

*Sir G. L. Lugenin*

SKETCH

OF THE



PARISH OF ST. MARY,

ALMONTE, - ONTARIO.

1823 TO 1885.

BY A PRIEST OF THE DIOCESE OF OTTAWA.

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# INTRODUCTION.




It is customary to write the history of each diocese, and the separate sketches of its parishes, missions, etc., aid in making a complete history. It is said we are always looking into the future, but we only see the past. There is, indeed, always an anxious desire to look upon the past, and to see what those before us have done in their day and generation. What more pleasing task than to look over the early history of the parish in which we live, and to note its trials and progress. Should it not be a powerful incentive to us, to imitate those who are now no more—to imitate their faith, their virtues, their love for God and His Holy Church. It was this motive that suggested this sketch. We are well aware of its many imperfections; but it could hardly be expected, seeing the long history of the mission (and the few sources of information), to embrace every detail within the limits of these pages. We have aimed at accuracy as far as possible. No doubt some one may hereafter supply its many defects, and give not merely a sketch but a full history of the parish of Almonte.

Thanking all those who so kindly furnished us information, we will say with the poet :

*“Vive, Vale. Si quid novisti rectius istis,  
Candidus imperti; si non, his utere mecum.—(Hor.)*

THE AUTHOR.

Almonte, May, 1885.



# SKETCH OF THE PARISH OF ST. MARY.

## CHAPTER I.

### EARLY HISTORY OF THE MISSION.

The parish of St. Mary's, of Almonte, now comprises the town of Almonte and the townships of Ramsay, Darling and Lavant, in the County of Lanark (Ont.)

As a parish it is still in its infancy ; but as a mission its history may be traced back for more than half a century. The township of Ramsay was first settled about 1819-20. The majority of the settlers about this date came from Paisley and Glasgow. There were, however, a few Catholic families about the year 1821-22. In 1823 a large number of families (about 500 souls), chiefly from the south of Ireland, found their way into Ramsay and adjoining townships, and took up lands. They were brave and hardy pioneers, and required extraordinary courage to overcome the difficulties that fell to their lot. They bore their share of hardships and trials. The trees of the forest were felled, rude buildings put up, and the fields were tilled and produced a return for their toil.

These good people, coming from the land of Faith, were not unmindful of their duties to God ; they were carrying out the designs of His Providence, which "disposes all things for good." They found here priests whom they learned to love. The late Very Rev. Father Macdonald, then at Perth, visited these early settlers, and gave them the comforts of our holy religion. Without a church or suitable building, they threw open their own dwellings to the priests and neighbors when a mission was held. These mission days were always anxiously looked for ; they left their fields and their work to attend them. On the 24th July, 1823, there is found a Baptismal Act in the records at Perth, a child from the 2nd Con. of Ramsay being baptized by Father Macdonald.

Stations were held in different parts of the settlement, chiefly at the

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NOTE.—"Almonte is situated on the River Mississippi, in the township of Ramsay, and is quite a manufacturing town. Where it now stands—a local historian tells us—was known as Shepherd's Falls ; later on it was called Shipman's Mills, and Shipman's Falls. Names seem to have been plentiful, for it received another title, Ballygiblin, then Ramsayville, and Waterford. To obviate this confusion a public meeting was held, and the question of calling names was discussed. They believed there was "magic in a name." The name of a Mexican General, Al-mon-te, then prominent before the public, was chosen—hence "Almonte."

residences of David Dowling, Timothy O'Brien, Patrick Corkery and William Slattery. The last named, "tried, trusty and true" friend of the church, passed to his reward on the 21st April, 1885, honored and respected in life and in death. These missions by Father Macdonald, and continued by Father McDonough, kept the faith fresh and green until the first church was built, as will be shown in the next chapter.

NOTE.—BISHOP ALEXANDER McDONELL, born in Scotland 17th July, 1762, was ordained priest 16th February, 1787. He came to Canada in 1803, and was immediately employed in the mission of St. Raphael's, Upper Canada. In 1807 Bishop of Quebec sent him letters as Vicar-General, and on the 12th Jan., 1819, he was named by Pius VII. Bishop of Rhesina, in Mesopotamia, suffragan and auxiliary of the Bishop of Quebec, in the Province of Upper Canada. He was consecrated at the chapel of the Ursulines, Quebec, 31st December, 1820. Upper Canada having been erected into a diocese by His Holiness Leo XII., on the 17th Jan., 1826, Bishop McDonell was appointed to that See, with the title of Bishop of Kingston. Rev. Thomas Weld, of England, had been named his coadjutor under the title of Bishop of Amycles (I. P. I.), but that prelate having been promoted to the Cardinalate, Pope Gregory XVI. named Mgr. Remi Gaulin coadjutor of Kingston. Bishop McDonell died at Dumfries, Scotland, on the 14th January, 1840, aged seventy-eight years and six months. His remains, deposited at St. Margaret's Chapel, Edinburgh, were on the 26th September, 1861, translated to the Cathedral of Kingston, Ont.

[*Repertoire general du clerge Canadien* par Rev. C. Tanguay, and compared with *Liste Chronologique*, published 1834 by Douglas Brymner.]

## CHAPTER II.

### FIRST CHURCH ERECTED.

A portion of land (the present occupied by St. Mary's Church, Presbytery and School, and known as the R. C. Church property) was given by Mr. Daniel Shipman, through the Rev. Father McDonough, of Perth, to the Catholics of this parish for all church purposes. It consists of about one and a half acres of land, pleasantly situated; a portion of it was formerly used by the Catholics as a cemetery.

About the year 1842 the Rev. J. H. McDonough (the then parish priest of Perth, and attending this mission) laid before the Catholics of Ramsay the advisability of erecting a church for the glory of God. They were long accustomed to meet in private houses in order to hear mass and receive the sacraments of our holy religion, but their numbers were increasing, children were becoming young men and women, and their means were visibly increased, so that they might be expected to make some return to God, the Giver of all, by building a church in proportion to their means.

The appeal of their Father and friend was cheerfully responded to by all. The first church was soon commenced. Its dimensions were 40x60 feet, a frame structure clapboarded outside and lathed and

plastered within. Mr. Edward Dowling, it is said, drew the first stick of timber for this church. Priest and people contributed from their scanty means towards the undertaking—no small one in those days. Pews to the number of about 35 were built and placed in the new building, and the income derived from their sale was about one hundred dollars annually. Twelve years afterwards, in 1854, it was deemed necessary to rough-cast the outside of the building to make it more comfortable within, and it was done at a cost of some sixty pounds. Here the holy sacrifice of the mass was offered to God, sacraments administered, and the faithful nourished with the Word of God until the year 1868, a period of 26 years, when a new trial came, the destruction of the building by fire, owing to some cause unknown.


