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VOL. X. No. 20

TORONTO, THURSDAY, MAY 22, 1902

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CHURCHES IN GUELPH

Beginning of Roman Catholicism in the Royal City.

(From The Guelph Mercury.)

We are indebted to Mr. J. P. MacMillan for the following fuller details of the early history of the Roman Catholic community in Guelph, and trust we shall have some more from him, and from other old residents.

From the time that the late lamented John Galt so generously donated landed property to the English, Presbyterian and Catholic churches, Guelph became quite a religious centre, as the gift formed a substantial nucleus by which their respective clergy were encouraged and enabled to inculcate into the minds of their then limited flocks the sacred principles of Divine worship, but the probabilities are that it was through the influence of the late Bishop Macdonald that Mr Galt was, to his lasting credit, induced to act so timely and liberally with the property referred to. The late Bishop Macdonald was possessed of advanced liberal views, who would not ask for himself that he would deny to other denominations, and, owing to his position and influence at the time, it did not require much persuasion on his part to obtain from the chief officer of the Canada Company the much appreciated donation. Bishop Macdonald came to Canada as early as 1804, having previously been ordained to the priesthood, and at once entered upon the discharge of his sacred duties among his countrymen, many of whom he had known in Scotland, in the County of Glenangary, where there was a large Catholic community in the parish of St. Raphael's, in that county, he erected one of the largest stone churches perhaps until this day in Ontario, near Upper Canada. At the same time he started a college in this parish, where the ambitious young men of the day were prepared for the priesthood and other learned professions. This college flourished, until he became bishop, necessitating his removal to Toronto, his diocese extending from the province line to the east and Sandwich to the west, in consequence of this and his increased duties, he was unable to attend to the interests of the college, and it therefore was obliged to discontinue the good work His Lordship intended.

The first Catholic families settling at Guelph and vicinity were much inconvenienced in consequence of the scarcity of clergy of their denomination, and in consequence several couples were married by magistrates. The first couple married by a priest at Guelph was the late lamented James McQuillan, who, like his family after him, was most exemplary in the practice of his religion and in furthering the interests of the church in this section.

Associated with the earliest members of the priesthood officiating in this section, and remembered by many still to the fore, are the names of Fathers Snider, Saunders, Scanlan, Ma Togie and Gibney, the latter of whom sadly came to his death from the effects of injuries sustained by falling from his horse while returning from administering the last

rites of the church to a shoemaker named Swartzburger, residing on the York road.

It was not, however, until the arrival of the Rev. John Holtzer, at the scene that the Catholic interest and the church at Guelph began to waken up to the grand achievements enjoyed by those of that community. In about the year 1845 Father Holtzer made his appearance in this section, taking up his residence at Little Germany, where were about 30 German Catholic families and a few French from Alsace. The church there in those days was a log structure of the most crude and primitive design. There was no house for the priest, and the first requirements his reverence provided was the erection of a residence for his own use and that of the other members of the priesthood who made their homes there occasionally when out on their missions among the wilds of the Northern Peninsula. When the priest's house was erected, Father Holtzer replaced the log structure used as a church by the erection of a commodious stone edifice. The lots in that part of Waterloo township were surveyed in blocks containing 48 acres, and the block part of which was subsequently surveyed for and where Little Germany now stands, and where this church was erected, was taken up by Mr. Gottlieb Brohman, the father of Mr. Jacob Brohman, for many years identified with the Municipal Government of the township of Nichol, as Reeve, Deputy Reeve and Councillor, and Ambrose Brohman now residing in Guelph; Lawrence Goetz and Jos. Lauber, who were among the most zealous in lending assistance to the Rev. Father in furthering his designs for their spiritual benefit. At this time, although there was a sort of schoolhouse, yet, in consequence of the scarcity of teachers, there was for most of the time no school. Ever alive to the importance of instructing the children, Father Holtzer occupied himself, when he could possibly spare the time from his other duties, in teaching the little boys and girls and preparing them for their first communion.

