

Souvenir
of the
Parish of Cobourg
Ontario. - - Canada

♦ ♦ ♦

“ In perpetuam rei memoriam.”

To

The Most Reverend M. J. O'Brien, D.D.

Chief Pastor

of the

Diocese of Peterborough

This Historical Sketch of the

Parish of Cobourg

is gratefully and affectionately

Dedicated.



MOST REVEREND M. J. O'BRIEN, D. D.
BISHOP OF PETERBOROUGH.

“ How great things He commanded
our Fathers that they should make
the same known to their children,
that another generation might know
them.

That they may put their hope in
God and may not forget the works of
God and may seek His command-
ments.”

(PSALM 77)

.. A ..
Retrospect of Seventy-seven Years
of the
Parish of Cobourg
A. D.
1837-1914.

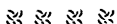


ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH, COBOURG

HISTORICAL SKETCH

OF THE

PARISH OF COBOURG



FIRST CHURCH.

TO those who peruse this Booklet a retrospect of the beginning, progress and completion of the work carried on in the Parish of Cobourg from its foundation in 1837 to the present year, 1914, may be of interest.

Originally the Church of the parish of Cobourg was under the patronage of St. Polycarp, having been organized in November of the year 1837 by the Reverend Alexander F. Kernan. He called together the few Catholics of this locality to discuss the advisability of building a church. They willingly assented and in 1839 the building was completed and dedicated to God under the invocation of St. Polycarp. It was a frame structure 75 ft. by 45 ft. with tower and spire and was erected on the old Ruttan property, William Street. The congregation at that time numbered about 50 souls. Father Kernan continued to administer to the spiritual wants of the parish, which then comprised the West Riding of Northumberland, until the year 1842 when he was accidentally killed near Toronto. At the request of his parishioners of Cobourg, he was

buried under the church he had built. In 1895 during the pastorate of Reverend E. H. Murray when the church on William St. was being vacated, his body and that of Reverend M. Timlin were removed to the central mound in the parish cemetery. On the plates of the respective coffins were found the following inscriptions

“ Reverend Alexander F. Kernan,
native of County Galway, Ireland, who
departed May 13, 1842. Age 38 years.”
“ Reverend Father Timlin, died May
23, 1877. Age 86 years.”

BISHOP PHELAN, OF KINGSTON.

Father Kernan was succeeded in 1812 by Reverend Wm. Dolan, who built the first parochial residence near the church on William Street. During his incumbency on May 16, 1811, the parish was visited by the Most Reverend Patrick Phelan, Co-adjutor to Most Reverend Remigius Gaulin, Bishop of Kingston. He administered the Sacrament of Confirmation to 38 persons and erected the Stations of the Cross in the church. His mandate, inserted by himself in the parish register, calls on the parishioners to contribute more generously to the support of the pastor and in payment of the Church debt; and gives orders to set apart a Potter's Field in the graveyard, and to make some necessary repairs on the foundation of the church; to arrange certain fixed rates for burial permits and family plots, and to build a sacristy on the



MOST REVEREND E. J. HORAN, D. D., BISHOP OF KINGSTON.

East end of the church. A week after this visit Father Dolan, with the authority of Bishop Phelan, erected the Confraternity of the Holy Scapular of Our Lady of Mount Carmel.

PASTORATE OF REV. M. TIMLIN.

In the summer of 1844 Father Dolan resigned, going away for his health and he was replaced by Reverend Michael Timlin, who remained in charge of the parish for 33 years. During the six years from 1847 to 1853 Bishop Phelan, the energetic Co-adjutor of the Bishop of Kingston, visited the parish six times to encourage the progress of the Mission and to administer Confirmation. In 1850 the church was found to be too small for the increased congregation and a brick addition 65 ft by 40 ft was built to the former frame structure. The wooden portion was destroyed by fire in 1854 and Father Timlin immediately began the work of re-building the burnt part in brick and with such success that Mass was again said within the walls on Christmas of that year.

On the Feast of St. Michael, 1856, the new church was solemnly dedicated to God under the title of St. Michael by Most Reverend Bishop Phelan in the presence of Very Reverend Patrick Dollard, V. G., Reverend M. Timlin, Pastor of Cobourg, and Reverend K. O'Keefe, Pastor of Port Hope. The Bishop also erected the Stations of the Cross and gave Confirmation.

In 1861, 1867 and 1871 Most Reverend E. J. Horan,

Bishop of Kingston, made his Episcopal visitation and gave Confirmation to 441 persons.

In 1875 Father Timlin, on account of the weight of years and failing health, asked of the Most Reverend Dr. O'Brien, the newly appointed Bishop of Kingston, that an assistant should be sent to the parish. In response to his request, Reverend Michael Larkin, was sent as curate. During the next 2 years the Altar Society was organized and the Church in Grafton begun.

BISHOP O'BRIEN OF KINGSTON, APPOINTS REV. E. H. MURRAY, PASTOR OF COBOURG, JUNE 1879.