#### THE BURNING OF THE FIRST CHURCH.

It was on 'Xmas night, in the year 1868, that flames were seen issuing from the Roman Catholic Church. Means of extinguishing fire in those days were very poor, and despite the good-will and exertions of the people the church fell a prey to the flames, leaving only a heap of ashes where once stood the church that spoke of the zeal and generosity of the builders. Only a few stations of the cross were saved. Vestments, church ornaments, and quite a number of books of the parochial library perished in the flames. A little incident might be mentioned. It is related that Henry Stafford, when searching among the ashes, found the altar stone, and, although the vestments were burned, still the crosses which were on them were found intact. The church and contents were insured in the Beaver Co., of Toronto, and the sum of \$1,514.66 was promptly paid. This amount received was but little compared with the great loss sustained; but the good people were not disheartened. They determined to set to work again, make new sacrifices, and give another proof of generosity and good-will, as will be shown in the succeeding chapters.

### CHAPTER III.

#### DIocese OF BYTOWN (NOW OTTAWA) ESTABLISHED 1847.

The Catholics in the Ottawa Valley were increasing on both sides of the river, and in view of the spiritual wants of this extensive population, His Holiness Pius IX., in the year 1847, established the Diocese of Bytown. Rev. Joseph Eugene Bruno Guigues, then at Montreal, a distinguished and prominent member of the "Oblates of Mary Immaculate," a community from whose ranks many have been called to adorn the mitre, was selected as the first bishop of this future diocese. He was born in Gap, the principal town in the department of Hautes Alpes, France, the 25th August, 1805. After being appointed to the responsibility of the Episcopacy he spent some time in perfecting himself in the English language and preparation for the sublime dignity



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which he was called to accept by the Father of the Faithful. Accordingly on the 20th July, 1848, he was consecrated in the then Cathedral of Bytown, the consecrator being Bishop Gaulin, of Kingston, and the assistants, Bishop Phelan and Bishop Bourget. Clothed with the responsibility of a Bishop of the Church of God, he devoted himself to the many wants that belong to a new diocese. He was surrounded with only about fifteen priests to attend to the extensive diocese over which he was placed. But the example of the First Pastor, his zeal and self-sacrifice, sustained and encouraged his priests amidst the many difficulties, long journeys and hardships of missionary life. The Rev. "Fathers Oblates" were a great help to the new Bishop, and were instrumental in laying the foundation of many flourishing parishes that exist to-day. The good Bishop visited the diocese, making himself acquainted with the wants of his flock, and endeavored to supply them with all the means in his power. He did not forget the sick, the old, the abandoned, and the orphan; in due time provision was made for them, and institutions were founded to receive, to shelter and minister to their wants. The cause of education was also dear to him, and the College of Ottawa sprang into existence; then separate schools were opened in the town, and wherever possible in the diocese. The name of Bishop Guigues became familiar, as well as his virtues, which won the admiration of all. His pastoral visits were anxiously looked for by the faithful, for they were always encouraged by his fatherly advice and strengthened with his blessing. Years rolled by—years of progress and prosperity for the new diocese under the guidance of the First Pastor, Bishop Guigues.

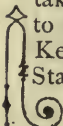
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#### CHAPTER IV.

##### SECOND CHURCH—ST. MARY'S.

"The good are better made by ill,  
As odors crushed are sweeter still."—*Rodgers.*

The Rev. A. O'Malley, parish priest of Huntley, and attending the mission of Almonte, learned with sorrow of the burning of the Roman Catholic Church, and immediately sought to console his poor people in their affliction, and to secure a place to have mass until a church could be built. For the former the building known as Reilly's Hall was arranged so as to hold divine service, and here for about a year the people assembled on Sundays to assist at mass. Some, filled with hope, remarked, "On next Christmas Day (a year from the burning of the old church) we must have our new church, and have mass in it." Rev. Father O'Malley proceeded to fulfil the desire of his good people in taking steps towards erecting a new church. A meeting was convened to elect a Building Committee on the 6th January, 1867—Isaiah McKean, E. Dowling, John Vaughan, Michael Foley, Wm. Reardon, H. Stafford, Robt. O'Brien, J. O'Reilly, P. Reilly—nine members were



elected, and at a subsequent meeting of this committee Mr. Ed. Dowling was elected President, Henry Stafford, Treasurer, and John O'Reilly, Secretary. With this building committee of good, zealous and earnest men, guided by their pastor, the clouds of difficulties which usually appear quickly vanished, and all, old and young, rich and poor, were anxious to lend a helping hand towards the good undertaking. A subscription list was opened, and the people hastened to put down their names. Many subscribed \$100, others \$80, \$60, \$50, etc. Many of these amounts subscribed were transferred into notes, payable within a certain period. The winter season was taken advantage of for drawing stone, sand and other materials by a number of "bees," to which, in turn, the people sent their teams, the first load of stone being drawn by Mr. Ed. Dowling, and the first load of sand by Patrick Gleeson. Several meetings were held to decide on the dimensions of the church, and at a final one it was suggested by Rev. Father O'Malley that it would be better to have it wider in proportion to the length, in case that in after years an addition might be found necessary; such addition would give it becoming proportion. The size agreed upon was 90x50, with tower 16x15. At a meeting held on the 21st January, 1869, Messrs. H. Stafford and Patrick Reilly were appointed to solicit subscriptions from our separated brethren. Their mission was a successful one, for they were well received, and quite a handsome amount was collected—a fact which speaks volumes in behalf of the people of Almonte and Ramsay not belonging to the Catholic Church. Mr. Edward Dowling, who always took such a deep interest in church matters, went to Ottawa during the year 1869 to obtain aid towards the new building. It was no longer Bytown, but Ottawa, the seat of Government for the Dominion of Canada, and from several members of Parliament, Government officials and private individuals a very respectable sum was realized for St. Mary's church at Almonte. Mr. Andrew Bell was engaged to draw a plan and specification. Tenders were advertised for in the following papers: Almonte *Gazette*, Carleton Place *Herald*, Ottawa *Times*, Brockville *Recorder*, and Perth *Courier*. At a meeting held on the 27th April, 1869, for opening tenders, some five parties tendered, the tender accepted being that of Messrs. Wm. Willoughby and Oakley, who gave the required security. The work of building was soon begun, the foundations were laid, and the 29th June, 1869, the Feast of St. Peter and St. Paul, witnessed a rare and beautiful ceremony in this mission. The

#### BLESSING OF THE CORNER STONE.

This same year was, and ever will be, a memorable year in the history of the Catholic church, for during this year the Vatican Council assembled at Rome, 8th Dec. Nearly 800 bishops from every part of the globe met together, making it one of the grandest Councils in the history of the church. Differing in customs, speaking every language, yet repeating the same "*Credo*," they presented a most striking proof of the unity and catholicity of the Church of Christ. In the course of this memorable year the blessing of the Corner Stone of St. Mary's



took place. His Lordship Bishop Guigues being on his pastoral visit of the Diocese, was prevented from being at the ceremony in person, and authorized the Rev. Father O'Malley to perform it. He was assisted by Rev. Dr Chisholm, Perth, Fathers Bouvier, Murray, McGowan, Lavin, and Father O'Brien, Brockville. An immense concourse of people had assembled to witness this suggestive ceremony, which reminds us of our Lord, the Corner Stone, not of the building, but of the whole church. In the cavity of the stone was placed a written document giving particulars of the building, names of officiating clergymen, of His Holiness the Pope, Bishop of the Diocese, Governor-General, Reigning Sovereign, etc., also copies of *True Witness*, *Almonte Gazette*, and coins of the country. Rev. Father O'Brien, of Brockville (afterwards Bishop of Kingston), preached in his own learned and eloquent style a discourse that was listened to with the deepest attention. The offering made on the occasion was very handsome, and the ceremony terminated with the hope of soon seeing the building finished; and the hope was verified, for on Christmas Day, one year from the destruction of the old church, the people, filled with joy, came to mass in their new church and offered their fervent thanks to God for all His blessings.

