time, I have
had relations with the Cathedral, di-
rectly or indirectly, throughout all
the changes that have occurred in that
period. During all that time, Mr. Hut-
ton has given freely of his time and
labour to the services of the Church.
In fair weather and in foul, in storm
and calm, in rain and sunshine, Mr.
Hutton has been always found at his
post. I am sure that to-night, in re-
trospect, his memory goes back to
those venerable figures of the past,
with whom he was so intimately con-
nected—the courtly and stately Bishop
Power during whose Episcopate he
entered upon his duties; the late la-
mented Archbishop who had a very
great esteem for Mr. Hutton; the
venerable Administrator of the Cath-
edral—Archdeacon Forde and Mon-
signor Scott, and many generations of
Priests. All these figures must pass
before his fancy to-night. In fact, I
may say that Priests and Prelates, Ad-
ministrators, Bishops, and even Arch-
bishops have come and gone but Mr.
Hutton is with us yet. I think he
might well apply to himself, the words
of the Poet:

"I feel like one who treads alone
Some banquet-hall deserted—
Whose lights are fled,
Whose garlands are decayed,
And all but he departed."

"Mr. Hutton's standing in the mu-
sical and dramatic circles of the com-
munity is well known; I know that
on this point you have more knowl-
edge than I myself. The mere fact
that Mr. Hutton's name was associated
with any production, was a guarantee
of its excellence, and a guarantee of
its success. We know well that Mr.
Hutton's assistance in any charitable
undertaking, has never been asked for
in vain. During all these years he has
given freely of his time, labour and
talent to assist any and every worthy
charity whether it appertained to his
own Church or not. I think this fact
is well realized by citizens generally,
and I feel sure that the congratula-
tions which Mr. Hutton has received
from members of the other denomina-
tions, in number and sincerity, almost
equal those which have come to him
from members of his own church.

"We have, then, assembled here
this evening, for the purpose of con-
ferring the insignia of Knighthood on
its worthy recipient. Mr. Hutton's
career merits for him the very high-
est honour which it is in the power of
the Church to confer upon a Catholic
layman, and no honour could be too
great for such faithful and life-long
service as he has rendered."

His Grace then read short extracts

from the Motu Proprio of Pope Gre-
gory XVI instituting the Order of
Knighthood of St. Gregory the Great,
and concluded by stating that he
would invest Mr. Hutton with the in-
signia of his honour, after the read-
ing of the Papal Brief containing the
appointment. Rev. P. J. Kennedy, then
read a translation of the Latin Brief,
after which Mr. Hutton kneeling be-
fore the Archbishop, received from
him the golden Cross of his Order.

After the investiture, Mr. Hutton
made the following graceful reply.
Your Grace, Monsignors McDermott
and Kitchin, Rev. Fathers and Broth-
ers, ladies and gentlemen:—
There are some incidents in every
man's and every woman's life—"Red
Letter Days," that appeal to them per-
sonally; and I have had a few in
my otherwise uneventful life. But I
can safely say that this "Red Letter
Day" overshadows them all, for the
fact, and it is a singular coincidence,
this day forty-four years ago, I took
charge of the organ in the Cathedral;
and my association with the members
of the choir, has always been most
harmonious. Therefore, it is quite in
the fitness of things that you, past
and present members, through His
Grace's courtesy, should be here to
help celebrate, what to me, is a most
unique occasion.

My reward for any personal services
was the artistic, and of course, the
financial results of the objects for
which they were intended. I never
hoped, personally, for anything more,
so you can readily understand my
feeling of gratitude this evening. When
His Holiness, through Your Grace
has bestowed upon me a gift, one of
the most coveted—the Knighthood of
St. Gregory.

In the first place, I wish to respect-
fully thank His Holiness through my
Lord Archbishop his distinguished re-
presentative, and Your Grace person-
ally, for all the nice things you have
said about me this evening; and to
especially thank you since, when you
could have cabled the news, you did
me the honour of bringing it yourself
and were the first to hail me as "our
new Knight."

My heart is too full to say anything
more. I want you all to pray for me
that I may live quite a little while
to enjoy this honour; that I may live

to celebrate my golden jubilee and
live to prove myself more worthy to
wear this distinguished insignia, and
the high privilege of being addressed
a Knight of St. Gregory.

At the conclusion of his reply, Mr.
Hutton received the congratulations
of the assembled guests, with whom
we join in expressing the wish that
the worthy Knight may long continue
to enjoy his well-merited and distin-
guished title.

A very beautiful and artistically de-
corated translation of the Latin Brief
the work of the talented Sister Jose-
phine of the Presentation Convent,
was also presented to Mr. Hutton
and evoked the admiration of all the
guests.

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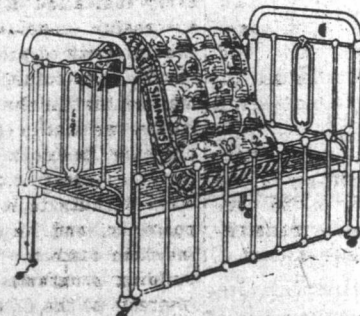
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