

ger and the incessant fatigue of hurrying to the pallets of the plagues stricken and watching in constant attendance by night and by day.

After his return to Oshawa Father Proulx enlarged his church and built a very fine brick residence in which he dispensed unbounded hospitality to all visiting clergymen and to parishioners who often came from a great distance for spiritual help or counsel in time of trial or difficulty. With a spirited team and light top buggy or cutter he visited in turn all the Catholic settlements north as far as Rama and Orillia, and west as far as the Don. He always took a set of vestments in his journeyings and held a station wherever possible, so that all the young people and children in that extensive district not only knew their catechism, but were accustomed to Catholic worship and practice from their earliest years. The several flourishing parishes of Brock, Brechin and Orillia, of Uptergrove, Midland and Uxbridge, besides Waubashene, Whitby and Pickering are the result chiefly of Father Proulx's missionary labours. Many anecdotes are related of Father Proulx's charities and gentleness of disposition. He also knew how to be severe and determined when roused to anger by injustice or a wanton display of unmanly bigotry.

Once in mid winter he was driving with his fast team in answer to an urgent sick call from Port Perry. About three miles north of Oshawa a teamster returning from market with an empty sleigh, blocked the single path before him. Several times he called in vain to the driver to pull to one side and let him pass. When he made an effort to go by, the teamster whipped his horses and dashed along at a furious rate. He then slowed up and compelled Father Proulx to follow at a walking pace behind.

The latter again implored the man to let him pass, told who he was, and the nature of his errand, it was all to no purpose. At last Father Proulx's patience reached its limit, and watching his opportunity, with the lines in his right hand and the whip doubled in his left he flew by the teamster at a gate entrance, struck him on the face with the whipstock, and lashed the horses' heads and ears as he passed. The frightened animals jumped to the left and upset themselves and the sleigh in six feet of snow in the ditch.

In 1858 Father Proulx was invited by Bishop de Charbonnel to give up missionary life and take up his residence in St. Michael's, Toronto. He preferred, however, the companionship and kind hospitality of his old friend, Father John Walsh (our present Archbishop), with whom he was associated in missionary work and in many trials and consolations, when the latter was making his *prima stipendia* in the parish of Brock. He remained in St. Mary's, on Bathurst street, assisting Father Walsh until the appointment and consecration of the latter as Bishop of London, November, 1867. His constant attendance and repeated visits to sick and poor, his great charities and sympathies with those in affliction are not yet forgotten by the old and middle-aged of Toronto West. Besides the old Canadian Rifleman a regiment of regular troops, with two batteries of artillery and a full regiment of Hussars, were stationed in the old barracks from 1860 to 1868. Father Proulx as Chaplain to her Majesty's forces was the pet of all those veterans—most of whom, officers and men, had smelt powder in the Crimean war.

Sometimes he took to their quarters belated soldiers whom he found wandering about stupid from liquor. Whether Catholic or Protestant all the soldiers looked on Father Proulx as their best friend, and sometimes called upon him to use his influence with the authorities in getting them

out of difficulties. After the consecration of Bishop Walsh, Father Proulx took his place as Pastor of St. Mary's, and left it only when age and growing infirmities induced Archbishop Lynch to call him to the Cathedral—having first obtained for him the title of Monsignor and the dignity of Domestic Prelate of the Holy See. Monsignor Proulx did not wear his well-merited honors very long. He was afflicted with cancer in the cheek, for which no remedy could be found. When he saw that his end was approaching, the old love of home from which he was separated during fifty long years of toil, came back to him. At his urgent appeal Archbishop Lynch allowed him to return to Lachine, and there amid the consolations of home sweet home, and with priests and nuns all near relatives surrounding him with care and praying at his bedside he calmly gave up his pure soul to the God he had so long and faithfully served.

DIDYMS.

