

## "IF I SHOULD DIE TO-NIGHT."

If I should die to-night,  
My friends would look upon my quiet face  
Before they laid it in its resting place,  
And deem that death had left it almost fair,  
And laying snow white flowers against my hair  
Would smoothe it down with tearful tenderness,  
And fold my hands with lingering caress  
Poor hands, so empty and so cold to-night.

If I should die to-night,  
My friends would call to mind with loving thought  
Some kindly deed the icy hands had wrought,  
Some gentle word the frozen lips had said,  
Errands on which the willing feet had sped,  
The memory of my selfishness and pride,  
My hasty words would all be laid aside,  
And so I should be loved, and mourned to-night.

If I should die to-night,  
Even hearts estranged would turn, once more to me,  
Recalling other days remorsefully  
The eyes, which chid me with averted glance  
Would look upon me as of yore perchance  
And soften in the old familiar way;  
For who could war with dumb, unconscious clay?  
So I might rest forgiven of all, to-night.

O friends! I pray to-night,  
Keep not your kisses for my dead cold brow;  
The way is lonely, let me feel them now.  
Think gently of me, I am travel-worn,  
My faltering feet are pierced with many a thorn.  
Forgive, O hearts estranged, forgive, I plead,  
When dreamless rest is mine I shall not need  
The tenderness for which I long, to-night.

## FIFTY YEARS AGO.

Sunday, May 29th, was a red letter day in the history of the Catholic Church in Oshawa. On that day was celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of the building of that church. It was made particularly notable by the presence of Archbishop Walsh.

The Archbishop arrived the previous evening on the local train, and was met at the station by the 34th Battalion Band, and a large number of the adherents of the church. His Grace was accompanied by Vicars-General Rooney and McCann, and Fathers Moyna and Gearin. A procession was formed, led by James Gibbons on horseback followed by the band, and the two carriages in which rode the distinguished visitors. A large number of men followed on foot to the presbytery.

A large congregation attended the services Sunday morning to witness the celebration of High Mass. The Mass was sung by Vicar-General Pooney, Father Gearin acted as deacon, and Father Moyna as sub-deacon, Father Hand was master of ceremonies. At the conclusion of the Mass Mr. T. F. Leonard read an address to His Grace from the survivors of those who had planted the foundations of the church in Oshawa fifty years ago.

To His Grace the Most Rev. John Walsh, D.D., Archbishop of Toronto

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR GRACE,

To receive a few words of greeting from the survivors of those who fifty years ago planted the foundations of the church in Oshawa.

It is not without mingled feelings of joy and sadness that we look back over the half century that has elapsed since the little flock gathered together to erect a monument to their faith and to provide a place for worship of Almighty God.

The mission of Oshawa originally embraced the whole county of Ontario. In course of time parishes were formed, churches erected and pastors appointed to attend the spiritual wants of the growing population of the district. Oshawa may rightly claim the parishes of Brock, Mara, Pickering, Uxbridge, and Whitby as her legitimate offspring.

God has blessed this mission with zealous and indefatigable pastors, whose patience was fully tested by a wayward flock. The works of those of them who still live and labor in the diocese do not require any special notice. Of those who have gone to their reward mention may be made of Rev. Father Proulx, who did more than any other to lay the spiritual foundations of the parish. Though his labors were great and his field of toil extensive, he furnished the Catholics of Oshawa with more ample church accommodations and greater educational facilities than they previously possessed. He it was who, thirty years ago, introduced the Sisters of St. Joseph to the parish. Their presence has been a continued blessing ever since to the young and old of the congregation.

Father Shea and Father O'Keefe, who spent the very prime of their priestly life among us, have gone to enjoy their reward. Their memory remains in benediction in our households.

Much has been done to advance the interests of the parish. It only remains, to crown our labors, to erect a new church to take the place of the one that has done service for the past fifty years. We pray that the day may not be far distant when Your Grace may be called upon to lay the corner-stone of the new edifice.

Thanking Your Grace for your presence here to-day at our jubilee service, we subscribe ourselves,

Your obedient children,

GILBERT PARRILL,      PATRICK WALL,  
JOHN HART,              T. F. LEONARD.

Oshawa, May 29th, 1892.

In his sermon Archbishop Walsh thanked the people for their hearty welcome of the previous evening and said he was glad to share with them the joys, and sorrows also, brought up on the occasion of this celebration. His Grace appropriately spoke of the temples of ancient times, of the magnificent temple of King Solomon, and of the smaller one which succeeded it, which was grander than King Solomon's, because it was there that our Lord was presented as a child. He said that the humblest Catholic church was more blessed than any temple of antiquity because through the Holy Eucharist it was the dwelling place of the Lord Jesus. He said that every sermon preached by a Catholic priest in a Catholic church were the words of Christ Himself. He gave the

reasons why Catholics should take an interest in the celebration of the anniversary of this old church. Here it was that many of you were baptized, here great numbers of you were prepared for your first Communion, here it was that your marriages were solemnized, and here, too, were the ceremonies of the Church performed over the bodies of those who had died. He said that during the last fifty years 3,088 had been baptized, and 383 marriages recorded in the parish Register. Before closing the morning services the Archbishop made a strong appeal on behalf of the building fund. In the evening Father Moyna, of Stayner, preached an eloquent sermon.