## CHAPTER V.

### ALMONTE A PARISH.

In the month of July, 1872, His Lordship Bishop Guigues, seeing that the number of Catholics was rapidly increasing in the Town of Almonte and vicinity, and that the instruction given to them by their respective pastors was bearing good fruit, as witnessed by their piety and generosity in rebuilding the new St. Mary's, resolved to meet their wishes and the spiritual wants of the mission by establishing it as one of the parishes of the Diocese of Ottawa, with a resident priest, who might devote himself entirely to their spiritual welfare. The Rev. R. Faure, a young and zealous priest, was sent as the first resident pastor of Almonte. He was welcomed with joy by the people, and he began immediately to attend to the various wants that fall to a newly organized parish. The first act in the register for the new parish is dated July 21st, 1872. The church St. Mary's was already built (by the Rev. Father O'Malley), though not finished interiorly. There was no presbytery. A house near the church was procured and occupied by the new pastor until a presbytery might be erected. A meeting was held Feb. 23rd, 1873, of the committee to decide the acceptance of tenders received for the building of a presbytery and a sacristy for the church, the presbytery to be of stone, style gothic, size 30x40, with stone kitchen 20x18, sacristy 30x20. The tenders for the presbytery, etc., were awarded to Messrs. O'Brien & Driscoll, to be finished by Novem-

ber of aforesaid year. This presbytery, which ranks among the best of this diocese, reflects credit on all parties concerned. The grounds were afterwards beautifully laid out, and a number of trees planted, which have in course of time added not a little to the present appearance of the presbytery and church. Rev. Father Faure moved into the new presbytery on the 15th December, 1873. A Bazaar was held a little previous to this, in which all worked willingly and well, and a very handsome amount was placed to the credit of the building fund. A concert also took place in January, 1874, the proceeds, for the same fund, being up to all expectation. The cause of education and temperance was also promoted by Father Faure, he being instrumental in establishing a Separate School and the F. M. T. A., which will be spoken of in their proper place.

A new bishop having been appointed, and changes made in the diocese, Father Faure was chosen to exert his zeal and talents in a wider field, and was sent to the important parish of Pembroke. He was succeeded here by the Rev. E. J. J. Stenson.

## CHAPTER VI.

### SORROW.

The 9th of February, 1874, was a day of sorrow and mourning for the Catholics of the whole Diocese of Ottawa. In the city the cathedral bells tolled, and throughout the diocese the same solemn tones were heard. His Lordship Bishop Guigues, who for a quarter of a century ruled so wisely and so well, was called to his reward. From hundreds of miles priests and bishops hastened to pay their last tribute to the saintly bishop of Ottawa. What changes and progress did he not behold since the day of his first assuming the office and duty of a bishop? Instead of a few priests he saw a numerous clergy; instead of mission houses and humble chapels there were to be seen grand and costly churches; instead of scattered Catholic families there were numerous settlements and flourishing parishes. In his episcopal city institutions of charity and education ornamented the Capital of Canada. Truly our zealous bishop had gone about doing good. Those who listened to his loving and paternal discourses in his numerous pastoral visits could not but feel that they came from his heart, that they were the words of an apostle. His work was well done. He had borne the heat and burden of the day, and God called him to Himself. Funeral orations were delivered by Bishop Fabre, of Montreal, and Bishop Wad-

hams, of Ogdensburg, who spoke of his holy and edifying life, and the words of truth came to the lips of all, "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord, for their works follow them."—APOC. XIV.

#### JOY.

For several long months the Diocese of Ottawa was without a bishop. The office in itself is a most onerous and responsible one, and this extensive and increasing diocese required an energetic bishop. Great was the delight of both clergy and people when it was heard that the Rev. J. T. Duhamel, then parish priest of St. Eugene, was to be the worth successor of Bishop Guigues. The 28th of October, 1874, witnessed in the Cathedral of Ottawa a scene not to be soon forgotten—the consecration of Bishop Duhamel. A great number of prelates, and a vast array of clergy, representing the various dioceses of the provinces, came to assist at the ceremony. It was the feast of St. Simon and St. Jude. The Cathedral presented a magnificent appearance. A deputation from Almonte went down, together with deputations from other parishes, to show their respect for the newly chosen bishop. The sacred rites of consecration were proceeded with, and at the close as the new bishop passed down the aisles of his cathedral bestowing his blessing on the city and diocese there was but one desire that filled the hearts of all, that he might be their pastor *ad multos annos*.

From the day His Lordship took possession of the diocese he has exerted his zeal and talents in promoting every good work, adding new ones, and devoting himself to the welfare and prosperity of the diocese. He has been honored by the Sovereign Pontiff, and has the love and affections of priests and people, who pray that he may be long spared to them.

## CHAPTER VII.

### SCHOOLS.

Although this chapter will be a short one, still the subject is most important. After the work of the church comes that of education. Its importance was not under-estimated by the Catholics of Almonte, for amidst great difficulties and sacrifices they resolved to have for the young population of the town and immediate neighborhood the advantages of a Separate School. The appeal of the Rev. Father Faure was successful. In 1873 a building 50x36, balloon frame, veneered

with brick, two stories high, was erected on the church property of Almonte for the purpose of a school.

The first School Board was elected in Nov., 1873, as follows: John O'Reilly, Richard Driscoll, Almonte, Thomas Foley, Ramsay, Trustees.

A good sized bell was placed in the belfry, and other school requisites were procured.

It has been said that the school to be good must flourish beneath the shadow of the sacristy. This has been truly and literally carried out here, for the building is in close proximity to the church of St. Mary's.

The following is the list of teachers since the opening of the school: Messrs. Culhene, R. Dowdall, O'Day, Barrett, Doherty, W. A. Smith. Lady teachers—Miss Morrow and Miss Haley. At present Mr. B. McEntee and Miss Rawley occupy the position of teachers, the attendance on the roll being between 110 and 120.

The following comprise the School Board for 1885: Messrs. James Dowdall, John O'Reilly, Dr. Lynch, P. Seymour, Henry Stafford and E. W. Smith. Chairman—Mr. James Dowdall. Sec.-Treas.—Mr. John O'Reilly.

Each year has witnessed quite a number passing their entrance examination into the High School.

