## RECOLLECTIONS OF MONSIGNOR (FATHER) PROULX

The name heading this contribution to the Nissana Rainbow will recall to the memory of thousands of Catholics and Protestants, too, in that portlon of Ontario, west of Kinstoin, a grand and noble character.

It occurred to the writer that those who personally knew this good Father Proulx in his lifetime, and even those who only knew him by tradition, would be pleased to find in the April number of the Rainbow, a brief sketch, however defective, of the ploneer missionary of the nineteenth century among the Indians of the Oreat Manitoulia Island and along the spees of the Georgian Bay and Lake Huron. It is much to be regretted that some one of his contemporaties among the reverend ciergy in the western discusse of Ontario, who had known him so intimutely and who was so capable of doing justice to the subject, has not understand the heading task—a labour of love—of publishing a autiable culosy to his memory and merits. This was observed in the contemporation of the culosy to his memory and merits. This was observed on the contemporation of the culosy to his memory and merits. This was observed on the contemporation of the culture of accomplishment, afteen or even ten years since, than now. How were associated with him in the accred ministry twenty, not to speak of forty years ago!

Who are they among the survivors.

ty years ago!
Who are they among the succivors,
the whole province, who can recolt the gental and, hospitable parish
est of Oshawa in the fiftles? Mgr. priest of Oshawa in the fittles? MRF. Flarrelly, of Bieleville, Dr. Flaunery, of Windsor, Fathers Northgraves, of London, and Conway, of Peterborough nearly, if not entirely, fill the list. How many live, who, later on, shered his triendship and enjoyed his so-dely at 81. Mary's, when assistant to

nearly, it not enterly, in not less than the series of the free series

such a father—is Chief Justice of the Province of Quebec. His brother, Dr. J. T. P. Proulx, of Lambton, Que, and M. Jovitte Vercheres de Boucherville, of Ottawa, another nephew, are among the surviving relations.

His early studies were begun at St. Hyachithe, where he made his classical course. Having decided upon entering the priesthood, he studied divinity at Quebec and was ordained by Right Rev. Bishop Lartigue, at Montreal. In 1835.

real, in 1855.

While prosecuting his studies the young ecclesiastic fell into delicate health. In consequence of having our grown his strength he became very stender and enfeebled and threatened

grown his strength he became very stender and enfectbled and threatend consumption.

No one who was acquainted with Father. Prouls, at any time, during the last forty-five years of his life, cold imagine that he had been in danger of falling a victim to that fell disease. His physique was magnificent and imposing, standing six feet three inches in height and having a chest measurement of rity-six inches. Who that saw him at Obawas, or Toronto, on the altar or in majestic gait on the street, or sitting behind his well-bred driving horse,—and he prised a good horse—turying to a sick call, would suppose that he had over had an hour's litness! He was the impersonation of robust health, vigour and visility. So grand and striking was his appearance that few passed him by, whether strangers or acquaintances, without turning round to look at and admire the stately form and carriage of the venerable and popular priest.

the stately form and carriage of the venerable and popular priest.

Before his ordination Father Prouix made a resolution to volunteer his services as a missionary among the Indians of Upper Canada. In doing this, bead in else the desting of labouring dians of Upper Canada. In doing this, he had in view the design of labouring among the descendants of those tribes that rewarded the seal and devotion of Bribocut and Latemant and the other Jesuit missionaries in their behalf, by the most painful death which their

the most painful death which their cruel ingenuity could devise. Pending his departure for the west and while making preparations for his journey, Father Prouix was temporarily appointed Viceirs of Laprairie, where he remained three or four months. There being a great scarcity of pricets in the diocese of Kingston—then the only episcopal see in Upper Canada—Father Prouix, at the urgent request of Bishop Gaulin, became a subject of that prelate. A marked and wonderful improvement in his health took place, so that within a year atter leaving Montreal he had gained strength enough for any labour or enough for any labour or

hreship.

His first mission, Penetanguishene, embraced within its limits the sacred and historic district, the soil of which was sanctified and fructified by the Blood of the Jesuit Pathers just referred to, and contained an area of about

