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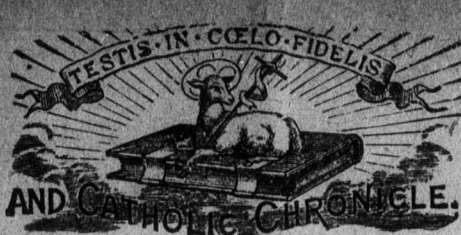
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What a lonesome Christmas for St. Mary's! What a glorious one for the dead priest! Rich in the treasures that count in eternity, he passed into the presence of his Creator, with hands full of noble, charitable, good Christian works, and with a brow upon which shone undiminished in splendor, the pure gem of sacerdotal greatness. Instead of chanting a Midnight Mass for the faithful soldiers of Christ in the Church Militant, he united with the Celestial

# The True



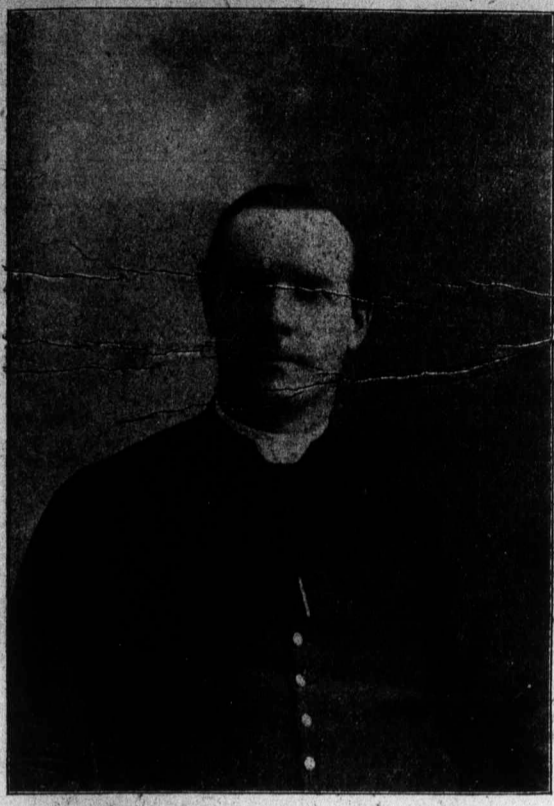
# Witness

Vol. L., No. 28

MONTREAL, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1900.

PRICE FIVE CENTS

## LAI TO REST AT ST. MARY'S.



THE LATE REV. P. F. O'DONNELL, PASTOR OF ST. MARY'S.

"The faithful, the pious, the priest of the Lord, his pilgrimage over, he has his reward. By the bed of the sick lowly kneeling, to God, with raised cross, appealing; He seems still to kneel, and he seems still to pray. And the sins of the dying seem passing away!"

THOMAS DAVIS.

These Catholic lines from the Protestant pen, of Ireland's most unique poet, flashed upon our mind as we learned of the somewhat unexpected death of Rev. P. F. O'Donnell, the zealous and beloved pastor of St. Mary's parish. It was only last week that we had occasion to visit Father O'Donnell and listen to the story of his illness from his own lips. As a result of that visit, we referred to the loss felt by his parishioners during what was believed to be only a temporary separation of all in regard to his return at Christmas to commemorate that glorious event with the members of his flock. We had no idea, at that moment, that Death's Angel already hovered, in narrowing circles, above the worthy priest, the true friend, the noble-hearted citizen. Now, as we pen these lines, how many scenes in which his genial smile and manly figure were conspicuous pass before our mind.

In the death of Father O'Donnell, the Church of Montreal suffers a distinct loss; the parish of St. Mary's has been stricken in an unprecedented manner, and the whole community loses a good citizen—a true priest.

Father O'Donnell was a native of the County of Tipperary, Ireland. He was born in 1832, and spent his early years at home, where he pursued his studies at the College of St. Anthony's, and about eight years ago he was made parish priest of St. Mary's by the late Rev. Father Salmon.

