

GEN. BUTLER'S GREAT LECTURE. THE IRISH SOLDIER IN AMERICA.

A DISTINGUISHED AUDIENCE.

The following lecture was delivered by General Butler on Tuesday, June 20th, in the Academy of Music, New York City.

THE FIFTEENTH OF APRIL A MEMORABLE DAY.

Remembering what memorable events happened on this fifteenth day of April, sixteen years ago a memorable anniversary, it is well for us to be here.

On that day Major Anderson and his brave soldiers marched out of Fort Sumpter with the honors of war, it is true, to yield up to a public enemy a fortress of the United States, the first ever surrendered without treachery to an armed foe.

On this day President Lincoln issued his proclamation calling for 75,000 men "to suppress an armed combination, and to cause all laws to be faithfully executed," to repossess the forts, places, and property which had been seized from the Union.

As this call the people of every State in the Union flew to arms to sustain or oppose the Government.

On this day the Mayor of New York issued a proclamation calling upon the people of New York, "irrespective of all other considerations and prejudices, to unite in obedience to the laws in the support of public peace, and the preservation of order and the protection of property."

On this day the Mayor, addressing the citizens of Philadelphia, declared that "by the grace of Almighty God treason shall never rear its head or have a foothold in Philadelphia."

On this day the Council of the city of Boston, more energetic and practical, took measures to appropriate one hundred thousand dollars for the support of the volunteers who should enlist for the war. Their example was imitated by the city of Lawrence, which appropriated five thousand dollars for the benefit of the families of those who enlisted to defend the country's flag; and by the city of Lowell which appropriated eight thousand dollars for the same purpose.

On this day Governor Yates, of Illinois—the loyal West responding to the East—issued a proclamation convening the Legislature to provide for enrolling and equipping troops to save the Union.

Nor was the enthusiasm of that hour attempted to be confined to governmental and municipal bodies alone. It permeated all ranks and conditions of life, penetrating even the marts of trade, and commerce, and banking. As soon as they could be called together, the representatives of the Boston banks subscribed \$3,000,000, being 10 per cent of their capital, to be loaned to the Commonwealth to aid in the suppression of the rebellion.

The only religious body in session, representing one of the largest, most influential, and fervent Christian denominations of the United States, then loyal and true to the country and the rights of humanity, as now and ever, opened the session of the New York East Methodist Conference with the following prayer: "Grant Almighty God, that all the efforts now being made to overthrow rebellion in our distracted country may be met with every success. Let the forces that have risen against our Government, and thy law, be scattered by the winds and may no enemies be allowed to prevail against us. Grant, O God, that those who have aimed at the very heart of the Republic may be overthrown. We ask thee to bring these men to destruction, and wipe them from the face of the country."

To this prayer a solemn and soul-breathed amen echoed from hilltop to hilltop and resounded through every valley of the North and West, wherever a true, patriotic, Christian heart beat. It is fitting, therefore, that on this anniversary, we fellow-citizens, representing all classes of opinion, all differences of belief, should assemble and meet together to commemorate the patriotism, the valor, and the services of a young Irish soldier, who sprang to arms in obedience to the call of his country, and enrolled himself under the flag, as well as to do honor to the ardent devotion to country, the loyalty to its flag, the steadiness and heroism in battle of those of his fellow-countrymen, who with him volunteered in defence of liberty and law in the land of their adoption, and pay just tribute to all the good qualities and peculiar virtues of the Irish soldier.

COLONEL BERNARD F. FINAN.

Bernard F. Finan was born in Boston, of Irish parents, receiving his education at the Eliot School. At the outset of the rebellion, in May, 1861, a distinctive organization of Irish-American soldiers, the Ninth Massachusetts, was being raised in Boston for the war. Young Finan, then in his eighteenth year, enlisted as a private, rapidly rose through the several grades of non-commissioned officers, and was promoted for brave and meritorious service in the battles of the Peninsula, September 26th, 1862, to the grade of second lieutenant, and on the 13th day of February, 1863, again promoted for like services to the rank of first lieutenant. During the last two years he commanded his company, and was heavily wounded at the Battle of the Wilderness, May, 1864, from which disability taken with former wounds, having been three times wounded, he was no longer able to continue in the field, and left the service June 21, 1864.

