

## ARCHBISHOP TACHE DEAD.

## A GREAT PRELATE GONE TO HIS REWARD.

A Brief Sketch of a Grand Career; One of the Foremost Canadians disappears from the Scene of Life.

The following sad despatch flashed on Friday morning along the wires from Winnipeg:—The death of His Grace Archbishop Tache at 6.15 this morning was not unexpected, but it nevertheless caused the most painful shock throughout this city and country, where his name has been a household word for so many years. For the past four days he had been lingering between life and death, but the reports had been steadily growing more encouraging. Immediately after the operation last Monday he had a very serious relapse, but on recovering from this, and it being ascertained that the operation was quite successful, it was felt that if he could live through the next few days his life would be indefinitely prolonged. Between Monday and to-day he had several lapses, but on the whole was steadily progressing toward recovery. On Wednesday he was taken much worse, his pulse being much too rapid, and his fever being very high accompanied by considerable pain. Owing to His Grace's long illness and consequent delicateness, those about his bedside knew that such a drain upon his entire system could not long be withstood. All day Thursday he rested easily, took nourishment frequently and was in good spirits. The only disquieting sign was that he seemed to be growing weaker. Those at his bedside hoped that the nourishment administered in a few days of relief from fever and pain would place him on the way to recovery of a condition of health superior to what His Grace had known in recent years.

## HIS DYING MOMENTS.

Every bulletin that came from his bedside was encouraging, and there was hopes of the prelate's recovery until but a few hours before the end. His most devoted priests, who had been at his bedside without sleep since Monday, retired last night to gain a little rest, hoping that they would awake this morning to hear that His Grace was still improving. About 2 o'clock this morning, however, he grew perceptibly weaker. Gradually those in the room could see that his vitality sank lower and lower. Shortly before 4 o'clock those who had left the room to seek a little repose were summoned and they were with him until the end came. As one after another during these last hours would take their turn at his bedside he calmly asked them to pray for him. From four o'clock onward he sank slowly and steadily. The pain which had been troubling him seemed to leave him. He took nourishment at intervals and seemed to be much easier. He motioned with his hand to be moved so that he could see those in the room. The sun was already up and streaming in through the windows towards the east end of the room. As he lay he could see the priests and doctors in the room and the sisters in the corridor at the east side. Lying in this way he smiled upon them and blessed them all by motion of his hand. From this time on it was evident that his strength was rapidly failing and it became a very difficult matter for him to speak. Shortly after, however, he smiled and said, "C'est la volonté de Dieu" (It is the will of God). Then he again took nourishment and settled himself on his pillow. It was evident to all that he retained full consciousness up to the last moment even when motion of the hands and feet had become very difficult. At fifteen minutes past six o'clock to those being over his bed he said very faintly and brokenly "adieu au ciel," (farewell in heaven), accompanied by a raising of the eyes to heaven and the slightest possible motion of the hand. They knew then that the end was at hand, the clergy began the prayers of the agonizing, commending his spirit to God. One placed the cross of the C'bate order in his hand, in a moment more the vital spark had fled.

## THE LAST RITES.

The funeral, which will be most imposing, takes place this morning at ten o'clock. His remains will be placed beside those of Bishop Provencher, first Bishop of St. Boniface.

## HIS GREAT AND WONDERFUL CAREER.

Archbishop Tache's was a career that cannot be repeated in Canada. He was

a man whose like is seldom produced. His opportunity was a unique one. His work was hard. His reward was proportionate. Bishops at 26 are not often found. Archiepiscopal honors are reserved for the few. Much of the record of Mgr. Tache's early career reads like a romance. He was a member of an old French family, which has given both statesmen and soldiers to his country. His uncle was Sir Etienne P. Tache, premier of Canada. His father fought as a captain of volunteers against the United States in 1812. He was born at Riviere du Loup on the 23rd July, 1823. On the death of his father in 1826 Mme. Tache removed to Boucherville, her paternal home, where Alexander Antonin received his earlier instructions. His classical course was taken at the St. Hyacinthe college, and his theological education was received at the Montreal Seminary. On its completion he returned to St. Hyacinthe as a professor of mathematics.