In the year 1840, much to the regret and disappointment of the people of Little Germany, who had become alive to the great advantages they would enjoy by his remaining with them, Father Holtzer left there and came to reside permanently at Guelph. On entering upon his duties here, he found much to be done, as there was no church, and by the generosity of the county authorities, and with the approbation of the entire citizens of Guelph, Divine service was held in the court house. This was occasioned in consequence of the much to be deplored and ever disgraceful conduct of a limited few, whose contracted views and low animosity led them to suppose that it would be a meritorious act to destroy the modest frame building previously used by the Catholic people as a place of worship, and they unfortunately caused it to be burned down. Though the loss at the time was considerable, and caused much inconvenience to the parishioners, yet it was nothing as compared to the profound indignation which this act of vandalism excited among the high-minded and noble-hearted people of the other denominations, who felt humiliated that a stain of this nature would be attached to the history of the early settlers of the now Royal City. Father Holtzer at once undertook the erection of a church, and the sincerity of the good Protestant people was manifested in a substantial manner by their contributing liberally towards the work, and the result was the stone church which was removed when the present one was built.

Ever alive to progression, His Reverence then purchased the land where St. Joseph's Hospital stands from Mr. Jas. Wallace, who was a stone mason by trade, and father to our much respected Dr. Wallace, of Alma. The house occupied by Mr. Wallace previous to the sale of the property was converted into a house of refuge, and served in that way for a few years, when a substantial stone structure was erected, part of which was used as a house of refuge, while another part was used as a hospital.

The Sisters of Loretto opened their institution at Guelph as early as 1847, the mother house being at Toronto and this was the first branch. The first sisters coming here, Sister Rev. Mother Berchmans Lawlor, Sister Stanislaus, now Rev. Mother at the House of Niagara Falls; Sister Ignatia, the present Chief Superior of the House at Toronto. The Loretto Academy is regarded as one of the best equipped and most healthy institutions belonging to the order in Canada, and in consequence of this pupils are sent here mostly from all quarters. They have now 30 regular boarders, which, with their day pupils, number about 120.

MR. J. P. MACMILLAN.
The Register can heartily join with its contemporaries, The Guelph Mer-

cury, in congratulating Col. MacMillan on his prospects of being asked by the Honorable, the Minister of Militia, to join the Canadian contingent for the Coronation in June. Such an honor conferred upon this gentleman would be exceedingly well timed and richly deserved, if for nothing more than the compliment which he was the means of conferring upon the noble Earl of Dufferin, at the close of his brilliant career as Governor-General of Canada, by convening that historical deputation composed of the heads of the municipalities of the great Province of Ontario and taking them to the Ancient City of Quebec, where a farewell address was presented on behalf of the various municipalities they represented, expressive of the sentiments of the people towards and affectionately bidding farewell to that illustrious personage. An honor, as he described it in his address, as having "no parallel in the history of this or of any other country." The real beauty and taste of this demonstration was remarkably exemplified when considering the instigator, Mr. MacMillan, was not even of the nationality of the retiring Governor, but on the contrary of Highland Scotch descent, possessing all the instinct and characteristics of his countrymen, who as early as 125 years ago carried with them from the land of the heather, the will, determination and indomitable character, which enabled them to reach success and comfort, and their sons, not unlike the subject of our remarks, to attain positions reflecting honor upon them in Canada, the land of their adoption.

Truly Mr. MacMillan has established an honorable name in this connection, and one that will attach itself indelibly to that of Lord Dufferin during his administration as Viceroy of this Dominion. It is therefore not surprising that the authorities should feel they owe a debt of gratitude for his praiseworthy services and mark their appreciation thereof by inviting him to join the other worthies from Canada, to grace with their presence the momentous occasion, the Coronation of His Majesty, on the 26th of June.

Copy of a resolution adopted by the Council of the United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glenangary, at the regular meeting of that body held at Cornwall on the 16th of October, 1878:

"Moved by D. C. McLea, seconded by P. F. Chamberlain, that the thanks of this Council are due and are hereby tendered to William Mark, Esq., Warden, and to John N. Tuttle, Esq., Reeve of Iroquois, for having represented the United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glenangary on the occasion of the Municipal Excursion from Ontario, to present a farewell address to Earl Dufferin at Quebec, also, that this Council do express its appreciation of the services rendered to Ontario by John P. MacMillan, Esq., of Guelph, in organizing and carrying to a successful termination a project so pettingly expressive of the sentiments of the people towards the retiring Governor, and to record its satisfaction in knowing that Mr. MacMillan is a native of these United Counties, and that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Mr. MacMillan by the Clerk of this Council."

