

The True Witness



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PASTORAL LETTER

OF THE

Right Reverend Bishop of Peterborough,

ON THE

Erection of the Diocese of Sault Ste. Marie, and the Appointment of the Right Reverend David Joseph Scollard to the New Episcopal See.

Richard Alphonsus O'Connor, by the Grace of God and the Favor of the Holy See, Bishop of Peterborough.

To the Clergy, Religious Communities and Laity of our Diocese, health, peace and benediction in the Lord.

DEARLY BELOVED BRETHREN:

The Apostolic See, ever watchful over the interests of the Catholic Church and solicitous for the spiritual needs of her members in every portion of the Christian Commonwealth, places Bishops to rule the Church of God, and dispense the mysteries of religion to the faithful. As a country becomes more populous, and the wants of the people are multiplied, new Dioceses are created and Bishops are appointed to direct and govern them.

On account of the large influx of settlers of late years into New Ontario, which embraces the northern and western part of the Diocese of Peterborough, the Holy See has been petitioned to establish a new Diocese in that district.

Our Holy Father Pius X. has been graciously pleased to grant our request, and has erected the new Diocese of Sault Ste Marie, which comprises the western part of Nipissing District, the Districts of Algoma and Thunder Bay, including Manitowlin and St. Joseph Islands. This new Diocese will extend from North Bay west about 800 miles to the eastern limit of the Rainy River district, whilst the Diocese of Peterborough will comprise the Counties of Northumberland, Durham, Peterborough and Victoria, with the Districts of Muskoka and Parry Sound.

A glance at what has been accomplished in the western portion of the Diocese during the fifteen years of our administration will, no doubt, be interesting, as well as showing the rapid growth of the Catholic population in that district. During that time 72 churches have been built, 49 of which are within the limits of the new Diocese of Sault Ste Marie. In addition, 22 other churches have been enlarged and improved. To provide suitable dwellings for the clergy, 19 Presbyteries have been erected, and of these 13 are in the new Diocese. Four hospitals have been constructed, and three of these are located in important towns of the new Diocese, viz.: Sault Ste. Marie, Port Arthur and Sudbury—suitable centres to afford relief and consolation to the sick and injured that are brought from the surrounding districts. In most of the parishes and missions Catholic schools are established, where the children receive religious and moral training. Moreover, there are about 6000 Catholic Indians, or 82 per cent. of the total Indian population in the Diocese. These are provided with three boarding schools, where the children are educated and trained by devoted and self-sacrificing Sisters, under the direction of the Jesuit Fathers. Besides, there are several day schools where the rudiments of a religious and literary education are imparted to these aborigines.

The Catholic population of the Diocese of Sault Ste. Marie is about 27,000, with 35 priests and 64 churches, whilst the Catholic population of what will henceforth constitute the Diocese of Peterborough is about 24,000, with 29 priests and 45 churches. Thus the new Diocese will contain a larger extent of territory and also a greater number of priests to attend to the spiritual welfare of the people. From these few details it can be easily perceived why the Holy Father was pleased to establish a new Diocese and appoint a Bishop, who will build upon the foundations already laid, and continue more effectively the work of religion in that section of the Province. In the action taken to urge the partition of

our Diocese, we sought not to avoid the burden of personal labor in God's vineyard, but were actuated by the desire of providing for the increasing demands of religion and of promoting the expansion of the church. Experience has taught us that many of the descendants of the early Catholic settlers of Ontario have been lost to the Faith owing to a scarcity of priests, who would seek them in their isolated homes, and to the want of churches in which they might assist at the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, receive the Sacraments and secure a knowledge of their religion.

Our Holy Father Pius X. has selected as Bishop of this new diocese, The Rt. Rev. David Joseph Scollard, pastor of the flourishing parish of North Bay. For several years he was our secretary and chancellor, and discharged the duties of these offices with marked ability and fidelity. During the past nine years he has proved himself a pious, zealous and energetic pastor, whose labors have been blessed with much fruit and great success. The faithful of the diocese of Sault Ste. Marie will find in their new Bishop a kind and loving father, who will be ever ready to encourage them in their undertakings and sympathize with them in their trials. We part with one of our devoted and gifted priests, a true friend who has ever been loyal to his Church and obedient to his Bishop.

