



LATE REV. P. C. GAUTHIER, D.D.

REVEREND PIERRE-CELESTIN GAUTHIER

In the death of Reverend Pierre-Celestin Gauthier, D.D., at the Charlottetown Hospital, on August 20th, last, Prince Edward Island lost one of her best known and most gifted sons, the Catholic Church, a most zealous and well-beloved priest, and St. Dunstan's University, an alumnus of whose distinguished ability and achievements she was justly proud.

Born at North Rustico on May 14, 1876, he received his first education at the village school, where he soon displayed a special aptitude for learning. Later, he studied at the Grammar School at New Glasgow, at Prince of Wales College and Normal School, and at St. Dunstan's College, concluding his course at the Grand Seminary of Quebec, whence he was ordained to the Holy Priesthood by His Lordship Bishop James Charles McDonald on December 27, 1897. After his ordination he spent five years on the teaching Staff of St. Dunstan's College, where he earned golden opinions for himself and was ever foremost in every movement that promised to promote the best interests of the College. In the summer of 1902 he was appointed pastor of Palmer Road parish. Here, for twenty-six years, he was the true and zealous guide, the kind and sympathetic father of his parishioners. In the autumn of 1928, on account of ill-health, he was forced to resign his pastoral charge. He then entered the Charlottetown Hospital for rest and treatment, but his malady was already too far advanced for medical skill, and he gradually declined until the end.

Dr. Gauthier might well be termed a giant among men,—mentally and physically. Had he so willed, with his splendid talents and strong personality, he might have won the highest fame in the halls of Parliament, or have acquired wealth in commercial or industrial pursuits; but his mind and heart were far otherwise inclined. He sought not wealth or fame, but with the fervor of his priestly soul went about "doing good and healing all."

Perhaps no man in this Province was so well and so favorably known. Indeed, it is no exaggeration to say that for over a quarter of a century, the name of Father Gauthier was a household word throughout Prince Edward Island. Every movement having for its object the welfare of his fellow-men always found in him an

ardent supporter and an eloquent advocate. He always took an active and enthusiastic interest in agriculture, our basic industry, and was foremost in every movement for its improvement. He was one of the most prominent and most persistent advocates of co-operation. For many years, no agricultural, educational, or patriotic meeting seemed to be complete without his presence. As a public speaker he had few equals. His magnificent physique, his ringing voice, coupled with a deep knowledge of men and affairs, and a rare wealth of language, made him an outstanding figure at any public gathering at which he chose to appear. And his fame in this respect was by no means confined to his native Province.

Father Gauthier had that magnetism about him which we all so admire and strive after, but which so few of us possess. He had plenty of the "milk of human kindness," with enough of human frailty, tinged by a fine sense of humor, to make him a most agreeable companion. Peevishness and selfishness were alike unknown to him, and anything that savored of meanness or intolerance was never known to escape from his lips. Sham and deceit were especially abhorrent to him. His was the large-hearted and broad-minded nature that makes friends and keeps them. His hospitality was unbounded, and it is no exaggeration to say that his house and his purse literally "were open as day and the heart of the Owner."

But gifted as he was in powers of mind and of body far above the allotment of the ordinary man, yet he ever was a true disciple of the Divine Master. He understood that life should not consist in gratifying selfishness, but in exercising devotedness, charity, and self-sacrifice. Animated by a deep love of God and an ardent desire to extend His Kingdom on earth, he never failed to preach the word of Truth, "in season and out of season, reproving, entreating, rebuking in all patience and charity." Affectionately cherishing his people and loving them dearly, he was ever at their beck and call, the devoted servant of the least of them. And that love has been reciprocated. None have felt so keenly or mourned so sincerely his passing as the flock whose pastor he was.

And now he sleeps in the quiet churchyard, in the shadow of that parish church, at whose altar he so often offered the Holy Sacrifice, and in whose pulpit he so elo-

quently and so forcibly preached the inspired word of God. Let all his friends then unite with his bereaved parishioners and not forget in death him whom we loved and honored in life. Let us keep fresh in our hearts and minds the memory of his powerful personality, his boundless charity, his kindness, and never failing generosity. The prayer of his many friends shall ever be, "May his soul rest in Peace."

—J.H.B