SURTUK (FAIHEK) PROULX

24 square miles The Christian Islands in the southern periton of the Georgian Islay, formed part of the perish. His the became one of trisk, hard work, herdships, and self-dental; to all which he became reconciled as the cheice was his own to fulfill the will of God in this way. The great zeal, patience and indomitable courage, which he possessed, well fitted him for the trying ordeal through which he passed while mindering to a semi-barbarous people composed of Indians and some French Canadians engaged in trapping and humbering. His tender heart and amiable disposition contributed largely to the success he achieved in winning over those denisens of the forest to the true faith, to the practice of religion and to the saving of their souls. The object which Father Prouix had proposed to himself in leaving his native diocese, pursuant to the solom intention he had formed, when in poor health, was not quite attained in nhis first mission. His paramount desire was to exert his efforts and energy towards the conversion of the pagan indians of the Manitoulin Island and along the shores of the Georgian Bay and Lake Huron, who were more numerous in these parts than in the Pennianguishene mission. Hence he bade an affectionate farewell to his spiritual children on the mainland, who were inconsolable at his departure, set out for the Manitoulin and took up his lesidence at Wikkemikong, where the Jesuit Pathers, who succeded him, have an extensive and flourishing mission.

Father Proulx spent twelve years among the Indians. He suffered severe privations and had to contend with and overcome formidable difficulties and overcome formidable difficulties and obstacles in furtherance of his noble and charitable work. He had several marvellous escapes from death at the hands of the yoor ignorant and superatitious savages whom he sought to bring to God and for whose salvation he would have cheerfully died. Knowing that feats of strength and heroism such as proficiency in markmuship, as well with the bow as the shot gun and rifle, canceling, etc., commanded the admiration and respect of the red men, Father Prouix so far mastered those achievements as not only

the red men, Patner Proutz and runsive red those achievements as not only to equal but to excel the Indians in their every-day exploits from boyhood.

The following incident will serve to show the advantages he derived from hir remarkable physical powers and presence of mind. On a certain occasion when calling at the wigsam of a pagan Indian family he poticed a child at the point of death. He had many times before sought permission to baptise the little "papoone," but in vain. Seeing that no time was to be lost he seized the opportunity that offered to pour water on the intant's head and administer Baptism. The mother, who had partily seen what had been door, became dreadtily enraged, a feeling which spread among those around when she accused the "black gown" of causing the doath of her child. It was a moment of great peril. Father Proutx knew very well that to show any sign of fear or attempt to retreat would cost him his life. Therefore he stood his ground. The Indians showed manifest signs of hostility, and one of the chiefs, the most powerful and fiercest of the band, tomahawk tomahawk in hand, to sirthe the fatal blow. As he drew near with unlitted weapon, Father Proutx sprang forward, struck him on the side of the head a stunning slap with his open hand and stretched him on the ground, where he lay for a while unconscious. Needless to say this act of self-posaceasion and bravery not only saved his life but commanded the respect of the Indians who were also filled with awe at the deed of daring they had witnessed. This was a salutary lesson for the braves, and they profited by it as no violence was ever after attempted toward Father Proulx.

The reader will have no difficulty in excusing this display of "muscular Christianty" performed under such trying circumstances.

A Protestant mission, of limited scope and unproductive of good results, was started at Manitowaning, in connection with the Church of England, while Father Proulx was not that it is prought to the starving person to the same tackles and exp

resented about twelve hundred Indians, held out some hope to Mr. O'Meara that they would join his church. That worthy man, clated by the prospect of the large an accession to his measure congregation, determined upon giving great cellar to the exception of these great cellar to the exception of the couply test into his fold. Accordingly he set out for Toronto in a large war catoo, paddied by a number of indians, in feathers and war juint, to bring likshop Strachan and other notables to the Island. The intention was that his Lordship, would himself officiate on this remarkable occasion, when such a considerable number of hitherto this spiritual subjects.

L'homme propose mais Dieu dispose, Pather Proute was apprised by some of his Indians of Mr. O'Meara's intended coup, which he, at once, set to work to work to work to work to work to such a subject on the couple of the co

Father Prous was appresently some of his Indians of Mr. O'Meara's intended coup, which he, at once, set to work to fusitate and counterate. Through his magic influence and their unbounded exteen for aim, pagans though they were, he induced the chlefs to assemble the Indians daily in the open air, and, standing on a pine stump, which served as a pulpit, he expounded to them. In eloquent and glowing hanguage, the truths and doctrine of the child her. In clother that he would be truthed thatch. In these exhortations Father Proust proved that the southing the State of the Capitrating Speaker," had been well bestowed. He so effectually appealed to their hearts and understanding, and led capitre their will, that before the return of Mr. O'Meara with the bishop, he had the heppiness, to

fore the return of Mr. O'Meara with the bishop, he had the hyppines, to use a favourite Protestant expression, of "snatching brands from the burning," to the number of twelve hundred and more. Needless to say, Mr. O'Meara was much disapophited and chastined over his bilghted expectations. Bishop Strachan, while journeying back to Teronto, had ample food for salutary red-ction on the futility of secking to inveigh the Indians by promising to pamper them when they would turn over. They had sufficient intelligence to distinguish between the emptiness of a hollow and soulless creed, of human device, and the fulness of faith and truth as coming from God Himself.

