

Encourage Home Talent.

JUST PUBLISHED:

MEMOIR OF GEORGE JEHOASHAPHAT MOUNTAIN, D.D., D.C.L., late Bishop of Quebec; compiled (at the desire of the Synod of that Diocese) by his Son, **ARMINE W. MOUNTAIN, M.A.,** Incumbent of St. Michael's Chapel, Quebec. Montreal: John Lovell, St. Nicholas Street. D. 17. 1863. \$1.50.

From the Montreal Daily Transcript of July 14, 1863.

There are few greater pleasures in these days, than to get hold of a really good book—a book not only thoroughly and conscientiously well done from beginning to end, but distinguished also by some peculiarity of subject, opening a fresh field of interest, and breaking a door for the reader into a realm of outlying knowledge. Such pleasure we have experienced in perusing the volume before us, in reading this Memoir of the active, hard, and energetic life, and struggles to build up the Church of England in this Province, of one who has now passed to his reward—the very beautiful of a Christian Bishop. The work is remarkable in another sense—as giving us an excellent idea of what Canada was half a century ago—what hardships and difficulties its settlers, at that comparatively recent period, had to contend with while building up their home in the great primeval forests, and clearing the land, now rich and fertile, and yielding abundant crops of the trees and bush which then covered it. But what the volume, beyond anything else, most readily shows is, how God has been pleased to bless and prosper this portion of His Catholic Church since 1793, when Dr. Mountain, the first Bishop of Canada, and father of the subject of the present Memoir, was, at the instigation of Mr. Pitt, consecrated and sent to Quebec to take possession of his immense See. One cannot help thinking, while perusing chapter after chapter of the Memoir, on the words of the great missionary apostle, and how appropriately they might be applied, though doubtless in a very much restricted sense, “in much patience, in afflictions, in necessities, in distresses,” “in jeopardy of life,” often, in perils of waters, in perils in the wilderness, in weariness and painfulness, in hunger and thirst.” The first Bishop of Quebec carried on his diocesan labours for twenty-three years, and at the end of that period, on account of his great age, sought to be relieved of them, and proceeded to England for that purpose. But in this object he was unsuccessful; and returning to the sphere of his labours again, continued there until his death, on the 18th June, 1825. Bishop Mountain was succeeded by Dr. Stewart, upon whom the charge of the whole of Canada again devolved. The subject of this Memoir was admitted by his father into priest's orders in 1814, and acted as assistant minister and archdeacon until he was consecrated suffragan to Dr. Stewart, and consecrated at Lambeth Palace in 1836. The letters that passed on this occasion between him and his aged mother and brothers are touchingly beautiful; indeed, the whole domestic correspondence, of which extracts are given, shows that this family must have been truly united in the bonds of a mutual and holy affection, not even severed by death—for their memories and their good works lived after them. The next great grief experienced by Bishop Mountain was the death of his mother; but she was favoured in having around her dying bed her four sons, all of whom partook with her, at the hands of the Bishop, of the Holy Communion, and received her blessing. In July, 1836, His Lordship returned to Canada, and the rest of this volume is devoted to a faithful narrative of his earnest and unwearied exertions to build up the Church over which he had been appointed chief pastor. We have not space to follow him in these constant efforts, nor can we do more than refer to the important solicitations he constantly received for supplying clerical services, or the exertions made by the people in a great number of instances to erect churches, even without any definite prospect of a minister—many examples in which this was done by individuals at their own private expense, showing unequivocal evidence of the attachment to Church principles which, under his gentle, paternal rule, commenced to prevail. It was through his efforts, that the present venerable Bishop of Toronto was elevated to that See; that the Church Society and Bishop's College were founded; that the Bishopric in Rupert's Land was formed; and that most of the Protestant charities in Quebec are attributable to the last and crowning great works in which Bishop Mountain was engaged, was the preparation for Synodical action, the erection of the See of Montreal, the conference of

all British North American Bishops at Quebec in 1851, and the ultimate securing of full Synodical action. On Christmas Day, 1852, he preached his last sermon, and celebrated the Holy Communion in the Cathedral. On the feast of Epiphany following, he passed quietly and gently to his rest, surrounded by his weeping family and friends, whom he fervently blessed as they knelt weeping before him. None who have had the privilege of knowing the Bishop personally, will ever forget his tall and slender form, rosy-red with meek dignity; his singular modesty and courtesy of demeanour, the gentleness of his voice, his ready and unaffected hospitality, and the ripe scholarly tone that was apparent in all that he said and all that he wrote. He will never cease to be remembered in Canada as one of the rarest examples of the Christian, the scholar, and the gentleman united, as they always ought to be, in the person of a Bishop. Of the work itself, we may say it is got up in a admirable style—a distinguishing feature of Mr. Lovell's publications.

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Encourage Home Industry.