

The Catholic Register.

"Truth is Catholic; proclaim it ever, and God will effect the rest."—BALMEZ.

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MOST REV. A. LANGEVIN.

The Youngest Archbishop in America.

PROFESSOR, MISSIONARY, BISHOP.

"Archbishop Tache is the first of French Canadian pulpit orators and Father Langevin is the second." Little did the one who spoke these words, little did Father Langevin himself at that time dream that the two names would one day be written in the same order in the annals of the Church in Manitoba. "Archbishop Tache was the first Archbishop of St. Boniface and Father Langevin the second." But the Patriarch of the



North-West thought of it and from the first day on which he met his young brother religious seems to have had him in view as his successor. "I have been wanting you these ten years," said the great Archbishop when in 1898 Father Langevin went to St. Boniface. And it was just ten years since they had met for the first time. In this case Archbishop Tache displayed a foresight and judgment similar to that which made Sir John Macdonald famous. "They have been wondering where they would find my successor," he said, shortly after Judge Thompson had become Minister of Justice. "Well, he is found." "Who? Sir John," asked the member of Parliament with whom he was speaking so confidentially. "Young Thompson," was the quiet answer, astonishing those who thought him scarcely great enough for the Attorney-Generalship. No doubt Archbishop Tache's choice was also a source of astonishment to many, as Father Langevin, like the late Premier, was not a man to obtrude himself on public notice. Moreover, even in a greater degree than Sir John Thompson, he might be charged with "the atrocious crime of being a young man." He will certainly be the youngest Archbishop in America and he may be the youngest in the world.

Louis Philippe Adolard Langevin, is a native of the Province of Quebec, having been born at St. Isidore, County Laprairie, on the 24th of August, 1855. His parents, Francois

Theophile Langevin and Mary Pamela Racicot, both belong to good families and are possessed of fine natural abilities cultivated by an excellent education. They have lived to see the best beloved of their eight children receive the Pallium—best beloved, because to the Catholic father and mother no child is so dear as the one whom they give to the service of God at His altar.

After having received his elementary education at home, young Adolard Langevin entered Montreal College at the early age of eleven. Before he had reached his twentieth year, he was thought worthy to take a junior professorship of classics in his Alma Mater. This position he held for three years when he resigned to begin his sacred studies in the Grand Seminary. During the two years which he spent in this institution his very marked aptitude for the study of moral theology drew him especially under the notice of Father Reuxel, who is said to have remarked that this young man, if he continued as he had begun, would make the best professor of morals in Canada.

In 1881 he pronounced his perpetual vows and was ordained priest in the chapel of the Good Shepherd Monastery in Montreal. He was sent at once to St. Peter's Church on Vista street which is in charge of the Oblate Fathers. Here his duties were four or five hours study daily, three hours in the confessional every day and six or eight on Saturday, preaching in his turn, visiting the poor and sick in their homes and in the hospitals, and especially giving missions in the surrounding district in which work he took a particular delight. For three years Father Langevin was thus engaged. It was while he was at St. Peter's that Archbishop Tache having come to Montreal on business first met the young priest of whom he at once conceived so good an opinion. From that date he sought to have him transferred to Manitoba. But it was not yet to be.

Father Langevin had labored in the cause of intermediate education, he had become familiar with every detail of the administration of a large city parish, and had served in every department of that administration. He was now for a time to be engaged in the work of higher education, and the training of aspirants to the priesthood. Father Langevin came from Montreal to Ottawa, and entered upon his duties in the University in September, 1885. No higher tribute to his merits could have been paid, than his selection at the age of thirty to be director of a grand seminary, a position more difficult in many respects than the episcopate itself.

The Archdiocese of St. Boniface comprises not only the whole of the Province of Manitoba but also the Districts of Assiniboia and Keewatin and a part of the Province of Ontario. Fifty mission stations are scattered over this vast but thinly populated territory. To become superintendent of these missions Father Langevin in obedience to the Superior General of the congregation, and at the request of Archbishop Tache left Ottawa in 1893 for St. Boniface. In the following year an additional burden was laid upon his shoulders; he was appointed pastor of St. Mary's Church, Winnipeg. How he is looked upon in this