For many years past the opportunities for the development of New Ontario in agriculture, commerce, mining, manufacturing and other industries have been recognized, thereby causing a large increase in population. It has been our consistent desire that religion should keep pace with the material advancement of the country. Hence our motive for building churches and schools wherever possible. The establishing of an Episcopal See in the midst of this extensive district will carry out our designs in regard to religious progress, and will encourage Catholics to flock to the vacant and fertile lands of these regions and to the centres of industrial enterprise.

The severing of the happy and intimate ties that bound us to the faithful of the new Diocese causes a pang of regret, and our heart is deeply moved at the thought of bidding farewell to this part of our beloved flock. However, as the separation is for the greater advancement of God's Church, and the promotion of religion, we willingly make the sacrifice of our personal feelings.

We cannot forget the many sacrifices made by the new settlers to preserve the traditions of their fathers, and build up the works of religion and education in their new homes. With pleasure we recall the many pastoral visitations to the distant missions of our Diocese, when we witnessed the strong faith of the people and their attachment to the practices of their religion, as well as their reverence and expressions of joy in receiving their Bishop into their humble dwellings. Our purpose was to bring them the blessings of Heaven and offer them words of encouragement and advice for their spiritual and temporal progress.

How edifying and consoling, on visiting the Indian missions, to behold the fervent faith and reverent conduct of those beloved children whose simple piety and fervor might well be imitated by those who enjoy a larger share of the benefits of civilization and learning.

We shall ever remember the noble and zealous Jesuit Fathers who have proved themselves worthy disciples of St. Ignatius in training the Indians to follow in the path of religion and infusing into them habits of morality, sobriety and industry. To these fellow-laborers who have charge also of the parishes and missions in the new Diocese, must be attributed the glorious success attained by God's Church in this extensive district. They have borne the heat of summer and endured the hardships of winter, in bringing the Bread of Life and announcing the Word of God to the faithful of the sparse missions of early years and the more populous parishes of recent times. Like the Good Shepherd, they have labored in season and out of season, searching after the scattered sheep, guiding them into the true fold and to the fountain of living waters. Nor can we fail to extol the zeal and self-sacrifice of our secular clergy who have likewise labored energetically in building up religion in the missions entrusted to them.

We cannot praise too highly the Religious Communities whose members are devoted to forming the moral and intellectual character of the youth, or consecrated by their life of charity to alleviate the sufferings of the sick and helpless members of our Divine Lord. Their life of self-denial in promoting works of education and charity have won for them the love and reverence of the members of the Church, as well as the admiration and esteem of those who do not share our faith. Truly they are the spotless virgins who, after saving and relieving the afflicted of God's children, will be amongst those who in Heaven "sing a new canticle before the throne and follow the Lamb whithersoever He goeth, for they are without spot before the throne of God."—Apoc. xiv. 3, 4, 5.

We bid a paternal and affectionate farewell to all our beloved priests, devoted Sisters and faithful people of the Diocese of Sault Ste Marie. Though no longer their Bishop, we shall ever retain a pleasant memento of the many visitations we made to the parishes and missions, when we were amply repaid for the inconveniences attendant upon travel in a new country, by the ardent faith and fervent piety we witnessed in these pioneers of religion.

In conclusion, Dearly Beloved, we earnestly exhort you to pray Almighty God to bestow upon the new Bishop, in abundance, the graces of the Holy Spirit, that he may be spared for many years to zealously labor for the advancement of religion and the salvation of souls: that the Holy Ghost may enlighten, protect and guide him in all his ways: that the flock entrusted to his charge may afford him joy and consolation that the priests and faithful co-operating with him, the Diocese of Sault Ste. Marie may become one of the most flourishing in the Province.

