

THE NEW HOTEL DIEU, CORNWALL.

On Sunday, the 18th inst., the cornerstone of the new Hotel Dieu, of Cornwall, was solemnly blessed and laid by His Lordship, Bishop Macdonell, in the presence of over 2,000 people.

Immediately before the ceremony proper, the lecture of the day was delivered by Rev. Jas. Callaghan, P.S.S., chaplain of the Hotel Dieu, Montreal.

The name of the widely-known reverend gentleman is a guarantee of the excellence of his oration, which is here-with given almost in full, while the impression it produced on the large number present who listened attentively throughout is a testimony of the influence yielded by him and of their appreciation of what he gave utterance to.

AN Eloquent discourse. The Rev. Father took for his text—"Let the charity of the brotherhood abide in you. And hospitality do not forget, for by this, some may not being aware of it, have entertained Angels."

Christianity is the noblest and the sublimest form of philanthropy. It has outdone in loftiness of thought, and in purity of sentiment, the beautiful of Grecian and Roman art in the age of Pericles or Augustus, and imparted to poetry and literature, music and painting, sculpture and architecture, a supernatural colouring quite unknown to pagan civilization and refinement.

In the dark period of idolatry and superstition the term "hospital" was not recorded in any dictionary or vocabulary. The Goddess Venus, with all her amorous fascinations, turned a deaf ear to the wailings of woe and the moanings of pain, and the arm of pagan law dispatched and exterminated pitilessly the infirm and the deformed, the aged and the orphan.

The Moslem legislation, too, ostracized leprosy and decreed the victim's immediate removal from the encampment in the desert or from the city. Christianity appears and lo! Every species of human infirmity, from the least offensive to the most odious, is nursed by its tender hand, and a home at times palatial opened to welcome the "hospes" or guest.

Evangelism or the gospelship of Christ is the inventor and expounder of the "hospital," and the parable of the "Good Samaritan" a forecast of the institution. Jesus, replying to a lawyer, who asked Him, "Who is my neighbour?" said: "A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among robbers, who also stripped him, and having wounded him, went away leaving him half dead. And it chanced that a certain priest went down the same way; and seeing him, passed by. But a certain Samaritan, being on his journey, came near him; and, seeing him, was moved with compassion. And going up to him, bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine, and setting him upon his own beast, brought him to an inn and took care of him."

The theory and practice of the X rays, the application of chloroform, ether, and other anesthetics, the discovery of the "bacillus" that liberates hidden world of "microbe germs" of disease, the appliances of the electric battery in the treatment of countless

bodily ailments, have revolutionized the tactics of the old school and won for the contemporary doctor a prestige and an ascendancy unequalled since the days of the fabled Aesculapius, Koch, Pasteur, the Abbe Kneipp have sterner their memory by their eminent and valuable services in the crusade against the horrors of disease.

The woman is nurse by nature. "When pain and anguish wring the brow, A ministering angel, thou." -Walter Scott.

Her gentle and winning ways, her polished manners, her invincible patience, her keen perception and observation, her thoughtfulness, her decisive and prompt action fit her admirably for that office. Virtue enhances her nature. "It is virtue that doth make woman most admired."

His Lordship then proceeded to bless the stone, accompanied by Very Rev. Vicar-General Corbett, of St. John's Church, Very Rev. Dean De Saubian, Church of the Nativity, East Cornwall, and Rev. D. Gillis, Douglastown, P.I. In a cavity under the stone was placed a sealed jar containing the date of the ceremony, a number of current Canadian coins, lists of the names of those prominent in Church and State, including those of the sisters at present in the institution, of the physicians in attendance at the hospital, copies of the principal Catholic and secular papers, medals and statuettes. After the blessing His Lordship placed the stone in position on the south-west corner of the main entrance, thus concluding the religious portion of the programme.

VARIOUS SPEECHES. Speeches followed by the Mayor, Dr. Alguire, Col. R. R. McLennan, M.P., Doctors Moloney and Hamilton, P. C. Campbell, reeve of the town, and Michael McEmily, all of whom expressed their appreciation of the work done in the past and congratulated Rev. Father Corbett, the sisters, and all who had an part in the advancement of the institution, on the maturing of their plans and the success of their efforts in the cause of charity.

DESCRIPTION OF THE BUILDING. The building which is to be of dress- ing stone, and which will measure 115 feet by 48 feet, with the central portion extending from the main entrance to the rear 10 feet. There are to be three stories above the spacious basement. With beauty of design have been united strength and solidity in the walls and building. While being an ornament to the town in point of architecture, it will be fitted with the conveniences and appliances necessary for the proper treatment of disease, and heat calculated to ensure the comfort of the sick. The erection of this new edifice testifies in itself to the progress of the institution since its inauguration, a little more than two years ago, and is an index of its service to suffering humanity in the district, of which it has become so necessary a factor, that people are wondering how they got along previously without it. The need of a hospital was felt for years, but it was not until the winter of '97 that the project took definite shape. Under the direction of Father Corbett, with whom the existence of such an institution was first cherished, and at the beginning of his pastorate in Cornwall, and whose energy, experience, and foresight gave assurance of the success which time has realized, the property on West Water street, known as the Sandfield estate, was obtained. The large residence, once the home of the late Hon. John Sandfield McDonald, was renovated and fitted with the necessities of a hospital. The sisters of the Hotel Dieu of Kingston were given charge and under them was opened the Hotel Dieu of Cornwall to the public, June 17th, 1897. Since that time the number of patients gradually increased and at length taxed the capacity of the building to its utmost. The need of larger quarters became apparent, and steps were taken to provide them. Plans were prepared by Architect Tanguay, of Quebec, the contract was let to Mr. Louis Chevalier, of Cornwall, and work was begun on the land adjoining the old building in May. The fact that Father Corbett is the chief mover in the new undertaking assures its success and will serve to inspire confidence in those who are generously helping the work along. He is to be congratulated on this new monument to his labours, which, along with the magnificent St. Columban's church, will meet the needs of the present and remind future generations of his devotedness to charity and religion, and of their obligations to an earnest and provident pastor.