The Oblates of the Blessed Virgin had been instituted in France about this time; a branch of the organization was formed in Canada with the novitiate in Longueuil, which M. Tache entered in October, 1844. Their zeal attracted the attention of Bishop Provencher, then apostolic vicar; they accepted the invitation to go to the great West to labor

later known as Cardinal Archbishop of Paris, and Mgr. Prince, bishop of St. Hyacinthe. At Rome he received the Papal benediction, and in February, 1852, started back to the scene of his labors. In June he was at St. Boniface, and immediately departed for the Isle of the Cross. His was a simple state and a small entourage. To quote his own words, his episcopal palace was 20 feet in length, 20 feet in width and 7 in height. It was built of logs cemented with mud, through which the rain as well as the wind occasionally came. But, to quote again, he had a bishop for a secretary, and, sometimes, a bishop for a cook, while a bishop oft-times carried his household stuff on his back, and cleared the snow from the spot on which he was to spend the night of a long day's tramp.

On the 7th of June, 1853, Bishop Provencher died, and Mgr. Tache's duties called him to the seat of his see. His work for his church here was marked by the same characteristics that were shown in his life as a private missionary. Convents, schools, hospitals, were established and missionary posts planted all over the territory, till the work of overseeing them became too great for one man's strength. In 1857 Mgr. Tache made a journey to Europe, as a result of which Rev. Father Grandin was appointed his

dred priests and missionaries. Much of this extension was due to the dead prelate's zeal, which knew no abatement. While he had his failings, and was evidently never fully reconciled to the change that substituted the farmstead for the tepee and the palace car for the Red River cart, no one can read his record without admitting that he was a man among men, a pastor of whom his church might justly be proud.

## ST. MARY'S COLLEGE.

On Wednesday evening the pupils of St. Mary's College gave a dramatic entertainment, and on Thursday morning at 9.30 the distribution of prizes took place. An excellent literary and musical programme had been arranged. Mr. Daniel O'Connell Curran, son of the Solicitor General, was highly complimented for his brilliant recitation of "Marcellus' Harangue to the mob." After the distribution of prizes the pupils went up into the church, and according to the beautiful custom deposited the crowns of laurel leaves which accompanied their prizes at the foot of the altar as a token of thanks to God. Those obtaining degrees this year are:— Bachelor of Arts: Messrs. Jean Brisset, Francois Laverty, Edmond Brossard, Adelard Brodeur, Albert Gagnon, Jos. Ferron, Eugene Viralle and Paul Lacoste. Bachelor of Sciences: J. T. Loranger. Bachelor of Letters: Arthur Ricard, Rene Baby, Noe Fournier, Walter Kierman, Del Vecchia Seers, G. Taschereau and Hugh Semple.

Mr. Jean Brisset won the gold medal awarded to the most successful pupil in philosophy and sciences; Mr. Laramee, the silver medal given by Lord Aberdeen for the most successful student in philosophy, first year, and Mr. Thomas Walsh, the gold medal awarded to the most successful student in the rhetoric class.

The year has been a highly successful one and the professors are much pleased with the advancement of their scholars. The school will re-open on Wednesday, September 5th.

## THE VANCOUVER MINSTRELS.

The minstrel troupe of the S.S. Vancouver will give a concert for the benefit of the Catholic Sailors' Institute during their next trip here. Last year the special concert at which the minstrels were the chief attraction was given in St. Mary's hall, which was generously placed at the disposal of the sailors by the Rev. Father O'Donnell. The concert realized one hundred dollars for the Sailors' Club. The concert will most likely take place at St. Mary's hall again this year, and a much larger number of friends are expected to attend, and thus augment the funds to the extent of a hundred and fifty dollars or perhaps more.