The consecration will take place in our Cathedral, Peterborough, on Friday February 24th, Feast of the Apostle St. Matthias. This letter shall be read in all the churches and chapels of the Diocese as soon as convenient after its reception. RICHARD ALPHONSUS O'CONNOR Bishop of Peterborough. M. J. O'BRIEN, D.D., Secretary. Peterborough, Feb. 9, 1905.

CAREFUL MOTHERS. The little troubles that afflict children come without warning, and the careful mother should keep at hand a medicine to relieve and cure the ailments of childhood. There is no medicine does so speedily and thoroughly as Baby's Own Tablets, and the mother knows this medicine is safe, because it is guaranteed to contain no opiate or poisonous soothing stuff. These Tablets cure colic, indigestion, constipation, diarrhoea, simple fever, and teething troubles. They break up colds, prevent croup, and bring natural sleep. Mrs. Mary Fair, Escott, Ont., says: "I have used Baby's Own Tablets with the very best results, and would not be without them in the house." Sold by all medicine dealers or sent by mail at 25 cents a box by writing The Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont.

God's best gift to us is not things, but opportunities.

HON. J. COSTIGAN, M.P.

Celebration in Ottawa of the Seventieth Year of His Age.

On Wednesday, 1st inst., Mr. John Costigan, widely known as "Honest John," who for a period covering forty-four years has uninterruptedly represented the united counties of Victoria and Madawaska, in the Province of New Brunswick, rounded off in the very best of health and of spirits, the number of years spoken by the Psalmist, and the occasion was taken advantage of by a large number of personal and political friends to render it one worthy of commemoration. Mr. Costigan has filled a position unique in its character, and almost solitary in its private worth and excellence in the public life of Canada. Six years of his initial political career were spent in the Legislature of New Brunswick, and thirty-eight in the wider arena of Federal politics, having entered the Canadian House of Commons with the dawn of confederation. His right, then, to the enviable honors which the "Father of the House of Commons" stands encompassed with will not be questioned. That he held an extraordinary hold of the confidence of the electors of Victoria and Madawaska has its best illustration in the fact that no matter what political guise he may appear under, he is sure of a triumphant victory. He has been a Conservative, and as such has frequently sought their suffrages; he is now a Liberal, and to the airs of the Marseillais, "The Campbells are Coming," and the "Wearing of the Green," he walks up for re-election, always finding results marked with immense majorities. All this clearly demonstrated the fact that down by the sea there are a large number of people who are capable of appreciating sterling worth and of setting a proper value on an honest man when they know him to be such. What the future may have in store for my old friend I will not hazard a prediction, but from conversations which I have had with many prominent men from the counties of which he has so long been the representative, many of whom worship at a different altar to him, I would judge that if he appears again for election as a Nihilist, or transformed into a Chinese Highbinder, or a Chinese Boxer, his chances for victory will stand unimpaired.

Mr. Costigan received many testimonials of public and private appreciation of his fine qualities of head and of heart, but the culminating point may be said to have been reached on Wednesday night, 1st inst., as an immense gathering of his personal and political friends met in one of the commodious rooms of the House of Commons to renew their confidence and their respect through the medium of an appropriate presentation, accompanied with speech and toast, sentiment and song, the event calling for so grand a display of friendship being the completion of the seventieth year of his age. To obviate the necessity of engaging a drill shed or of holding an open air demonstration at this inclement season, all who were present were there through invitation, and they included judges, senators, parliamentary representatives, clergymen, merchants, lawyers, doctors, dentists and private citizens of every variety of political complexion. Amongst that vast and distinguished concourse I noticed the presence of Senators McSweeney, Montplaisir, H. J. Cloran, McDonald, of Cape Breton, Sullivan of Kingston, Watson of Manitoba, King of New Brunswick, Porier and Templeman of British Columbia. All the Liberal members of parliament were invited, and amongst these I noticed Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Sir William Mulock, C. S. Hyman of London, N. A. Beckett, Robt. Stewart, D. Gallery, St. Ann's, Montreal; R. Bickerdike, Geo. D. Grant, North Ontario; R. R. Hall, West Peterboro; Dr. Johnston, West Lambton; A. D. Gordon, Kent; E. B. Sutherland, Speaker of the House of Commons; Schell of Glengarry; Schell of South Oxford; Charles

