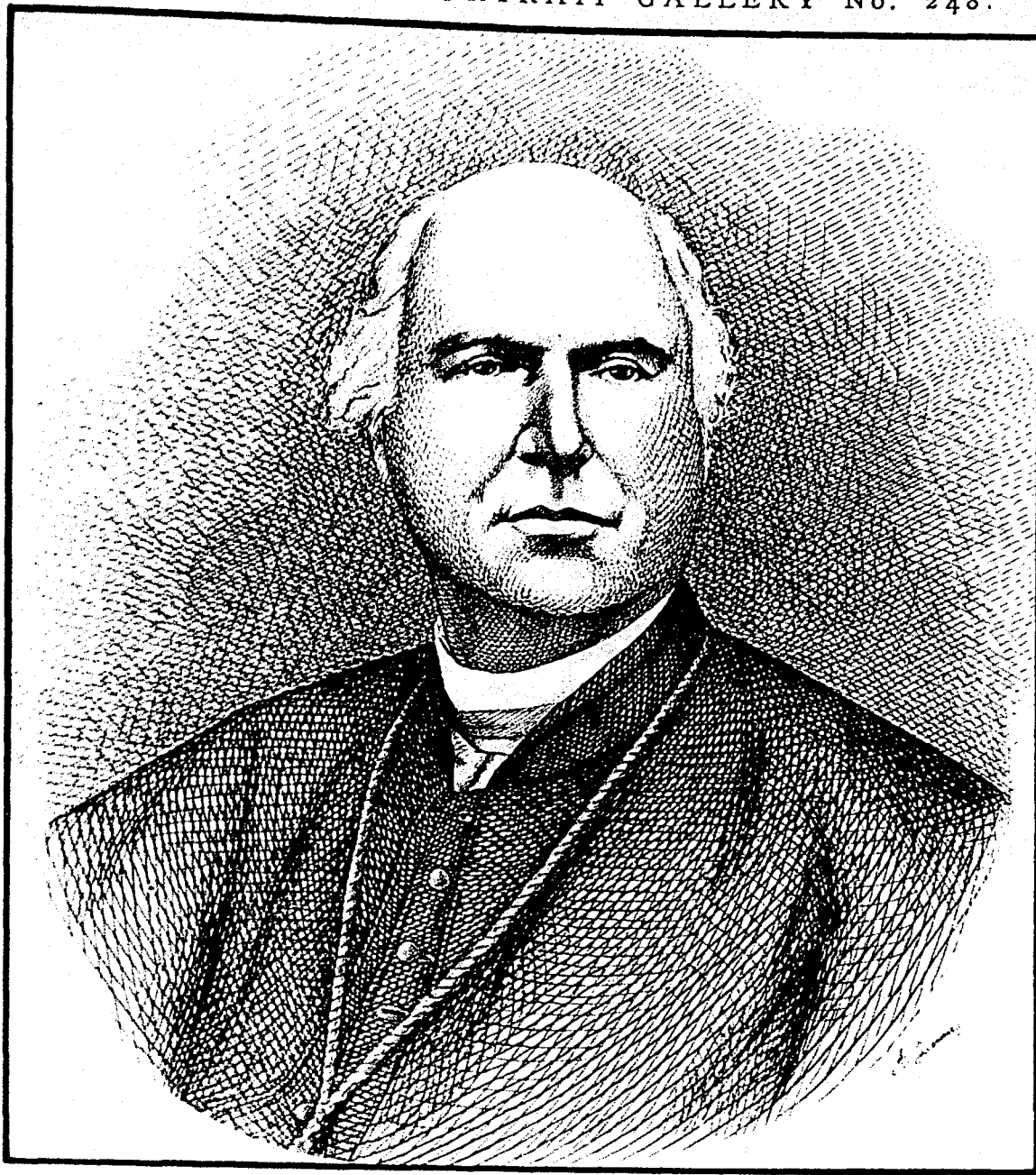


OUR CANADIAN PORTRAIT GALLERY No. 248.

THE LATE
RT. REV. CHAS. LAROCQUER. C. BISHOP
OF ST. HYACINTHE.