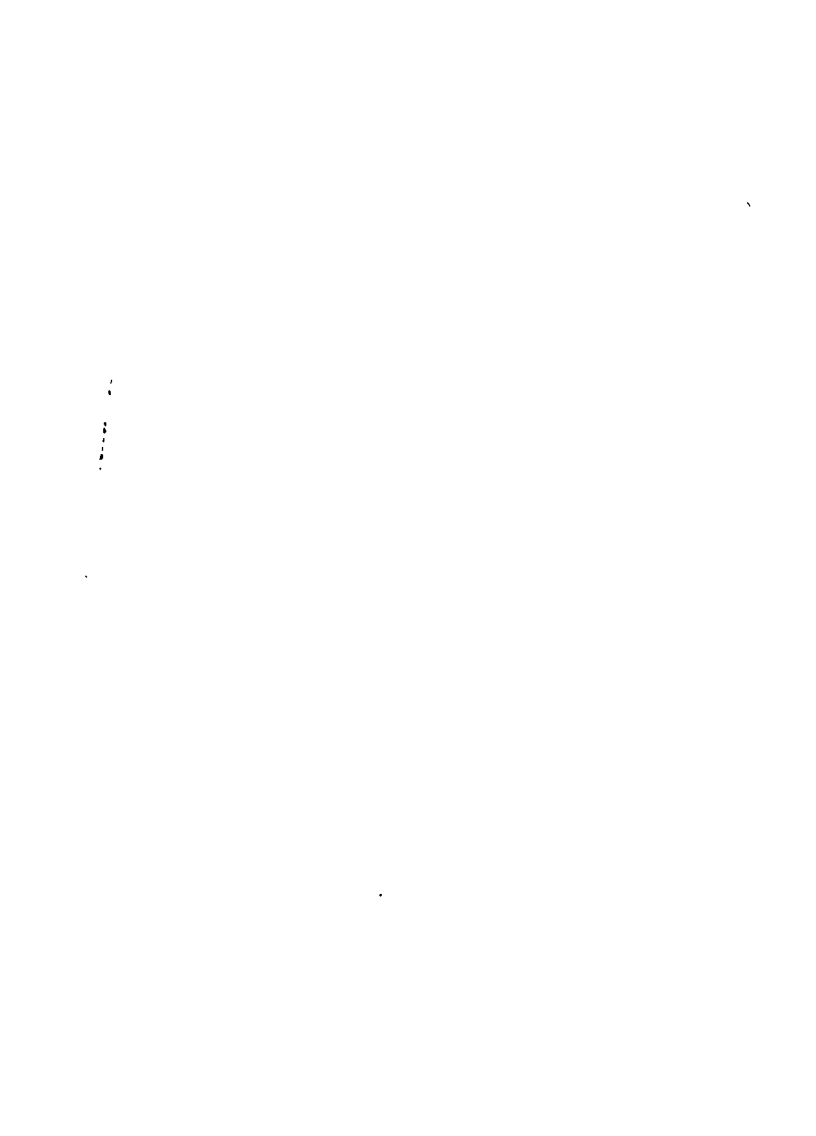
On May 23, 1877, the aged Rector of the Parish passed to his reward. His funeral on May 25th, was attended by a large gathering of the clergy and laity. Bishop O'Brien preached his funeral sermon. Father Timlin's remains were interred in the crypt of the church where they reposed until 1895 when they were removed to the centre of the parish cemetery. A stained glass window in the chancel of the new church perpetuates his memory.

FORMATION OF PARISH OF GRAFTON.

Father Larkin remained in charge of the parish for 2 years. In June, 1879, Reverend E. H. Murray was appointed Pastor, his parish comprising the Town of Cobourg and the Townships of Hamilton and South Monaghan. The Eastern portion of the mission was



MOST REVEREND J. O'BRIEN, D. D., BISHOP OF KINGSTON.



erected into a new parish under the charge of Reverend Michael Larkin, who fixed his residence in Grafton.

BLESSING OF THE BELL.

In 1881 a large bell was procured for the church and was solemnly christened by Most Reverend James Vincent Cleary, Bishop of Kingston, on July 30th of that year. The new bell was called John James, in honor of Most Reverend John O'Brien and Most Reverend James Vincent Cleary, Bishops of the diocese.

ERECTION OF PETERBOROUGH INTO AN EPISCOPAL SEE

During the next year the Diocese of Peterborough was erected into an Episcopal See and Cobourg was included in the new diocese. Most Reverend John Francis Jamot, first Bishop of Peterborough, made his first Episcopal visit to Cobourg on Nov. 12, 1882, when he confirmed 157 persons. He also erected the Stations of the Cross, paintings in water-colors, which had been purchased by the Pastor, in Paris in 1871.

FOUNDATION OF ST. JOSEPH'S CONVENT

Father Murray considered the old Separate School on Ball St. as insufficient for the needs of the parish and took measures to establish a Convent and School in its stead. Accordingly he sold the old building to Captain Rooney, one of the parishioners, and purchased the buildings and grounds of the Brookhurst Ladies' Academy which he fitted for Convent and School pur-