After the war, upon the reorganization of the Ninth Regiment in the Massachusetts Volunteer Militia, he became its adjutant, and served so acceptably that he was soon afterwards elected captain of the Montgomery Light Guards, at that time earning a reputation as one of the best instructed and drilled volunteer companies in Massachusetts and in his hands it became distinguished for soldierly conduct, and precision and accuracy of its movements, and its equipments in the school of the soldier and the company.

HE IS ELEVATED COLONEL.

In March, 1869, Captain Finan was elected colonel of the Ninth Regiment, which position he held for more than seven years. Col. Finan devoted himself to military subjects, was frequently consulted as expert upon such questions, and was appointed by the governor on a board to arrange a code of instructions for the use of a breech-loading arm, then first adopted by the commonwealth for its troops.

It was the singular good fortune of this young soldier, as its captain, to bring his company, the Montgomery Guards, to such a state of perfection as to be looked upon as one of the best, if not the very best, drilled and appointed company in the militia of the city of Boston, being an organization of the same name, composed of Irish-American soldiers which, through unjust and senseless prejudice, had been driven, forty years, before, while parading under arms, in obedience to the laws of the State, from Boston Commons, amid the jeers of the people, and pelted by the stones of a mob. How completely the patriotism of enlistment, the loyalty to the flag, attachment to the Union, bravery in the field, of the Irish-American soldier, has, in a single generation, broken down and overturned an unreasonable and scandalous prejudice against the Irish soldier in the principal city of the Puritan Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

COL. FINAN NEVER REGAINED HIS HEALTH,

thus destroyed in the service of his country, always suffering from the effects of his wounds, which finally caused his death; and thus, in fact, although not upon the battle field, gave his life to his country, able to bequeath to his family, as their only legacy, a brave and faithful soldier's good name and fame, and a record of gallant deeds, leaving his sorrowing widow and orphan children to the foster-

ing care of his country, to whose service he gave all the years of his manhood, and to the preservation of whose Government he yielded up his life. Courageous to a fault, generous and self-sacrificing in the camp, watchful in the health and lives of his men on the march, and in the bivouac, firm and exact in discipline, in love with the profession of arms, Col. Finan was an exemplar of the good qualities which have made the Irish soldier in modern warfare a favorite in every army of the world.

A TYPE OF THE IRISH SOLDIER.

No better, more brilliant, or effective illustration of the true type of an Irish soldier can be found than we have already seen in the military services of our deceased friend.

In pursuing this theme I propose only to edit and reproduce a lecture upon this topic, in which Col. Finan was engaged during the last months of his life, with the memoranda of which I have been furnished.

I speak to you therefore, as he, living, would have spoken. My voice is his voice, and the incidents and characters that I shall portray are but the linings of his hand and the products of his thought.

From a variety of causes which it is not our province now to consider not in defence of his own soil, but in foreign lands, has the valor and conduct of the Irish soldier been exhibited, his loyalty to the country of his adoption exemplified, and the almost joyous carelessness and contempt of death with which he did battle for the flag of his adoption been most frequently and honorably mentioned.

THE IRISH SOLDIER IN EUROPE.

On the field of Fontenoy Louis of France, in behalf of his nation, publicly thanked his Irish Brigade for the preservation of the French army, and of the field made their commander, Count Lally, a general of France.

We are told, also, that when it was recounted to George of England how the Irishmen fought on that glorious day against him, the king bitterly cursed the penal laws of Great Britain which had deprived him of such subjects and such soldiers.

The Rons-Cavalles Pass, where fell, before the opposing lance, the harassed chivalry of Spain, saw no better troops, braver men, or truer knights than the young legions of Ireland, who so often by their valor decided the fate of the crown of Ferdinand and Isabella.

And in later times I have but to call up the illustrious name of Marshal O'Donnell, of Spain, to bring a flush to the cheek and a light to the eye of every son and daughter of dear old Erin.

I could recount to you many occasions where the valor of the Irish soldier and the skill of the Irish general saved the armies of Britain; but no true Irishman will contemplate with joy or satisfaction the victories of England, even when won by Irish valor, until the heavy hand of her oppression is lifted from the Irish nation, and England does full justice to Ireland.

CONDON, THE IRISH POLITICAL PRISONER.