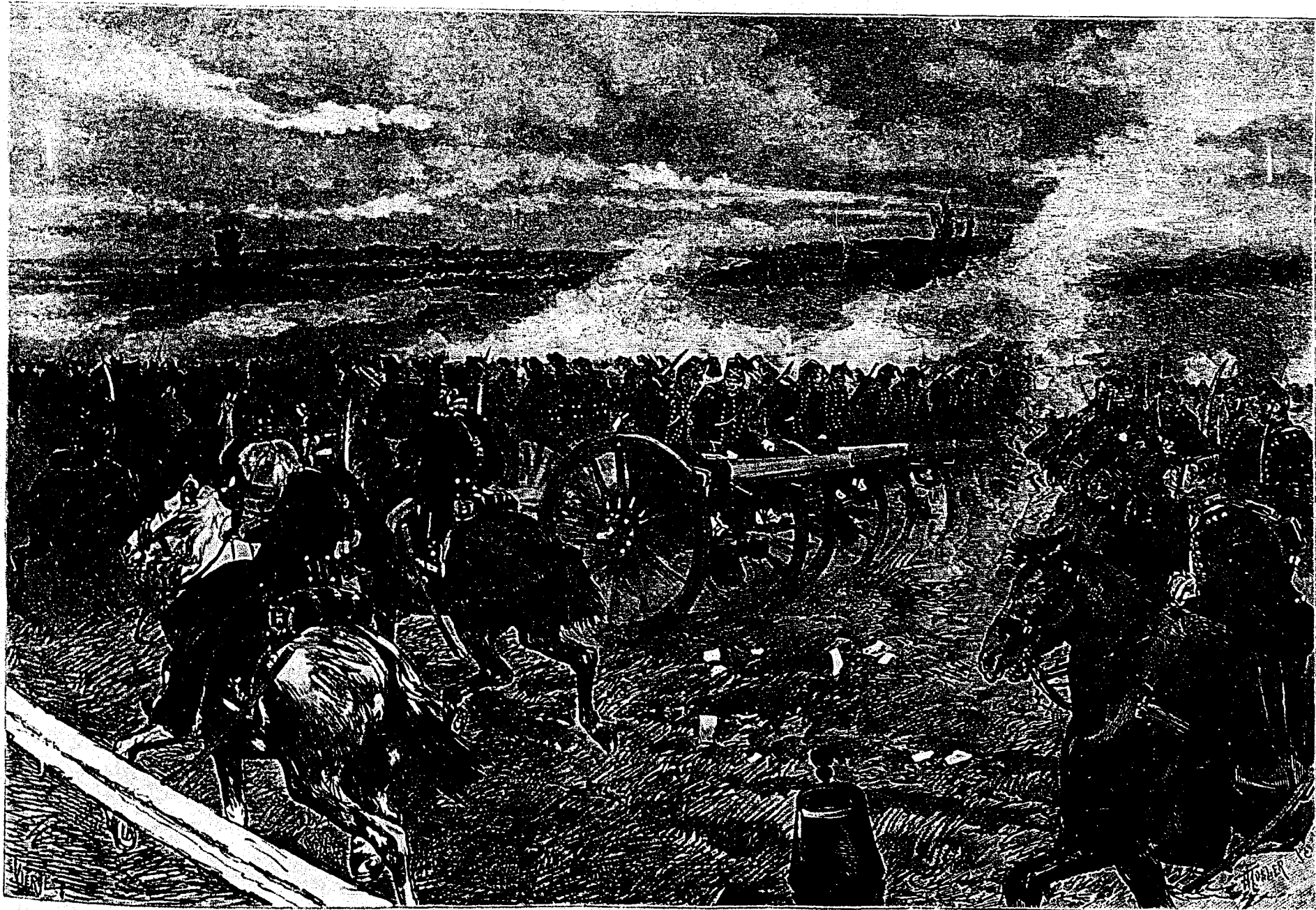
Monseigneur Charles Larocque, who died on the 15th inst., at St. Hyacinthe, was born at Chambly, on the 15th of Nov., 1809, and was the eldest of four brothers. The family was poor, and he owed his education, received at the college in St. Hyacinthe, to the generosity of a friend, Rev. M. Mignault, Curé of Chambly, to whom, with emotion, on the day of his consecration as Bishop, he declared he owed all that he was. He finished his studies in 1828, and taught in the college until 1831. He was distinguished, even at this early age, for vivacity, talent, determination and rare piety. His whole demeanor betokened superiority, and pointed to the high career which he was destined in after life, to illustrate. In order that he might have better opportunity for preparation to enter on the vocation of a priest, Mgr. Lartigue summoned him in the course of this year to the Bishop's Palace in this city, and ordained him on the 29th July, 1835, in the old cathedral of Place d'Armes Square, since replaced by the magnificent Church of Notre-Dame. He was named Vicar of M. Laurent Aubry, Curé of St. Roch de l'Achigan, and in 1832, Vicar of M. Gagnon, Curé of Berthier. In 1836 he became Curé of St. Pie, in 1840 he labored in *Acadie* and *St. Luc*, and in 1844 he was appointed Curé of St. Johns, P. Q., a position he filled until his elevation to the Bishopric. He first made his mark at St. Johns where his labors will remain the monuments of his zeal and activity. Having become possessed of considerable means, the fruits of economy and a rare talent of administration, he devoted large sums to the founding of convents, academies, asylums and a



church which is one of the finest rural temples in the Province. In 1854, he was present at Rome at the proclamation of the dogma of the Immaculate Conception, in the company of the Bishop of Montreal. While in Paris, he was presented at the Tuileries, when he was honored with a compliment from the late Emperor, a compliment which is believed to have strongly influenced his appreciation of Napoleon, of whom he always spoke with friendly admiration. He was consecrated Bishop on the 20th of July, 1866, replacing upon the Episcopal throne Mgr. Jos. Larocque, incapacitated by illness from active duty. The church of St. Johns on this occasion was thronged, and the reception as he entered St. Hyacinthe was very flattering. He found the finances of his new diocese in a precarious condition and set to work towards ameliorating them. For this purpose, he imposed great sacrifices upon himself. Instead of residing in his fine palace of St. Hyacinthe, he took up his abode for eight years in the seclusion of the presbytery of Belœil. By dint of care and economy, he succeeded in wiping out a great portion of the diocesan debt. Bishop Larocque was a handsome man, of lordly figure, remarkable in any assemblage, and destined by nature to rule over others. He was gifted with rare eloquence and his intimate conferences were full of charm. Altogether, he was a remarkable man, and will leave a void hard to fill in the R. C. hierarchy.

The funeral of the late Bishop took place at St. Hyacinthe, on Wednesday, 21st inst., in presence of an immense concourse of his diocesans, including several prelates and a large number of clergymen. He desired to be interred in the vault of the Hotel Dieu, beside the body of his mother, whom he had always fondly cherished, and who preceded him to the grave by only a few weeks.

THE LATE RT. REV. CHARLES LAROCQUE, R. C. BISHOP OF ST. HYACINTHE.



PARIS: THE NEW ARTILLERY CORPS AT THE LONGCHAMPS REVIEW.