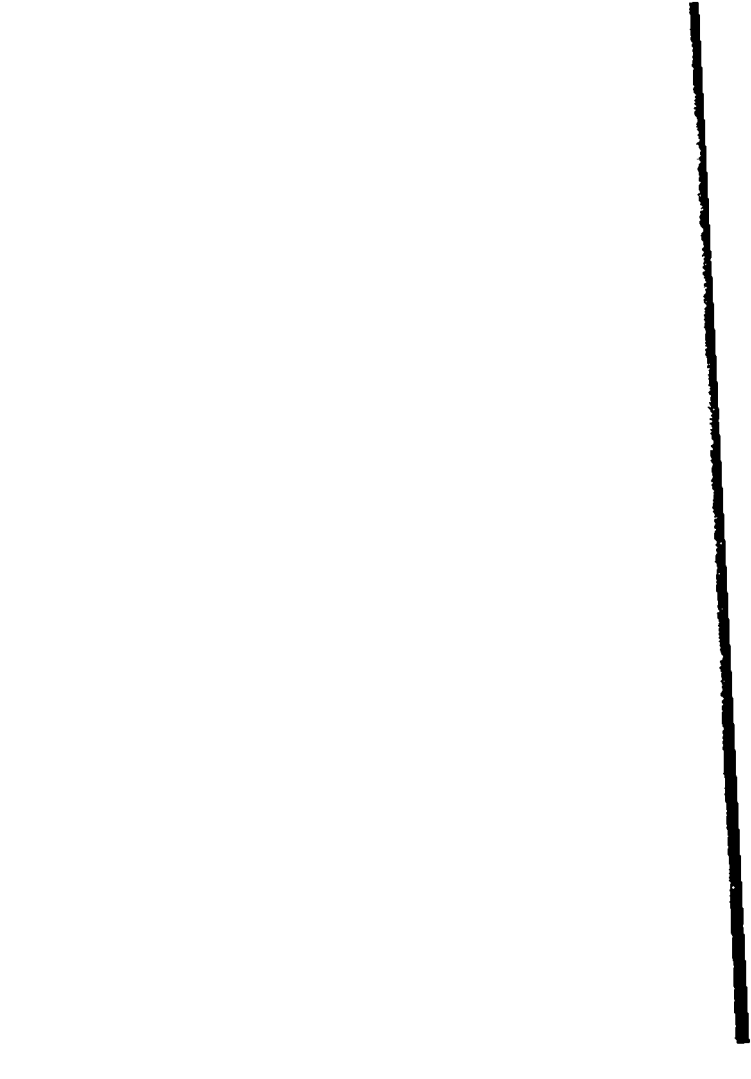
poses. On September 5th, 1883, Bishop Jamot blessed the Chapel of the Convent of St. Joseph, as a public oratory. On the same day the convent and school were blessed and classes were begun under the Sisters of St. Joseph, from Toronto.

The first teachers in the new Convent School were Reverend Mother Austin, Reverend Sisters Petronilla, Irene, Theodosia, Pauline, Maxentia and Margaret.

In this long period of time, during which so many pupils have come with various talents and much to distract them from their school studies because of the attractions and amusements ever found in small towns, and other circumstances standing as obstacles to the application of the young mind to school work, nevertheless the results from the teaching abilities of the Sisters have proved their remarkable efficiency. This school is divided into four different grades. The Sisters in charge of each, hold the required Government certificates and their success in advancing their pupils, boys and girls, from grade to grade, until they are found ready to pass those difficult examinations demanded by the Education Department for Entrance into the High Schools or Collegiate Institutes, has been seen by the large number of those who in these past years have gone from our school to the Collegiate Institute. Not only have they obtained the percentage of marks required, but our annual record shows that many have not only passed with honors but on several occasions have won the scholarship.



MOST REVEREND J. F. JAMOT, D. D.
FIRST BISHOP OF PETERBOROUGH.



In this historical sketch of the Parish of Cobourg it would be a serious omission to not place on record these facts connected with our school work, facts which are well known in our town and a special source of pride to the parents of our children and an honorable mention which should be placed in the Annals of our Parish regarding the patient work carried on so successfully by the Sisters of St. Joseph during the past 31 years.

NEW CHURCH IN HARWOOD.

Meanwhile a necessary work had been going on in another portion of the parish. The village of Harwood, a lumber centre on the south shore of Rice Lake, with a population of about 500 people, had been from the beginning a portion of the Cobourg Mission. Mass had been said for a number of years once a month in a private house and the time was now considered ripe for the erection of a suitable church. Accordingly the church was erected by Reverend Father Murray. Mr. C. Carruthers of Cobourg, being the builder. It was dedicated by Most Reverend Bishop Jamot on February 10, 1884, under the title of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. High Mass was sung by Reverend Father Donohue, P. P. of Perth, and the sermon was preached by Reverend Chas. Murray, P. P. of Cornwall.

In 1886, Harwood was separated from Cobourg Mission and united with Burnley, forming a new parish under the charge of Reverend James Sweeney.

In the parish of Cobourg proper, several religious societies had been organized by Reverend Father Murray in 1883, viz.: the Sodality of the Blessed Virgin for young women; the Sodality of the Holy Angels for girls and the Sodality of the Sacred Heart of Jesus for young men. In 1889 this last Sodality was merged into the League of the Sacred Heart and Apostleship of Prayer which was organized at the request of the pastor, by Reverend Father Connolly, S.J., of Montreal. The Altar Society was re-organized and put on a new basis.

In the year 1881 the parish was twice visited by the Most Reverend Bishop Jamot. During his first visit he erected the Stations of the Cross in the Convent Chapel and on his return he gave Confirmation to 80 persons.

NEW PRESBYTERY.

On account of the distance which separated the priest's residence from the majority of his flock, the old presbytery was sold in 1885 to Mr. Wm. Fox, a member of the parish, and a new one was erected on the property on which the Convent and School already stood.

The years 1888 and 1892 were marked by Episcopal visitations. On June 3rd, of the former year, Most Reverend Thomas A. Dowling, Bishop of Peterborough confirmed 102 persons and on June 12th, 1892, Most

Reverend R. A. O'Connor, who had succeeded to the Diocesan See, gave Confirmation to 111 persons.

