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The Montreal Witness

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THE IRISH PRIEST IN POLITICS

An Important Address Delivered By His Lordship Bishop Healy

THE LIBERTY OF ACTION OF ECCLESIASTICS DISCUSSED.

The Duties of Priests in Regard to Questions of Mixed Politics Outlined.

Relations Between the Lay and Clerical Sections in Ireland Dwelt Upon in Touching Language.

At the annual meeting of the Maynooth Union, which was held on Thursday, July 1, at Maynooth College, under the presidency of his Eminence Cardinal Logue, an important address on "The Irish Priest in Politics" was delivered by the Right Rev. Dr. Healy, Bishop of Clonfert.

His Lordship said the applause of the meeting might not be so fervent when they heard the title of the paper, which was "The Irish Priest in Politics" [applause and laughter.] The question he proposed to discuss was a large and in some respects a very delicate question.

The Long Battle for Faith and Fatherland had developed a religious patriotism which had become a second nature in every genuine Irish heart [applause]. In considering the question they must confine themselves to their own country, and even in their own country the question had what he might call its historical aspect, and they might discuss the intervention of the Pope or the Bishops, either collectively or individually, in Irish politics.

questions. Educational questions, matrimonial laws, poor laws, charitable bequests, and many others of a similar character belonged to that category. The canonist maintained that in the settlement of those questions, or most of them, the Church should be the predominant partner—that in the settlement of such questions the Church, that was to say the Pope and the Bishop and the priest, had a right to speak with authority and to insist on the recognition of the legitimate claims of their flocks by the Government of the day as well as by the politicians of every party [applause].

Great Liberty of Action was Allowed to Ecclesiastics.

much more indeed than they enjoyed in the so-called Catholic countries of the Continent. They had poverty in Ireland, and they had as well a great many grievances, but they had also freedom—freedom of speech, freedom of combination, freedom of action—which was in itself a great blessing, a blessing which he believed no Catholic Irishman, lay or clerical, would be willing to barter for the loaves and fishes of a great State endowment. [Applause.]

Many Political Parties in the Country.

There was chronic inurrection, confiscation, imprisonment—no single element of resemblance was wanting, and yet there was no reference to all that in the New Testament, and, as far as they could judge, Our Saviour, as well as His Apostles and disciples, kept entirely aloof from political questions of the time. Once only a dangerous question was put to Our Saviour in order to compromise Him with one side or the other.

principles, and which justified the interference of the clergy of this country in politics, which ought not to be tolerated in other countries? It was quite obvious that the proposition should be answered in the affirmative [applause], although in his opinion the special reasons were by no means so urgent now as they were heretofore. When the Catholics got the Franchise

The Influence of the Clergy

at once began to make itself felt in Ireland. O'Connell organized that influence, and mainly by its leverage he succeeded in winning the civil and religious liberties of Irish Catholics. But it was obvious that the questions of Emancipation, and the Tithes, and the Disestablishment of the Church, of National Education, of proselytising schools, were mixed questions, in some of which the religious question was the predominant question.



THE LATE VERY REV. CANON BOURGEOULT.

and his zeal might outrun discretion; but in the main he was right; his cause was just, and his work was high [applause]. And for the same reason now the priest and the Bishop had a right of intervening prominently in the political discussion of those mixed questions, and that right no fair-minded man could question [hear, hear].

THE ADMINISTRATOR DEAD.

Most Rev. F. Bourgeault Passes Away Suddenly.

A Sketch of His Career—The Funeral Service at St. James Cathedral on Tuesday.

The faithful on their visits to the Archbishopal Palace will miss a familiar and venerated figure in that of the Most Reverend Father Bourgeault, Capillary Vicar of Montreal and Dean of the Chapter of the Cathedral. The venerable priest died on the evening of the ninth instant after a short illness of three hours. It may be said that he died in the service of the Lord, a martyr to the duties of his holy office, of which he was ever a persistent and devoted observer.

almost daylight by the faithful anxious to look for the last time on features endeared to them in life.

The Funeral Services.

It was a solemn and impressive scene, yesterday morning, when, in the great Cathedral of St. James, the body of Rev. Canon Bourgeault was consigned to its last resting place in the crypt of the noble and sacred edifice, the walls of which he had so much helped to build by his loving labor and devotion.