Father O'Donnell was well known throughout the city. The Irish population, especially in St. Mary's, revered him as one of their beloved Soggartha Aron, full of charity and kindness for all, whether of his own flock or strangers.

What a lonesome Christmas for St. Mary's! What a glorious one for the dead priest! Rich in the treasures that count in eternity, he passed into the presence of his Creator, with hands full of noble, charitable, good Christian works, and with a brow upon which shone undiminished in splendor, the pure gem of sacerdotal greatness. Instead of chanting a Midnight Mass for the faithful soldiers of Christ in the Church Militant, he united with the Celestial

College. Rev. Fathers Turgeon, S.J., Devine, S.J., Kavanaugh, S.J., O'Byrne, S.J., Cadot, S.J., Rev. Fathers Piche, O.M.I., Frigon, O.M.I.; Rev. Fathers Cherrier, S.S., Cherrier, S.S., St. James; Rev. Father Lecocq, S.S., Superior of the Seminary; Rev. James Callaghan, S.S., Chaplain Hotel Dieu; Rev. Fathers A. Loneragan, J. Loneragan, St. Bridget's; Laforce, Chaplain, Hochelaga Convent; Guertin, Auclair, P.P., St. Jean Baptiste; Leonardo, Chaplain of the Italian Congregation; Prevost, Hochelaga; Belanger, P.P., St. Joseph's; Fahay, McDermott, and Armour, St. Mary's; Heffernan, Montreal College; Brady, Chaplain of the Prison; Kavanaugh, St. Vincent de Paul.

The sermon was delivered by Rev. J. E. Donnelly, P.P., St. Anthony's. It was a touching and eloquent tribute to the memory of the deceased. Father Donnelly took for his text:

"For Christ we are ambassadors, God as it were exhorting by us (II. Cor. v. 20)." He said in part:—

A sad, sad occasion finds us gathered to-day, in this beautiful temple of our Lady of Good Counsel, Your Grace, to render the last honors to a worthy lieutenant, you parishioners of St. Mary's—to pay final duty of filial devotion to a well loved father and I to offer my humble tribute to the comrade of boyhood's day, and my associate in after years in the ranks of God's eternal priesthood.

While the angels above were attuning their lyres, to sound to the world the glad anthem of the joyful Christmastide, the Angel of Death sped silently forth and beckoned to the eternal shores, the soul of our our friend and father and the sad strains of the Requiem were to be (in St. Mary's), the first Vespers of the great Christmas festival. When the palsied hand of old age refuses the accustomed service to the mind, when the tired eye gradually closes to the busy scenes of the outer world, and gazes long and earnestly into the vastness of the hereafter, we naturally look for that rest that comes as the expected reward of honored years; we know the hour of dissolution is nigh, but when the summons comes to the strong and sturdy in the noontide of life, and bids the laborer from his active task, then must we bow before this mysterious death, and softly murmur—

"How inscrutable, the hidden ways of Divine Providence!"

Yet, such is life, and day of labor is assigned us by God, by Him is also fixed the length of that day and the reward thereof is life unending. Ambassadors of Christ, the Master who sends us on his errand, may, at any time, revoke our commissions, cancel our mandate, then do we cease from our labors. That day of labor for the one we mourn, was eighteen years of a well filled priestly life, and he died, as we would wish to die, still vigorously pursuing the tasks of his holy vocation.

To him may be applied the words of the Book of Wisdom: "Being made perfect on a short space, he fulfilled a long time."

Nine years of life together, in the association of college companionship gave me special opportunities for the study of his sterling character. The ambassador of kings is fitted for his future career by the special training of the court and equipped for every delicate mission by long and earnest research. The ambassador of Christ must also tread the classic halls of learning to imbibe the lessons of knowledge and virtue that will fit him for his sublime calling. Never was there more clearly defined vocation than that of your lamented father. Others might hesitate and be doubtful as to the will of God in their regard, not so with the late priest. His one purpose, his sole aim to fit himself for the sacred ministry and an intelligence above the average, and untiring energy made study to him a pleasure. No mentor, no professor ever inspired us with more respect or consideration than did the student O'Donnell. How at his approach, the idle word, the unkind joke would die away upon our lips, his pained look chiding our inconsiderate conduct. The soul of charity, in those days, as in after years, all those who knew him can bear me out in the assertion that nothing grieved him more than the ill-considered criticism of others' shortcomings, while by an indulgent word he always strove to excuse their weakness.