Marcell, W. M. German of Welland, A. A. McCool, of Nipissing; V. Ratz, North Middlesex; Geo. Riley, Victoria City; Talbot of Bellechasse; A. A. Wright of South Renfrew; D. Derbyshire of Brockville; A. I. S. Copp of Digby; Hon. Solicitor-General Lemieux of Gaspé; Jas. J. Hughes, Souris, Prince Edward Island; Wm. Harty of Kingston; T. B. Caldwell of North Lanark; R. Charlemagne Laurier, of L'Assomption; Hon. R. Prefontaine of Maisonneuve; W. S. Calvert of West Middlesex; Wm. Power of Quebec West; Hon. Charles Fitzpatrick, Minister of Justice; Hon. L. P. Brodeur, Minister of Inland Revenue; Hon. H. R. Emmerson, Minister of Railways and Canals; Archibald Campbell of Centre York, etc., etc. Glancing around the spacious room I noticed a number who have not yet found a road leading to parliament, amongst whom I may name the following: D. O'Connor, M. C. Gorman, John Gorman, Joseph Pope, John T. Watters, M. Staars, Wm. Kehoe, Wm. Baskerville, Jas. A. Gouin, Henry Grey, George Goodwin, P. G. Brophy, J. D. Grace, editor and proprietor of United Canada; Wm. McKenzie, Arthur Pinard, H. Robillard, M. F. Walsh, John Connor, P. Mungoven, Samuel Cross, Michael Connolly, James McShane, Montreal; John P. Dunne, J. F. Shaw, Thomas Macfarlane, E. G. Laverdure, A. A. Tailon, W. Hinsworth, M. J. Griffin, parliamentary librarian; M. C. MacCormac, F. B. Hayes, Thos. Mackay, ex-M.P., North Renfrew; Col. Thompson, ex-M.P., Haldimand; Jas. Stratton, D. Ryan of Buffalo; J. L. Payne, E. P. Stanton, P. H. Harty, Maurice Bennett, Joseph Kavanagh, R. Steckel, W. Kearns, John Heney, J. J. Heney, Dr. Freeland, Dr. Dowling, Dr. Rogers, R. M. Coulter, John Byrne, Ralph Slattery, Denis Murphy, D. J. McDougall, M.P.P., Geo. S. May, M.P.P.; C. F. Mitchell, James White, President Ottawa Reform Association; Thomas Lindsay, D. C. F. Bliss, Walter Armstrong, H. C. Armstrong, John P. Hanlan, J. L. P. O'Hanly, Sir James Grant, Geo. O'Keefe, Charles Murphy, Lt.-Col. H. Smith, W. Bouvier, T. A. Beaumont, F. Cook, James Cory, Thomas McCabe. There were clergymen there also, amongst whom I noticed Rev. Dr. O'Boyle and Father Sloan of St. Bridget's parish. It must not be imagined that the parliamentary representatives who attended to manifest their feelings towards an old associate were all of the Grit persuasion. Indeed there was a good sprinkling of Tory stalwarts, amongst whom I may name Hon. John Haggart of South Lanark; F. D. Monk of Jacques Cartier; J. G. G. Bergeron of Beauharnois; Gilbert W. Ganong of Charlotte, N. B.; Robt. D. Wilmott, Sunbury, and Queens, N.B.; E. F. Clarke, Toronto, and Geo. H. Perley, of Argenteuil.

A table well loaded with seasonable delicacies never fails as an element of success in social functions. That its potency in bubbling up good nature to the highest point which it can reach was well understood by those who had in view the success of the event of which I am writing was amply demonstrated by the groans of a table as it bore up against a huge assortment of tempting delicacies and tempting viands.