His Lordship Bishop Desjardins, coadjutor of Bishop Moreau of St. Hyacinthe, officiated as celebrant of the grand Requiem Mass, with Rev. Father Healy, Parish Priest of Lachine, as assistant priest, and Rev. Father Henin of St. Scholastique, and Rev. Father Payette of St. Eusebe, as deacon and sub-deacon of honor.

Among the clergy who assisted at the funeral ceremonies were Bishop Gravel, of Nicolet; Bishop Enard, of Valleyfield; Rev. Father Antoine, of St. Hyacinthe; His Grace Archbishop Bruchesi, of Okay; His Grace Archbishop Gauthier, of Quebec; Very Rev. T. Hamel, representing the University of Laval, Quebec; Canon Saucer, representing Bishop Blas of Rimouski; Vicar General McCloy, representing Bishop Larocque of Sherbrooke; Very Rev. Father Routhier, representing Bishop Duhamel of Ottawa; Canon Baril, representing Bishop Lalonde of Three Rivers; Very Rev. Father Champoux of St. Polycarpe; Very Rev. Father Dugas of Cohon, N. Y.; Canon Decelles of St. Hyacinthe; Canon Racicot, Canon Archambault, Canon Vaillant, Canon Gauthier and Canon Martin, all of the Archdiocese of Montreal; Rev. Father A. Brisson; Rev. Father C. J. Brady; Rev. Father L. Dupuis, Parish Priest of the Church of the Infant Jesus; Rev. Father J. Lonergan, of St. Bridget's; Rev. Father Auclair, of St. Jean Baptiste; Rev. Father Chas. Larocque, of St. Louis de France; Rev. Canon J. W. Leclaire, of St. Joseph's; Rev. Father Adam of the Sacred Heart; Rev. Father G. M. Lepailleur, of Maisonneuve; Rev. Father H. Bissonet, of Hochelaga; Rev. Father A. Marsalis, Rev. Father F. L. Adam, Rev. Father J. E. L. Forbes, Rev. Father O'Donnell, Rev. Father Donnelly, Rev. Father Strabbe, Rev. Father Kavanagh, Rev. Father Salmon, Rev. Father Callaghan, Rev. Father Quinlan, Rev. Father McCallen, Canon O'Meara.

with undiminished force. The great beat effected more than the seventy years of labor in the service of the Church had done and Father Bourgeault in the space of three short hours passed away.

Sketch of His Life.

The Most Reverend Father Florent Bourgeault was born at Lavaltrie, near Montreal, on February the 23rd, 1828. His father was Victor Bourgeault and his mother Marie Joseph Barque. He studied the classics in the college of L'Assomption and on the 14th of September, 1851, was ordained priest by Bishop Prince, Coadjutor to Archbishop Bourget and first bishop of St. Hyacinthe. For four years subsequent he held the chair of philosophy and theology in his Alma Mater, and in 1855 was called by Archbishop Bourget to the charge of the parish of St. Polycarpe. Shortly afterwards he passed to the curship of St. Joseph du Lac in the County of Two Mountains. In 1859, on Rev. Father Charles Edward Fabre resigning the curship of Pointe Claire to become Titular Canon of the Cathedral and reside with Archbishop Bourget, Rev. Father Bourgeault was appointed to the charge. In 1877 Rev. Father Bourgeault was transferred to Laprairie, in charge of which parish he remained fourteen years.

In 1891 Archbishop Fabre conferred the dignity of Titular Canon on Rev. Father Bourgeault, and when, in 1892, Grand Vicar Marechal died, he was invested with this important office with the added dignity of Dean of the Metropolitan Chapter. On the death of His Grace, the late Archbishop Fabre, the charge of the administration of the affairs of the department devolved on Canon Bourgeault. It would seem that he only awaited the opportunity of a successor to his beloved bishop to lay down his charge and fly to the rest in the Lord which he had so well earned in life.

The Remains Removed to the Cathedral.