One important work remained to be done to place the parish on a proper basis. The growth of the Town for years past had been away from the quarter in which the church was located. Moreover, on account of a necessary haste in building, the foundations had never been strong and after 40 years gave signs of instability. In consideration of these facts, Dr. O'Connor, Bishop of the See, yielded to the urgent request of Father Murray, regarding the construction of a new church on the property on which the presbytery, convent and school already stood. The pastor and people went to work with great alacrity and excavations were immediately begun.

LAYING OF CORNER STONE.

The corner-stone was laid by Most Reverend R. A. O'Connor on June 9th, 1895 at 1 P. M. The Bishop was assisted by the pastor, Reverend E. H. Murray, Reverend M. Larkin of Grafton, and Reverend M. Lynch, of Port Hope. The sermon was preached by Reverend W. J. McColl, of Ennismore. Over 3000 people were in attendance.

The work proceeded with great rapidity and the solemn dedication was held on February 23rd, 1896. His Lordship Bishop O'Connor, officiating. Following is the official entry of the event signed by His Lordship.

DEDICATION OF CHURCH.

On the 23rd of February, 1896, We, the undersigned Bishop, have, with the prescribed solemnities, dedicated the Church of St. Michael, Division Street, Cobourg. Said Church built of brick with stone foundation.

Length 120 ft.

Width 52 ft.

Height of Walls 21 ft.

Plans drawn by J. Belcher, Architect.

Stone Work by Jno. Hayes, Peterborough.

Brick Work by P. J. McNamara, Peterborough.

Carpenter Work by Carruthers & Gordon, Cobourg.

Painting by Fetherston, Cobourg.

Plumbing by W. R. Whitelaw, Cobourg.

Plastering by Jas. Comrie, Cobourg.

Building Committee: Messrs. E. C. McNicholl, M. D., J. B. McColl, Jas. Bulger, Ed. Gordon, M. Quinn, D. Rooney, Jas. Butler.

The first Mass was sung by Dean Murray, P. P. of Trenton, and first Benediction given by Dean Murray, P. P. of Trenton: sermon, Venerable Archdeacon Casey, Peterborough.

Reverend Clergy present:

Venerable Archdeacon Casey, Peterborough.

Very Reverend Dean Murray, Trenton.

Reverend W. J. McColl, Ennismore.

Reverend W. Keilty, Douro.

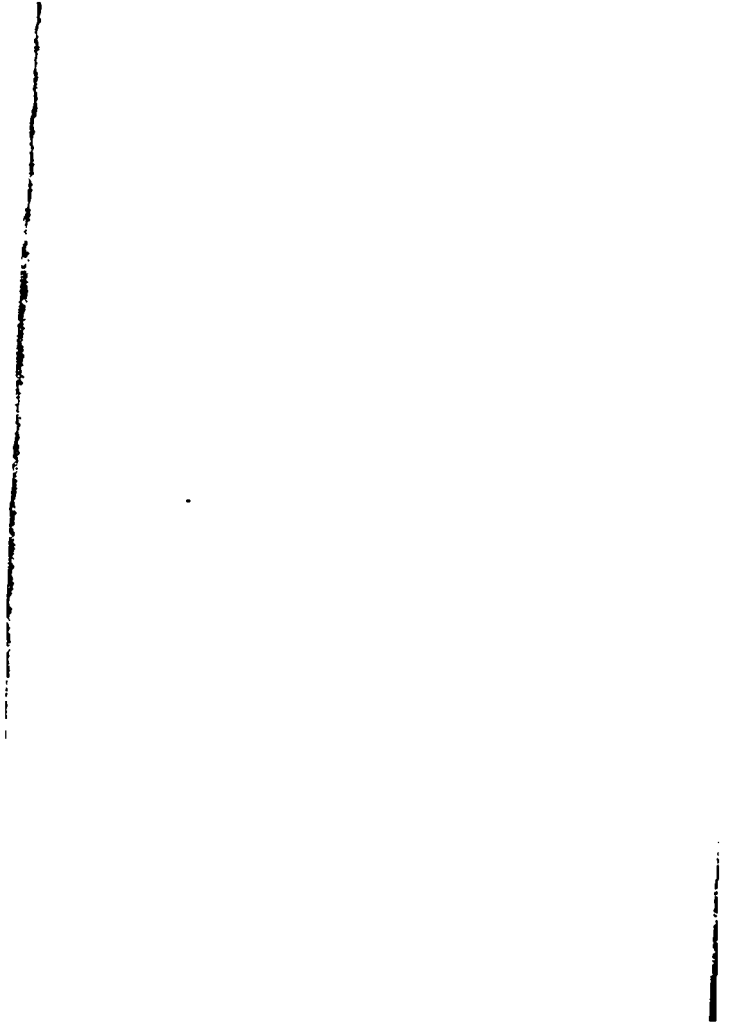




ST. JOSEPH'S CONVENT, COBOURG.



SISTERS OF THE COMMUNITY OF ST. JOSEPH,
COBOURG.



Reverend T. Collins, Brighton.

Reverend E. H. Murray, Cobourg.

+ R. A. O'Connor,

Bp. of Peterborough.

The new church is a red brick building with stone foundation. In front, two square towers flank the main entrance. At the rear is a spacious vestry 30 ft. by 16 ft. Interiorly it is divided into a nave with 2 side aisles, by fluted Ionic columns which have pilasters to match on the side walls. Over the entrance is a gallery for the choir. The pipe-organ which was put in a few months later was built by Warren & Co. of Toronto. An ornate communion-rail of oak supported by brass standards, separating the sanctuary from the body of the church, was donated by Miss Harrington, of Cobourg.