Yet I may be allowed, if possible, to bring a blush to the cheek of a British premier when he meditates some fresh oppression upon the Irish people, or refuses to release the Irish-American soldier, Condon, from an English prison, incarcerated because he loved Ireland, "not wisely, but too well," even if he is not too stoutly demanded by an American ambassador, by reminding him that the general whose conduct and genius saved the English Government, and held that nation in her place as one of the powers of the earth, was an Irishman born and bred, bone and sinew—Arthur Wellesley, the conqueror of Napoleon, the hero of Waterloo, the Duke of Wellington.

ON THIS CONTINENT,

on the Plains of Abraham, the gallant Wolfe, the descendant of an Irish soldier, nearly a century and a quarter ago, died as the shouts of victory fell on his ear over the flying legions of France, led by her best soldier, the gallant and wary Montcalm, a smile lighting up his features, pallid by approaching death, as he heard the cheering cry: "The Irish fly!—the French fly!" conscious that by his arduous courage in scaling the heights of Quebec he had given to England the supremacy of the North American continent, the dying hero gave up his life with his last words: "I die content!"

Fifteen years later Richard Montgomery, one of Wolfe's own officers, who received his last wounds on the field, as valorous and as faithful to the flag of the new republic, made a daring but unsuccessful assault at the gates of Quebec, to take away from Britain, in behalf of her independent colonies, the Canadas which Wolfe had given to her empire.

That Montgomery was unsuccessful by no means detracts either from his dauntless courage or soldierly qualities; he tried to do with eight hundred men what Wolfe did with eight thousand, and fell dead at the moment of attack, or the event might well have been different.

Success made, as it ought to do, Wolfe's name immortal. Montgomery should stand side by side with his late glorious chief for bravely attempting to do, and giving his life to the accomplishment of, what Wolfe did. The fame of these two Irish soldiers is rival, not antagonistic.

The records of the armies of the Revolution glitter all over with the gallant exploits of Irish soldiers, who, with the fathers of the Republic, laid the very foundation of our liberties, and whose deeds and loyal conduct shone out conspicuously in the very darkest days of the revolutionary contest. I need give the names of

SULLIVAN, STARK, M'NEIL, AND M'LAIRY,

from New England alone, to call to mind but examples of their host.

In our second war for independence against Great Britain, wherein we fought for the freedom of the seas, I will but name one as the prototype of all the rest.

He closed the war by the overthrow, at New Orleans, of the trained soldiers of England, afterward the very conquerors of Napoleon, and later as the Chief Executive of the Republic, fought and won the more important and prolonged contest which rescued the people from the oppressions of the bank monopolists, and aristocrats, who had already begun to undermine popular liberty and overshadow the people's power.

THE HERO OF DEMOCRACY, ANDREW JACKSON.

Nor was Jackson the only instance where a soldier of Irish extraction has been called, as a civil chief, to conduct a great republic in the hour of its greatest civic perils, when a nation calls for

"A single strong hand
In a blatant land;

Who can rule and dare not lie."

I give you Marshal Maurice Patrick MacMahon, President of the French Republic.

I have recalled a few only of the illustrious names and exploits of the Irish soldier, that we may see what a glorious name and fame he was called upon to sustain by his deeds in the great civil war of our own time.

As events recede from us, universal history, which gives but a page to the campaigns of Alexander and Cesar, even in nearness to our time gives no account of the captain, the subalter, or the private soldier.

IRISH SOLDIERS OF THE LATE WAR.

Corcoran, Meagher, Lalor, Sweeney, Murphy, Minty, Donahoe, Gorman, Hennessey, Kearney, Doherty, and Mulligan, Birney, Shields, Logan Geary, and Sheridan, to maintain the Government; Cleburne, McBride, Mahone, Shields, and Carroll,

who fought for the "first cause"—all and each were conspicuous for gallantry of conduct and brave deeds, and equal loyalty to the flag whose cause he had espoused.

Their names will live in history, song, and story, and neither "Gael nor Saxon" has cause to be other than proud to hail each and all as countrymen and compatriots.

Of many of them I may, not here or now, speak as they live and move amongst us, adding to their glorious record in war, the fresher and more attractive achievements as citizens in peace; and whether in the forum, in the mazes of business, or in the halls of legislation, full of honors hereafter, "their children shall rise up to call them blessed"; and when the petty strifes of the day shall have passed away, the gratitude of nations shall do them high honor, and that hereafter, and ere long, let us trust and hope, two republics—our own America, and disenthralled, free, happy, and self-governing Ireland—the home of their adoption, the country of their ancestry—shall both strive for the rich heritage of their well-earned fame.