It has been said the priest is another Christ. The Master came into the world to preach by word and by example, that all might hear and follow after. Father O'Donnell was ever ready at the call of duty and in his 18 years of ministry, he was ever a true priest. Had he consulted but his own ardent wish, he would have hid himself to the missionary fields where heroes sacrifice themselves, of whom it is said "How beautiful are the feet of them that bring glad tidings of good things." (Rom. 10, 15.)

The Master loved the little ones. "Suffer the little ones to come unto me." All through life the late priest took a most vivid interest in all that appertained to the welfare of the lambs of his flock. Indeed, the last official act of his career the eve of his death was to visit and address the children of the magnificent convent of which he was so proud. How energetically he struggled to obtain the best advantages possible in matters of education for the children of his parish, feeling, that, in a cosmopolitan community like ours, success in this respect must be attained only by dint of constant effort. The educational monuments which surround the church will tell to generations to come the zeal and energy of your late pastor, to encourage you to retain what he fought so bravely to establish.

Father O'Donnell was a patriot. He loved the land of his birth, the land of adoption of his parents, that none had a fonder regard for that land beyond the seas the home of his forefathers, none desired more ardently to see it achieve the dream of its ambition by every constitutional means.

How dear to him was the temple of God. He would have it grand, magnificent in its attractiveness, that all might be drawn thereby to honor God more sincerely. The devotion of this fair church was his last effort in this respect and now he lies in death beneath this beautiful dome which was destined to be his mausoleum.

Need I, dear brethren, expatiate on his work in your midst. You would have seen him by the bedside of your sick and dying, so untiring in his zeal, so consoling by his gentleness, you who entrusted to him the care of your souls in the tribunal of Penance you can tell what a kind and wise director he provided.

By no means a wealthy man, yet did he always find in his scanty store the wherewith to alleviate suffering and want, but, in the truly evangelical spirit, the right hand knew not the benefactions of the left.

The ambassador of Christ has recalled his mandate has expired, a soldier has dropped on the fray. Tomorrow we reform our ranks, we dress the line, and the Church goes calmly on to her immortal destiny. Tomorrow another foot shall scale those altar-steps, another hand will offer up the holy sacrifice where those consecrated hands were wont to minister, while he shall sleep his long last sleep 'neath the shrine of that Mother whom he loved so tenderly, and to whom he prayed so piously. His spirit will be ever with you, may the echoes of his voice that resounded so often from this pulpit, so energetic and persuasive, long linger throughout this edifice to perpetuate the lessons of love and duty he ever taught. No-morrow, when gathered once more (within those walls) to celebrate the birth of Christ, the priest shall invite you to pray for those who sleep in Jesus, remember then before God the priest you loved and revered in life and although I feel more like addressing my prayer to him, yet must we not forget that the all-seeing eye of God may detect blemishes ever in his angels. Pray that his place may be hard by the throne of God for all eternity.

After the sermon, the Libera was chanted at the conclusion of which the coffin was borne to its last resting place 'neath the altar, where Father O'Donnell had so long officiated. As the coffin was lowered, Rev. Father McDonald, of St. Gabriel's recited prayers, in which a little band of the parishioners who remained to see the last part of the sad event devoutly joined.

Holy Cross College, Worcester, Mass., a Jesuit college, and Harvard University met for the first time in their history in a debating contest on last week, and Holy Cross won.