The musical performances of the day were a revelation to all who heard them. The rendition of Mozart's Twelfth Mass in the morning was beautiful. Mrs. Daley, of Barrie, and Mrs. McKeown, (nee Mary O'Regan) of Hamilton, were the principal sopranos. Four members of the Whitby choir gave valuable assistance. A very large part of the credit of the success of the music is due to the Sisters of St. Joseph's Convent, who trained the choir. The orchestra was under the leadership of Mr. John O'Regan, and was composed entirely of Oshawa musicians. Miss Walsh presided at the organ.

On Monday morning the Archbishop visited the school where he was received by a welcome song from about one hundred pupils, and he was presented with an address and a bouquet of flowers. His Grace kindly granted the children a holiday for the remainder of the day.

Afterward he visited the church at Whitby. His Grace visited the Separate School and was received by the members of the School Board. The children sang a song of welcome to their chief pastor. His Grace addressed them in a fatherly and kindly manner, and after much salutary advice granted them a half holiday. The Archbishop retired to the church where the following address from the School Board was presented by the Chairman, J. H. Long:

To His Grace the Most Rev. John Walsh, D.D., Archbishop of Toronto:

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR GRACE,

We, the Trustees of the Roman Catholic Separate School for the town of Whitby, extend to Your Grace a most cordial and hearty welcome on this, the occasion of your visit to our school.

We are glad to assure Your Grace that though our school is small and does not possess all the advantages of a fully graded school, the pupils are being steadily advanced and the school is making satisfactory progress. Our excellent teacher possesses the confidence of the Board as well as of the pupils, and the best of harmony prevails; the attendance is increasing and the Catholic rate payers are giving their unanimous support to the school.

We believe this latter excellent result is mainly attributable to the renewed confidence in the school felt by the people since the advent of the Rev. J. L. Hand, whom Your Grace was pleased to appoint priest of this parish, and owing to whose wise administration of the affairs of the parish the people are a unit regarding the management of the school.

We express the hope that Your Grace may be pleased with your visit to our school, and that your stay in Whitby may be as enjoyable to yourself as it is pleasant and profitable to us.

On behalf of the Board

JAMES LONG,

Sec'y.

J. H. LONG,

Chairman.

Whitby, May 30th, 1892.

In reply the Archbishop praised the efforts of the Catholics of Whitby in behalf of education. He adverted to the interior condition of the church, at the laying of the corner stone, at which he assisted. He sanctioned the contemplated improvements, and subscribed \$25 towards their completion.

According to the facts gathered, Mass was first offered in Oshawa in 1830, in the house of the late Daniel Leonard, who was the first Catholic settler. Fathers Butler, McDonough, Gibney, and Quinlan in turn attended to the spiritual welfare of the place. Afterwards Oshawa became attached to the parish of Cobourg and was attended by Fathers Kernin and Timlin. In 1841 the first part of the present church was erected under the direction of Father Kernin. J. Hoyt and Stephen Groves were the two builders, but they received great assistance from the congregation, who furnished all the material. The principal benefactors and founders were Patrick Wall, Daniel Leonard, Denis Duella, Michael Curtin, Sr., Arthur Santry, Richard Supple, Jno. O'Regan, Sr., and Captain Dwan, of these only Mr. Wall still lives. Before the completion of the church McGregor's school-house was used for the occasional services. It was not till 1843 that a resident pastor was appointed. In that year Rev. H. Fitzpatrick took charge, leaving in 1844. He was followed by Fathers Nightingale and Bennett, after whom in 1845 Father Fitzpatrick was re-appointed, leaving the next year.

The church registered next shows that he was followed by Father Nightingale for the second time in 1846. After him came Father Smith, and then in 1848 the Rev. J. B. Proulx, uncle of Chief Justice Lacoste in the Province of Quebec. He lived in Oshawa about twelve years and carried out many important improvements. During his time the church was enlarged to its present size, and a Separate School built, a building of one story. He also purchased the lot on which the presbytery now stands, and six lots in Whitby for church purposes. In 1859 Father Laurent was appointed assistant to Father Proulx, and in 1860 Pickering and Highland Creek were made a parish, and Father Laurent was appointed the first priest. Father Eugene O'Keefe came in 1860 and established a Separate School at Whitby. The Rev. J. J. Shea came in 1862, remaining ten years. He built the present church at Whitby. Rev. J. J. McCann built the present parochial residence at a cost of \$4000, and raised the Separate School to its present height. He also purchased the new cemetery and made extensive improvements to the church at Whitby and built the present Separate School there. In 1877 Rev. J. J. McEntee was appointed, and in the following year the church was visited by Archbishop Lynch, who confirmed 70 candidates here and 150 in Whitby. In anticipation of his visit considerable improvements were made to the interior of the church. In 1880 Rev. J. J. Kelly was appointed assistant, remaining one year. In the same year Bishop O'Mahony confirmed 70 candidates in Oshawa and 70 in Whitby. In 1883 the brick stable and driving house attached to the presbytery was erected at a cost of \$1,200. In this year the parish was divided, and Whitby made into a separate parish, and Rev. P. J. McColl was appointed priest. On Ascension Thursday, 1886, Archbishop Lynch confirmed 70 candidates, and paid his last official visit to Oshawa. In 1890 Father McEntee was transferred to Port Colborne, and the Rev. J. L. Hand, the present priest took charge. In 1890 Archbishop Walsh paid his first episcopal visit to Oshawa. A large sum was spent in furnishing the house in this year, and in the month of May the new building fund was commenced, and now totals something in the neighborhood of \$3,000.

Could we see when and where we are to meet again, we would be more tender when we bid our friends good bye.