## ST. LEON SPRINGS HOTEL.

## OUR LATEST ARRIVALS.

S. G. Thomas, H. A. Springler, J. Y. Patrick, Mr. and Mrs. J. Closset, Montreal; Mr. and Mrs. U. Barter, Mr. and Mrs. T. H. Duby, Quebec; Mr. and Mrs. Dalby, Miss Dalby, Marce Sauvalle, Mrs. and Miss Sauvalle, Mr. and Mrs. H. D. Tetu, Edmon Moutot, C. H. D'Amour, A. Malette, Honore Beau-grand, Montreal; Hector Caron, M.P.P., St. Leon; W. Miller, New York.

## ST. ANN'S YOUNG MEN'S PICNIC.

Some splendid prizes have been donated to the young men of St. Ann's, for competition at the young men's picnic at Sherringham Park on Dominion Day. The members say the prizes are finer than any donated to previous picnics and they expect that a proportional amount of enthusiasm will be extended in efforts to win them.

## CATHOLIC SAILORS' CONCERT.

The Catholic Sailors' concert, on Thursday, was as successful as usual. There was a large attendance despite the sultry weather. The singing of Mr. Butler was much admired. The favorites, Messrs. Carpenter and Lamarche, were there and added to the merriment. The seamen are beginning to realize that the concerts are for their pleasure, and they not only attend in large numbers but they generally contribute the most enjoyable part of the programme.



THE LATE ARCHBISHOP TACHE.

for the salvation of the Indians, and the young novice, in whose veins flowed the blood of Joliette and La Verandrye, became eager to follow into the lands which their courage had first made known. On the 24th of June, 1845, accompanied by Rev. P. Aubert, he set out in a canoe for the Red River. St. Boniface was reached on the 25th of August. There M. Tache, then 22 years of age, was ordained as a deacon, and on the 12th of October he was raised to the priesthood. His were the first vows pronounced in the great Northwest of Canada. His first missionary journey was from St. Boniface to Isle la Crosse. His companion was Louis F. Lafleche, now Bishop of Three Rivers. They covered the distance in two months. One of the young priest's expeditions took him ninety miles afoot to baptize a dying Indian. Another took him 350 miles to Lake Cariboo. He went on another occasion to Athabasca, a march of 400 miles, through a country he had been warned, as full of hostile Indians. It is said that before his return he baptized nearly 200 Cree and Chippewyan children. On most of these journeys his couch was the earth, his canopy the sky.

In 1851 a message reached him calling him back to St. Boniface, when he was told he had been selected as coadjutor to Bishop Provencher. He went to France, and at Viviers, on the 23rd of November, was consecrated as a bishop by Mgr. de Mazenod, assisted by Mgr. Guibert,

coadjutor. In 1860 he went on a journey to Isle de la Crosse, to discuss with Mgr. Grandin the subdivision of the diocese. The return was made in winter, and when he reached St. Boniface he found his cathedral and palace in ashes.

In the spring the river rose and covered the country with an inundation. He came to Canada and went to France to raise funds for the rebuilding of the edifices and succeeded. In 1868 the grasshopper plague visited his colony and devoured every green thing. This meant another strain on his energy, and he was foremost in the work of the relief committee. On the 22nd September, 1871, he was named archbishop and metropolitan of the province of St. Boniface. In 1875, on the 24th of June, thirty years after he had left Montreal on his first voyage, he received from his friends in this province the gift of a splendid organ for his cathedral. The same year Lord Dufferin visited him, and was loyally received. He has come lately before the public in connection with the school controversy, a pamphlet issued a month ago making a powerful appeal for the restoration to his flock of the rights he claimed they had under the agreement by which the troubles of 1870 were allayed. His death closes a remarkable career. When he went to the Red River there were six Roman Catholic clergymen from St. Boniface to the Rockies. There are now an archdiocese, three bishoprics, over fifty established missions and some one hun-