

The Catholic Weekly Review.

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Reddite quæ sunt Cæsaris, Cæsari; et quæ sunt Dei, Deo.—Matt 22: 21.

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THE LATE BISHOP CHARBONNEL.

COUNT ARMAND FRANCIS MARY DE CHARBONNEL, second Bishop of Toronto, and successor to Bishop Power, died on Sunday last, in Lyons, France, which had been his place of residence since his retirement in 1859, when he resigned on account of his ill-health, being succeeded by the late Archbishop Lynch.

As his title indicates Bishop Charbonnel was a scion of a noble French family, several members of which took part in the crusade of Louis VII. He was born at Monistrol-sur-Loire, diocese of Puy. His father was Count De Charbonnel, who, in 1791, saved the lives of the aunts of the King of France. His mother was the daughter of the Marquis of Agrain, who, during the epoch of the Revolution, was first President of the Parliament of Dijon. Having finished his studies at the College of Annonay (the mother-house of the Basilians), in 1819 he entered the Seminary of St. Sulpice at Paris, and there received all his orders. Being ordained priest in 1825, by dispensation as to age, he refused the functions of Almoner to the Duchess of Berry, which Mgr. Frayssinous, Bishop of Hermopolis, offered him. Declining likewise the title of Vicar-General tendered him by his relative, Mgr. Clussol de Montals, Bishop of Chartres, he entered the Society of the Priests of St. Sulpice. Being successively Director, Professor of Holy Scripture and Econom at the Grand Seminaries of Lyons and Bordeaux, Abbe De Charbonnel, during the *emeute* in 1834 in the first of these cities, rendered to his house and the troops of the line, at the peril of his own life, services which the Government of Louis Philippe wished to reward with the Cross of the Legion of Honour. Happy to have preserved, by his intrepidity and courage, the Grand Seminary from pillage, he refused any recognition. At Bordeaux, as at Lyons, they loved to remember his erudition, his spirit of faith, fervid eloquence and charming originality, and they prized him also highly for his wise administration of temporal affairs.

Several American and French bishops wished to attach him to their respective sees, and Queen Marie Amelia urged him to accept a bishopric, but he persistently refused these honours, and, in 1839, came to Canada to locate at the house of the Sulpicians in Montreal. Shortly after his arrival he was again urged to accept a bishopric in the Canadian colony, and again refused.

During the terrible typhus epidemic among the Irish emigrants in 1847, he did heroic work in the hospitals—work that to-day is lovingly remembered by the older generation of inhabitants of Montreal. Completely broken down in health by the unwearied extent of his labours, after a short stay in the parish of Longueuil, he was sent to France to recover his health, where he had the great sorrow to lose his brother, Colonel Louis De Charbonnel, who was killed in June, 1848, at the barricade of Faubourg St. Antoine. He occupied the chair of Moral Theology at the Grand Seminary of Aire, when Pope Pius IX. preconized him Bishop of Toronto. He hastened to Rome to signify his refusal; but Mgr. De Charbonnel was not successful, and the Holy Father consecrated him with his own hands in the Sistine Chapel. Mgr. Charbonnel made an early departure for Toronto,

and his first work on assuming the episcopal chair of the diocese was to finish what little Bishop Power had left undone in the building of St. Michael's Cathedral, and to clear off the debt on the diocese. In 1856 he obtained permission from the Holy see to divide the diocese into three sees—Toronto, Hamilton and London—and three years later, at his request the late Dr. Lynch was appointed his coadjutor, and consecrated Bishop of Echinus (*i. p. i.*)

Mgr. Charbonnel was an earnest worker in the cause of education, and was the introducer of the Basilian Fathers, The Sisters of St. Joseph and the Christian Brothers into Toronto. He was a strong Conservative in politics, but though pronounced in his views did not take an active part in the party warfare of the times. To his unwearied exertions and determined stand, aided by the Very Rev. Vicar-General Rooney, the Catholics of Ontario practically owe their Separate School system of to-day.

The Archbishop of New Orleans, and his suffragans, in 1860, begged him to accept the coadjutorship of that Archdiocese. Instead of acceding to their wishes he went to Rome and besought the Sovereign Pontiff to accept his resignation of the See of Toronto, and to permit him to enter the Order of the Capuchins. The Pope reluctantly consented, and the Administrators of the Propaganda of the faith enlisted his services in still further disseminating that glorious work. His preaching had already been productive of the most gratifying results in that direction, and the Cardinal Prefect of the Propaganda, in recommending this work to the bishops, held up Mgr. De Charbonnel as a model.

Since that time Mgr. De Charbonnel had given himself up to that great work with the ardent zeal for which he was remarkable, and continued to preach spiritual retreats to ecclesiastics as well as to the faithful. Cardinal Bonald, Archbishop of Lyons, having demanded him as auxiliary, he was preconized Bishop of Sozopolis (*i. p. i.*) in the consistory of October 1st, 1869. The Cardinal was represented by Mgr. De Charbonnel at the Vatican Council.

The Requiem Mass was celebrated on Thursday morning last in the cathedral, which was heavily draped in mourning, by Very Rev. Vicar-General Rooney, with Father Conway, of Peterboro diocese, as deacon, and Father Sullivan of Thorold, sub-deacon, Father McBride being master of ceremonies. His Grace the Archbishop assisted, vested with cope and mitre, supported at the throne by Very Rev. Vicar-General McCann and Dean Harris. His Lordship Bishop O'Mahony was assisted by Very Rev. Dean Cassidy and Father McInerney, C.S.S.R. There were also present in the sanctuary Rev. Fathers Teefy, Dumouchelle, Challandard and O'Donohoe from St. Michael's college, and Fathers Walsh, O'Reilly, William, Cruise and Rohleder, of Toronto, and McMahan of Brechin.

Father Challandard conducted the musical portion of the Mass with Father Rohleder as organist, the students of St. Michael's College forming the choir. Besides the priests above named there were present the full staff and students of St. Michael's College and the Sisters of St. Joseph and Loretto.

Rev. Father Teefy will preach on next Sunday at 10.30 mass on the life and labours of the deceased Archbishop.