

Mgr. Falconio's Farewell to Canada.



ON Tuesday the 18th inst., His Excellency Mgr. Diomede Falconio, late Papal Delegate to Canada but succeeding Cardinal Martinelli at Washington, left Ottawa to enter upon his new labors. Since his arrival, Oct. 12th, 1899, in this country, he has gone on in the even tenor of his way without exciting much attention, quiet and unostentatious. When Cardinal Martinelli had sailed for Europe, it began to be rumored, and persistently rumored, that the Delegate of Canada was appointed by the Holy Father to the vacant post. And this was as persistently denied. At length when the official documents from Rome, announcing the transfer, had arrived and were published, then, not only the Catholics but the whole population of Canada seemed to be stirred by the fact. All the Capital dailies, and the principal papers of the Dominion, contained regrets, and sympathetic allusions to the pending departure of His Excellency, as well as flattering compliments towards his person. Naturally, it was for Catholics, who best understood the eminence of his dignity, and the high character of his mission as direct representative of the head of the Catholic Church—those of them especially, who had lived with or near him—to give unqualified expression of their sentiments under the circumstances. If Mgr. Falconio's arrival was sincerely though formally greeted in every section of the country, in addresses from clergy and laity, the demonstrations which marked his leave taking were deeply heartfelt and spontaneous. We have seen this in the farewell visits the Delegate paid to our three principal cities, Montreal, Ottawa and Toronto. In Ottawa and Montreal respectively the Hibernians and the Catholic Sailors' Club placed themselves on record for their enthusiasm. At a splendid function in Ottawa, His Excellency was the recipient of a precious pectoral cross of solid gold, chased in shamrocks, and mounted in oriental opazes and diamonds: the gift was presented by the Canadian councils of the Knights of Columbus.