## CHAPTER VIII.

### CONSECRATION OF ST. MARY'S.

The interior of St. Mary's was completed in the year 1875. The ceiling was beautifully finished in wood panelling, and the plastering was superior in workmanship. The high altar was built of marble, presenting a very striking appearance. A large pipe organ, manufactured by Warren, of Montreal, occupied the gallery. St. Mary's, thus newly finished, was one of the finest churches in the diocese of Ottawa, reflecting credit on the parish and those who shared in making it such. It was thought but right to have it consecrated. Only one church outside of Ottawa, St. Eugene, had up to this time been thus honored. Preparations were made for the solemn ceremony of consecration. That ceremony dates from the Old Law—"For we read that when Moses, by command of God, made the tabernacle he consecrated it with its altars, and its table, and all things used in the worship of God; not only did he consecrate them by prayers, but he anointed them with oil; for God commanded him that he should make chrisam and anoint all these, with the ark of the covenant and the tabernacle

NOTE.—During this year (1875) the sacristy was removed in order to enlarge the church, and a sanctuary was built, 27x26, thus affording a beautiful sanctuary, and adding to the exterior appearance of the church. Mr. Arnoldi furnished the plan of the interior finishing.

“of the Lord. Thus was the ancient church of the Israelites consecrated in the desert ; thus did Solomon consecrate the temple ; thus also do we bless and consecrate our churches to the service of the “Almighty God.”

In the past they had but the shadow and the figure, whilst we have the reality. Our churches are truly the House of God. The ceremonies of consecration are grand and beautiful. The joyful day of St. Mary's consecration was on the 7th October, 1875. The eve was a day of fast and abstinence for the parish, in order to secure from heaven the blessings to be conferred upon it. His Lordship Bishop Duhamel came from his episcopal city to perform the sacred rites. It was the first visit of our new bishop. An immense crowd gathered at the station previous to the arrival of the evening express from Ottawa. On alighting from the train His Lordship was met by the pastor, Rev. Father Stenson. A large procession was formed, headed by the Almonte Brass Band, and the Bishop and visiting priests were conducted to the presbytery. Addresses from the congregation and the F. M. T. A. were presented to His Lordship. He replied most happily, and produced a most favorable impression on those who had the pleasure of hearing their newly appointed Bishop. Amongst the clergy there were present from the Diocese of Kingston : Rev. Dr. Chisholm, Perth, Father McCarthy, Brockville, Father Clune, Smith's Falls, Father Kilty, Kitley ; from the Diocese of Salford, England, Rev. Father Cromblehome, and Rev. Father St. Laurence from the Ottawa College ; from the Diocese of Ottawa : Rev. D. F. Foley, Secretary to His Lordship, Rev. Fathers McGooley, Collins, Faure, O'Connell, Casey, Brunet, Chaine, Ouellet, Agnel, Shalloe, McGinnis, Champagne, Lavin, McCormack, Dawson and Sheehy. In the evening the procession of the clergy started from the presbytery, solemnly conveying the sacred relics destined for the main altar. The relics were those of Saints Irenaeus and Marcellinus. From early morning crowds of people were seen hastening their steps to St. Mary's to witness the imposing rites about to be performed. Solemn pontifical mass was celebrated by His Lordship. After the first Gospel, a sermon, appropriate to the occasion, was given by the Rev. Father St. Laurence, of Ottawa. In the evening, at vespers, the venerable Father Dawson delivered an eloquent discourse, taking for his subject “The Church.” The 7th of October was a day to be long remembered by the people of this parish, and each returning anniversary should be a day of gratitude for blessings received and to be received.

## CHAPTER IX.

### BLESSING OF A PEAL OF BELLS.

The Church of St. Mary, having nearly all its wants supplied interiorly, it was deemed opportune to place in the tower a bell, or bells. For some years the Separate School bell was used in connection

with the church, but this arrangement presented many disadvantages that could be only overcome by having a bell for the church alone. The matter having been brought before the congregation by the Rev. Father Foley, all expressed their willingness towards the undertaking. At first it was proposed to have one large bell of about 2,000 pounds weight, but at length it was decided to negotiate for a peal of three bells. Messrs. H. M. Shane & Co., of Baltimore, U. S., offered a peal on very reasonable terms, and the offer was accepted, and the bells ordered to be shipped. The F. M. T. A. proffered to contribute a handsome sum out of their funds, and to lend their valuable assistance towards a picnic and concert, the proceeds to be devoted towards meeting the cost of bells, and preparing the tower—no small undertaking—to receive the bells. In the latter job, of preparing the tower, the tender of Wm. Oakley was accepted, and the work was very satisfactorily done, T. McAuliffe having prepared the plan and overseen its fulfilment. A good substantial stairs leading to the bell-deck was put up by Wm. Bowes. At length the day for the blessing ceremony arrived. It was on Sunday, the 8th of June, 1884—Feast of the Blessed Trinity. His Lordship Bishop Duhamel came in person to perform the ceremony. The names and weights of the peal are as follows : St. Mary 1,200, St. Ann 600, St. Patrick 350. The sponsors were the following : Messrs. James Dowdall, John O'Reilly, Edward Dowling, Henry Stafford, Thos. McDermott, P. Slattery, P. Corkery, John Vaughan, John Neville, Thos. Foley, P. Daley, M. Dixon, John Slattery, Dr. D. P. Lynch, Thos. Murphy, John McKinnon, John Ryan, P. Reilly and Patrick Seymour. The church was filled at the high mass, which was celebrated by Rev. Father R. Barrett, O. M. I., of the College of Ottawa. Many of other denominations were present, some by special invitation, and others as a sign of the good feeling and harmony existing in this community. High mass being over, His Lordship ascended the pulpit and preached a very able and eloquent sermon, taking for his text the 150th Psalm. He clearly explained the meaning of the ceremonies of the church used in the solemn blessing of bells, and spoke of those saints under whose protection they were placed, paying a handsome tribute to St. Patrick and those whose patron saint he is. He was listened to with rapt attention, and produced a lasting impression on the congregation. The ceremony of blessing was then proceeded with according to the ritual, and the final one of ringing the bells, His Lordship setting the example, which was followed by nearly all present. The offering made on the occasion was in keeping with the generosity of St. Mary's congregation and those who honored them by their presence. Some days after the bells were placed in their final position, to continue their mission of joy and sorrow, but sorrow that is not without hope, for whilst they ring to call the people to worship God, to announce that a new Christian is in the world, or toll in solemn accents, it is with hope, telling us that a Christian has been called to his reward. The ceremonies of the day were very kindly alluded to in the *Almonte Times and Gazette*, published the same week.

## CHAPTER X.

## CEMETERIES.

There is in every mission a spot that is revered for the lessons it teaches to us all—it is the cemetery—the last resting place of the dead. No sooner is a settlement established, than a portion of ground is set apart that will be known as the village, the town, or city of the dead. In Catholic communities it has been customary, when possible, to have the remains of the departed lie near the church which they attended whilst in life, and thus the cemetery became a teacher to the living, and more forcibly reminded them to comply with the custom, the duty of praying for the souls of the departed, for the members of the church suffering. Here, in this mission, the first cemetery was on the property where the present Church of St. Mary's and Presbytery are built. Before the first church was put up the dead were buried here, and it was used as a cemetery until the year 1872, the year in which the mission became a parish. It was then necessary to build a presbytery, and this necessitated a change, ground being required for the above purpose, and moreover, interments were no longer permitted within the corporation. A selection of ground, the best then possible, was made, and some three acres of land on the Huntley road were purchased from John Malone, and fenced, divided into lots, and was and is still used for the purpose for which it was purchased. A number of bodies were raised and transferred to this place from the town. There are some fine monuments put up, but the nature of the ground is not the most suitable for a cemetery. It is at quite a distance, about two miles from the church. It is rather circumscribed, and it would be difficult to add to it for future requirements. In view of these facts, a meeting of the Catholics was held in June, 1884, and it was decided to purchase a new site. For this purpose some ten acres of land were bought from James Dowdall, Esq., known as the McFarlane property, on the Carleton road, 9th line Ramsay, by His Lordship the Bishop of Ottawa. A good wire fence was put up upon a portion of it by Henry Clement, a beautiful plan was prepared by Rev. G. Bouillon, of Ottawa, and a certain portion laid out in lots 8x13 feet. A large cross was erected in accordance with the plan, and blessed. The first interment took place in this cemetery on the 18th August, 1884: one of the Altar boys, named Orion McDonnell, in his twelfth year, a good and very pious child, whom God called to himself. The second interment was Isaiah McKean, September 3rd, 1884. He had passed the years of the Psalmist, was a sincere christian, respected by all who knew him. Thus youth and old age were among the first to occupy a place in the new cemetery of St. Mary's Church.