THE IRISH BRIGADES AND REGIMENTS.

While these names, so great and illustrious, will maintain so large a place in the history of our country, we must not forget that many, nay, most of them, won their laurels leading troops made up of officers and men of the same race with themselves, organized into distinctive bodies known in our army as the Irish regiments and brigades, and that much of their success and honor is due to the fact that the men they commanded were so well fitted by nationality, aptness for discipline, capability of taking care of themselves, elasticity of temperament, capacity for endurance, carelessness of danger, headlessness of self-sacrifice, courage in battle, that they soon became the finest soldiers the world ever saw.

While it is also true that in every company, regiment, battalion, and division of both armies there were to be found Irish soldiers in large proportion, yet they showed a marked desire to fight the battles of their adopted country in such organizations as could rightly bear to the front, by the side of the stars and stripes, the green flag and golden harp of Erin.

May not this coming together of the Irishmen in our armies have been—nay, indeed, was it not—because they each and all hoped and felt that thus fighting together distinctively they could sustain the reputation which we have already seen had been earned by the Irish soldier in all the armies of the civilized world?

OUR OWN NINTH REGIMENT

was thus quickly enlisted, followed by the Twenty-eighth Massachusetts.

Connecticut sent her Ninth also. Later, Pennsylvania sent her Irish Sixty-ninth regiment; Illinois more; Indiana hers; Michigan hers; Delaware hers; and later New York added the splendid brigade of Gen. Meagher.

Would that the occasion and your time permitted me to follow the varying fortunes of this celebrated brigade, always, however, distinguished by steady bravery; whose proud boast it was that the same green banner and the same stars and stripes led them to the conflict during the whole war, and, although engaged in every battle of the Army of the Potomac, the brigade never lost a flag.

It is not my purpose, nor indeed, would it be possible in the hour allotted to me, to follow the battles or give the achievements, or even a tithe of those Irish organizations that fought in our army, but simply to call attention to how generally and spontaneously the men of Irish birth and extraction responded to the call of their adopted country in its hour of peril.

THE IRISH SOLDIER IN THE SOUTH.

True it is there were also Irish organizations in the armies of the Confederates; but this fact only illustrates how loyal and true is the Irishman to the community which gives him protection with liberty, and how thoroughly and completely he identifies himself with its interests, and though they fought against our flag, we can more readily forgive them, for by their side fought many native-born officers, educated by the bounty of the Government, and who had taken solemn oath to support it. Besides, something is to be pardoned our friends of foreign extraction from the fact, so long well known to the world, that no true son of Erin ever kept out of a fair fight which was taking place in his presence.

The New York sixty-ninth, under the gallant and lamented Corcoran, was earliest in the field. Within less than ten days from the time of the call of the President assembled at the first tap of the drum a thousand strong, they were guarding the road that was opened for the troops of the North from Annapolis to Washington.

Nor was it the fault of the gallant Irishmen of Massachusetts that their brethren of New York were before them. The State of New York, with cosmopolitan liberality and soldier-like appreciation of their excellence for war, had permitted distinctive Irish organizations in their state militia, while Massachusetts, with singular infelicity, had, six years before, by the governor of a short-lived party, acting under an unwise and unjust prejudice, disbanded every one of her Irish militia organizations, against the remonstrances of farther-sighted military men, one of whom he punished to the extent of his power for opposing this senseless folly.

WHY THE NEW YORK SIXTY-NINTH WAS DELAYED.

But New York was not without her prejudice against the Irishman, and the Sixty-ninth would have been still earlier in the field, but its colonel was, on this anniversary, under arrest, and order for court-martial, because, with true Irish love of home and nation, remembering the wrongs of the country of the parentage of himself and his regiment, he had refused to parade his command, and doff the green plume, and lower the green flag before Prince Albert Edward, of England, on the occasion of his visit to America, as if condoning the many oppressions and flagrant injustice which Irishmen had suffered at the hands of the crowned heads of his family; so that the order for Corcoran's release from such arrest was not made until five days later, the 20th of April, when he had the gratification of issuing the following order:

"The commandant feels proud that his first duty after being relieved from a long arrest is to have the honour of promulgating an order to the regiment to rally to the support of the Constitution and laws of the United States."

On the 22d, two days after, he embarked with his regiment of a thousand men, leaving behind eight hundred, for which the State had not provided transportation, for the seat of war.

