

### Professor Roper.

Those who take a real interest in the welfare of the Church of England in Canada will be sorry, for Canada's sake, to hear that we are this month to lose one of the ablest and most devoted of our clergy, Rev. J. C. Roper, M. A., of St. Thomas' Church, Toronto. For the past eight years Mr. Roper has labored indefatigably in his large and poor parish in the northwest part of Toronto, and his self-denying ministrations freely given, in season and out of season, have deeply endeared him to his parishioners, to whom his departure will be a cause for heartfelt sorrow and regret. The reverend gentleman has been chosen by the Governing Board of the General Theological Seminary in New York to fill the position of Professor of Dogmatic Theology in that institution, and it is expected that he will leave Toronto in May to take up his new duties about the 1st of June.

Rev. John Charles Roper, M. A., is an Englishman by birth and education, and came out to Canada in 1886 to take a professorship in Trinity University. He was nominated to the professorial chair by the late Archbishop of Canterbury, and, in accepting it, gave up a position as lecturer in honor theology at Brasenose College, Oxford. While performing the duties of his Trinity appointment with great acceptance, he accepted the additional work of chaplain to the Sisterhood of St. John the Divine, and in 1889 he relinquished the former post to take the position of assistant rector of St. Thomas' Church, Huron street, Toronto, where he has since labored to the edification of the large congregation and the upbuilding and strengthening of the church.

Commenting upon the subject, a contemporary says:—"We believe we are right in saying that, if Mr. Roper felt himself free to choose in the matter, he would not relinquish either of these works. But the call to the General Theological Seminary has come with such marked emphasis that he feels he must obey rather than choose. When nominations for the vacant position were sent in, it was found that Mr. Roper's name was nominated from three or four different sources, the several nominators acting quite independently one from the other; and when, later on, the trustees met for the election, Mr. Roper was elected with marked unanimity on the first ballot. Dr. Hoffman, Dean of the Seminary, and Bishop Doane of Albany at once wrote to Mr. Roper urging him in the strongest possible terms to accept the election. The Bishop desired him specially to note 'with what absolute unanimity and satisfaction' his election had been made and received by the whole body of the trustees present, and the Bishop added that he believed the position to be one 'of almost unequalled possibilities of usefulness.' Indeed, it would be difficult to exaggerate the importance of the post, when we consider that nearly one-half of the whole body of the clergy of the American Church receive their training in this seminary, and that they will have their theological thought, as well as their views upon many of the great doctrinal and practical questions which the church to-day has to deal with, moulded under Mr. Roper's guiding influence."

"It would be ungrateful, at this juncture, if we of the Canadian Church were not to express the deep sense of our indebtedness to Mr. Roper for his many years of loyal service in our midst, or if we were to grudge him the higher position, which he leaves us to fill. Most heartily, therefore, do we wish him God-speed in those new duties and greater responsibilities which he goes, in dependence upon God, to assume."

Bishop Sullivan had again a large congregation of men at the closing sermon of the special series on purity of life, which he has been giving through Lent. The eloquent rector of St. James' Cathedral, in the course of his discourse, reviewed the factors which combine to sap the moral fibre of manhood. He spoke very earnestly against consorting with evil companions. The preacher said that he spoke, not as one different to themselves, but as a father, brother, and friend. It was from no feeling of self-righteousness, but from deep affection, that he spoke. He was thankful to say that, from the grateful letters which he had received, he was encouraged to believe that his words had not been in vain, but had been blessed as an encouragement to some to battle with the evils which had beset their minds and pathway. Let no young man, neither let any one, however steeped in vice, give way to despair. Some of them would rather cut out the tongue than tell to another of their wrongdoing. It was not necessary that they should, unless they personally desired to do so, confess their failings to a clergyman or any earthly personage. If they truly desired to lead an upright life, there was One to whom they could tell all, One who would neither reproach nor warn, but who would tenderly and with Divine wisdom, lead them along the path to his eternal, and by whose aid they would be enabled to emerge from the battle with evil, conquerors, and more than conquerors, and that with colors flying. Let such aid be sought before another night passed by.

On Thursday, April 8th, the boys of the Toronto Church school assembled at the school house at noon to take their farewell of the Rev. Richard Ashcroft, a master, who has been with them for more than four years, but who is now leaving to assume a greater work, namely, to be one of the assistants at St. James' Cathedral. After a short address, expressive of their thanks for the past and well wishes for the future, they presented him with a handsome oak clock, fitted with cathedral chimes, and a travelling bag. Mr. Ashcroft replied in a few earnest, impressive words that will long be remembered by all present. The head-master granted a half holiday in honor of the occasion, and with many a hearty handshake the school broke up for the Easter holidays.

In the city of Toronto, besides twenty-four chapters of the Brotherhood of St. Andrew, there is a flourishing Sunday School Association with a membership of over 1,200—well-attended monthly meetings—and a course of weekly lectures to Sunday school teachers.