## THE RECENT CONVENTION IN DUBLIN.

In the Round Room of the Rotunda, says the "Irish Weekly," in its special report of the recent convention, held in Dublin, the scene of many an historic gathering in the past, to-day was witnessed scenes of enthusiasm and spirited outbursts of genuine Irish Nationality, which forebode a happy future for the cause of the country. The occasion was the assembling of the chosen representatives of the Irish people from all quarters of the island, for the purpose of solidly welding the unity of the Irish party, and putting the seal of doom on faction. The arrangements for the success, carrying out of the convention were so carefully attended to that the slightest hitch did not occur throughout the day, and the thousands of delegates left the room at the close of the proceedings inspired with a strong determination that the dead past should lie buried, and that those who would spread the seeds of dissension should not find a place in the respect and trust of the country, and that faction should no longer exist. Seated and standing within the spacious hall were Nationalists hailing from every city, town, village, and district there with their minds made up to strike a telling blow in defence of a long suffering land. Well and truly did they fulfil the object for which they were sent there. Many priests were amongst the crowd, and instilled by their presence the feeling of love and veneration which characterizes the Irish people. I well remember that in times of trouble and strife the soggarths stood not by them. Conspicuous in the balcony was Canon McCartan, the beloved parish priest of Donaghmore, whose commanding appearance so often has a chairman of National platforms, whilst interspersed through the hall were several other clergymen prominently identified with Nationalist politics. The thousands of fine, respectable, intelligent young men told of the feeling of the rising generation in regard to their country's welfare, and left no doubt as to their fitness to wear the mantle of their fathers which has fallen upon them.

The Ulster priests present were—Very Rev. Canon McCann, P.P., Donaghmore; Rev. J. McCartan, P.P., Aughagallon; Rev. D. Quinn, C.P., Killyleagh; Rev. M. O'Malley, P.P., Glenavy; Rev. F. O'Hare, C.C., Derrymacash; Rev. Father McCorry, C.C., Lurgan; Rev. A. Lowry, C.C., Moybridge; Rev. Father McNeely, C.C., Coalisland; Rev. Father Dempsey, C.P., Newcastle; Rev. W. J. Boylan, C.C., Killeel.

The members of Parliament present were—William O'Brien, M.P., Jenkinstown; J. P. O'Brien, M.P., Mond; M.P., J. F. X. O'Brien, M.P., Hon. E. Blake, M.P., J. C. Flynn, M.P., J. Campbell, M.P., John O'Donnell, M.P., Eugene Crean, M.P., John Dillon, M.P., William Redmond, M.P., Major Jameson, M.P., W. O'Donoghue, M.P., William O'Malley, M.P., M. P., Thomas M.P., Martin Flavin, J. Gilhooly, M.P., Captain Donlan, M.P., E. McFadden, M.P., J. G. Swift McNeill, M.P., James Boyle, M.P., Dr. Ambrose, M.P., Patrick White, M.P., James Daly, M.P., Dr. M. A. McDonnell, M.P., J. P. Hayden, M.P., William McKillop, M.P., K. E. O'Brien, M.P., T. J. Condon, M.P., P. C. Doogan, M.P., Jas. O'Connor, M.P., John J. Mooney, M.P., John Roche, M.P., M. J. Flavin, M.P., Thomas O'Donnell, M.P., P. McDermott, M.P., James O'Mara, M.P., E. Haviland Burke, M.P., P. A. McHugh, M.P., Jasper Tully, M.P., P. J. O'Shaughnessy, M.P., William Lundon, M.P., J. P. Farrell, M.P., Connor O'Kelly, M.P., T. Harrington, M.P., Joseph Nolan, M.P., P. O'Brien, M.P., J. Boland, M.P., Edward Barry, M.P.

The Very Rev. Canon Shinkwin, P. L., Bantry, said—Gentlemen of this convention, I beg to move that Mr. John Redmond, Chairman of the Irish Parliamentary Party, do take the chair of the convention.

Mr. John Dillon, M.P., who was again warmly welcomed, said—I rise to second that resolution.