The woman perfected, or the valiant woman of the Bible, is the one favoured by nature, and uplifted by grace, and thus put in touch with her eternal destiny. The sister in religion is the type of perfect womanhood. The hospital nun is virgin and nurse by vocation. She is the Mary and the Martha of the Gospel, and couples the contemplative life with the active. A triple view consecrates her to God; a fourth unites

her to her patients. The constitutions of her order; God's own three-piece regulate all her movements, prescribe the quantity and the quality of her daily food; yes, even her hours of sleep. At hospital work she is an angel on the sweet errand of mercy. Borne upon the wings of charity, she flies onward to ward, from bed to bed, carrying the cooling draught to the parched lip, the delirious rattle to the sickly palate, the hopeful remedy to the diseased part, without a murmur, and with a smile upon her countenance. Like Mary at the foot of the cross, she stands till the end, and weeps and sighs with the expiring Christian. When all hope of recovery is fled, she obeys the divine injunction promulgated by the Apostle St. James:—"In any man sick among you, let him bring in the priests of the Church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord;" close his eyes in death, and recites on bended knees the "De Profundis" for the repose of his departed soul in the midnight hour, as in the turmoil of non- tivity, she is ever at her post, like a sentinel on guard, and fearless of death, whether in the chambers of pestilence or on the field of battle, amid the roaring of the cannon or the whizzing of shot and shell, and while the rest of the world is slumbering in sweet repose or carousing upon the highway of vice, she is up noiselessly patrolling the length and breadth of the hospital and ministering to the wants and caprices of her charge.

A strong incentive than more humanity or compassion, and a higher motive than mere or expentancy of a grateful return or a longing for fame or popularity, urges her in the accomplishment of her task. The glory of Christ and the salvation of souls are her only two concerns. As sickness is the occasion of serious reflection and the golden hour of repentance and conversion, she, like the Divine miracle-worker who wrought countless wonders in the body to convert the spirit, utilizes all the magnetism of her powers to lead back the lost sheep to the fold. She tells, too, for a far more liberal reward than the world can give. Jesus, for whose sake alone she gave up once for all the glitter of fortune, the pomp of position, the ties of nature, yea, even her own personal liberty, is her only compensator, and the sacrifice of life itself, if required, to please him, would not cost her a single tear. She sees in the patient the image of her crucified Redeemer, who identifies Himself with him. Her quest is not an angel, but Christ, as he read in St. Matthew:—"Then shall the King say to them that shall be on his right hand: 'Come, ye blessed of my Father, possess ye the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave me to drink; I was a stranger and you took me in; Naked and you clothed me; sick and you visited me; I was in prison and you came to me.' Then shall the King answer him, saying: 'Lord, when did we see Thee hungry, and fed Thee; thirsty and gave Thee drink? And when did we see Thee a stranger and took Thee in; or naked and covered Thee? And when did we see Thee sick or in prison, and came to Thee?' And the King, answering, shall say unto them: 'Amen, I say to you, as long as you did it to one of these my least brethren, you did it unto Me.'-xxv, 34-40.

Alexandria diocese may well pride in the new building that it is about to rear to the God of love and mercy. Cornwall will ever enjoy the double privilege of possessing it and reckoning it among the many important edifices that crowd its thoroughfares. The people of Cornwall, together with the other devoted labourers in this youthful and thriving portion of Christ's vineyard, you are the architects and builders of this institution. With your wealth the foundations will be sunk deep and broad, and with your offering upon them will rise a superb superstructure to bear evidence to your Christian sentiments. Your gold and silver you could not lend out in better securities, or on more favourable terms. The investment must yield compound interest, for God is the chief capitalist in every charitable enterprise. He blesses the kind heart and open hand with all manner of prosperity, and any one creed, but rests upon the broad scorns the miser who shares not with the needy the abundance of the divine gifts. Your brothers by nature, who are strangers to the household of the faith, will co-operate with you in furthering a work that does not belong to basins of universal charity.

You are specially honoured, too, in having as servants of the sick a religious order whose name is closely associated with the sweet reminiscences of our country in the primeval days of the colony. The Hotel Dieu, of Cornwall, is a spiritual daughter of Kingston, and though the date of the child's birth does not extend beyond February 9th, 1837, yet the vigour which she exhibits denotes the vitality of the mother who begot her. Kingston, too, is an offspring of Montreal, or the ancient "Ville-Marie" gladly hails September 1, 1845, as her natal feast, and gratefully remembers Rev. Mother Bourbonniere, her founderess and first superiress.

Cornwall may trace its line of ancestry to the Rev. Mother de Brezoles, founderess and first superiress of the "Ville-Marie Community," 2nd October, 1653, or back to Mademoiselle de Nece, the founderess of the Hotel Dieu or the hospital proper, or still more remotely to Very Rev. Mother Marie de la Perre, founderess and first superiress of the parent house at first

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