COLONEL CORCORAN.

had also the good fortune to command the only Irish regiment that took part in the first battle of Bull Run, and after a series of gallant and well sustained charges, made by order of the brigade commander, now the general commanding the army of the United States, upon the batteries of the enemy, in which he lost his lieutenant-colonel, and one hundred and fifty of his men, was personally thanked on the field by General McDowell, who was a spectator of their brave efforts.

When the fortune of the day turned against our forces, Corcoran's regiment, forming the rear-guard of the flying troops, left the field in good order, their colors flying, and twice repulsed the charge of the enemy's cavalry, in the latter of which their commander was wounded; and with two of his officers, Captain McVior and Lieutenant Connolly, and some thirty privates, fell into the hands of the enemy, and, as prisoners of war, had the still

further honor of being the first recipients of the courtesy of the rebels in Libby Prison.

What are the peculiar elements of the Irish character, which enable them, from general to private, thus to distinguish themselves as soldiers.

WHY ARE THE IRISH SO GOOD SOLDIERS.

I have already commented upon and shown their devotion to every cause, and under every banner for which they have enlisted; but every this has an added idiosyncrasy. An Irishman always seems to feel, in whatever army he is enlisted, as if in some way he was fighting the battles of Old Ireland, and is always endeavoring to put "the green above the red"; for whether the flag to which he gives his allegiance bears the red cross of England, the fleur-de-lis or the tri-color of France, the double-headed eagle of Austria, pillars of Spain, gorgeous with gold, or the stars and stripes of America, the Irishman always manages, in spite of army regulations, in spite of rule, to set up the golden harp of Erin, with its green surroundings, and follow where that leads. The green shamrock of his native hills seems ever present with him.

How often during the battles of the late war, when lying down for cover in serried ranks, supporting the batteries engaged in those terrible artillery duels, where shot and shell came ricocheting through their files—mangling one here, sending another to his death—did the low murmur, pass along the line, "what harm if all this was only for the dear old dart," the Irishman's pet name for the cause of his country.

His qualities for heroic daring and courage in action were too well known, and need not be further mentioned. There is another quality which the Irish soldier possesses in an eminent degree, which all who have served with him will bear testimony.

AS A RULE AN IRISH REGIMENT NEVER BREAKS.

They always stand or retreat together therefore they seem to possess naturally the first element which it is the office of discipline to supply to the army. Whether it is that, finding themselves in foreign lands, either as exiles enforced or voluntary, each man looks upon each comrade as a brother, yet true it is, whether in peace or war, they are rarely known to desert each other, but each gives to each substance, of labor, of sympathy—all that a man can receive from brother man. This trait of character is nowhere more conspicuously displayed, and to the reflecting mind there can be no more touching sight, than when we see long lines of stalwart men leaving their occupations, laying aside all their business, to follow to the grave their dead, or the private grief, of the majority on whom there is no claim save that of nationality.

The primary object of discipline in an army is to overcome the tendency which all men have in time of peril and distress each to endeavor to save himself alone; but in the Irishman that tendency is in a large degree overcome at the moment of organization, which in other troops is but the result of long and patient discipline and drill.

THEIR CAPABILITY FOR DISCIPLINE.

In speaking of capability for discipline I by no means claim for the Irish soldier the acquisition of exactness in the minutiae of dress and bearing which is sought to be obtained by the martinet. It is always very difficult for the Irishman to have every button of his coat fastened, his belt with the breastplate right in front, or his cap set exactly square upon his head. Nobody can enforce that. The coat will always be open, the belt awry, and the cap tilted jauntily sideways, or thrown backwards; but still the main requisites of discipline are in him. The Irishman can never be made to touch his hat to his officer with the courteous flourish of the French soldier or the studied precision of the German; but he is polite and deferential to his officer if he respects him for his justice or conduct, and loves him, and will, when wounded, bear to a place of safety, and comfort and nurse him with the care and tenderness of a brother. Indeed, the Irish soldier seems to scorn all trifling details and precision of the parade, and makes them very frequently the subject of his keenest wit and brilliant repartee.