The windows, 13 in number, are of figured glass and are the gifts of :—

Very Reverend Dean Murray.

Reverend E. H. Murray.

Mr. Moylan, Ottawa.

Mr. P. Delanty and the Misses Lucy.

Miss McCabe, Port Hope.

Mr. Donegan, Los Angeles.

Mr. Jno. Grosjean.

Mrs. P. McGwan.

The C. M. B. A. Branch of Cobourg.

The I. C. B. U. Branch of Cobourg.

The Altar Society.

The Sodality of the Blessed Virgin.
The Pupils of the Convent School.

ORDINATION OF REVEREND F. P. DUFFY.

On September 6, 1896, the Most Reverend R. A. O'Connor, Bishop of Peterborough, administered the Sacrament of Holy Orders in this church, raising to the dignity of the priesthood the Reverend F. P. Duffy, a native of this parish. The sermons on the occasion at High Mass and at Vespers were preached by Reverend Dr. Teefy, President of St. Michael's College, Toronto, and the Venerable Archdeacon Casey, Rector of St. Peter's Cathedral, Peterborough. The Most Reverend Dr. O'Connor, the ordaining Prelate, was assisted by the following clergy: - Reverend Dr. Teefy; Ven. Archdeacon Casey; Reverend Father Lynch, P. P. of Port Hope; Reverend Father Larkin, P. P. of Grafton; Reverend Father Kelly, C. S. B. of St. Michael's College, Toronto; Reverend M. J. O'Brien, Sub-deacon and Master of Ceremonies; Reverend Mr. Hourigan, Syracuse, N. Y.; Mr. Aveling of the College of the Propaganda, Rome, and Reverend E. H. Murray P. P. of Cobourg. This was the first ordination held in this parish.

In November following, Confirmation was administered to 96 persons by the Most Reverend Bishop O'Connor, the ceremony taking place after the High Mass. The Vespers were sung by Reverend Father Fitzpatrick of St. Peter's Cathedral, Peterborough, and



CONVENT SCHOOL, COBURG.



His Lordship addressed the congregation in his own interesting and eloquent manner.

In the past eighteen years improvements of various kinds have been made, prominent among which, worthy of mention, is the magnificent altar, blessed on November 7th, 1896, by the Most Reverend Bishop O'Connor, attaching to it the Indulgences of the "Privileged Altar," by virtue of faculties granted him by Our Most Holy Father, Pope Leo XIII, in an audience on January 14, 1896.

On either side of the altar in shrine-like position are seen two beautiful statues of the Blessed Virgin and St. Joseph, the former being donated by Mrs. Jno. Healey, the latter by Mr. Jno. Doyle.

Further among the improvements are the improved method of electric lighting and the steam heating system provided for the church by Miss Mary Leonard of this parish.

DECORATION OF ST. MICHAEL'S.

Some five years ago the decoration of the Church was begun by a celebrated artist, P. C. Browne of Toronto, and under his master hand, the sanctuary was embellished by a series of paintings, which during the year 1913, has been extended throughout the entire church.

The Church is a Romanesque structure of Basilican type, in section showing the triple arch, emblematic of the Trinity. The central barrel vault covering the

nave, springs from a noble cornice of good classic profile, which is supported by a row of ivory columns, the capitals and bases in old gold, resting on onyx pedestals. This cornice is carried forward unbroken through to the sanctuary, so that the central vault with its pictured story leads the eye on without interruption to its termination in the semicircular apse of the sanctuary.

In the triangular panels formed by the curve of the apse we have:—

The Nativity of Our Lord,

Christ in the Temple.

The Agony in the Garden.

The Crucifixion.

The Resurrection.

The Ascension.

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin.

As the eye drops from the ceiling the attention is arrested by the three master pieces which beautify the walls of the sanctuary:—

The Last Supper—the gift of Mrs. Tracy.

Christ Blessing Little Children the gift of Mrs. Bell.

Christ in the Home of Martha and Mary—the gift of Mr. Jno. Quinn.

The Paintings on the sanctuary ceiling are not separated from, but form an unbroken vista with those now in the nave, the first of which are, on the Epistle Side, "The Annunciation," on the Gospel Side, "Christ



THE PRESBYTERY, COBOURG.

Preaching from the Boat on the Lake of Genesareth." This latter painting shows Our Lord in Simon Peter's boat addressing an eager audience on the shore, thus fulfilling His mission as the Fountain of Wisdom.

Next we have "The Presentation." Here under the lofty domes of the Temple, the Divine Infant is seen in the arms of the aged Simeon, surrounded by the Blessed Mother and St. Joseph offering the prescribed gifts. Opposite we find "Jesus seated at Jacob's Well," while the Woman of Samaria questions Him anxiously as to the lost Sheep of the House of Israel.

Our Lord is next depicted as the Healer of soul and body. His wondrous love manifests itself on the one hand in "The Forgiveness of Magdalen, the Sinner." Our Lord is seated in the sumptuous apartment of Simon, the Pharisee. He gazes with compassion on the humble figure kneeling at His feet, her costly raiment all unheeded, crushed and trailing on the floor. The immovable Pharisee draws back from possible contamination, while with frowning brow and uplifted hand, he appears to protest against such unwarranted intrusion. But Christ who reads the secret thoughts of Simon, uttered those memorable words, "Many sins are forgiven her because she hath loved much." In the companion picture "Raising to Life the Daughter of Juirus" we see a darkened room—we seem to sense the sorrow. Kneeling, the prostrate mother,

with face buried and arms extended over the bed of her daughter, is not yet aware of what is happening beside her, Christ is there; a shaft of light haloes His figure, as He, taking the damsel's hand, pronounces the words, "I say to thee, Maid, arise."