There is also another cemetery situated a little above Clayton village, about ten miles from Almonte. It consists of two acres of beautiful sandy soil, and was given to this parish about the year 1860 by a man named Michael McGauran. He is buried there himself, and also his wife, who died in 1884. There are several other interments, quite

a number having been brought from Almonte, who were in the old cemetery in 1873. Only those who live in the immediate neighborhood are allowed to bury there now. The land is well fenced, and nicely adapted for a cemetery. "May they all rest in peace."

## CHAPTER XI.

### SOCIETIES, ETC., OF THE PARISH.

#### *St. Vincent de Paul Society.*

It was in Paris, a little over 50 years ago, that a holy man, Frederic Ozanam, a professor in one of the universities, acting on an inspiration from heaven, gathered around him a number of young men (some were lawyers, doctors, professors, &c.), and formed them into a Conference of Charity, taking for their patron St. Vincent de Paul. He said to them, as many of them were young and about to begin life, they might begin by practising charity, in visiting the poor and sick, and providing for their spiritual and corporal wants. The young Society was blessed, and prospered. It found its way into other countries in Europe and America. There are now thousands of members carrying out the spirit and intentions of their founder.

A Conference of this admirable Society was established at Almonte on the 30th January, 1876, with a roll of 37 members, as follows: Rev. Father Stenson, Spiritual Director; George O'Brien, President; Richard Driscoll, Secretary.

On the 24th May, 1880, the Conference here was affiliated with the General Provincial Conference at Toronto. The officers then were: Rev. Father Coffey, Spiritual Director; John O'Reilly, President; P. Daley, Vice-President; John O'Heare, Secretary; E. Letang, Treasurer; with membership of 21.

At present the officers are as follows: Rev. D. F. Foley, Spiritual Director; John O'Reilly, President; P. Daley, Vice-President; John O'Heare, Secretary; E. Letang, Treasurer; M. McAuliffe, Assistant-Secretary.

Humility is the characteristic virtue of the St. Vincent de Paul Conferences. They seek not notoriety or worldly praise, but endeavor to carry on their works of charity with the sole desire of pleasing Him who sees and remembers all. The Conference meets every Sunday after mass in the Sacristy of St. Mary.



## F. M. T. A.

The Catholic Church has everywhere and always advocated and encouraged the virtue of temperance. The worthy cause was not neglected in this new parish. The Rev. Father Faure was successful in founding the Father Matthew Temperance Association.

On the 16th February, 1873, the first election of officers took place, with the following result : Rev. Dr. Faure, President ; Joseph Fairbairn, 1st Vice-President ; John Stafford, 2nd Vice-President ; R. Driscoll, Secretary ; E. W. Smith, Assistant-Secretary ; John O'Reilly, Treasurer. Committee of Management—P. Gleeson, P. Stafford, J. Donohue, T. McAuliffe, John Slattery, E. Dowdall, Thos. Corcoran, John Vaughan. The Society thus established, and with a large number of members on the roll, set forth on its mission.

In a short time after, in view of the success obtained, the Society was incorporated Jan. 14th, 1873, with the following officers : Rev. Dr. Faure, President ; R. Driscoll, 1st Vice-President ; F. Doherty, 2nd Vice-President ; James Dowdall, Secretary ; J. O'Reilly, Treasurer ; P. Daley, Assistant-Secretary. Committee of Management—M. McAuliffe, P. Stafford, T. McAuliffe, John Stafford, P. Raleigh, J. Donohue, John Curtin, S. Kelly.

At the election for the past year the result of the election of officers was as follows : Rev. D. F. Foley, Spiritual Director ; John O'Reilly, President ; E. Letang, 1st Vice-President ; Robert Johnston, 2nd Vice-President ; P. F. McGarry, Secretary ; R. McDonnell, Assistant-Secretary ; John Curtin, Treasurer ; M. McAuliffe, Librarian. Committee—Hugh Fay, P. O'Brien, M. Hogan, John Ryan, B. Bolton, John Lynch, M. Grace.

The Society holds monthly meetings, and the aims and intentions for which it exists are being well carried out. Mr. John O'Reilly has always taken an active part in promoting the welfare of the F. M. T. A. There is a library in connection with the Society, to which reference is made in this sketch.

## ROSARY SOCIETY.

The married women of the parish are the members of this Society, having for its object united prayer and good works. On the 5th June, 1884, the indulgences and other spiritual advantages were granted by the Bishop of Ottawa to the members of this association (by virtue of an Indult of Pius IX., dated March 7th, 1875) under the usual conditions. Every Sunday all the members recite the Rosary before high mass, and meet on the last Sunday of each month for transacting business, &c. They are very attentive to visit the sick, and take great interest in providing ornaments for the church.

## SODALITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION.

This admirable Society is found in nearly every diocese. Its object is to better enable young persons to persevere in piety and virtue. Wise and holy rules govern them, whilst spiritual readings and special

prayers become for them so many additional helps to obtain the object in view. In this parish the young ladies also devote themselves to decorating and ornamenting the church. His Lordship Bishop Duhamel (by an Indult of His Holiness Leo XIII., bearing date Jan. 26th, 1879) has been pleased to grant to all who form part of this Society the indulgences mentioned in his decree of erection, the 5th June, 1884, *ad septennium*.

The following are the officers of the Sodality at the last annual election in December, 1884: Miss Mary McDonnell, Superior; Miss Mary Letang, First Assistant; Miss Mary Wallace, Second Assistant; Miss Mary Ann White, Treasurer; Miss Mary Nagle, Secretary. The Society meets on the first and third Sunday of each month.

#### ASSOCIATION OF THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS.

On the 5th day of June, 1884, the Sodality of the Sacred Heart of Jesus was canonically established in St. Mary's Church (by virtue of an Indult of Pope Pius IX., dated March 11th, 1875), with the application of the indulgences attached by the Sovereign Pontiff to Sodalities, in honor of the Sacred Heart of our Divine Lord.