"Certified to be a true copy of a resolution adopted by Council of the United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glenangary, on 16th of October, 1878, and entered as of record upon the minutes of said Council."

"Witness my hand and the seal of corporation at Cornwall, Ont., this 12th day of April A. D. 1892."

(Sgd.) Adralan J. Macdonald,
County Clerk, S. D. & G.

At a regular meeting of the Council of the County of Wellington, held on the 5th day of December, 1878, the following resolution was unanimously passed:

"Moved by Mr. Sweetnam, seconded by Mr. James McMillan, that the County Council of the County of Wellington, at this its first opportunity,

do officially endorse the action of J. P. MacMillan, Esq., Barrister, of Guelph, in drafting the joint municipal address to His Excellency the Earl of Dufferin, on the eve of his departure from Canada, and do fully concur in all the sentiments expressed therein, and consider it a graceful and appropriate tribute to the worth of that distinguished nobleman, and that this Council do further consider that the thanks of this, as well as of every other municipal corporation of Ontario are due to Mr. MacMillan, for the ability, energy and perseverance displayed by him in carrying to a successful issue such a gigantic undertaking, and that the Council, do express its gratification that so laudable a movement originated in the County of Wellington, and that the Clerk be instructed to forward a copy of this resolution to that gentleman. Carried."

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MAJOR MASON HONORED.

In the presence of the assembled Garrison of the city and hundreds of spectators, at the Armories on Friday night, Major James Cooper Mason of the Royal Grenadiers had conferred upon him, with full martial honors, the decoration of the Distinguished Service Order, an honor which comes to but few, and only to those who have done extraordinary service on the field of battle.

The decoration of the D. S. O. (Distinguished Service Order) is a reward for junior officers, designed as a recognition of direct leadership of men. Highly prized in the British army, it is perhaps a more thoroughly military decoration than the Victoria Cross, for it is awarded for conduct and skill in action, rather than for the heading value which is now somewhat discounted by the ever-increasing needs for craft and skill in war. The statutes of the War Office on Nov. 6, 1886. Foreign officers associated in the naval and military operations of the British forces are eligible to be honorary members; and the other ranks next to the Order of the Indian Empire the badge, which consists of a gold cross, enamelled white, edged gold, having on one side therein in the center, within a wreath of laurel, enamel green, the Imperial crown in red and on the reverse, within a similar wreath, and on a similar red ground, the Imperial and Royal cipher E. R. I. is to be suspended from the left breast by a red ribbon edged blue to one inch in width.

Major Mason, or as he was known during the campaign, Lieut. Mason, distinguished himself by personal courage and leadership in the desperate charge late in the day in the action of Feb. 18 at Paardeberg in the earlier phases of the action he aided the Cornwallis, under Lieut.-Col. Aldworth, to reinforce the point in the firing line where he happened to be by causing the men under his command to open steady volley firing so as to cover the Cornwallis' advance. When the charge took place he was one of a party of four officers who were near each other. Of these, two—Lieut.-Col. Aldworth of the Cornwallis and the Adjutant of the same regiment—met death; and the other two—Lieut. Mason and Lieut. Money-penny of the Seaford Highlanders—were severely wounded. Lieut. Money-penny subsequently died of his wounds. That was perhaps the most desperate corner of the fight, and that at which the losses were heaviest. One section of the Cornwallis lost eleven killed and ten wounded out of twenty-five men. After being hit Lieut. Mason continued as well as he was able to direct the men who were near him. The point where he fell marked the extreme limit of the charge as a general advance. He was the last of the officers to fall and the furthest forward.