#### The Outlook in Ireland.

The New Year finds the Irish people at home hopeful for the future. They look forward earnestly for the speedy arrival of the long wished-for day when under the fostering care of an Irish Parliament trade and commerce will flourish, Irishmen will be enabled to live in their own country, and peace and prosperity will reign throughout the land. But whatever the future may have in store, for the present outlook is far from bright indeed. In many an Irish homestead the pinch of hunger is felt and many an honest parent hears his children ask for bread, but in vain. Along the Western seaboard, where the potato crop has been a total failure, the terrible shadow of famine is surely hovering, and the distress is very great. Inquiries are of course being made with a view to ascertain the actual facts, but while officials inquire the poor suffer. There can be no possible excuse for this delay, as the unfortunate and critical condition of affairs has been known for months past. It is greatly to be feared that relief will come too late to be of any avail for many. The evicted tenants, too, are still out of their homes. Their sufferings are, of course, lessened by grants from the Paris Funds, but what they have endured, and are still enduring, it would be hard to estimate. The season which has just closed has been the worst experienced in the cities and towns of Ireland for very many years past. The consequence is that there is great scarcity of employment and much distress among the working classes. From all this it will be seen that the prospect is a very gloomy one for a large number of our poor people.

In the conversation that he held with certain members of the Italian nobility the other day, the Pope made it plain that he is extremely desirous of seeing better relations established between the Holy See and the Italian government, for the advantages of both the one and the other; and he also reaffirmed the policy that there can be no reconciliation effected except on the basis of allowing the church her full rights, and giving the Papacy the independence that is necessary to it for the proper exercise of its jurisdiction. The Holy Father added that he saw in the solicitude wherewith the well-minded officials regarded the situation proof that they, on their part, were also convinced of the necessity of the absolute autonomy of the head of the church.

*Fagged Out.*—None but those who have become fagged out, know what a depressed, miserable feeling it is. All strength is gone, and despondency has taken hold of the sufferers. They feel as though there is nothing to live for. There, however, is a cure—one box of Parmelee's Vegetable Pills will do wonders in restoring health and strength. Mandrake and Dandelion are two articles entering into the composition of Parmelee's Pills.

#### THE LATE SENATOR TASSE.

A Sketch of His Life and Works.

In the death of the Honorable Joseph Tasse, which took place on Thursday last, Canadian politics lost a sturdy and patriotic senator and Canadian literature lost one of its most eminent and thoughtful exponents. It was as a *litterateur* that Mr. Tasse made his greatest name, and long after his fiery and eloquent speeches from the hustings at election times have vanished from memory his thoughtful and clever books will be read and appreciated.

He was an uncompromising Conservative but before and above all party politics he was a faithful and patriotic Canadian.

Senator Joseph Tasse was born at Montreal, October 28, 1818 and received his education at Bourget College, Rigaud.

From his earliest boyhood he had evinced a marked literary inclination and immediately on leaving College he set about to find occupation that would enable him to gratify his literary aspirations. He was successful in this, and in 1867 when he was but 19 years of age, he made his first serious venture into literature as editor of the "Canada" a small tri weekly paper published at Ottawa. Abandoning this position soon after, he became, from 1869 to 1872, joint editor of the "Minerve" of Montreal and at the same time acted as a director of the "Revue Canadienne." Up to this time his style was neither fluent nor brilliant and his writings evinced none of the marked boldness and individuality which afterwards became his most salient characteristic.

In 1872 he was appointed assistant French translator in the House of Commons. While holding this position he had access to the extensive English and French library and he made everything of this excellent opportunity for improving his literary ability. In 1873 he made an extensive tour in Europe; visiting England, France, Belgium, Switzerland and Italy. On his return he published a detailed and very entertaining account of the places he had visited. Senator Tasse was much sought for as a lecturer and his masterly treatment of the subjects he spoke upon earned for him many honors from the literary and National Societies of Canada and the United States.

In 1874 he declined a seat in the House of Commons. At the general election of 1878 he was returned to the Commons for Ottawa, which city he continued to represent until February, 1891, when he was called to the Senate to fill the place of the late Senator Trudel.

