

The Church in Canada.

DEDICATION OF ST. MARY'S CHURCH, TORONTO.

A NOTABLE GATHERING OF CLERGY AND LAITY.

The Church of St. Mary, Bathurst St., was solemnly dedicated on Sunday morning last. Long before the hour appointed for the commencement of the ceremonies, the church was filled to overflowing, notwithstanding that it had been sought to regulate the attendance by the issue of tickets of admission. The great gathering of clergy from all parts of the Province and of the most prominent of the laity of the city, is a testimony more eloquent than words, to the high esteem in which the Very Rev. Rector of St. Mary's is everywhere held. The whole of his priestly life has been spent amongst us, the greater part of it in St. Mary's Parish. He was ordained by Bishop de Charbonnel and in the long period of thirty years and more, which has elapsed since then, Father Rooney has known no ambition save the honour of his Master, and the good of the souls entrusted to his care.

For some years the old church on Bathurst St., had been totally inadequate to accommodate the large and increasing congregation, and a new and more spacious edifice was in contemplation for a long time before work was actually begun on the present structure. Even then, various causes conspired to delay the progress of the work, but now, after several years of untiring effort on the part of priest and people, Father Rooney has lived to see the completion of this, the crowning work of his useful and laborious life.

His Lordship, Bishop Walsh, in the course of his very interesting and impressive sermon referred, to his own connection with St. Mary's Church. The first church was erected in 1853. He was its fourth pastor, his predecessors in chronological order being Father McLachlan, Father O'Neil, and Father Louis de Lavagna (the holy Capuchin, whose remains rest under the sanctuary of the new church). After Father Walsh came Father Hobin, who built the first school-house. He is still living and is spending the declining years of his life with the Sisters of St. Joseph on Power St. Father Walsh, who in the interim had been appointed Vicar General of the diocese, again became pastor of St. Mary's where he continued until his elevation to the episcopacy in 1868. He was followed by Father Prouty, Missionary Apostle, and by the present incumbent, Very Rev. Father Rooney, Vicar-General and Administrator of the diocese.

The second church was erected in 1858, and was consecrated by the late Archbishop Lynch. The sermon on that occasion was preached by the late Bishop Timon of Buffalo.

During Father Rooney's incumbency great changes have taken place in the parish in the building of schools, presbytery and convent. It is now one of the largest and most flourishing parishes in the city.

The ceremony of dedication on Sunday last was performed by His Lordship, Bishop Dowling, of Peterborough, (Archdiocese of Hamilton). His Lordship, the Bishop of Kingston, celebrated High Mass, Very Rev. M. Laurent, Administrator, being assistant priest, Revs. K. Campbell, of Orillia, and Davis, of Dixie, respectively Deacon and Sub-deacon of the Mass, Very Rev. C. Vincent, C.S.B., Provincial, and Father Gibbons of St. Mary's, Deacons of Honour; and Rev. Father Finan and Mr. James Carbery, Masters of Ceremonies. There were present also in the sanctuary, His Lordship, the Bishop of London; Very Rev. Dean O'Connor, of Barrie, (Bishop elect of Peterborough); Very Rev. Father Rooney, Administrator, Very Rev. Father Heenan, of Hamilton; Rev. Fathers Doherty, S.J., of Guelph; Flannery, St. Thomas; Cushing, C.S.B., President St. Michael's College; McEvey, Peterborough; McCann, St. Helen's, Bracton; Corduke, C.S.S.R. St. Patrick's Toronto; Hand, St. Michael's Cathedral, McGinley, Uptergrove; O'Reilly, Leslieville; Cruise, St. Mary's Toronto; Murray, C.S.B., and Chalandard, C.S.B., St. Michael's College; Kiernan, St. Mary's, Toronto; Sheehan, Pickering, and Lynch, St. Paul's, Toronto.