Major Mason was struck three times, his helmet and clothing being pierced before he received the wound which penetrated his lung. Lord Roberts in his despatches laid stress upon this determined effort to break into the enemy's lines. In his first despatch, relating to the honors list, he referred to it in the following terms:

"The following officers, who have been killed in action or have died from the effects of wounds rendered conspicuously valuable services. Had they survived I should have brought their names prominently to Your Lordship's notice. . . . Lieut.-Col. Aldworth, D. C. L. I., Second Lieut. Money-penny, Seaford's." In a subsequent despatch Lord Roberts, after referring to the great number of troops engaged, points out how difficult it was to ascertain the facts regarding the services of officers, owing to the frequent references to South Africa from England which were necessary, and accordingly asks that all names mentioned in the subsequent despatch be regarded as if mentioned in the one first sent.

During his convalescence Lieut. Mason discharged certain duties at Cape Town and made frequent applications to get to the front. He was repeatedly refused permission by the surgeons, his wound having distended and long-continued effects. He ultimately managed to get away, practically in defiance of the surgeons, and with what Col. Otter in his official report styled "indomitable pluck" made his way to the front and rejoined his regiment. He was troubled with a hacking cough, and it seemed a hopeless venture, especially as the season was mid-winter. Contrary, however, to general expectation, the life on the veldt agreed with him, and he regained his strength. At Eerste Fabriken he was in command of "B" Company, and when the question arose as to whether the regiment should return to Canada immediately or wait a while longer, as requested by Lord Roberts, he exerted himself with great zeal and with success to induce his company to decide to remain. He in this manner helped to bring about the visit to England which brought the services of the first contingent to so brilliant a conclusion. All through his service he showed himself a palisading officer with an exact sense of duty.

Ottawa Correspondence.
Ottawa, May 1.—On Friday last Dr. J. K. Foran, former editor of the Montreal True Witness, was appointed Chief English Translator of the House of Commons. He succeeds Mr. B. F. Hayes, who held the office for 12 years.

Dr. Foran was born in 1857; educated at Ottawa University, made law course at Laval, Quebec, took degree of LL. B. in law and Lit. D. in letters; published in 1896, volume of poems, in 1897 "The Spirit of the Age"; in 1899 a work on "Obligations" that is an authority in the Province of Quebec. He has been in journalism and literature for past 20 odd years. An Irish-Catholic by parentage and Canadian by birth, he writes and speaks both languages equally well. He has contributed largely to the French press of Montreal and translated many of Cremieux's poems.

THE CHRISTIAN BROTHERS AT OTTAWA.
On the occasion of the anniversary of the Blessed Saint J. B. De La Salle's canonization, the Christian Brothers of Ottawa and Hull celebrated the day in a manner that was calculated to prove the success that these noble teachers have had in the Capital, and the love and esteem, as well as lasting confidence, that their labors have inspired in the hearts of the clergy and the Catholic laity. In the absence of His Grace the Archbishop, Vicar-General Rauthier celebrated the Solemn High Mass at the Basilica, assisted by Canons Hamilton and Plantin. The splendid temple was filled with worshippers, the decorations were in accordance with such a joyous anniversary, and the Apostolic Delegate, Mgr. Falconio—added importance to the occasion by his presence. The sermon of the day was preached by Rev. Father Alexus, of the Capuchian monastery. The humble gaze of the friar and the still more humble life of the one who wears it precludes the possibility of giving due praise to the preacher. The subject was one calculated to inspire eloquence in even one less gifted and less in sympathy with the life of the saintly founder of the Christian Brothers' Community. It would be the giving of a resume of the life of De La Salle, and an epitome of the Order's history since its foundation, to attempt a report of that masterly sermon. At noon a splendid banquet was given in the spacious hall of the grand school on Sussex street, and needless to say that it was the occasion of many a happy greeting and many mutual congratulations. Two days later the celebration was repeated at Hull, for the benefit of the Catholic population of the trans-pondine city. I exceedingly regret that my limited space forbids any lengthier remarks on this grand celebration. But, if you will permit me, I will take occasion, in a future correspondence, to tell your readers something about the hidden, as well as the pub-

THE LATE FATHER RYAN'S WILL.
It is proposed in conformity with the will of the late Rev. Father Frank Ryan to place a window in St. Michael's Cathedral to his memory. According to his intention the window will represent the apparition of the Sacred Heart of Jesus to the Blessed Margaret Mary.

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