

THE MOST REV.

ARCHBISHOP OF

[From the Newcastle Union Advocate, Feb. 21, 1883.]

When in Halifax, assisting at the consecration of the new Archbishop, Bishop Rogers intimated that being about to be absent on his visit to Rome in the Spring and early Summer, when His Grace would probably be visiting the various other Suffragan Bishops of this Ecclesiastical Province, he would be happy, if such could be made convenient, to receive His Grace's visit at Chatham before his (the Bishop of Chatham's) departure—to which the Archbishop kindly consented, mentioning that after the first three or four weeks, necessary for him to settle down in his new home, he would come up to Chatham as requested.

Accordingly, when the time came, His Grace intimated by telegram the period of his visit, and arrived at Chatham accompanied by his Secretary Rev. E. F. Murphy, by the express train at 5 a. m. on Tuesday, Feb. 13. After reposing a few hours the Archbishop celebrated Mass at 10 o'clock in the Pro-Cathedral, where a large number of the Catholic people of Chatham were assembled to receive his blessing and to offer him their respectful and affectionate greetings. Soon after Mass these were presented individually to His Grace by the Bishop in the large parlour of the Episcopal Residence, whither they had come from the church for that purpose—the school boys from the side chapel being the first to enjoy that favor.

On account of the cold and blustery winds usual in mid-winter, no out-door decorations such as arches &c., could be attempted; but the usual inside decorations were elaborate—the interior of the church, the corridors, stairways, dining-room and parlor of the Bishop's residence, having been festooned with evergreens, flags &c., &c., very tastefully.

At 2 o'clock p. m. the guests specially invited to meet the Archbishop at luncheon, began to arrive, and were presented individually to His Grace by the Bishop in the large parlor.

After some little time passed in conversation, interchanging salutations, &c., all proceeded to the temporary dining

office it was to place the guests, the representatives of the Press having been placed in excellent positions for hearing and seeing all that passed.

When justice had been done to the viands, His Lordship the Bishop of Chatham arose and said that although the custom of toasting was going out of use, he had sought and obtained permission from His Grace to propose, without violating etiquette, one toast. (Just at this instant, while the waiters were handling the champagne, the cork of one bottle flew out making quite a loud report—which little incident, trifling in itself, yet occurring at the moment it did, set the whole company in an uproar of laughter and agreeable merriment which lasted for some time. When calm was restored the Bishop continued.)

"We had high authority for giving 'Honor to whom honor is due,' and the presence here to-day of so many honorable and distinguished guests, representing in their aggregate all the learned Professions, the Government, the Legislature, the Clerical, Legal and Medical Professions, the Mercantile, Banking, Mechanical, Farming and other Industries, and of different Religious Denominations and from different sections of the Diocese—Bathurst, Richibucto, Newcastle, Chatham, Nelson, and the settlements up and down the River, the presence, I say of all these distinguished and honorable gentlemen to do honor to merit, both personal and official, obliges me, as it were, to give expression to their sentiments in proposing this toast. Some of the gentlemen here present remember our illustrious guest, when not many years ago, he was a boy, a student at St. Dunstan's College, P. E. I. When it became the duty of the Bishops of the Ecclesiastical Province, to recommend names from which our Holy Father, the Pope, might select one, if he so judged it best, to appoint to the Vacant Metropolitan See of Halifax, the name of our Most Reverend Guest was placed foremost on the list. Subsequently when the Holy Father selected and appointed Dr. O'Brien to the vacant See, we were all delighted. And why? Because in

awaited the promised text, but none came. Finally, on Sunday, as he was about to ascend the pulpit, a paper was put into his hands containing, as he supposed, the text; but on opening he found it blank. There was nothing in it! For some moments he was perplexed, but reflecting that out of nothing God created the universe, he thought "Creation" would form a good text, and preached on that, what turned out to be an admirable discourse.

"Now, I feel the same embarrassment which that clergyman must have felt at the beginning when about to preach—nothing. His Lordship the Bishop of Chatham has given me a text—myself—which is, I feel, equal to nothing. The Bishop referred to the time when he was a little boy at St. Dunstan's College. Well I remember that time, and not such a little boy either. The school boys made fun of us because we played marbles, and in a spirit of contradiction we bigger boys formed ourselves a marble club from which we excluded those little fellows. I remember when much smaller, the idea I formed of Miramichi—what a grand place it was, and that if I could only visit it, I would be a great fellow I would be. Well, I am now at length come to visit it, and I am covered, from all of you gentlemen, with a great fellow! (Laughter and applause.)

"But, gentlemen, pleasant as it must gratefully thank His Lordship for all of you present for the kind and pleasant manner in which you have been pleased to drink my health. I accept this demonstration not as referring to me personally so much as a mark of respect for the office to which I have been promoted. This manifestation of good will and kind feeling by such a large representative company, all of whom have come to meet and honor me, as the Pope assured me, is a favor which I can only highly appreciate, and for which I beg again to express my warmest thanks.

"But before sitting down I must ask your permission to propose another toast. The good will and kindly feelings which distinguish the people of Miramichi and the surrounding parts, of which the present numerous company is such evidence, is a source of honor and joy for the good Bishop of Chatham whose labors in the cause of religion, patriotism, morality, education and charity are esteemed not only by his flock, but by all his kind and well-meaning neighbors, of what creed soever. I do not wish to express indifference in matters of religious belief. No, far from it. Each one should faithfully adhere to his conscientious convictions. But you

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