After twelve years of ceaseless and uniting missionary work among the indians, which was most successful, both as regards the number of souls brought into the true Church and their steadinastices in the faith, Father prous left the Manitoulin just in time to give his much-required and valuable assistance to the lamented Bishop Power, at Toronto, in attending to the fever-stricken Irish immigrants in St7, victims of landlord civality and oppression and of English missovernment. Hundreds of these afflicted people, carrying with them the contagious whip fever, succeeded in reaching To-

oppression and of English misgovernment. Hundreds of these afflicted people, carrying with them the contagious ship fever, succeeded in reaching Totom and some of the neighbouring towns and villages when they were prostrated by the dreadful malady. The lisnop, with that noble spirit of thailty and self-ascrifice which so eminently characterised him, after spending weeks of ceasuless toil day and night in the fever sheds, fell a victim to the rightful epidemic. His memory is held in unfading freshness and lasting gratitude by the Irish Catholics of Canada for having sacrificed his life in attending to the corporal wants and smoothing the bed of death of his own and their compatitots.

Pather Proult's rugged and robust constitution, built up by inhaling the

and their compatitors.

Pather Proulx's rugged and robust constitution, built up by linhaling the invigorating air of the lakes and the La Cloche mountains. fore so many years, enabled bim, under Providence, oescape the plague. The harrowing and sorrowful scenes in which he bore on prominent a part, during the prevalence of the fever, such as the death of the parents, their agoisting sorrow in parting with their children, the forlors and destitute condition of the numerous orphane, etc., made a deep impression on the sensitive heart of Father Proulx. The sorrows and misfortunes of a suffering race awakened in him a love and sympathy, and endeared to him the Irish prople, feelings which lusted till his dying day.

Some time in 1845 Father Proulx became pastor of the large mission of Oshawa, which extended over the greater part of the County of Ontaio. A number of pavishes, each of considerable area, have been since formed out of his former parochial domain. It was while here that the large-hearted cure displayed, in practical and substantial shape, his interest and generosity toward Irishmen, and earned for himself the title of "the Irish priest, her excellence," a title of which he felt proud and highly valued.

The Grand Trunk railway was in course of construction, and gave employment to hundreds of Irish Catholics, Acting upon the advice of Father Prouix, very many of those people aved their earnings, and, encouraged by him, took up and settled on land in several blaces in the country. Whenever required, he supplied, out of his wom means, money to the prospective farmers to make a beginning in their new pursuits. That he was a lenient creditor goes without asying. If the dutor had the means and felt disposed to discharge his obligation, well and good; if not, he was not troubled about the payment.

There are many families living in fine dwellings, on large and productive

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former, to-day, within a section of 25 or ze miles, cast and vest, from Scarborough to Howmann the and from Osbawa to Lake Simece, eploying confort if not radiusness, whose 14-oners settlers were included to Father Prounts for assessing them to establish their first monors homestead in the wilderness of those civily days. It is not surprising that he was rea dually beloved in the Osbawa mission, and that, in turn, he had such a warm effect in for those whose velture he promoted at no small personal satrifice.

As the outcome of his sweet disposition and amilable character, Father Proutly was held in much honour and appreciation by all denominations of Protestains. He was accustomed to tell, with pleasure and pride, of the cordual and fitculd treatment he met at the hands of his Orange neighbours, when travelling through the country in justelly of his socred calling. It often occurred that some mishap to his house, buggy, or cutter would paceain in a dilemme, or that he would get benighted or sterm-bound in his long drivers to select calls or other duttes. In all such cuergeness he net with ready and promot help and genuine Irish house, buggy, or cutter would paceain in a dilemme, or which his constitution and six night had been subjected all this time, in itted him, in 1890, to Toronto. He was appointed to the parish of St. Mary, as assistant to Father Walsh, the pastor.

When the troops sent to Canada, consequent upon the "Trent" difficulty, were quartered in Toronto, in 1881, Father Proulx received the appointment of millitary chaplain, and continued to fill that office until their withdrawal eight years subsequently. Meaning the foother continued to assist Vicar-while he continued to assist Vicar-

ment of military chaplain, and contin-ued to fill that office until their with-drawal eight years subsequently. Mean-while he continued 'o assist Vicar-General Walsh in the administration of the parish, until his consecration as Hishop of London, in 1867, when he succeeded his technique.

General Walsh in the administration of the parish, until his consecration as Bishop of London, in 1857, when he succeeded his Lordship as parish priest of St. Mary's.