I remember at one time observing on Ship Island an Irish captain drilling his company, being very proud of them and their movements. Drilling them under the eye of his general, he was very careful that their line should be perfectly straight and their movements very precise. Being, in the exercise of his command in their deployment as skirmishers, the order was given to rally on the reserve, and when it came into line it had not that exact precision that the captain would have liked to exhibit. Banging his eye along the front, he detected one soldier on the left back a half pace or so from his required position, and called out to him angrily: "What are you about there, Mike Lee? Dress up on the left." The order was promptly obeyed accompanied with a reply in a stage-whisper that sent a titter through the command: "Faith, captain, I am as well dressed as yerself, barring the sword and sash?"

Allow me another instance, taken from actual life, which will illustrate precisely my meaning, and show you what good soldiers good officers may soon make of Irish recruits.

The concluding part of this lecture will be given next week.

ORDINATIONS IN REMBROKE.

To the Editor of the True Witness.

REMBROKE, ONT. 28TH JUNE, 1877.

DEAR SIR—On Sunday the 17th inst. the Catholics of this town had the pleasure of witnessing, in the beautiful new church here, the ordination of Rev. Peter McCarthy to the priesthood, and of Mr. E. S. Marion to minor orders. Both of these young gentlemen are residents of Rembroke, and have been pursuing their theological studies in the Seminary of the Ottawa College, and it was by an especial favor of his Lordship Bishop Duhamel, that the ordination took place in their own parish church.

The most intense interest was manifested in the ceremony, as a like one had never before performed here before. The church was crowded to excess, over 1,200 persons being present, including a number of ladies and gentlemen of other religious denominations. Owing to the fact that a number were to receive Confirmation, and also on account of the length of the ordination ceremony, Low Mass was celebrated by his Lordship, beginning at 9 a.m. The following clergymen were present:—Rev. M. J. Whelan, Ottawa; Rev. E. Bonnet, Lapasse; Rev. J. Shalloo, Sheenboro; Rev. P. Aguel, Portage-du-fort; Rev. J. Bouvier, Osceola; and the resident clergyman, Rev. Dr. Faure. In the absence of Rev. Dr. O'Connor of Ottawa, who had been obliged to accompany his Excellency the Delegate Apostolic to Toronto, Rev. Dr. Faure preached the ordination sermon, taking for his text the words of the Psalmist:—"Thou art a priest forever according to the order of Melchisedech." The very efficient choir, assisted by the Sisters of the Convent rendered some beautiful music during the service. The ceremonies concluded about 1:30 p.m., with the Papal Benediction.

Immediately after mass, about a dozen of the ladies of the congregation presented Rev. Father McCarthy with a magnificent gold chalice, and patron valued at over \$75 together with the following address:—

"Very kind friend, and Father:—"We beg to offer you our heartfelt congratulations on this happy day of your ordination—the day which has witnessed the accomplishment of our most ardent desires—that of beholding you an inmate of the Sanctuary—a shepherd in the Fold of Christ.—"May the many blessings and graces, so abund-

antly lavished on you by the heart of Jesus, be your safeguard and life's trials. May the Divine Lord reward your generous sacrifice by adorning your heart with those virtues so befitting your holy calling.

"Design to accept, reverend Father, this feeble token of esteem from those who beg your blessing on themselves and families."

"To this address the Rev. gentleman made the following reply:—"My dear friends—I thank you for your kind congratulations, and for your good wishes, of which this magnificent gift is so adequate an expression. It has been my privilege this morning to receive gifts in the spiritual order, which, upon reflection, however brief, overwhelm the mind and heart. This testimonial of esteem, proceeding from generous feelings with which I have been long acquainted, taking me by surprise at this so solemn and impressive moment, renders me quite unable to do justice to the gratitude that is the sole return of your kind favor."

"I see reflected in this testimonial that characteristic faith and sublime generosity which so often prompts you to give honor to God in the person of his ministers."

"This beautiful gift, my dear friends, shall ever be held dear by me as commemorative not only of this, the happiest day of my life, but of your ardent faith and deep-seated generosity."

"It shall also be to me an incentive to endeavor, with God's holy assistance, to discharge the important duties of the sacred ministry with whatever zeal and assiduity I can command."

"To-morrow, when it shall be my great privilege and consolation to ascend for the first time the altar of God, bearing in my hands this precious testimonial of your esteem, it shall be my pleasing duty to invoke the blessing of our Heavenly Father upon you and yours."

