

most interesting. A carefully written article by A. M. W. Stirling is found in the "Nineteenth Century Magazine" on the character, Robert Paterson, who received the name of Old Mortality. During the latter part of the eighteenth century he deserted his wife and five children, got a little pony, and spent his years travelling through the south-west of Scotland erecting tombstones over the graves of Covenanters or laboriously deepening with his chisel the inscriptions upon the stones already erected. For forty years he thus laboured, without fee or reward, till one day he was found dead by the roadside in deep snow, with his old pony standing beside him. But as the writer in the article in question shows, the changes of this life in poor Robert Paterson's family were more startling and romantic than anything written by Sir Walter. One of his descendants emigrated to the American colonies, prospered, and his lovely descendant married Jerome, a younger brother of Napoleon, and the widow of Robert Paterson, another descendant, married the Marquis Wellesley, brother of the great Duke of Wellington.

#### Defoe's Slip.

A clever Irish writer has written a most interesting article on Daniel Defoe, whom he styles "The Greatest Journalist." Amongst other bright things he says that: "In its origin 'Robinson Crusoe' was born from a journalist's story; somebody made an article out of Alexander Selkirk. There is a general belief that Crusoe's island was Juan Fernandez, off the coast of Chili, but that was where Selkirk was wrecked. The last land Robinson saw before the storm swept them away was the coast at the mouth of Orinoco. His island was in the proper place, in the sea of romance, in the Spanish Main, the Caribbean Sea, haunt of buccaneers, famous for Kidd, and Morgan, and Flint, where Drake had sailed. And here Robinson was put down, a plain, blunt man, like you and me, with only the clothes he stood in. Then Defoe's marvellous gift of circumstantial invention got to work. He rarely slips in his inventing. He is not like Thackeray, who killed Lord Farintosh's mother early in the Newcomes, and produced her alive towards the end. There is certainly one slip where Crusoe, the day after the wreck, finds no way of getting to the ship but swimming. He took off his clothes, and reached her safely. Then he filled his pockets with biscuits. That error recalls Horace's advice to those who do not sleep well: 'Let bad sleepers oil themselves and swim three times across the Tiber.' But if you swim three times across the Tiber, you finish on the bank opposite to that on which your clothes were left."

#### A Great Age.

On the 20th day of November, in the city of Toronto, the Rev. Joseph Elwell died at the advanced age of ninety-five years. A remarkable age, indeed, beginning before the Battle of Waterloo, and lacking but five years of spanning a century. Mr. Elwell was born at Hammer-smith, then a country side near London. His father, Richard Elwell, conducted a private school, in which his son was at one time a tutor, and which was attended by some lads whose family names are not unknown to readers of English biography. Amongst them were John, Henry, and Charles, younger brothers of the historian, statesman and essayist, Lord Macaulay; John Medley, afterwards Bishop of Fredericton and Metropolitan of Canada; Alford, who became Dean of Canterbury, and Gathorne Hardy, later known as Lord Cranbrooke. Mr. Elwell took Holy Orders, and on the invitation of Bishop Medley, for some time did missionary duty in New Brunswick. An intimate friendship with Edward Irving; this magnetic personal influence, and the attraction of the tenets of the theological school, of which he was the leading spirit, led the young missionary to join his fortunes with those of his masterful

friend. But though our Church lost the personal service of the reverend gentleman, it never ceased to retain his interest and regard. Especially was he interested in the foundation of St. Alban's Cathedral, it being always a source of regret to him that his occasional contributions were not of a more substantial character. A Christian gentleman and scholar of the old school, unsullied in character, generous to a fault, charming in manner, winsome and attractive to old and young alike, in the fulness of years and in the ripeness of a noble, unselfish, beneficent life, has answered the call of Him for whom he lived, and "with whom do live the spirits of them that depart hence" in the Lord.

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#### THE BISHOP-ELECT OF MONTREAL.

