

A GOOD PRIEST DEAD.

VERY REV. THOMAS EDWARD WALSH,
C. S. C.

The President of Notre Dame University Called to His Reward—"Measured by Deeds, not Years"

—A Beautiful Life Completed.

Although in our last issue we gave a short notice of the sad event which robbed one of the finest Universities in America of its President, and the Church Militant of one of its truest soldiers, still we deem it proper to give our readers a somewhat lengthier account of the life and works of a Canadian born priest, whose great merits and high qualities of heart and mind have been so well recognized abroad.

For some time past Father Walsh had been suffering from Bright's disease and it was this with other complications that caused his death. Immediately after the commencement exercises last month Father Walsh went to Waukegan, Wis., hoping that the waters there would be of benefit to him, but as he did not improve he entered St. Mary's hospital, Milwaukee, where death relieved him of his pain. With him, during his last hours were Brother Paul, Rev. Father Spillard, of South Bend, Ind.; Rev. Father Condon, Watertown, Wis., and Rev. Father McGarry of Canada, one of the friends of his boyhood.

Very Rev. Father Walsh was born at Lacolle, near Montreal, Canada, May 15, 1858. He was one of a family of eight children. Father Walsh began his education when very young, and at the age of 14 years entered the College of the Holy Cross at St. Laurent, near Montreal. Here his studies were pursued with that energy which characterized the man all through later life and the foundations of a generous and noble manhood were strongly imbedded and carefully constructed to bear the burdens, which then unseen, came in following years.

In 1872, at the age of 20 years, he entered the Congregation of the Holy Cross. His mind already rich in knowledge, hungered for further stimulant and the following year he went to Paris, where he entered Notre Dame de Ste. Croix, at Neuilly. His early education embraced French, which he thoroughly acquired and which has given that genuine polish, so noticeable in his conversation, during his three years' residence in the French capital. His studies were pursued at Neuilly unceasingly during the three years and the schooling in Canada was broadened and rounded until 1875 when Very Rev. Father Sorin, founder of the University of Notre Dame, called him to Notre Dame.

Here he continued his studies. On August 28, 1877, he was ordained to the priesthood by the late Bp. Dwenger, of Fort Wayne. Within less than a year he was appointed a vice-president of the university, of which Very Rev. Father Corby was then president and in 1881 he succeeded Father Corby. At that time he was the youngest college president in the United States.

Under Father Walsh's careful guidance the good work begun by Father Corby was continued with never ceasing labor, attaining the glorious result indicated better by the large institution itself than by mere words. From a forest it sprang up like a fresh young flower guided by the steady hand of Very Rev. Edward Sorin; then cut down by fire as by a scythe, the seed was saved by Father Corby and planted in fertile soil to be nourished and multiplied by the man whose spirit has passed to a peaceful realm.

In 1886 Father Walsh was made second assistant to Father Sorin, the superior general of the Order of the Holy Cross and since that time he has aided Rev. Father Corby, the first assistant, in relieving the venerable superior of many of his arduous duties.

The life of Father Walsh was a busy one. Truly it may be said that he lived to labor for the good of his fellow men; to lift them from the ordinary plane of life to a higher sense of the duties of man both as pertaining to this and to the life to come. From childhood, almost, he had labored with this sacred object in view and how well he carried out his object is told in the life which has just gone out. Nothing was too great for him to undertake; nothing too

small to be beneath his notice. He worked for all. It was this that endeared him to the hearts of every one with whom he came in touch.

Under the care and guidance of Father Walsh the great university prospered. Placed on its feet, so to speak, after the great fire of 1879 by Very Rev. Father Corby, the preceding president, the new president took hold of it with all the energy and strength he commanded and succeeded in making it better known in every country until to-day the University of Notre Dame ranks as one of the leading educational institutions of the world. Its graduates are in every quarter of the globe and many have attained to positions of national prominence. The presidency of Father Walsh was a remarkable one and under him the university thrived and received an impetus that has placed it where it is.

Very Rev. Father Walsh was a man of varied and deep learning. His life had really been given up almost entirely to study. Latin and Greek being required by the Church he made a careful study of both and was regarded as one of the best scholars in those languages at the university. He was also a fluent speaker of French and a master of English. His delights were literature, theology and mathematics. He was ably qualified to fill any chair at the university, but confined himself mainly to teaching literature. He was a student and deep thinker and from his pen have come many bright thoughts clothed in most beautiful language. As an orator he had few equals. When he consented to speak all were anxious to hear him, for what he said was invariably worth listening to and framed in language the most choice.

