

REV. DR. O'BRIEN,

BISHOP OF HALIFAX.

waited the promised text, but no text came. Finally, on Sunday, as he was about to ascend the pulpit, a paper was put into his hands containing, as he supposed, the text; but on opening it he found it blank. There was nothing on it! For some moments he was bewildered, but reflecting that out of nothing God created the universe, he thought "Creation" would form a good theme, and preached on that, what turned out to be an admirable discourse.

"Now, I feel the same embarrassment which that clergyman must have felt in the beginning when about to preach from nothing. His Lordship the Bishop of Chatham has given me a text—my own self—which is, I feel, equal to nothing. The Bishop referred to the time when I was a little boy at St. Dunstan's College. Well I remember that time, and I was not such a little boy either. The smaller boys made fun of us because we played marbles, and in a spirit of contradiction the bigger boys formed ourselves into a marble club from which we excluded those little fellows. I remember also, when much smaller, the idea I formed of Miriamah!—what a grand place it must be, and that if I could only visit it what a great fellow I would be. Well, I have now at length come to visit it, and I discover, from all of you gentlemen, that I am a great fellow! (Laughter and applause.)

"But, gentlemen, pleasant as this, I must gratefully thank His Lordship and all of you present for the kind and warm manner in which you have been pleased to drink my health. I accept this demonstration not as referring to myself personally so much as a mark of respect for the office to which I have been promoted. This manifestation of good will and kind feeling by such a large representative company, all of whom have come to meet and honor me, as the Bishop assured me, is a favor which I certainly highly appreciate, and for which I beg again to express my warmest thanks! But before sitting down I must ask your permission to propose another toast. The good will and kindly feeling which distinguish the people of Miriamah and the surrounding parts, of which the present numerous company gives such evidence, is a source of honor and glory for the good Bishop of Chatham, whose labors in the cause of religion, patriotism, morality, education and charity are esteemed not only by his own flock, but by all his kind and worthy neighbors, of what creed soever. I do not wish to express indifference in matters of religious belief. No, far from it. Each one should faithfully adhere to his conscientious convictions. But while

happy and playful allusion of the Judge refers to the work, "PHILOSOPHY OF THE BIBLE," written by His Grace the Archbishop. Judge Wilkinson's eloquent and witty address was warmly applauded. The hour fixed for His Grace to receive visitors having arrived, the company arose and returned to the parlor, where the Archbishop received the visitors who called on him.

(From the Chatham World.)

Before Benediction, in the evening, the following address was presented to the Archbishop, Mr. John Knight reading it in a clear voice:—

ADDRESS.

TO HIS GRACE THE MOST REVEREND CORNELIUS O'BRIEN, ARCHBISHOP OF HALIFAX, K. H. & C.

May it please Your Grace:

On behalf of the clergy and laity of the Diocese of Chatham we tender you a hearty welcome on this your first visit in our midst. We offer you our most cordial and respectful congratulations on your elevation to the high dignity of Archbishop of the Metropolitan See of Halifax.

We are bound to the Archdiocese of Halifax by many ties besides our relations as suffragan to that Metropolitan See, of which we may name the selection of our venerated Bishop who was ordained Priest by your sainted predecessor the first Archbishop of Halifax, and consecrated Bishop in the Cathedral of your own native Diocese in company with its beloved Bishop, Mgr. McIntyre, by your illustrious predecessor, Archbishop Connolly.

In common with our fellow Catholics of the Maritime Provinces we felt overjoyed when we learned that you had been selected by our Holy Father, Pope Leo XIII, to succeed the late lamented Archbishop Hannan as our Metropolitan.

Though well known to some amongst us, yet personally unknown to others, all had heard of you as a zealous priest, a deep student and learned author, and we hailed your appointment as a high compliment to the clergy and laity of our Ecclesiastical Province.

Thanking your Grace most gratefully for affording us at this severe season, and so soon after your consecration, this occasion to greet you, tendering you a "Cord mille faillie," and praying that you may be long spared to honor and grace the responsible position to which you have been called,—we beg your Grace's benediction.

THOS. J. BAYNON, Priest, } Committee
JOHN McDONALD, M. D., } to
THOMAS CRIMMEN, } prepare
JAMES W. TOWNLEY, } address.
Chatham, N. B., Feb. 13, 1883.

His Grace said he did not at all take the flattering address just read as a compliment to him personally, but as a mark of respect to him as chief pastor of the

Diocese, which was tastefully festooned and decorated, and in which the pupils—of the various grades—were all assembled.

A march of welcome was performed by the young musicians as the Archbishop entered; after this one of the little girls, Annie Carrol, stepped forward and read, admirably well, the following

ADDRESS.

TO HIS GRACE THE MOST REVEREND CORNELIUS O'BRIEN, D. D., ARCHBISHOP OF HALIFAX, &c., &c.:

May it please Your Grace—

Welcome! a thousand times welcome to the Hotel Dieu of St. Joseph at Chatham!

Though but little children, scholars of St. Michael's Female Academy, which is directed by the Sisters of the Hotel Dieu, we come to Your Grace with confidence and joy, knowing that you are the representative of Him who "went about doing good" and who chided those who would prevent "little children" from approaching Him! We imagine we read His words in your benignant smile: "Suffer little children to come unto me," and behold we do come to bid you welcome as our new Metropolitan, and to ask your Pontifical Benediction upon us and our Teachers, upon our good Nuns and their Institute, and upon our dear Parents, Pastors, Benefactors and Friends!

This being Your Grace's first visit as Archbishop to this one of your suffragan Dioceses, we wish to tell you briefly the history of this Hotel Dieu, which our beloved Bishop introduced into his Diocese in 1848, and which he has ever fondly and devotedly cherished.

It is a foundation from the Hotel Dieu of Montreal,—the Sisters Hospitaliers of St. Joseph, originally founded at Laflèche, in France, from which a Foundation came to do hospital work at Montreal, A. D., 1659, in the first settlement of that city.

An appeal was made to the Community of Montreal from the Diocese of Chatham for Sisters to nurse the poor lepers in the Lazaretto at Tracadie. In response our Sisters came to care for the afflicted in the Government Hospital for Lepers in Tracadie, and to direct our Hospital for the casual sick of all classes and creeds at Chatham, and an Academy for the education of girls. In this Hospital, which receives no aid from Government, 2,400 sick patients have been nursed for a longer or shorter period of time according to their respective cases, the regular visiting physicians being Doctors John and Joseph Benson.

Some of those patients have paid the charges for board and nursing, while others were unable to pay the moderate fees asked from those who can pay. Thus the work of the good Samaritan has been lovingly and faithfully done in the Hotel Dieu of Chatham.

Also the work of female education has been assiduously prosecuted, the daily average attendance of pupils being 100, the total number of scholars who have passed through the classes since the Sisters assumed charge of our Academy in 1871 being about 1000 day scholars and 60 boarding pupils.

Such, in brief, is the history of our Institute.

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