Mr. Tasse in the course of his career was twice an unsuccessful candidate for Parliamentary honors. Once in Laprairie and again in Beauharnois. The contest at the latter place, in which Mr. Bisson was the Liberal candidate, was probably one of the hardest ever fought in Canada, Mr. Tasse being defeated only by the vote of the returning officer. That he occupied a leading position in his party was shown by the fact that his name was respectably mentioned in connection with the leadership of the party in provincial politics and once or twice for a Dominion portfolio.

Last year he was one of the Canadian Commissioners at the World's Fair where he acquitted himself to the greatest satisfaction of the Government he represented. His speech in reply to the Chicago Mayor Harrison's suggestion that Canada would in the near future accept Annexation was an example of Canadian patriotic eloquence that has been seldom equalled.

Despite the energy expended by Senator Tasse in the political arena and on the lecture platform it will not be as a lecturer or a politician, but as a *litterateur* that future generations will remember him. His works by

volume and quality have placed him in the rank of the most eminent French Canadian writers of the day and at least one of his books will live for generations as a standard work on the French Canadian discoverers and pioneers of the last century. Among Mr. Tasse's earliest works is "Philemon Wright" on Colonization of Com merce de Bois. This work was published in 1871 when he was 23 years of age and was followed in 1872 by a more extensive work entitled "Le Chemin de Fer Canadien du Pacifique." This work set forth the agricultural, nursery and lumber resources of the Ottawa Valley, and was considered sufficiently good for partial reproduction in the Paris "Le Tour du Monde" of July, 1875.

In 1878 Mr. Tasse produced the work of his life and entitled it "Les Canadiens de l'Ouest." It was published in two volumes embellished with portraits and engravings. The work was written primarily to demonstrate that the French Canadians were the pioneers and the discoverers of the Canadian and United States Northwest. The volume gives evidence of much laborious research but the style is very fluent and attractive and the accuracy of the data will always keep the book amongst the most reliable of the standard works on the same subject.

"Les Canadiens de l'Ouest" was very favorably reviewed in the foreign magazines and much of it was translated into the American papers. In 1878 he published a parallel of the life of Sir John MacDonal compared to that of Lord Beaconsfield. The work was a very elaborate one and aroused a good deal of interest.

He was made an "Officier d'Academie" of France for his contributions to French literature. In 1885 Tasse revisited Paris and became acquainted with some of the leading French writers of the age. During his stay he contributed many articles on Canadian topics to the leading Parisian periodicals. From 1880 to the time of his death he held the position of editor and leading writer on "La Minerve," and his powerful articles have been much copied and commented on.

Within the last few months he has published a book entitled "Political Recollections" in a volume in octavo and the life and speeches Sir George Etienne Cartier besides two other books, one on Annexation and the other on the French Language in Canada.

Senator Tasse's death had been expected for some time, but when it came at last it was none the less sad. He led an energetic, tireless life, and if the hand of death had not caused him at the early age of 47 to lay down the pen forever, many more works of lasting value would have been added to the literature of Canada.

Mr. Tasse leaves a wife and three children; his wife, whom he married in 1870, was Miss Marie Alexandrine Legault.

The remains of the late Senator were removed to St. James Church on Friday afternoon, where a Libera was sung, after which the procession reformed and proceeded to the Canadian Pacific depot to await the removal of the body to Ottawa, the burial taking place in that city on Saturday.

**The Catholic Almanac for Ontario is now to be had from the Office of the Catholic Register, mailed on receipt of price, 25 cents.**

The reason why Ayer's Cherry Pectoral is so much more effective than other remedies for colds and coughs is because it is the most skillful combination of anodynes and expectorants known to medical science. It is in every respect a scientific medicine.

#### If the Baby is Cutting Teeth

Be sure and use that old, well-tried remedy, Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup for children's teething. It soothes the child, softens the gums, allays all pain, cures wind colic and is the best remedy for diarrhoea. Twenty-five cents a bottle. It is the best of all.