The difficulty which the Diocese of Montreal felt in choosing a Bishop is not unreasonable or inexplicable. For an unusually long period Montreal has been presided over by elderly, even aged men, who felt and who received the love and regard of their people, especially of that portion of it to which they were most intimately drawn. Under such circumstances it was not unreasonable to expect that a very large portion would desire a total change, while another of about



The Very Rev. Dean Farthing, Bishop-elect of Montreal.

equal strength would wish the perpetuation of the old regime. Such episodes are common. Quite recently the position of the highest Roman ecclesiastic in England was filled by the boyish-looking Archbishop Bourne, and we have one of our youngest prelates nominated to the Archbishopric of York. The ideal of the two parties was a different one. The elder, the clerical, selected the chief of the diocese, a man from one of the oldest Church families of Canada, whose father was a distinguished clergyman, and who has himself lived a long, useful and honoured life in Montreal. The younger, the lay party, selected an Englishman, who has lived his professional life in Canada, who has always held a prominent place, and who was the Prolocutor at the recent Synod, and is about the same age as Archbishop Lang. The "Churchman" in season, and some may think out of season, has urged the need, the great need, of young, energetic, and capable men in the leading positions of the Church in Canada. The Diocese of Montreal has shown courage, enterprise, and sound judgment in selecting for its vacant See one who so well combines these important requisites. Dean Farthing as successor to the venerated Bishop Carmichael will prove himself to be a marked acquisition to the Canadian Episcopate. His

many years' experience of active clerical duty in Canada, combined with sterling qualities of character, ripe judgment, sound scholarship, and a vigorous intellect will equip him for long and honoured service of the Church in his distinguished position. The "Churchman" cordially congratulates the Diocese of Montreal and the Bishop-elect, and hopes for their future a happy relationship and an unqualified success. It may not be inappropriate to repeat some personal information with regard to the Bishop-elect which has already appeared in the columns of the "Churchman": John Cragg Farthing, of Gonville and Cains College, Cambridge, England, B.A. 1885, M.A. 1888, took degree with theological honours; was ordained deacon, 1885, by the late Bishop Baldwin, of Huron; priest in 1886; was appointed incumbent of Durham, in the Diocese of Huron, in 1885; went to Woodstock as curate in 1888, and on the resignation of the Rev. J. J. Hill was appointed rector of Woodstock in 1889; canon of St. Paul's Cathedral, London, in 1904; appointed rector of St. George's Cathedral, Kingston, and Dean of the Diocese of Ontario in 1906; elected Prolocutor of the General Synod, 1905, and re-elected Prolocutor of the General Synod, 1908.

The Very Rev. Dean Farthing will (D.V.) be consecrated by His Grace the Archbishop of Toronto, Primate and Metropolitan, as the 5th Bishop of Montreal, in Christ Church Cathedral in that city on the Feast of the Epiphany, January 6th next. It is likely that the Lord Bishops of Ottawa, Quebec, Niagara, Algoma, Ontario, Huron and Fredericton will assist the Archbishop in the act of consecration. In all probability the new Bishop will be enthroned in his cathedral on the evening of the same day, but this matter has not as yet been definitely arranged.

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#### BACK TO THE LAND.

There are few of us who do not sympathize with and wish well to any feasible project to recreate a class of yeomen in England and to give the peasantry of Ireland a chance on the soil. New conditions have rendered the old ways impossible, and every year seems to find the poor confronted with more colossal and impoverishing trusts. So far as Ireland is concerned, thoughtful observers look with doubt. It is true that we are all too ready to be pessimistic in our forecasts. If disaster really comes, we can say, "I told you so"; if it is averted, as it so often is by God's dealings with man, then the soothsayer falls back on the unexpected. The fertile portions of the soil of Ireland have been to a large extent within recent years parcelled out among the peasants, and the process of devolution is going on. It would serve no good purpose to go back to the Union and its unavoidable absenteeism, the potato famine, the Incumbered Estates Courts, and more recent agencies by which the landed gentry of Ireland have been denuded, and along with their poverty, has been the expatriation of the peasantry. Enough that there is practically now few of the old gentry and a residuum of the peasantry, so much of the best has gone. Trained observers look on the future of the new owners of the soil with apprehension. It will require the utmost thrift and constant toil to wring a living from the land. The aim of the Irish peasant is to raise his living from cattle and their produce, but in that field Denmark is long years ahead of them, and occupies the market. But Ireland is not the only part of the United Kingdom where practical effort has been made to give effect to the cry of back to the land. The small holding is to be found all over, and we have a book by F. E. Green, a holder at Newdigate, giving the result of his own and his neighbours' experience. They find the task of making a living a hard one. Long experience is needed to farm the holding and manage the stock so as to make ends meet; and to make