#### FORTY HOURS DEVOTION.

This grand devotion, so conducive to piety and productive of good, was canonically established in the Diocese of Ottawa by His Lordship Bishop Duhamel, by a pastoral letter, Nov. 21st, 1879. The devotion begins each year on the first Sunday of Advent at the Cathedral Church of the diocese, and dates are appointed for the exercises in the parishes, missions and religious communities of the diocese, so that during the whole year, in some parish, mission, &c., our Divine Lord is honored in the great sacrament of His love to men.

#### WAY OF THE CROSS.

The Way of the Cross, or Stations of the Cross, so dear to every Christian, old and young, was canonically established in St. Mary's Church on the 29th of August, 1880 (by virtue of an Indult of His Holiness Leo XIII., dated 29th of December, 1878). During the season of Lent, and throughout the year, the faithful endeavor to perform this devotion so pleasing to our Divine Lord, and enriched with the most precious indulgences.

#### ASSOCIATION OF ST. FRANCIS OF SALES.

This Society, for the propagation of the faith, owes its origin to the late Pius IX. It was established in this diocese in a pastoral letter of His Lordship Bishop Duhamel, on the 20th May, 1877.

#### C. M. B. A.

A writer in the *Catholic Review*, Brooklyn, in communication to that journal, says: "Besides Catholic education there is another important subject to which the zealous Bishop (Ryan, of Buffalo) is devoting much of his attention, viz.: Catholic Societies. Knowing

“the fearful spread of unhallowed secret societies, and the necessity of guarding our young men from joining their ranks, he has given the full weight of his episcopal approbation to the ‘Catholic Mutual Benevolent Association.’ Born in the brain of a good priest, Father Moynihan, of Niagara Falls, says the *Catholic Union and Times*, the C. M. B. A. is Catholic in its very fibre, having been baptized and confirmed to the church, its sponsor, in the latter sacrament, being no other than the officiating prelate himself, the Rt. Rev. S. V. Ryan, of Buffalo.”

A Branch (No. 34) of the above highly approved association was established in Almonte on the the 17th June, 1884. The following are the members at the first election of officers : Rev. D. F. Foley, Spiritual Adviser ; James Dowdall, President ; T. W. McDermott, 1st Vice-President ; M. McAuliffe, 2nd Vice-President ; P. J. Doherty, Recording-Secretary ; Hugh Fay, Assistant-Secretary ; John Slattery, Financial-Secretary ; Jos. Letang, jr., Treasurer ; Anthony Madden, Marshal ; Peter Bourke, Guard ; Patrick Slattery, Chancellor *pro tem.* Patrick McDermott and Jos. Letang, Trustees for two years.

## CHAPTER XII.

### LIBRARIES.

The good people of Ramsay, whilst engaged in clearing the country and preparing future fields, which now gladden their owners, were not unmindful of cultivating a taste for reading good books, and thus improving the minds of young and old. For this purpose a movement was started towards establishing a parochial library. The Rev. Father Vaughan's appeal met with a hearty response. The books were soon purchased, comprising religious, moral, doctrinal and historical works, together with instructive tales. Somewhere in the neighborhood of 200 volumes were to be selected from at the beginning. Books, at this period, were very expensive, and this small library was quite a luxury. The entrance fee was 25 cents, and one dollar annual subscription. Amongst the first subscribers we find the names of Rev. E. Vaughan, Edward Dowling, Patrick Corkery, Isaiah McKean, Michael Foley, Michael McDermott ; in all, 37 members at the start. At a meeting held on the 31st Dec., 1853, for the purpose of electing officers, we find the following minute : “Moved by Edward Mahon, seconded by “M. McDermott, That Michael Foley take the chair. Carried. “Moved by Edward Dowling, seconded by W. O'Reardon, That “Messrs. Michael McDermott, Wm. Nagle, Timothy O'Reardon, E. B.

“Mahon, Isaiah McKean and Michael Foley do form a committee, with power to add to their number, to transact the parochial library. Carried.”

For a period of fifteen years this library continued to exert its influence for good. Indeed, what has not the reading of good books accomplished? The book is an important factor for good, if it be good; for evil, if it be evil. But books, like other things on this planet, have their day. They cannot last forever. Time began to tell on many of these volumes, and at the burning of the first church the greater number of them were destroyed. There are still at Almonte some few well-worn volumes of the parochial library established in 1853. The intentions of the founders were carried out as far as human means allowed, and it is to be hoped the reward which is promised to every good work will have been given to those who earned it.

#### F. M. T. A. LIBRARY.

“We must never be weary in doing good,” is the advice of the great Apostle. The F. M. T. A. was not unmindful of this recommendation, and as soon as circumstances permitted, resolved to start a new parochial library in connection with their Society. A number of books was secured, and each year new volumes are being added. It need not be said that the books, somewhere near 400, are eagerly read by old and young. There is already the foundation of a valuable and extensive library, from which, even now, all may derive pleasure, information and profit.

### CHAPTER XIII.

#### REGISTERS OF THE MISSION.

The early registers of baptisms, marriages and burials may be found in Perth, from which, by earliest records, this mission was attended, also from Huntley, to which this mission was once attached. The only register still preserved here is a small book, for the years 1845, 1846, 1847, 1848, 1849, 1850. The other registers, apart from those mentioned in above places, and on hand, were lost at the burning of the first church, in 1868. There is a correct register of baptisms, marriages, burials, first communions, confirmations, and other parochial documents on hand at Almonte from the day of its becoming a parish, *i. e.*, in the year 1872. In searches, to be made for previous years, information could be had at Perth (Diocese of Kingston), Huntley, and probably some few acts at the parish of Richmond, except for those years, when a special mission register was kept, and which perished at the burning of the church, as above mentioned.

## CHAPTER XIV.

## CANDIDATES TO THE PRIESTHOOD.

It is a great honor for any parish to be able to point to its children who have been called by God to the sublime dignity of the priesthood. The County of Lanark seems to have been particularly favored in this respect. In the portion of it belonging to the Diocese of Kingston, many have entered the sanctuary—we find the names of Rev. H. Burns, once parish priest of Brockville; Rev. Father M. Stafford, who for years ably advocated the cause of education, temperance, and religion—and died at Lindsay in 1882, universally regretted; also Rev. Fathers Rossiter, Casey, Hogan, M. Connolly, J. Connolly, Dowdall, and Rev. J. H. McDonough, nephew of late Very Rev. J. H. McDonough, of Perth, who attended this mission, now pastor of Napanee, Ont. Even this portion, or the township of Ramsay, has contributed her share. We find the names of Rev. J. Cadigan, at one time Secretary to the Bishop of Ottawa, and until the time of his death pastor of Onslow (P. Q.), where he exercised his talents and zeal in behalf of the good people committed to his care, who will long remember the good work he accomplished among them. Rev. P. Corkery, now pastor of Huntley, is likewise a child of this parish.

Last year (1884) a young seminarian, Farrell J. McGovern, of this town, was sent by His Lordship the Bishop of Ottawa to the Urban College, *De Propaganda Fide*, at Rome, to complete his studies for the priesthood. His return from Rome will give new joy to those who have known him from his youth.