We have next Raphael's Master-piece "The Sistine Madonna", that beautiful composition where the Blessed Virgin Mary poises in the air holding in her arms the Infant Christ. Slightly below, on either side, are Pope Sixtus and St. Barbara. Opposite this is "The Triumphal Entry of Christ into Jerusalem." Just entering the city gate. Our King rides on. His uplifted hand blessing the vociferating multitude who through the way waving palm branches while a bevy of gleeful children strew flowers on His path.

Over the organ loft we find another of Raphael's paintings. "St. Cecilia," known the world over as the "Patroness of Music." She stands in easy grace, her head turned slightly so that her ear attuned to finer harmonies, may catch some echo of the angelic choir seen faintly through an opening in the clouds above. Grouped about her, are St. Paul, of thoughtful mien, leaning on his sword, St. John, the Evangelist, the eagle at his feet, St. Ambrose, in cope and crosier, and St. Mary Magdalen. Opposite this is represented that apostolic man, "St. Patrick." Before him as he stands on Tara's Hill, is seated the King, attentively listening to his discourse. Our Saint stands fearless holding



MOST REVEREND R. A. O'CONNOR, D. D.
BISHOP OF PETERBOROUGH.

aloft the triple leaf the Shamrock which he had plucked from the green sward at his feet. Looking on this majestic and venerable figure proclaiming the fundamental doctrine of the Trinity, we seem in fancy to hear like some far off ocean surge, an echo of the solemn eudence of the Athanasian Creed.

Generally speaking the object has been to make of the noble ceiling a gallery of Bible Story. To this end all other has been restrained. This picture array is the principal feature of the whole decoration but fitly supporting it, seen between the columns and surmounting the side aisle walls, is a deep frieze, on which is depicted a procession of figures. This frieze is symbolic of the Eucharistic Sacrifice. On the Epistle side are fields of waving grain, on the Gospel side are the vineyards. Youths and maidens are engaged in culling the fruits of the earth the ordinary sustenance of life to be converted by the Almighty Words of a loving Saviour into a supernatural food for the souls of men.

The quiet tone of the under-walls complementing the color of the wood-work is restful. Here is a simple ornamental setting for the Stations of the Cross which in specially designed frames stand out jewel-like against the soft olive back-ground.

These Stations are exceptionally fine oil-paintings, the gift of Mr. Michael Gerin, Sioux Falls, Dakota, U. S. A., a native of Cobourg and formerly a member of St. Michael's Congregation.

FIRST OFFICIAL VISIT OF THE MOST REVEREND M. J.
O'BRIEN, D. D., BISHOP OF PETERBOROUGH.

On the evening of December 2, 1913, St. Michael's Church was filled to its utmost capacity on the occasion of the first official visit of His Lordship Bishop O'Brien. As customary on such occasions a procession formed in front of the presbytery of the sanctuary boys and the visiting clergy, led by Reverend Father Sullivan, the cross-bearer, accompanied by two acolytes. As they entered the church and moved up the aisle the choir rendered the Church's hymn of Welcome, "Vivat Pastor Bonus." On reaching the sanctuary they retired to their respective places, when Dr. McNicholl, accompanied by several members of the congregation presented the Bishop with the following address:

TO THE RIGHT REVEREND M. J. O'BRIEN,

BISHOP OF PETERBOROUGH :

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR LORDSHIP :

We the undersigned Committee on behalf of St. Michael's congregation beg to extend to your Lordship a cordial welcome on the auspicious occasion of this your first official visit to the parish of Cobourg.

We also desire to convey to your Lordship our hearty congratulations on your elevation to the See of Peterborough. We had heard of your great learning, piety and zeal as a priest in your native city. We heard of the great work you were doing there in the cause of temperance reform a work which has earned



INTERIOR VIEW OF ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH,
COBURG.

for your Lordship an International reputation and knowing this we were pleased to learn that Our Holy Father the Sovereign Pontiff in his great wisdom and foresight had chosen you to fill the vacant See of your native diocese. We congratulate your Lordship on your appointment to that exalted position for which you are so eminently qualified.

Your illustrious predecessor the late lamented Bishop O'Connor whose death was universally mourned and deplored by the people of this diocese, was a great Prelate. His piety and zeal in his work, his great Christian charity and kindness of manner endeared him to clergy and laity alike. His record as priest and bishop was worthy of the highest emulation.

While we pay our humble tribute to his sacred memory we can not but rejoice to know that his mantle has fallen upon worthy shoulders. We feel assured that your Lordship will add lustre to the high and holy office to which you have been chosen, and we express the hope that you may be spared many, many years of health and strength. That your labors in the Master's vineyard may bear fruit a thousand fold, that Almighty God in His Infinite mercy may sustain and support you in the functions of your sacred calling is the fervent prayer of St. Michael's Congregation.

With your Lordship's permission we also desire to take this opportunity of giving expression to our very high appreciation of our faithful and devoted pastor.

the Rev. Father Murray. We can cheerfully bear testimony to the ability, zeal and fidelity he has always displayed in every phase of his sacred calling. We can bear witness to his ardor, energy and great christian charity, and his unremitting attention at all times to the poor, the sick and the afflicted of his parish.

He has labored many long years amongst us, and during all those years he has retained the esteem, the affection and devotion of every member of his flock. He is revered and esteemed not only by the people of his own parish, but by the citizens of all denominations in Cobourg.

