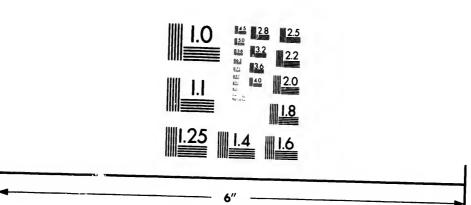


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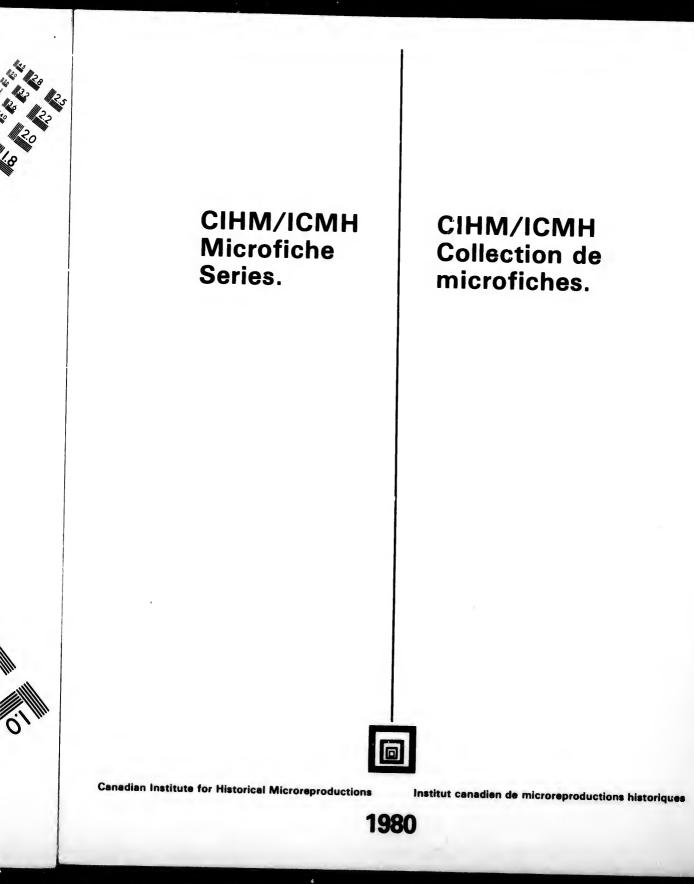
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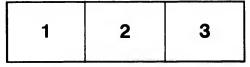
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# APDRESS

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### ST. PETER'S CHURCH, COBOURG,

### ON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1879.

AT THE INTERMENT OF THE REMAINS OF THE

## RIGHT REVEREND A. N. BETHUNE, D.D.

LATE LORD BISHOP OF TONTO.

2 Star

REVEREND CANON GIVINS, DOMESTIC CHAPLAIN TO THE LATE BISHOP.

PUBLISHED BY REQUEST.

TORONTO : ROWSELL & HUTCHISON, 1879.

## BX 5620 B4 G5 \*\*\*

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## My DEAR FRIENDS,-

Although suffering from severe indisposition, and without suitable preparation, I cannot decline the request made of me by the family of our late beloved father and friend to address to you a few words on this painfully solemn occasion. I am well aware that this request has been made from the circumstance that I happen to be one of the good Bishop's oldest and most intimate friends. Indeed, when I recall to mind the little and attached band of fellow labourers who constituted our "Midland Clerical Assocciation," nearly fifty years ago, I find myself the sole survivor. This fact, together with the conviction that I am not unknown to you, impels me to speak on a topic I know to be dear to you all.

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In looking around on this large assemblage, composed of every class in the community, I am persuaded it is actuated by one heart's feeling, and that beats in unison with my own at the loss we have sustained. On occasions like the present it is natural we should feel sadness, but in this instance with that sadness there is a triumphant feeling which extracts the sting from the trial, and we are enabled not only to bow before the dispensation, assured it is in the order of God's wise and merciful providence, but even to rejoice that in all things it has been so well and graciously ordered.

What is there to lament in this visitation but that which our own selfishness dictates? Our departed friend has been summoned to his rest after a long, honourable, and singularly useful life. None but those who, like yourselves, knew him intimately could form any correct conception of his labours. Indeed, it was his pleasure to work, and his talent for dispatching business enabled him to get through more than any one I ever knew.