Almonte is also able and proud to have given a bishop to the church, in the person of the Right Rev. S. V. Ryan, Bishop of Buffalo. On the 19th of August, 1882, the parish of St. Mary's was honored with a visit from this distinguished prelate. He spent a Saturday, Sunday and Monday with the pastor, Rev. D. F. Foley. On Sunday morning he celebrated Mass at 8 o'clock, preached at High Mass, on the Blessed Virgin, it being the Solemnity of the Assumption, and at Vespers at 7 o'clock preached a most eloquent sermon, taking for his subject: The Church. He was afterwards presented with an address from the congregation.

We lay before our readers the account of his visit, copy of address and reply as published in the Almonte *Gazette* of the following week:

At the close of the evening service, on behalf of the congregation, Mr. James Dowdall read and presented the Bishop with the following

ADDRESS :

*To the Right Rev. Bishop Ryan, Buffalo :*

May it please your Lordship, — It is with feelings of the most sincere and heart-felt pleasure that we, the people of St. Mary's Parish, welcome you amongst us.

It is a cause of great pride to us that we can claim this parish as the birthplace of so exalted and illustrious a prince of our church.

The position which you occupy as the distinguished head of so important a diocese as that of the city of Buffalo could not be attained except by one possessed of unexampled piety, great learning and sound judgment.

We rejoice that such high and holy honors should be earned by and conferred upon a native of the township of Ramsay.

Ireland has many reasons to feel a blessed joy in the fact that her poor children, driven from their native land, have yet in all nations and places clung with fervor and devotion to the holy faith of their fathers. But if this be so it is due almost entirely to the devoted and unselfish labors and sacrifices of the Irish Priesthood. It is because Irishmen, or the descendants of Irishmen, endowed with those lofty and ennobling attributes with which God in His goodness has blessed you, have enlisted their services under the banner of, and have worn out their lives in working for the ancient faith.

We thank you for your great kindness in twice addressing us to-day. Your words have sunk deeply into our hearts, and we shall there cherish them. We will endeavor to follow the good and fatherly instructions which this day fell in such kindly words from your lips.

We hope that you will continue to remember the place of your birth, and we ask you to remember us in your prayers, asking for us that God may bless us, that we may be loyal, God-fearing citizens of this our native or adopted country, under whose laws our rights and liberties are recognized and protected, and that we may ever be practical, steady, and firm in our holy faith.

And we sincerely pray that God may shower down His blessings upon you, that you may be long spared to adorn the position the duties of which you now perform with such great zeal, energy and ability, and that when your labors in this world are ended you may receive that eternal reward which God grants to those who have been persevering and faithful in His service.

Signed on behalf of the congregation of St. Mary's church, Almonte.

P. SKYMOUR,  
J. DOWDALL,  
P. REILLY,  
D. P. LYNCH, M. D.,  
JOHN O'HEARE,  
JOHN MADDEN,  
P. DALY,  
THOMAS FOLEY,  
PATRICK RYAN.

His Lordship appeared to be taken by surprise, as well as highly gratified, and in response delivered an excellent reply, which we regret we cannot give in full. In the course of his remarks, Bishop Ryan dwelt upon the advantages of education and the great progress made in educational institutions recently in Canada. He also spoke very forcibly and flatteringly of the freedom and equality enjoyed by all classes in Canada, and urged upon his hearers to prize these advantages. The Bishop then enlarged upon the duty of being faithful to the teachings of their pastor and the claims which religion had upon

them, and that only as they valued their educational and religious privileges and lived up to them, would they become useful and law abiding citizens. The Bishop also spoke of his desire to see the spot where he was born, and, as far as his memory would serve him, to note the changes which had been made by time, and which were very great. He expressed the pleasure his visit had given him, and his pride at being made the recipient of so gratifying an address. On Monday he drove out to Clayton to visit his native hearth. It is evident that foreign associations and the possession of dignities has not obliterated from the Bishop's heart the love of his native land, or made him insensible to the great progress she has made amongst the peoples.

## CHAPTER XV.

### LIST OF PRIESTS WHO HAVE ATTENDED THE MISSION.

#### I.

FATHER JOHN M'DONALD, V. G.—1823—1838.

Who has not heard of "Father John," as he was familiarly and affectionately called? His history still remains to be written, for his self-sacrifice, fatherly advice, and abundant labors are yet producing good fruits in the many fields that witnessed his apostolic zeal. His name is a household word. Not only among Catholics, but among other denominations he was respected and revered. During the time he was parish priest of Perth he attended to the spiritual wants of this mission for a period of about fifteen years. Who could recount the hardships and fatigue he underwent during those early days, when a path through the woods was the only road, and travelling had to be done on foot. Storm or sunshine was the same to him when duty called. The early settlers of this mission keep his name in grateful remembrance for the blessings he was instrumental in bringing upon their fields, their homes, and their families. In 1838 he left Perth for the ancient parish of St. Raphael's, where he continued to exercise the holy ministry until the year 1864, when he retired from the active ministry. Although advanced in years, he still continued to give advice to those who sought it, and was always pleased to have a visit from his old friends, and then, full of years and labors, he finished his course, and went to receive his crown on the 15th of March, 1879, at the patriarchal age of 97 years. He was buried in the church of St.

Raphael's, a large number of priests and an immense congregation being present at his funeral service. A monumental slab has been erected to his memory at the above church, with the following inscription :

*Pray for the*  
 VERY REV. JOHN McDONALD,  
 FOR MANY YEARS PASTOR OF THIS  
 CHURCH.  
 BORN IN KNOIDART, SCOTLAND, 1782.  
 ORDAINED PRIEST 1814.  
 DIED 15TH MARCH, 1879, IN THE 97TH  
 YEAR OF HIS AGE AND THE 65TH  
 OF HIS PRIESTHOOD.

II.

VERY REV. J. H. M'DONOUGH.—1838—1845.

This zealous pastor was born in the County Mayo, Ireland, in 1812. He attended this mission for about seven years from Perth, he having been appointed to succeed Father John McDonald in 1838. The honor of building the first church in Ramsay, old St. Mary's, belongs to Father McDonough. He labored with untiring devotion to promote the spiritual welfare of this mission. His labors in Perth, during his long pastorate, were most abundant. St. John's Church,\* a monument in itself, and the magnificent presbytery, etc., are due to him. He visited the land of his birth and Rome, towards the end of his pastorate. On the 28th September, 1866, he departed this life, and was buried beneath the sanctuary of the church he loved so well. Thos. D'Arcy McGee, statesman and poet, was a personal friend of his, and published some beautiful verses to the memory of the deeply lamented pastor. In terminating this very brief notice we will do so by quoting two lines from the above verses :

Ashes to ashes ! Earth to earth !  
 Peace to the soul of the priest of Perth.

\*The magnificent spire of St. John's Church was built by the present pastor, Rev. J. S. O'Connor.



## III.

REV. TERENCE SMITH.