He has accomplished a great work for the parish of Cobourg, as witness the purchase of this valuable church property located in the centre of the town, and the erection thereon of this magnificent and artistic Edifice, the Rectory, the Convent and the Separate School, a modern building, adequately equipped, and doing excellent work under an efficient staff of the good Sisters of St. Joseph.

All this work is the result of his untiring efforts and ceaseless labor and stand out as enduring monuments to his indefatigable industry and able administration.

We can assure your Lordship that we are proud of this work proud of our Church, of our Convent, and proud of our School, and most of all, proud of our devoted pastor.

It is a matter of great pride and pleasure to us to



RIGHT REVEREND MONSIGNOR MURRAY.
PASTOR OF COBOURG.

know that your Lordship has shown your appreciation of his great worth in having him appointed to this dignity of Domestic Prelate, with the title of Monsignor. This is a great honor indeed, not only to himself but to the congregation over which he presides, and we shall ever feel grateful and thankful to your Lordship for having recognized his merits in such a practical manner.

I am sure we voice the sentiments of every member of this Congregation when we pray that he may long be spared to enjoy his well won laurels as Parish Priest of Cobourg.

Signed on behalf of the Congregation :

E. C. McNicholl.

J. B. McColl.

D. Rooney.

J. Bulger.

J. Quinn.

BISHOP'S REPLY.

In reply His Lordship said: Reverend Fathers, my dearly beloved brethern,

I thank you most cordially indeed for the beautiful words expressed in the address just read to me. I had intended my dear friends, this visit of mine should be given entirely to honor your good pastor, Father Murray, but in your goodness and your loyalty you would not let this, my first visit, pass by without expressing your sentiment and personal regard in your

address. I thank you my dear friends most sincerely. I thank you for the kind words you have uttered. I thank you for the proofs of loyalty you have shown me and I thank you, too, for the beautiful words in which you mention the memory of our late beloved Bishop O'Connor, who was a great credit to the church. We all recognize that fact not only in later years when he became more matured by age, but even in his younger days. Any of us who had the good fortune of knowing him dearly loved him and revered him after our first acquaintance.

The priesthood on earth to-day is merely a continuation of the work of Charity, teaching and preaching in Christ's time 2000 years ago. As Bishop of the Diocese I have experienced it and for this reason we are, this evening, gathered together to do honor to one of God's deserving priests. It is a consolation and a pleasure to bear witness to the effect that we have in Father Murray, one of the priests who has faithfully performed the duties imposed upon him for the advancement of God's honor and glory. He has worked untiringly for the greater part of his life in the priesthood and when it was my privilege to obtain from Rome for him the cloak of Roman purple of the Roman Prelacy, kindly he wrote me thanking me for what I had seen fit to do and saying that he was almost entirely unknown to me. However, as a proof of his devotion we have just to look around us at this beautiful edifice and our school given to Christian education.

We find likewise a well appointed convent, also the Presbytery, all these directed under the guidance of the one man, Father Murray.

It is, my dear friends, a great satisfaction and even though I do not know Father Murray well. I knew of his works, and from his works I judged the man ; and the congregation, which has gathered to honor Father Murray, is evidence that I made no mistake, whatever, and so, my dear friends, it is my privilege to confer the honor that is given for service, for devotion, and for loyalty towards the church. I am delighted that from the numbers here, that the honor is also felt by the entire town of Cobourg. It is an honor to the town my dear friends to have your priest honored. This is true in any case, but where one has grown up with the town and seen it grow from only a small village to its present substantial size, certainly then it is an honor reflected upon the town.

It is a satisfaction to me, as I understand it, that irrespective of Creed, the citizens of Cobourg have gathered together to do honor to Father Murray. I thank you my dear friends for it and I am delighted to find that spirit existing. I wish it were more universal and that things would not crop up from time to time little understood very often that so often place a barrier to friendship. Let us try and do our part toward breaking down these barriers.

I thank you for the address and pray that the parish of Cobourg may continue to increase: that the beautiful work carried on so well here may be still more solidly established: that this church so beautiful may be an inspiration to everyone that comes into it to love God all the more: that the Christian education may go hand in hand with the Christian Church and the little ones whose minds are being developed along Christian lines may also be developed morally, and assisted in knowing God better. The school in which the child is, should teach the child the way to Heaven and endeavor to make it a better citizen.

I hope and pray your pastor may be long spared to you and may not only wear with dignity, but also for many years to come that he may wear the purple, which will be placed upon him. Believe me, it is a real consolation to preside at this ceremony and I hope his years may be long and happy and that at the end of time when the Almighty God calls him, eternal happiness may be his home.

HIGH HONORS ON REVEREND E. H. MURRAY.

His Lordship then proceeded to bless the purple robes and immediately followed the investiture, during which the congregation sang "Deep in Thy Sacred Heart."

On the return of Monsignor Murray to the sanctu-

ary, robed in the Roman purple. Mr. McColl read the following address :

RT. REVEREND MONSIGNOR MURRAY,

PARISH PRIEST OF COBOURG.

DEAR MONSIGNOR :

On behalf of the Citizens of Cobourg and the members of St. Michael's Parish, we desire to express to you our very high appreciation of the distinguished honor conferred upon you, by the Sovereign Pontiff, through our esteemed Bishop, in raising you to the dignity of Domestic Prelate. We, among whom you have lived and labored so many years, can well recognize that you worthily merit all the honors conferred upon you. In the very appropriate address that has just been presented to our Bishop, reference has been, very truly, made to the progress and advancement that has taken place in the parish since your advent among us, and we desire to add our testimony to the fact, that all such progress and advancement, has been almost entirely due to your untiring labors and devotion to duty.

