

rapid succession has had for effect to render the people of Hull more careful to protect their city

This has been done by disallowing the building of the wooden shells of houses, hitherto so common, and by providing the city with efficient waterworks and a fire protective system. Add to this, too, that each of the great mills is provided with a brigade of its own, which, in case of danger, can assist the city fire-fighters, and now the safety of Hull from all future dangers of great fires is assured.

The Oblate Fathers, of whom mention has been several times made, first took regular charge of the spiritual welfare of Hull in 1846, and although they did not take up their residence there at that time, they came frequently and gave missions to the thousands of poor river men, who although absent for a great part of the year in the shanties, were to be found in greater numbers in the lumbering city of Hull. In 1870 by a document signed by Jos. Eugene Guigues, the then Bishop of Ottawa, the Oblates were formally established as resident missionaries in Hull. Reverend Father Reboul, who had been for years ministering to their spiritual wants, took charge, and the same year witnessed the dedication of the church, for which the reverend Father had been so earnestly working. Under the fostering care of the Oblates, the moral atmosphere of Hull soon became more healthy, and the number of devout worshippers increased to such numbers that when the church was destroyed in 1888, the congregation had already far outgrown its sacred limits.

Of the many able priests who have at various times had charge of the parish of Hull perhaps the one that deserves most to be mentioned is the Reverend Father Cauvin, O.M.I., who took charge in 1877. To him is due the very efficient school system of that city, and to his zeal and industry was due to a great extent the material assistance rendered Hull by the Provincial authorities, when the fire fiend destroyed the homes of the unfortunate citizens. He it was, too, that, like a ministering angel, went among them in their hour of trouble with words of sympathy and encouragement, bidding them bear the burden as one from Heaven.

"Onward from fire to fire, as from hearth to hearth to his parish,
"Wandered the faithful priest consoling, and blessing and cheering."

When the last disastrous fire again rendered desolate the oft afflicted city, the saddest blow of all to the Catholic faithful people was to see their handsome church and the convent of the good sisters who ministered so kindly to their wants, fall before the devouring element. For upwards of three years afterwards the faithful heard mass in a hall which had been built for school purposes, and here, in this improvised chapel, as many as eight masses were sometimes said on one Sunday, to accommodate the number of parishoners.

But the Catholics of Hull have been well rewarded for their piety and for their fortitude, for the 25th day of last September witnessed the consecration of a truly magnificent edifice erected to replace the one destroyed by fire. When it is borne in mind that the present church in Hull has to accommodate a parish of about twelve thousand souls, it will not be surprising that it is the largest as well as the best finished place of worship in the Diocese. As may be seen by the accompanying lithograph, the new church of "Our Lady of Grace" is a composition of the Romano-Byzantine order of architecture. It is an imposing edifice, built of dressed stone and finished in a most elaborate manner. The interior presents a finished, ornate appearance. The main altar is of marble and granite of simple but massive beauty. Four side altars of beauty and taste flank the sides of the church, whilst a magnificent statue of the church patron, "Our Lady of Grace," ornaments the space above the main altar. The basement is a church in itself; furnished with finely finished pews and a grand organ, and having a seating capacity of 1,200 persons, it may well be considered a church of no ordinary dimensions.

The ceremony of consecrating the new edifice took place on Sunday, September 25th, amidst the splendor and pomp with which the Catholic Church alone can grace her ceremonies. On account of the importance of the occasion, Hull turned out "en masse," and the result was that even standing room was at a premium at the consecration ceremony and first mass in the new building. The Arch-