This rev. gentleman was born in Ireland in the year 1806, and was ordained in Montreal in the month of October, 1836. Shortly after his ordination, about the month of November, 1836, he came to the mission of Richmond, in the county of Carleton. He ministered to the spiritual wants of the mission of Ramsay. His name is found in a small parochial register of this mission during the years 1845, 1846, 1848. It was in about 1848 that Ramsay and Pakenham, &c., passed into the new Diocese of Ottawa. In 1846 we find the names of Father Smith and Father Peter O'Connell heading a subscription list towards lathing and plastering the Ramsay R. C. Church. The Rev. Father Smith made a trip to the land of his birth during the month of July in the year 1846, and was replaced by Rev. Father P. O'Connell. He returned in 1848, and remained until September of the same year, when he was succeeded by Rev. E. Vaughan. He attended to the spiritual wants of Richmond until November, 1851, when he went to Smith's Falls, Diocese of Kingston. His labors in this mission were laborious and crowned with success. He continued the work of the ministry in Smith's Falls until the year 1859, when he was called to his reward.

In the church there, a marble tablet has been placed in the wall, over the place of his interment, with the following inscription :

REV. TERENCE SMITH,

DIED DEC. 6TH, 1859,

AGED 53 YEARS.

## IV.

REV. P. O'CONNELL.

The name of this zealous priest is found on the registers of this mission from May, 1846, to January, 1848. He attended here during the absence of Rev. Father Smith, who went on a visit to Ireland. Father O'Connell will always be kindly remembered in this parish. He has been since 1851 the respected pastor of Richmond and adjoining missions, and the universal wish is that he may be long spared to labor in the ministry which he has highly honored.

## V.

REV. EDWARD VAUGHAN.—1848—1868.

This devoted priest was born on the 8th June, 1813, at Westport, County Mayo, Ireland. He received ordination from Most Rev. Archbishop McHale (the lion of the fold of Judah), of Tuam, Sep.,

1836. After laboring in Ireland he directed his steps towards America, as the Bishops of Canada were anxious to have priests. He landed in Canada about the year 1841, beginning his active duties in the Diocese of Kingston, and attending to the spiritual wants of the few and scattered Catholics in the vicinity of Gananoque.

Ottawa, or rather Bytown, as then called, being formed into a diocese, he was induced, owing to the few priests to meet the wants of this new portion of the Lord's vineyard, to devote his zeal and talents to his countrymen in the Ottawa district. He attended Huntley, Pakenham, Darling, Lavant and Ramsay. His task was one of labor and self-sacrifice. His eloquent voice was ever heard in upholding the faith, and his cheering words of encouragement to the negligent brought many to mercy and repentance. Though possessed of a strong constitution, his numerous duties began to undermine his health. He sought to regain strength that he might still bear the heat and burden of the day. He made a short trip to Ireland. He, however, after returning, resigned his charge, which was accepted with reluctance by Mgr. Guigues, for he knew and valued the one who offered his resignation. Father Vaughan went to the Western States, and spent some time at the Monastery of Mt. Melleray, Dubuque, for which life he had a great desire. He returned to the Diocese of Ottawa, and for a short time attended the mission of Osgocde. At the close of 1869 he once more resigned, and left for the Monastery at Tracadie that he might still pray for his old parishioners, and after laboring for them, to labour for his own immortal soul. He spent his last years in this retreat of prayer and grace, and gave up his soul to God on the 14th May, 1882. Long will the name of Father Vaughan be remembered in the parish of Almonte, and many a prayer has been said that his reward might be increased in the Kingdom of Heaven.

## VI.

REV. A. O'MALLEY.

The Catholics of this parish will long remember the Rev. Father O'Malley, and can never repay the debt of gratitude they owe him for his labors amongst them. In the preceding pages reference has been made to his building the new St. Mary's Church, which will, first of all, stand a monument to his zeal. He devoted himself to their spiritual welfare, and his voice was always heard in the interests of religion. He has an Irish heart, loves his native land and loves the church, and is beloved in return by all those who appreciate such qualities. He labored for many years in the eastern portion of this diocese and at Portage du Fort. After this mission was formed into a parish he continued his zeal in the parish of Huntley until October, 1884, when he resigned, and returned to the land of his birth, County Mayo, Ireland. The people of this parish, and all who knew his kindness of heart, join in the sincere wish that he may enjoy a well-earned rest after his long and successful years spent on the mission in Canada.

## VII.

REV. R. FAURE, D. D.

From July, 1872, to Jan., 1875, this devoted priest, who is a native of France, and ordained in Ottawa, contributed his share in forwarding the interests of this parish. He was promoted from here to the parish of Pembroke, and when that town became the residence of Bishop Lorrain in 1882, Father Faure accepted a prominent parish in the city of Buffalo from Rt. Rev. Bishop Ryan, where he is still continuing the work of the ministry.

## VIII.

REV. E. J. J. STENSON.—JAN., 1875, TO JUNE, 1878.

The few years the above pastor spent in this parish were years of progress, spiritually and temporally. He devoted his ability and zeal to further on every good work, and added not a few new ones. In the course of this sketch reference has been made to his labors, which will be always justly appreciated.

## IX.

REV. J. F. COFFEY, M. A.—1878-1881.

The above rev. gentleman is a native of Ottawa, and has already labored in this diocese. He administered the parish of Almonte from August, 1878, to December, 1881. His labors here were highly appreciated, and at his departure the congregation gave expression to their sentiments of regret by a public address, &c. Father Coffey has for already several years edited the *Catholic Record* (London, Ont.), and it was at the urgent request of His Lordship Bishop Walsh that Father Coffey went from here to devote his talents to the cause of Catholic journalism. The congregation of Almonte hold in the highest esteem the once revered pastor, and trust that he may be long spared to adorn the responsible position he now fills with such honor and credit.

## X.

REV. B. CASEY.

After the departure of Rev. Father Coffey he exercised the work of the ministry until an appointment would be made, and his name is found in the register from Jan., 1882, to June of the same year.

## XI.

REV. D. F. FOLEY.—1882.

He was appointed by Rt. Rev. J. T. Duhamel, the 8th July, 1882, and is still exercising the duties of the ministry in the parish of St. Mary's, of Almonte.

## CONCLUSION.

In terminating this rapid glance at the events of more than half a century, it will be seen that "excelsior" has been the guiding star throughout this long period. Progress has been made all around us as well as at home. When this mission began its career there was but one diocese, the Diocese of Kingston, in the present Province of Ontario. Since then the Diocese of Toronto (1842), Hamilton (1856), London (1856), Peterborough (1882), and the Vicariate of Pontiac (1882) have been founded, the latter being formed of a portion of the Diocese of Ottawa. The immediate townships of Huntley, Pakenham, etc., are now extensive parishes. Last year Carleton Place, Township of Beckwith, was honored with a visit from Most Rev. Dr. Cleary, Bishop of Kingston, and it soon welcomed its first pastor, Rev. Father O'Donohue, and saw a church rising in its midst.

The Cathedral of Bytown—now a "magnificent Basilica"—has by a special favor of Leo XIII., to His Lordship Bishop Duhamel, been affiliated to that of St. Mary Major, of Rome, with communication of indulgences, spiritual favors and privileges, granted by the Sovereign Pontiffs to the Very Holy Patriarchal Liberian Basilica.

The College of Ottawa has become a University, nobly continuing its mission. Everything indicates that the close of the century will be in keeping with the past. It is for us to still adorn and prepare our souls for God's everlasting temple. This earth was made for man, but man is made for a better and more peaceful world. May all therefore labor in the "Church Militant" that they may be rewarded in the "Church Triumphant."