The high esteem in which he was held was well phrased by one of his co-workers: "He was a man who can be succeeded, but cannot be replaced." incessant work was the proximate cause of his death. In addition to his onerous duties as president he personally superintended all the numerous building operations at the university and his enormous labors in connection with the new science hall, the institute of technology and Washington Hall fairly prostrated him. Fr. Walsh passed away full of honors, one of the youngest of the noted educators of the day. He had been made a doctor of divinity only a day or two before his death by Mount St. Mary's, Emmetsburg.

The funeral took place from the Church of the Sacred Heart, Wednesday morning. Pontifical Mass was celebrated at 10 o'clock, by Bishop Rademacher, and Bishop Spalding, of Peoria, preached the sermon. The front of the university and the interior of the church were heavily draped. Father Walsh's remains were interred in the community cemetery, near the church.

May the soul of Father Walsh rest in eternal peace. Amen.

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THE TRUTH ABOUT ULSTER.

There is a belief current on both sides of the Atlantic, a belief fostered by the opponents of Home Rule, that Ulster is incomparably superior to the other three provinces of Ireland in all the elements of civilization. It is asserted by the Unionist, and, hitherto, the assertion has generally been allowed to pass uncontradicted, that Ulster is distinguished for education, for sexual purity, for prosperity and wealth. That not one of these statements is well founded is proved, with the help of official statistics, by Mr. J. G. Colclough, in the Contemporary Review.

If Ulster's prosperity were phenomenal, as compared with that of the rest of Ireland, her inhabitants would be less eager to emigrate. As a matter of fact, her population by the last census was 1,619,814, showing a decrease of over 750,000 in the last fifty years. The decrease has been as decided and persistent as that which has taken place within the same period in the centre and south of Ireland. The City of Belfast has unquestionably grown. Nevertheless, the

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total population of the two counties in which it is situated is smaller by nearly thirty thousand than it was half a century ago. Some of the counties of Ulster which show the most striking decline in the number of inhabitants are those in which Protestants are most numerous. Protestant Down, for instance, has decreased in population faster than Catholic Donegal.

Then again, as regards the housing of her people, Mr. Colclough shows that Ulster is behind Leinster, and only on a par with Munster with respect to the percentage of first-class houses; behind both Leinster and Munster as to second-class; while she has a larger proportion of third-class dwellings than the two provinces just named. She is ahead of the provinces in only the small percentage of the lowest, or fourth-class tenements. If all the Irish counties are set down in the order of their first-class house accommodations, it will be found that counties outside of Ulster head the list. Upon the whole, it is indisputable that the people of Ulster are less comfortably housed than those of Leinster and Munster.

With a view to ascertain the distribution of agricultural wealth, Mr. Colclough examines the official statistics on which the rates of local taxes are based, and demonstrates that, while the ratable value of Leinster is \$21.70 per head of population, and that of Munster is \$14.87, the ratable value of Ulster is only \$13.84. If the provinces are disregarded, and the thirty-two counties of Ireland are arranged in the order of their rating per head of population, Meath will be observed to head the list, while Down, the first Ulster county, comes in only the thirteenth place. The valuation of the City of Dublin is a dollar more per head of the population than is that of Belfast.

But surely it will be said Ulster must be superior to the other provinces in respect of the income derived from trade. This, also, is a misconception of the facts. If we consider the amount of income returned from trade, per head of population, we find it to be in Leinster \$52.44; in Munster \$4.62, while in Ulster it is only \$30.58. Thus, as regards incomes from trade, as well as agricultural wealth, the utmost that can be said for Ulster is that it is more prosperous than Connaught.

Let us glance now at the diffusion of education. The official returns show that the proportion of inhabitants that can read and write is in Leinster 74.6; in Munster 71.7, while in Ulster it is 70.7. Here again, Ulster comes out third. With respect to sexual purity, we note that while the percentage of illegitimate births in Ulster is 4, in Leinster it is only 2.5, in Munster 2.2, and in Connaught but 0.8. It seems, then, that, as a matter of incontrovertible figures, Ulster is neither richer, better educated, nor more moral than the rest of Ireland.

As to the further assertion that Ulster is Protestant and Unionist, a few words will suffice. Of her total population 46 per cent. are Catholics, and in five out of the nine counties Catholics are in the majority. It is true that, in the present Parliament, out of the thirty-three Ulster representatives nineteen are Unionists. But a change of six hundred votes from one side to the other at the last election would have placed the Home Rulers in a majority. As a matter of fact, Ulster did return seventeen Nationalists to Parliament at the general elections in 1885 and 1886, and would have done so again last year but for the split in the Nationalist party.—N. Y. Sun.

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