And now the intellectual feast commences as Sir Wilfrid Laurier, in his happiest vein, begs Mr. Costigan's acceptance of a cabinet of solid silverware which was the hearty gift of his colleagues in the House of Commons. Sir Wilfrid closed a felicitous speech by saying that it was with pleasure he acted as spokesman for Mr. Costigan's many sincere friends.

Mr. Costigan, under evident feelings of deep emotion, replied to the Premier in both languages. Sir James Grant, an old man eloquent, is always heard with delight by an Ottawa audience, literally surprised himself on this occasion. Complimentary in his references to Mr. Costigan, Sir James branched out by saying that through his extensive intercourse with the Irish people he had learned to respect them for their fine qualities. The speech, which was heartily applauded, would have been more complete if the grand old man who delivered it told the audience that the "intercourse" of which he spoke caused

Irishmen to love and respect him, Mr. Thomas Macfarlane was the next speaker, and in happy terms alluded to the relations which for many years have subsisted between himself and Mr. Costigan, all of which enabled him to say that the latter shone out as the noblest work of God—an honest man.

Chevalier John Heney, who will enter on the 85th year of his life on the 16th April next, spoke, and was followed by Hon. H. E. Emmerson and Hon. Charles Fitzpatrick, Minister of Justice, who alluded to Mr. Costigan in the most complimentary terms. Geo. D. Grant, the talented member for North Ontario; R. R. Hall, a clever young man who made his way into parliament at the last Federal election through favor of the intelligent constituency of West Peterboro; Col. Thompson, ex-M.P. for Haldimand; N. A. Belcourt, M.P., Ottawa; C. F. McIsaac, M.P. for Antigonish; James White, President Ottawa Reform Association; R. Bickerdike, M.P. for Montreal, etc., delivered brief but eloquent speeches and with a song from Mr. Daniel Gallery, the active and efficient member for St. Ann's, Montreal, the happy proceedings were brought to a close.

RAMBLER.

CELEBRATED THEIR GOLDEN JUBILEE.

Mr. and Mrs. Beck, who live at 513 St. Urbain street, on Sunday, celebrated their golden wedding. The celebration was carried out quietly. In the forenoon the aged couple, accompanied by their three daughters, attended church, after which they spent the day quietly at home, receiving congratulations on having attained such a ripe age, side by side. In the evening a number of relatives and friends joined the family at dinner, and a pleasant evening was spent.

John Beck and Mary Ahern were married at Cape Despair, Gaspé, on February 12th, 1855. Both were born there, and there also they spent the greater part of their lives, and brought up their family. Several of their children died, but six still survive, two are married and settled at Cape Despair and Grand River, near the old home; one is in the United States, while three daughters, live with their father and mother in this city.

Mr. Beck was for years well known to all sea-faring men. In early life he embarked in the fishing business, carrying on trade at Moisie on the north shore of the St. Lawrence. Prosperity smiled on him for a few years, but like so many others he was forced to give up business by a succession of bad years. During the seventies he was appointed lighthouse keeper at Cape Despair, and retained that position for over twenty years.

For a time Mr. and Mrs. Beck lived with their son at Cape Despair, but a couple of years ago they decided to join their daughter, who had settled down in the city. They accordingly came to Montreal, where they have since lived. The aged couple enjoy excellent health, although the father is fast losing his eyesight. On the occasion of their golden wedding, they were the recipients of numerous gifts from relatives and friends.

Among those who took part in the celebration of the golden wedding were the three daughters of the jubilarians, the Misses Lydia, Kate and Ada Beck, their granddaughter, Miss Winnie Jones; their nephew, Mr. P. T. Ahern and Mrs. Ahern, Miss Jane Trachy, a cousin; Dr. and Mrs. C. H. Burman, formerly of Barachois de la Malbaie, Gaspé; Mrs. and Miss Touzel, Mrs. P. Jones, Mr. T. F. Cuddihy, Miss Coyle, Miss O'Brien and others.

HOMELIKE.

"Mamma," said the little girl who was having her first experience of riding in a sleeper. "Hush, dear," whispered mamma, "you will waken the others." "But, mamma, I only want to ask one question." "Well, what is it?" "Who has the fat above us?"