A letter was read from the Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell, Bishop of Raphoe. Letterkenny, 10th Dec., 1900. Dear Sirs, As one who looked with hope to the United Irish League from the start, I take the deepest interest in the proceedings of the convention. I earnestly trust that so many priests and representative men from all parts of Ireland will not separate until they have made the National organization the fittest engine of a nation can devise for remedying those deep-seated evils of which wholesale emigration is at once the consequence and the proof. The old policy of denying Irishmen any share in the Government of their own country, except as the instruments of oppression, of depriving us

of higher education, of taxing us beyond endurance in addition to maintaining a ruinous land system, has been very little changed, and if the League is to arrest once for all this horrible practice on the life of a nation it will need, under God's blessing, to give unmistakable signs of a determination not to die until its ends are accomplished.

For that purpose the League must not depend on any one man or set of men for its vigorous existence; and, on the other hand, it will always be of the first importance that the men who work the organization in each district, as well as the means employed, should be worthy of a high-toned Christian people. A constitution which makes the people masters, but at the same time secures the right of ready appeal for any one who considers himself aggrieved, to a central authority appointed by the people, gives at once popular strength to the organization, and provides a guarantee of justice to the individual.

The best men, the best means, the best machinery, that can be found are all required for the programme of the League. With that programme the League has swept almost the whole country at the general election; and its branches have already made up their minds that the voice of the National Party will be the voice of the National organization.

May wisdom and strength be with a convention that marshals the National forces for this struggle to save the people of our country. The people come first. I hope if not now at least in your next popular Parliament there will be time for practical attention to the language, education, and industries of our native land—I am, dear sirs, sincerely yours,

PATRICK O'DONNELL, Secretaries. Irish National Convention. The Chairman, who was received with loud cheers on rising, said—It now becomes my duty to formally open the proceedings of this convention. First of all allow me, just in one sentence, to express to you my thanks for the honor you have conferred upon me in selecting me to fill the chair. I am glad that I can commence our proceedings to-day by offering sincere congratulations to you and all Ireland upon the events which have occurred since our last assembly in this hall. Upon that occasion I also had the honor of sitting in the chair—(cheers)—and I declare that in my opinion the convention last June was the most representative assembly of Irish Nationalists that had come together in this country since the Union. Gentlemen, the truth of that statement of mine was instantly challenged. The representative character of that convention was derided, and we were told, so far from representing the great masses of the National opinion of Ireland, it was a rigged assembly. Fortunately for the representative character of this assembly, and I say, fortunately for Ireland, the character of that assembly has since that date been put to the most searching and conclusive tests that could possibly be applied. In the first instance, gentlemen, that convention made an appeal for funds to the people, and anyone who is at all acquainted with political organizations knows that no more searching test can be applied to the representative character of an assembly than the response of the people to an appeal for funds. If the convention really were not representative of the people—if the convention really had been a sham and rigged assembly—then it follows with absolute certainty that its appeal for funds to the masses of the people must have ended in failure. But I ask you to allow me to state precisely what you know in general terms was the result of that appeal. Within a few weeks the appeal which went from this assembly last June for funds brought into the hands of the National trustees a sum in hard cash of \$55,000. (Cheers.) Of that sum about \$5,000 only came from America, Canada, Australia, and South Africa grouped together. A sum of about \$7,500 came from our brethren in Great Britain, and the rest of this money—the enormous balance remaining of this sum—was subscribed entirely in Ireland, and after an analysis of the subscriptions, I am able to tell you that not one single county in Ireland is absent from the roll. (Cheers.) Now, surely, gentlemen, no more conclusive proof could possibly be given of the representative character of the assembly of last June. Allow me to explain to you now how that money has been dealt with. When the elections sprang suddenly upon us, we, the three National trustees, who had charge of this fund, found ourselves in a great difficulty. They knew that the collection was on foot all through the country, but we required the money at once, and we made an appeal to our friends to come forward and guarantee an advance to us of a certain sum of money, and within twenty-four hours we received advances to the extent of \$11,000. Well, we have paid back, as we were bound in honor to do, we have paid back in full the advances made by those public-spirited gentlemen, to whom the thanks, in my opinion, of the whole country is due. This fund was administered

CONTINUED ON PAGES FOUR AND FIVE