



THE LATE RIGHT REVEREND LOUIS J. O'LEARY

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The spirit of the joy and happiness of the Christmas season, which is always found in this edition of *Red and White*, has this year its touch of sadness, for, during the summer vacation, God in the inscrutable designs of His Divine Providence, willed to take to his eternal reward our Beloved Bishop; so that this Christmas day will find the flock of the Diocese of Charlottetown bereft of its shepherd, and our university without the President of its Board of Governors.

In striving to pay our loving tribute to his memory, we shall, indeed, fall short. As a Bishop of part of the flock of Christ, he occupied one of the highest places in the Church, a direct successor of the Apostles whom Christ sent to preach His Gospel to every creature. The qualities of heart and soul with which he was endowed, singled him out from the rest of men, and made him a worthy instrument in the hands of Divine Providence for the extension of Christ's kingdom on earth. The love of God and the love of the souls, redeemed by His Precious Blood, which burned in his soul, and which made him a true priest after the heart of Christ,—while we saw its reflexion in his words and example, and in his love of the little ones of Christ whose hearts he wished to inflame with that same love,—still in its full extent, it was known only to God Himself.

The Rt. Rev. Louis J. O'Leary, sixth Bishop of Charlottetown was born in Richibucto, N. B. in 1877, and belonged to one of the most prominent families of that place—a family which gave another illustrious Bishop to the Diocese of Charlottetown, the Most Rev. Henry J. O'Leary, the present Archbishop of Edmonton. His early life in a pious home, and the exceptional power of intellect with which he was endowed, soon marked him as one of God's chosen ones.

After completing his elementary studies, he began his classical course at St. Joseph's College, Memramcook, N. B. Blessed with an intelligence far above the average, his advance was very rapid, and, after a brilliant college course, he was ready at an early age to enter the Grand Seminary of Montreal to begin his theological course. His exceptional talents soon placed him at the head of his class, and the Seminary still remembers him as one

of its most brilliant students. On account of his youth, and the wish of his Bishop to give greater scope to such a fertile mind, he went to Rome to complete his studies. After his ordination in 1900, he returned to the Diocese of Chatham bringing with him the highest honors in Theology, Philosophy, and Canon Law, that the Roman Colleges could confer upon him.

He spent the first part of his priestly life as secretary to Bishop Barry of Chatham, and during this time he manifested a great interest in the Catholic education of the youth of the diocese.

But God wished to call his servant to a much larger field of activity, and in January, 1914, he was appointed auxiliary Bishop of Chatham, and was consecrated Titular Bishop of Hierapolis on June 2, 1914. During the next six years he administered the Diocese with prudence and zeal, and his great kindness of heart endeared him to all under his care.

Upon the appointment of his brother to the Archdiocese of Edmonton he was transferred to the See of Charlottetown. He came to us in November, 1920, and was our beloved Bishop until July 8, 1930, when God called him to his reward at the early age of fifty-three years.

The late Bishop O'Leary never enjoyed robust health and, being naturally of a very retiring disposition, his circle of intimate friends was very limited, but the priests of the Diocese, and those, who were fortunate enough to enjoy his personal acquaintance, will long remember the noble, generous, and sympathetic heart of the good Bishop whom God placed over them.

The cause of the education of the youth of the province was always uppermost in his mind, and was manifested by the keen interest he took in the work of the schools of the city and of St. Dunstan's University. Realizing that his Diocese was blessed in a very special way by God to produce vocations to the Holy Priesthood, he undertook to provide for the education, at St. Dunstan's, of those called by God to this holy state; as a result of his zeal, there are today many laborers in the vineyard of the Lord gathering in a rich harvest of souls.

During the ten years of his Episcopate, much good was accomplished throughout the Diocese, and in 1929, the Holy Father, wishing to honor in a special way the good people of the Diocese, and to honor its good Bishop, raised his Cathedral to the dignity of a Minor Basilica;

and it was solemnly consecrated to the service of God in the presence of as large an assemblage of Church dignitaries and priests as ever assembled for a similar ceremony in the history of the Church in Canada.

Although in the prime of life, his ten years labor as Bishop of Charlottetown had their effect on the vitality of one who never enjoyed perfect health, and God was soon to call him to his reward. He became seriously ill in the autumn of 1929, but recovered sufficiently to undertake a voyage to a southern climate for the winter. He again took a relapse on his voyage, and, after some time spent in the hospital at Montreal, he proceeded to Dayton, Ohio, where he again took ill and died a holy death on July 8, 1930.

In the passing of the late Bishop O'Leary, the Church in Canada lost one of its illustrious sons, the Diocese of Charlottetown, its zealous Bishop, the Province of Prince Edward Island, a public benefactor, and St. Dunstan's, a great friend of education and a wise and prudent counsellor.

To his brother, the Most Reverend Archbishop of Edmonton, and to the other members of his family, *Red and White* extends its heartfelt sympathy, and from the grateful hearts of his children at St. Dunstan's will often arise the beautiful prayer:

"Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him."

MAY HE REST IN PEACE

—P. M.