The mortal remains of Capillary Canon Bourgeault lay in state all Monday evening in the Cathedral of St. James. They were removed from the mortuary chamber in the Archbishopal Palace at seven o'clock in the presence of every priest in the Archdiocese who could possibly leave his charge. The pallbearers were the honorary titular canons and the ceremonial was the same as that observed during the obsequies of the late Archbishop Fabre. The route of processions to the Cathedral was from the main entrance of the Palace to Lagachetiere street to Cathedral street, thence to the main entrance of the sacred edifice. The procession, composed almost entirely of the clergy, visited the office of the dead The Cathedral, which was kept open all night, was crowded until

MONSIGNOR BRUCHESE HONORED

A Gift of One Thousand Dollars

Presented to the New Archbishop By the Society of French Canadian Artisans.

On Thursday evening last the Cabinet de Lecture on Notre Dame street was the scene of a magnificent demonstration in honor of the new Archbishop of the Diocese of Montreal. The Society of French Canadian Artisans, which has a membership of over 13,000 men, considering it their duty to celebrate the advent to the Episcopacy of their Almoner, assembled in the above mentioned hall to tender Monsignor Bruchesi a public testimonial of their devotion and esteem.

There were present a large number of renowned gentlemen from the City of Montreal and neighboring parishes, and several officers and members of the Artisans' Society, under the chairmanship of the President, Alderman T. A. Grothe.

The President made a few remarks, declaring that as the new Archbishop of the Diocese was the chaplain of their society and was to continue as such, they considered it their duty to make him a present on the occasion of his elevation to the Archbishopal throne of Montreal. Mr. Grothe terminated his remarks by reading the following address:—

THE ADDRESS To His Grace Monsignor PAUL BRUCHESE, Archbishop of Montreal.

Monsignor.—You have kindly allowed the members of the Artisans' Society to tender to Your Grace the expression of their profound respect; we thank you. On the occasion of your elevation to the Archbishopal See of Montreal, all the Catholics of Canada rejoice and thank Heaven. Your venerable suffragans speak a language that moves and edifies us; your diocesan prelates you; your metropolitan city congratulates itself to see one of its children becoming its chief pastor; your chapter and your clergy hail with honor your advent to the episcopacy; the communities and the benevolent associations who have already received the light of your counsels hasten to congratulate you.

Catholics and French Canadians, the artisans whose chaplain and guide you have been and kindly wish to continue, have held themselves in honor to mingle their voices with this general concert. Permit us to say it, Monsignor, it was for us an obligation, as well as an honor, to offer you our humble congratulations, our warm acclamations; we will not take upon ourselves to enlarge Your Grace's works, your writings, your eloquent speeches have long since done so; let us simply say, "we know you, we love you."

To this testimonial of affection, so legitimate on our part, permit us to add that of our perfect and entire submission to the authority of which by the grace of God and the choice of the Holy See you are now the depositary.

It is in the spirit of these sentiments that we ask of Your Grace, for our association, for our families and for ourselves, one of your first blessings.

8th July, 1897.

The Archbishop's Reply.

This address received prolonged applause, and when Monsignor rose to speak there reigned a profound silence. His Grace seemed greatly moved and made an eloquent and sympathetic reply, in which he said: "I am profoundly impressed by the sentiments and vows which you express in your name and in the name of your Society. To your sentiments of gratitude and affection you have generously added a rich gift, which reminds me of your generosity when there was a question of finishing the Cathedral of Montreal, which for such a long time had remained incomplete. We had but to say a word and you hastily and heartily subscribed the sum of \$500. Today you double that sum, to place it in the hands of your Archbishop on his advent to the See of Montreal. I thank you with all the effusion of my heart. This money I accept as alms, for I declare to you I do not wish to keep a cent for myself. It will all go to the poor of Montreal, who, more than all others to day, become my beloved children. There are many, I know, who will knock at the door of the Bishopric asking help and protection. It will please me much to help them, even from your generous offering. It is therefore to the poor and unfortunate that you make this magnificent present this evening, and in their name once again I thank you."

His Grace then announced that in his office of chaplain to the Artisans' Society he would be replaced by the Rev. Canon Archambault, whose talents and devotion were universally known. After this announcement as well as throughout his oration Monsignor Bruchesi received grand applause.

Personal.

Rev. Father McGinnis, formerly of St. Canonge parish, left last week for a trip to the United States, with the intention of visiting several friends in the priesthood and rebuilding his health, which has been failing for the last few months.