

1868  
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# SERMON

DELIVERED BY

THE REV. ÆN. M<sup>C</sup>D. DAWSON,  
OF OTTAWA,

AT THE SOLEMN MASS OF REQUIEM, WHICH WAS CELEBRATED IN THE PARISH CHURCH OF  
L'ORIGNAL, DIOCESE OF OTTAWA, ON TUESDAY, 28TH APRIL, 1868, FOR THE REPOSE  
OF THE SOUL OF THE HON. THOS. DARCY M<sup>C</sup>GEE.

"Thus did this man die, leaving not only to young men, but also to the whole nation, the memory of his death for an example of virtue and fortitude.—H. MACH. IV. 31."

As the heroic Eleazar was barbarously slain by the executioners of a ruthless persecutor because he would not betray the laws and institutions of his country, so was that patriotic man—that faithful and powerful friend of Canada, the Hon. Thos. D'Arcy McGee doomed to an untimely grave, by the members and agents of an association or secret "brotherhood" which aims at subverting the institutions and the State of Canada. None of you are unaware, dear brethren, that in order to accomplish a purpose so odious to us all and in every respect so wicked and unjustifiable, the leaders of this association organized an armed force collected in the cities and other places of the neighboring Republic, and after having made the most formidable preparations of which they were capable, actually crossed the Canadian frontier, and carried the terrors of war into our peaceful homes. To resist this most lawless of all invasions, was surely the duty of our people—and of all our people: To denounce the invaders was alike imperative on every good citizen. As a representative citizen—as a public man in whom his fellowcountrymen placed unbounded confidence, the statesman and orator whose loss we mourn, exposed and brought to light the hidden and hostile machinations of these worst enemies that Canada has ever known. These Enemies of our peace and prosperity could exercise, and it is well known, did exercise, a certain influence in our community, by means of spies and secret agencies in our cities. By denouncing these also, the learned and patriotic gentleman rendered their wicked

ed schemes abortive. Nothing more was necessary in order to draw down their vengeance on his head. For this they pursued him with unrelenting hate. For this they reviled and calumniated him. For this, one of their number more cruel, more fool-hardy, and more cowardly than the rest, struck him, an unarmed, defenceless man, at an unguarded moment in the dead of night. But in proportion to their dark malevolence and inveterate hatred, is now and ever will be the gratitude of his fellow-countrymen. So long as liberty itself shall be appreciated, so long will Canadians be grateful to him who was its ablest defender. Where would be now those institutions of which we are so justly proud, if the schemes which the enemy contrived and plotted in the dark had been allowed to come to maturity? Where the peace which we enjoy? our prosperity? our national happiness? Where those equal rights which we claim and possess under the guardianship of our free representative Government? All these were imperilled. And he who so nobly fell when labouring to avert the threatened loss of so many blessings, may be well accounted a martyr in our cause, the cause of our institutions, whether sacred or political, no less than in the cause of our constitution itself, to which we firmly hold as the surest bulwark of our liberties. If an aged man of four score and ten is praised in Holy Writ because that he laid down his life for his country and his country's laws, even more must we be permitted to extol a patriotic fellow-countryman who in the very prime of life, and in the midst of a career brilliant as it was useful, exposed himself to death, and met death, whilst courageously thwarting the designs of our enemies, and driving far from the land he loved—the land of his choice