You, my lay hearers, will well remember how energetic he was in urging you on to "every good work," and those of my clerical brethren who enjoyed his hospitality and friendship will call to mind his faculty of finding out something for us to do, not that he might spare himself, but that he might do more work for his Divine Master.

And when we look upon his poor remains and think of that active, energetic spirit which accomplished so much, with a body so frail, is it not a cause of thankfulness, rather than of regret, that his pilgrimage is happily ended, his weary conflicts past, and that after all his labours and sorrows (and he had a full share of both), he is at rest, even at the rest which those who live longest appreciate most! May we not, without presumption, say that he has obtained that gracious promise—" Thou shalt come to thy grave in a full age, like a shock of corn cometh in his season."

Being aware that suitable discourses on the Bishop's life and Episcopate will be delivered in this Church on Sunday next, by those who are more competent to treat of them than I am, I will confine my humble remarks to the earlier years of my late friend.

The late Bishop was the youngest and last surviving pupil of that well known school established at Cornwall, early in the present century, by the late Dr. Strachan, first Bishop of Toronto. It is not less creditable to the talents of that remarkable man than to his pupils, that so many of them adorn our Canadian history; having filled the highest offices of Church and State with distinction.

He must have been very young when he entered the school at Cornwall, and did not very long enjoy its advantages. Dr. Strachan's removal to York, the capital of Upper Canada, during the war of 1812, at the special request of the well known Sir Isaac Brock, at that time the Lieut.-Governor, interrupted the

school, and it was not re-opened for some time after-Meanwhile, Mr. Bethune returned home to wards. Montreal and diligently availed himself of the educational advantages to be had in that city. When peace returned, and Dr. Strachan had established a prosperous school at York, his old pupil, then a candidate for Holy Orders, joined him, and acted as classical tutor in the school. This connection continued till the year 1823, when he was ordained Deacon by Dr. Jacob Mountain, first Bishop of Quebec, and appointed to the parish of Grimsby. During his incumbency there. he was solicited to take pupils in the higher branches of education, there being in those early times but few advantages of this description, especially for young men preparing for the ministry. Several of these I can call to mind who enjoyed the advantages of his instruction and his home.

His removal to this parish in 1827, however introduced him to a wider and more important sphere, and during the long period of forty years, he filled it with signal advantage to the whole community, and special benefit to the Church of which he was so distinguished a minister.

He was singularly qualified for this important position. The Newcastle District, of which Hamiltonnow Cobourg-was the county town, was the point to which the tide of a large and highly respectable emigration was directed, and no one but the earliest settlers, of The intimacy between my late friend and myself commenced when I was a pupil in the Home District Grammar School, of which, at that time, he had nearly entire control. As manhood approached, for he was scarcely more than a youth, our friendship strengthened, and during a period of nearly sixty years, I cannot remember that it has suffered any break or diminution. It is true, and I feel it but candid to state it, that our views on all points did not always coincide, and our differences were often the subject of conversation between us. Yet, though he was my senior and superior, he ever treated me with the kindness and consideration of a friend and brother.

Some of you, my elder hearers, are aware that my first Mission was in the Bay of Quinte. The route to which, from the seat of the See, passed through your good town, and it is with mingled feelings of pleasure and regret that I look back on the many pleasant visits I paid to my friends in the hospitable old parsonage, and the affectionate welcome that was ever accorded me by himself and his amiable partner. In those early days of travelling mission work, it was, indeed, a treat to visit one like him.

This intimacy enabled me to gauge his labours, and the faithful and systematic manner in which he performed them. His zeal for the religious interests of the country early developed itself, by the active part he took in the controversies of the day, especially in advocating the claims of the Church to the Clergy Reserves, and in promoting the religious and literary interests of the Church through the press. His literary tastes led him to undertake an amount of work and responsibility in connection therewith, of which few, besides some of yourselves, have any idea.

You of this parish were also witnesses of his untiring labours in conducting the School for Training Theological Students for the ministry, and many of the ablest of the Clergy of the present day will gladly acknowledge the great benefit they derived from his training.

On the sub-division of the Diocese of Quebec, Dr. Strachan, his old friend and patron, was appointed Bishop of the new See of Toronto, which was coextensive with Upper Canada, and he appointed Dr. Bethune Archdeacon of York, with a territory now sub-divided into three Dioceses, and seven Archdeaconries. Those whose lots fell within his jurisdiction will remember his earnestness in the discharge of his duties, and the genial nature of his intercourse with all.

