

ALONG THE OTTAWA RIVER.

FROM THE RAMBLER

The Catholic faith in Arnprior has always maintained a position of influence. An important lumbering centre from an early date, it drew within its limits those in search of employment, and as many of these were Catholics, some of whom have since swelled into the dimensions of independent farmers, and owners of town property, the influence exercised by this class on the temporal affairs of the Church must be manifest. A still more potent factor in the development of religion in Arnprior was the self-sacrificing band of missionaries who, in the course of their arduous travels, have visited this place, from time to time, unfolding the tidings of salvation on the banks of the Ottawa and the Madawaska. Away back in the early forty's those regions north and west of Arnprior, then a forest vast and seemingly interminable, were traversed by that grand old man, the late Father John McNulty, whose simple home was then at St. Patrick. A history of the labours of the heroic, yet guileless and simple missionary, along the Ottawa and its tributaries, over lake, over river, over mountain, and through almost impenetrable forests, would be interesting reading just now; but as I have no materials at hand for such an undertaking, I must content myself with becoming the historian of certain important incidents in which he figured during the closing years of his useful life.

In 1851 the Rev. John McNulty left the Ottawa Valley for another field of missionary labour, in the Diocese of Toronto, then wisely and ably governed by Bishop Charbonnell.

A few years subsequently the Diocese of Hamilton was created with the Rev. John Farrell of Peterborough as first Bishop; and here again we find the faithful priest discharging parochial duties, the parish of Caledonia on the Grand River having been just assigned to him. Of his labours there, the best that can be said is that his name is reverently pronounced by young and old who have experienced the charm of his personality. The crowning act of his life however, and that which will do most to perpetuate the fame of his good deeds, was his purchase of that beautiful home and charming grounds in the South western confines of Dundas, which he donated to the Diocese of Hamilton, and is now used as House of Providence. In a green little hillock, overlooking a deep ravine the ashes of the good Priest repose. May they rest in peace!

The Rev. Anthony O'Malley was also one of the missionary priests who occasionally visited Arnprior in the days of its existence. Father O'Malley was subsequently assigned to the mission of Huntley, where he labored for many years. Nearly twenty years ago he left Canada for his native home, in the County of Mayo, Ireland, and as he was an old man then, I cannot say if still lives; but whether living or dead, may God be with him.

With occasional changes in the pastorate of Arnprior, we come down to the time when the present pastor—Father Chaine—assumed the responsibilities of Parish Priest. Father Chaine is, I believe, a native of old France, but such are the intimate relations existing between himself and the Irish portion of his congregation, such his strong sympathies for Ireland in her struggles for self government, that I would not be surprised to hear of him, some day, with diadem on head and sceptre in hand, proclaimed Prince of some Irish Barony. Nor does the harmony which exists between priest and people in Arnprior confine itself to mutual glorifications of each other's nationality. No! The magnificent church and beautiful presbytery, with the stately school buildings adjacent, proclaim in eloquent tones the union of both. Long may that

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union continue, and long may the obedience of the congregation accentuate the usefulness of the priest.

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NOTE.—In a previous number two estimable residents of Arnprior were misnamed Harvey. We extend to the Messrs. Havery and the Rambler a sincere apology.—Ed.]

Mgr. d'Hulst says the late Count de Paris was "an ignored saint."

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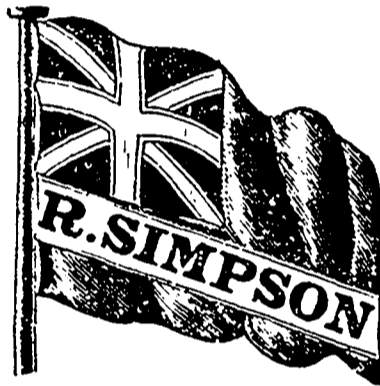
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