Father Freult devoted much time and attention to 'the welfare of the solders. He took a lively interest in their little affairs, and sympathised with and consol-d them in any trouble or slittleutly that arose. Honce he was very popular as well with the officers in command as with the rank and file. As a token of their sineare regard he was presented with a valuable gold watch and chain, together with a suitable laudatory address, expressing approval of his course of action is comparable. In particular, Col. Othturst, who commanded the Seventrenth Regiment—uncle of Sir George Cothurst, owner of Blarney Castle—afterwards floor Rule member for one of the divisions of the County of Cork, had 'ke warmest affection and admiration for the venerable Abbe Proulx.

After three years' incumbency of St. Mary's parish, Father Proulx was transferred, in 1870, to St. Michael's Cathedral, where he officiated as Dean of the Archdiocese. He continued to fill this existed and important office until his decilining health compelled himmest reluctantly—for he loved his holy work—to retire from the exercise of the ministry and seek much needed and wish which he had long and fondly entertained. This was to pay a visit to the Holy See, and, kneeling at the feet of the sainty Plo Nono. to receive

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nce, are probably several reasons for it is, that they lived more in the , and another, and probably the mential of all, is that they were dish than the women of today.

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name by which he had been known
and fondly addressed for nearly half
a century, sounded pleasanter in his
ears, and was dearer to his hosts of
friends and acquaintances.

The health of Monsignor Proulx began to break down in 1889, the result
of the wear and tear to which his wonderful constitution had been subjected for forty-five years, while performing the duties of his sacred calling.
Peelling that his end was approaching, his bishop granted him the consolution of dying among his relatives
and of sharing with them the peace
and happiness of a home which he had
so courageously relinquished fity years
before, to dedicate himself in the distant missions of Upper Canada to the
conversion of Indians and of other unhappy souls plunged in derkness and

conversion of Indians and of other un-happy souls plunged in darkness and Ignorance of the true faith. Early in 1881 he left Toronto to un-dergo medical treatment at the hands a of his brother, Dr. J. T. P. Prouls, a physician of eminence, then practicing physician of eminence, then practicing at Terrebonne. In taking leave of some friends at Ottawa, whom he called upon en route, he told them that they would not see him again in this life, showing he had a premonition that his death was not distant.

Before the absolution, Mgr. Lynch, Archibishop of Toronto, when about to leave the altar, spoke as follows:—
"My dear bushren, I can only express to you in a few words the feelings of my heart on this occasion. Mgr. Prouix, whose death we inment to-day, left behind him in the diocese, or rather, in the dioceses, where he labored during his life, monories which will live for a great many years
"A devoted and zealous priest, a perfect gentleman, forgotful of himself and charitable towards all, he sacrificed everything for the good of the Church and the salvation of souts;

inced everything for the good of the Church and the salvation of souts: therefore, I can only feebly express to you the void which his death had made in our midst.

"In losing him, his bishop has lost a zealous co-operator, ever faithful and submissive to his losart wish: ho has lost a heart filled with love and respect for him, and which, during nearly half a century of his priesthood, never wavered in allegiance to his exclesionatical superiors.
"His brethren in the ministry mourn a sincere friend, a wise counsellor, and one ever ready to render them service. The faithful, whom he directed, have lost an enlightened and loving father to whose charity they never appealed in vain.
"The three diocesses of Toronto, London and Hamilton, in which he successfully ministered, his Indian mission, which held so warm a piace in his affections, join in our grief, and also in our graitfuled to the diocess of Montreal, and to his family so justify honoured and esteemed, for g. ing to them a pastor so devoted and indetatigable.

"Although we count greatly upon the mercy of God, and the merits of the dear departed, I would wish to entreat the aid of your prayers on his behalf—God is so holy and we are so unworthy!
"Fray, then, dearly beloved breth—"

penaif—God is so holy and we are so unworthy!

"Pray, then, dearly beloved brethren, that if Mgr. Froulx has not already entered into the glory of Heaven the foy may be soon given to him of selling God whom he had served for so many years on earth!

The Archibishop of Montreal gave the absolution, after which the body remained before the altar for the prayers of the faithful until the departure of the funeral cortege for Montreal and Boucherville, where the Libera was chanted by the splendid choir of that partish.

parish.

An affecting Incident happened at the moment when the lamented deceased was about being placed in the vault beside the remains of the venerable priests whom he had known. venerable priests whom he had known. While saying the last prayer, Archilshop Lynch burst into sobs, and in a hushed voice he implored the fervent prayers of those prevent—who were bathed in tears—would be offered to the Most High for his old and beloved