You have justly won the respect and esteem of all your fellow citizens, and it is with the greatest of pleasure that we now extend to you our heartiest congratulations, and express the hope that you may long live to enjoy your honors and continue your good labors amongst us.

As an additional proof of our esteem and regard

for you personally as a citizen, we ask you to accept this donation in the name of the citizens of Cobourg.

Signed on behalf of the Citizens :

J. B. McColl,

Jas. Bulger,

John E. Quinn.

Cobourg, December 2nd, 1913.

In feeling terms Monsignor Murray replied thanking the Bishop for the great honor conferred upon him, the parish and town of Cobourg. He could not but feel very grateful to his fellow citizens for their expressions of regard and esteem contained in their address, and to his confreres in the ministry for having at great inconvenience given such an evidence of their friendship by their presence on the occasion.

The visiting clergy were as follows:

Rev. Dean Murray of Brockville, brother of Monsignor.

Rev. Father Ryan, C. S. B., St. Michael's College, Toronto, a native of Cobourg.

Rev. Doctor Duffy, Pastor of the Church of the Saviour, New York City, native of Cobourg.

Rev. Father Cavanagh, S. J., of Guelph, Cousin of Monsignor.

Rev. Father McGuire, Downeyville.

Rev. Father Fitzpatrick, Ennismore.

Rev. Father McGuire Douro.

Rev. Father Scanlon, Grafton.

Rev. Father O'Sullivan, Port Hope.

Rev. Father Bretherton, Hastings.

At 9.30 a banquet was given at St. Joseph's Convent, served by the young ladies of the parish.

On Wednesday at 10 a. m. the children of St. Michael's School tendered a reception to the Bishop. A short but choice programme had been prepared and was creditably executed.

MONSIGNOR MURRAY.

Monsignor Murray was born in Quebec City, March 1843. He studied at Regiopolis College, Kingston and Laval University, Quebec. He was ordained in St. Mary's Cathedral, Kingston, in December 1866 by the late Bishop Horan, his uncle. After three years of ministry in Kingston he was appointed Pastor of Wolfe Island, where in 1872 he erected the church of the Sacred Heart, situated on the most beautiful spot on the island, which he purchased in 1870. He was afterwards transferred to the Pastorate of Kemptville, Ont., whence in 1879 he was appointed to the Parish of Cobourg, where the past 35 years of his life have been spent in untiring efforts in the cause of religion and education.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS.

In February, 1911, His Lordship Bishop O'Brien, paid a second visit to the parish when he canonically erected the New Stations of the Cross in presence of a large concourse of people.

COMPLIMENTARY REMARKS OF HIS LORDSHIP,
MOST REVEREND M. J. O'BRIEN, D. D.

His Lordship congratulated the Pastor and people of St. Michael's Church on being the proud possessors of what he considered one of the most complete and beautiful churches of his diocese. They had certainly made great sacrifices, said His Lordship, and the edifice stands as a monument to their generosity and zeal in beautifying in the most artistic manner the House of God where they are wont to unite in offering their supplications to the Divine Master—the Giver of all good gifts—Who dwells in all His love and mercy in their midst.

The visitor on entering this church is deeply impressed with the richness of decoration and harmony of colors prevailing throughout, whilst at the same time a sense of devotion pervades the soul as the various Scriptural scenes are presented to the view.

One more matter of interest remains to be inserted on these pages. On June 28th, 1914, His Lordship, the Most Reverend M. J. O'Brien, Bishop of Peterborough, administered the Sacrament of Confirmation in St. Michael's Church. Among the candidates confirmed were 8 converts thus making 105 conversions to our Holy Faith during the past 35 years.

The reader of this retrospect would not look for any save the most important events in the long History of the Parish and therefore only the most salient of an



VERY REVEREND F. P. DUFFY, D. D.
NATIVE OF COBOURG.
PASTOR CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOUR,
NEW YORK CITY.



REVEREND J. RYAN, C. S. B., NATIVE OF COBOURG
PROFESSOR ST. MICHAEL'S COLLEGE
TORONTO.

ecclesiastical nature are recorded. This Historic Sketch, as the word itself implies, records only the events beginning with the organization of the Parish in 1837, coming down to August 1911. The events and dates thereof may be fully authenticated by any who consult the registry of the Parish of Cobourg.

In conclusion, such memories of bygone days regarding our forefathers, their noble work in the foundation of this parish, and their efforts at the outset in erecting a temple to the Most High when they numbered only 50 souls—such memories should be as a precious heirloom for their descendants to guard and keep; and, that the present generation has treasured them is in evidence in the magnificent property obtained by their sacrifices during the last 30 years, on which are found the parochial institutions—the church, presbytery, convent and school. “*Esto perpetua*”.

“Let us praise men of renown and our fathers in their generation.

The Lord hath wrought glory through His magnificence from the beginning.

Such as have borne rule in their dominions, men of great power and endued with their wisdom.

Ruling over the present people and by the strength of wisdom instructing the people in most holy words.

.
 Rich men in virtue, studying beautifulness.

All these have gained glory in their generations and were praised in their days.

These were men of mercy, whose godly deeds have not failed, their bodies are buried in peace and their name liveth unto generation and generation.

Let the people show forth their wisdom and the church declare their praise."

Eccl. Ch. XLIV.