His zeal in the cause of domestic Missions among the destitute settlers was untiring through life, and on a recent missionary tour through the interior of this Archdeaconry, I could not help reflecting on the obligations the thriving towns and settlements in it were under to him.

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Of his fitness and claims to the Episcopate after such faithful labours, who could doubt, and it was a satisfaction to all his old friends (perhaps with the exception of yourselves, who were loath to part with him), that he was chosen Co-adjutor to his venerable father and friend, the Bishop of Toronto, and eventually became his successor.

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Of the manner in which he discharged his episcopal duties, at all times arduous, but in troublous times like those in which his Episcopate was cast, there will be diversities of opinion; and, it is not surprising, his administration of affairs failed to give satisfaction to all. But with this I do not wish to intermeddle. My superiors who have been especially requested to deal with it, will, I am sure, do his memory every justice. Even in those things in which I was so unhappy as to differ from him, I ever felt he was actuated by what he believed to be his duty to his Divine Master and His Church. I know, my friends, how disturbed and unhappy his latter years were rendered by the hurtful divisions which exist in this Diocese, and how anxious he was for their removal.

If he was not permitted to see an end to the strife, he was happily taken from its perplexities, a mercy, which the aged only know how to appreciate. "Thank God for the rest that remaineth."

His warfare is happily accomplished : ours is notwhat then is our duty ? Is it not to seek the removal of "all hatred and prejudice, and all that hinders from Godly union and concord." We must not forget that this is a state of probation, and if our Divine Master, on one occasion, prayed that "all his members might be 'one,'" he forwarned mankind that his blessed religion, through our corruption, would not be productive of peace, but a sword. What, then, are we to learn from these facts, but that, in humility and love, we carefully ascertain the causes of our divisions, and honestly seek their removal. It is a hard exercise for us poor frail, sinful beings, but, hard as it is, we must resolutely set ourselves to it.

I think we too often make a mistake in searching for these causes in the pride, prejudice, and self-will of others, rather than in the "angry passions" of our own evil hearts. Let us try the effect of acting in simplicity and sincerity on some of the Apostolic in-

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junctions. For instance, "Resist the devil and he will flee from you." I fear he has more to do with our divisions than is generally supposed But let us try the effect of gentler methods first—"be pitiful," "be courteous," "bear and forbear," "love as brethren." And what occasion is better suited for an effort of this kind than the present?

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Our minds are solemnized by the sad event that "our master is taken from our head this day," and our prospects of a successor seem involved in doubt and uncertainty. But why should we despond? The Lord's arm is not shortened; His promises are sure! He may hide His face for our warning, but will not forsake us. Let us resort, then, on this emergency to that omnipotent agency which has never failed the Church of God-penitent, earnest, believing prayer. Let every member of the Church exert his privilege, and intercede that the Lord would take the choice of a suitable successor into His own hands; and that He would incline all to rally round him who shall be elected "with one heart and one soul, so we may henceforth be all united in one holy bond of truth and peace, of faith and charity," to the Divine Glory and the prosperity of His Church.

And now, brethren, before we proceed to the last sad duty of consigning to their kindred dust, the remains of our dear departed Bishop, let me impress upon you of this parish, and upon all, the solemn truth,

that "he being dead, yet speaketh to us." During 'his life and ministry he has spoken to you, oh I how long, how lovingly! how faithfully! By precept and example he has taught you how to live and, in a good old age when summoned home to the reward of "a good and faithful servant," he has, by his peaceful departure, taught you how to die di Let the whole Church profit by it. Let us rest assured "death cannot separate us, we are one with him in Christ." "He is not dead, but sleepeth"-aye, and he shall awake again-and we, if faithful, shall awake with him and enter on our heavenly inheritance. Let us comfort ourselves, dear Christian friends, (as well we may,) with these blessed hopes, so that when we shall depart hence, we may go down to the grave (as we may rest assured he has done) full of the blessed hope of eternal life-through Christ our Lord and Saviour.-AMEN. I Hat was inder the order and to a start of the second and the second for oll with a condition all and no and and a start a ad Lat. of a file for a when of the with a the The att the normal south the dealerships Burgha fait dial an all from Barnina and an good which is not entered the deal of the share States of a 2 Distage and a little