The music, which was Gounod's Solemn Mass, was rendered by the united choirs of St. Mary's and St. Basil's churches, and was of a high order of merit. The director

was Rev. Father Chalandard, C.S.B., of St. Michael's College, and the organist Miss Nellie Clark. Mrs. Caldwell sang the solo *Gloria in Excelsis*, accompanied by a chorus. Miss Clark sang the solo in the trio of the *Kyrie Eleison* and the solo of the *Agnus Dei*. Miss Walsh sang the second solo of the *Benedictus*. Mr. J. D. Warde sang the solos of the *Sanctus* and the first solo of the *Agnus Dei*. Mrs. J. Smith, Mr. Robert Thompson, Mr. J. D. Kirk and Mr. H. T. Kelly also took solo parts. The principals in the choruses were: Messrs. Louis P. Walsh, Chas. Caron, John L. Lec, M. J. Macnamara, Frank Ward, Brother Odo, A. Cottam and P. Lynch. The orchestra was led by Mr. Boucher, with Messrs. Bayley and Carl Martens as first violins. Rev. Father Guinane, C.S.B., played the cornet solo in the overture "Bridal Rose."

Prominent among the congregation were Hon. Frank Smith, Hon. John Beverley Robinson, James Cooper, H. H. Cook, M.P., George W. Kiely, Colonel G. T. Deansou, Eugene O'Keefe, Major James Mason, Charles Smith, Laurelot Bolster, Hon. T. W. Anglin, R. B. Caldwell, J. P. Murray, T. McConnell, Hugh McIntosh, James Connee, M.P.P., ex-Ald. Pells, Ald. J. E. Verral, and Ald. George Verral, Ald. John Ritchie, Ald. Carlyle (St. Andrew's), Ald. Macdonald, Dr. Cassidy, P. Boyle, Ald. Frankland, Dr. McConnell, (Brocton), C. Cashman, R. J. Dowdall, (Almonte), ex-Ald. John Woods, A. Watkins, John Mullon, Edward Stack (Mimico), Wm. Walsh, John Canavan, Wm. Mitchell, John Kennedy, D. Kennedy, R. Dissette, James Boomer, C. E. Maddison, Chevalier Gianelli, Ald. King Dodds, Peter Clark, Wm. Reading, Hugh Ryan, Mr. O'Sullivan, B. B. Hughes, W. J. Woods, C. L. Mahoney, T. P. Weir, C. P. Doherty, Joseph Golding, Chas. Rogers, H. T. Kelly, Joseph Connolly, R.C.A., H. W. P. McKeown, J. M. Quinn.

At the conclusion of the Gospel, His Lordship, Bishop Walsh, ascended the pulpit and delivered the following sermon:

THE SERMON,

The sermon was preached by his Lordship Bishop Walsh, of London, who spoke as follows:

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost, amen.

"Upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." Words of Christ recorded in the 16th chapter of the Gospel according to St. Matthew. "All power is given to me in Heaven and on earth, go you, therefore, and teach all nations. Behold I am with you all days, even to the consummation of the world." Words of Christ to the Apostles recorded in the 28th chapter of the Gospel according to St. Matthew.

The occasion that calls us together to-day is not an ordinary occasion. It must have a deep and absorbing interest for the people of this parish. We have assembled to witness the dedication of your beautiful new church to the service of God and for the purposes of religion. This spacious and beautiful temple reflects the greatest honour on all concerned in its construction. It reflects immortal honour on your zealous and devoted rector, whose long priestly life has been crowded with good works of which this is the latest and the greatest, it reflects honour on the accomplished architect, whose noble conceptions inspired by religion we see embodied in this structure, it is a noble erection, a monument to the faith, the piety and devotion of the faithful of this parish, who have given of their means so abundantly to raise this magnificent temple to God from the foundation stone to the roof top. God will here be adored in spirit and in truth; the Holy Sacrifice of the New Law will be offered up for the living and the dead; the Sacraments of Christ, the fountains of our Saviour, will be administered for the salvation of the people; the Precious Blood of Christ will plead here before the divine mercy seat for the remission of human guilt and the alleviation of human suffering; the prayer of faith will ascend like a sweet incense before the throne of God, and immortal souls, made to the image of God, and ransomed by the Blood of Christ, will be rescued from the slavery of Satan and restored to the liberty of the sons of God. Therefore I say you have done a great and meritorious work, because you have built a house, not for man, but for God; not for the comfort of the perishable body, but for the greater comfort of the imperishable soul. As this