On Sunday last, Rev. Mr. McCarthy celebrated his first High Mass, and in the evening gave Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

On Tuesday evening last, a number of the Catholic young men of the town visited the residence of the newly-ordained priest, and presented him with a purse containing the handsome sum of \$50, accompanied by the following address:—"To the Rev. Peter McCarthy:—"Reverend and respected Father,—It is with feelings of the deepest pleasure that we come this evening to offer to you, with many other friends, our sincere congratulations on your having received from the hands of our beloved Bishop the crown of your desires and your labors—the sacerdotal robe and the divine commission which Christ Himself delivered to His Apostles."

"Associated as we have been with you from your childhood, we had early learned to admire the many noble and elevating traits which adorned your character; and we have since eagerly and hopefully watched your persistent and praiseworthy efforts to reach that blessed goal of your ambition, which you have at length attained. But our greatest happiness was reserved till the last; for to have personally witnessed your ordination as a Priest of the Most High was the crowning event of all our hopes and desires."

"Thrice worthy have you proved yourself of the high trust imposed on you of a leader and a defender in the ranks of the Church militant, and a guardian and director of the souls of the members of that Church, which Christ established on earth. "Though our felicitations are somewhat tardy we hope they will be none the less acceptable to you on that account; and we feel assured that when it pleases His Lordship to remove you from our midst, as we learn, he, ere long, intends to do, in order to appoint you to a post of usefulness in the holy sphere for which God has designed you, you will kindly remember the numerous friends you will have left behind."

"Before leaving us we beg of you to accept of the accompanying purse, as a slight earnest of those sentiments which we are so proud in professing to feel towards you; and we earnestly hope that Almighty God will be pleased long to spare you to fill the mission of an ardent and faithful laborer in his heavenly vineyard."

Rev. Mr. McCarthy replied as follows:—"My dear friends—I thank you for your kind congratulations, and I feel exceedingly grateful for your generous gift. At any time, and under any circumstances, I would feel highly honored by such noble sentiments and so magnificent a present; but I assure you I feel doubly so at this moment, since they come from you, the companions of my boyhood. Indeed, I do not deserve the high compliments which you pay me, for I did only what I should have done."

"Many amongst you would have done more honor to this sacred calling than I can do, but God sometimes selects the weak in preference to the strong for His work. The great pleasure which you experience, and of which you have given so adequate a proof, of my elevation to the sublime dignity of the priesthood, will give me great consolation in after life, and will encourage me to labor to the best of my abilities for the honor and glory of God. Though separated from you, my dear friends, I assure you, you will ever remain enshrined in my affections, and my most fervent prayers will be ever offered to the throne of Grace, that the choicest favors may shower upon you."

Sunday next will be the occasion of Father McCarthy's ascending the pulpit for the first time and which will no doubt prove a memorable event in his spiritual career, second only to that of his ordination. By order of the Bishop he will leave Rembroke early next week for Buckingham, Que., where he is to be stationed for the present as curate of Rev. Father Michel. We would very much like that he should remain amongst us, if such were possible, but wherever he goes he will bear with him the esteem and the kindest wishes of all who know him. Yours faithfully, M. J. G.

COLLEGE OF OTTAWA.

DISTRIBUTION OF PRIZES.

A large and select audience assembled in the spacious hall of the College Tuesday morning 20th ult., to witness the closing exercises of the scholastic year of that institution. A varied programme was very successfully carried out, the students in many cases appearing to excellent advantage. Amongst those present were His Lordship the Bishop of Ottawa, Fathers Stenson, Foley, Champagne, Principal McCabe of Normal School. Mr. Lajoie delivered an oration on "Champlain" which was loudly applauded. Mr. J. O'Meara read a poetical effusion on "My College Home," which showed considerable talent.

Father Pallier, the President of the College then addressed the audience. He spoke of the promulgation of science, eulogized Mr. McCabe, and conferred upon him the highest honor capable of being given by the College, the title of M. A., which he said would no doubt be a great pleasure to his many friends.

The distribution of prizes then took place. His Lordship the Bishop addressed a few words to the audience congratulating the students on their success, and adding he was pleased to see the honor conferred upon Principal McCabe, who was a perfect scholar, a gentleman, and one who had made himself popular since his arrival in the city. He wished the pupils happy vacation, and trusted they would return next term, to finish their education and become useful members of society. He then spoke a few words in the same strain in French, after which Mr. McCabe thanked the senate of the college for the high honor conferred upon him.

God Save the Queen brought to a close this most pleasing ceremony.—Ottawa.