position we are told by the Winnipeg Nor' Wester: "At all times during his pastorate has he been in touch with his people. At once on assuming charge he endeared himself to both classes of his parishioners, the French speaking and the English speaking. He is cherished by one as highly as by the other and Father Langevin is as much the soggarthuroon as if he bailed from the old land." This is high praise indeed to those who knew him at Ottawa. Nor is it surprising to learn that he has thrown himself boldly into the fight for Separate Schools. His naturally impetuous temperament is well governed and controlled by a wonderfully prudent judgment, but he is not the man to submit tamely to injustice, and he may be trusted to carry on the struggle until victory is won. "Our position as Catholics is not bright in Manitoba," he says, "but I believe that we shall reap what he Archbishop Tache) has sown with such heroic labor. All hope is not lost. The hour of politicians will pass, and the hour of God will come." This is not an impassioned utterance from the pulpit, it is an extract from a private letter written to one far distant from the scene of conflict, and it shows the sublime confidence with which the newly elected Archbishop enters upon the duties of his office in troubled times. That he does not make light of the difficulties by which he is surrounded is evident from the fact that he expresses the hope—it was not yet certain that he would be appointed—that he "will not be called upon to drink the dreadful chalice of the succession." But now that the cup is placed in his hands and he must drink it, he will do so without flinching, knowing that they who share the Master's agony may hope to share his consolation as well.

In Father Langevin piety is not an exotic plant, it is robust and hardy for it is rooted in its native soil and has been well cared for besides. It finds its expression not merely in devotional exercises but in every action of his life, in the steady constancy with which he obeys the great command of labor given to the human race. A tireless worker, work is not with him simply the passion of a restless mind, but the cheerful and constant fulfillment of duty. As Director of the Seminary he was constantly warning the young men under his guidance against sloth, the besetting sin of so many who are free from grosser vices. But his example is still more powerful than his words. His lamp was ever burning until midnight, often much later, and he was always in his place at five o'clock morning prayer. No man could unbend the bow more readily and gracefully, or with more hearty enjoyment, but his hours of relaxation were always brief and separated by very wide intervals. Take him all in all and it is not too much to say that he is a bishop after St. Paul's own heart, and that the diocese is blessed indeed in which an Adolard Langevin. "THE OWL."

Every man may be—and, indeed, must be—if he would be saved, his own "straight gate," and every man is by nature his own "broad way."

There is always danger in those who have to talk much about religion, that the religion may become that of the head rather than the true religion of the heart.

DEATH OF DEAN CASSIDY

THE PASTOR OF ST. HELEN'S PASSES AWAY.

The Funeral on Tuesday.

In all the city churches on Sunday last the announcement was made that Very Rev. Edward Cassidy, parish priest at St. Helen's Church Brockton, had died earlier in the morning. Father Cassidy has been in very feeble condition of health for the past six months. It is understood that his illness had its beginning in an attack of typhoid fever from which he suffered while in Adjala in 1888, as he never fully recovered from the consequent prostration. Dean Cassidy was held in universal respect by all with whom he came in contact. His several missions were always marked by able and successful administration.

On Sunday evening the remains of Dean Cassidy were placed in the sanctuary of St. Helen's and lay in state there until Tuesday, robed in the vestments of the priesthood. Rev. Father Carberry on Monday evening celebrated solemn vespers for the dead. Tuesday morning requiem high mass was celebrated by the Very Rev. J. J. McCann, V. G., assisted by Rev. Dean Conway of Norwood as deacon and Rev. Father Jeffcott of Oshawa as subdeacon. Rev. Father Hand acted as master of ceremonies and Very Rev. Dean Harris of St. Catharines preached an eloquent and sympathetic sermon.

His Grace the Archbishop who through illness was unable to be present, sent an expression of his sympathy with the relatives of the deceased and the parishioners of St. Helen's.

Among the large number of persons present were:—Fathers Marijon, Teffy, Cherrier, Smith of Merritton, Cruise, Wilson, Walsh, J. C. Carberry, Sullivan of Thorold, Lynch of Niagara, Ryan, Rohleder and Dr. Treacy; V. P. Fayle, P. Boyle, Dr. Spence, Eugene O'Keefe, P. Corcoran, M. Boland, M. Cullen, John Carroll, T. O'Neill, M. O'Neill, John Maloney, John Mallon, Jas. Mallon, P. Temple, A. Heydon, A. Kerr, John Pearson, A. Cardwell, Claude Macdonell, W. J. Boland, L. J. Cosgrave, T. N. Simpson. The parents and relatives of the Dean were also present. The pallbearers were Revs. Dean Egan, Fathers Ryan, Allaine, McEntee, O'Donoghue, Marijon and Treacy.

After the service in the church the remains were conveyed to St. Michael's Cemetery, where they were interred.

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