

It is undoubtedly a fact that our grandmothers, Before the absolution, Mgr. Lynch, Archbishop of Toronto, when about to

"My dear brethren, I can only express to you in a few words the feelings of my heart on this occasion. Mgr. Proulx, whose death we lament to-day, left behind him in the diocese, or rather, in the dioceses, where he labor-

ed during his life, memories which will live for a great many years

A devoted and zealous priest, a perfect husband, forgetful of himself and charitable towards all, he sacrificed everything for the good of the Church and the salvation of souls; 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 least wish; he 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 ecclesiastical superior.

" His departure in the ministry mourn a sincere friend, a wise counsellor, and one ever ready to render their service. The faithful, whom he directed, have lost an enlightened and loving father to whose charity they never appealed in vain.

" The three dioceses of Toronto, Lon-

don and Hamilton, in which he successfully ministered, his Indian mission, which held too warm a place in his heart to be ever forgotten, and so in our gratitude to the diocese of Montreal, and to his family so justly honoured and esteemed, for giving to them a pastor so devoted and indefatigable.

"Although we count greatly upon the mercy of God, and the merits of the saints, we cannot but wish to strengthen the aid of your prayers on his behalf—God is so holy and we are so unworthy !

"Pray, then, dearly beloved brethren, that if M<sup>r</sup>. Proulx has not already entered into the glory of Heaven the joy may be soon given to him of seeing God whom he had served for so long a time on earth."

The Archbishop of Montreal gave the sanction, after which the body rose.

maintained 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 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. While saying the last prayer, Archbishop Lynch burst into sobs, and in a husky voice he implored the fervent prayers of those present—who were bathed in tears—would be offered to the Most High for his old and beloved friend.

The clergy returned to the sacristy, whilst his Grace remained immovable beside the grave which had received the body of Father Proulx. The sad and sorrow-stricken appearance of the aged and distinguished prelate would be difficult to describe.

The wife, a venerable matron, was

Thus passed away to his rest and reward "the Irish priest, par excellence," within a few weeks of completing his seventy-third year. In his brief eulogy Archbishop Lynch touchingly referred to the loss which Father Proulx's death was to the Church, to religion and to his friends. And well he deserved the love and grief of his friends. For if there was one feature in his character more prominent than another, it

was his ever-mastering desire to do good to his fellow-man. His kindness of heart was unfathomable; indeed, his kindness was his guiding principle. His other traits of character were subordinated to this. You can fancy that his life would have been dull, that of him might be said—"Write to the man who loves his fellow-man."

There was in Father Prout's nature, and not very deep down alone, a strong and well-spring of affection. A sufficient proof of this is seen in the many acts of kindness he had done to his life. He never forgot friends. He had never departed out of his life and out of his sight, but he remembered him, and his enquiry and his ready interest often showed how old days lived in his heart.

Towards his people it was easy to be kind. He was quick to detect, and fatherly, that seemed to genuine, the weakness of his people. He was not a distinguished pastor not only from the

thrilling, but from the mere admiration. It is a love which, partly natural and partly divine, springs partly from reason and partly from feeling, a love which is grounded on Christ's infinite love for souls which He redeemed, but which grows and deepens as the years pass, and makes each beloved nearer to the other, as the power of companionship lengthens out, as both sides come to have a part where their common troubles and common joys are indelibly recorded.

In the interest of religion and charity, Father Proulx gave tangible and substantial evidence of his liberality and benevolence. For these objects, he cheerfully has contributed tens of thousands of his patrimony.

It is most and appropriate that this notice of Father Proulx should appear in the Rainbow. He was always a steadfast friend of the Loretto community, both at St. Mary's and the Abbey, and was spiritual adviser at the latter place for some years.

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J. G. M.  
Ottawa, March 22nd, 1892

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That God in His infinite mercy has given him a heavenly reward for all his virtues and good works, it is hoped every reader of this important sketch will devoutly pray. Requiescat in pace!

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