

## CATHOLIC.

### Obituary

#### VERY REV. JOHN FORREST, D.D.

For a few years our society has known but little of the bright, active, genial, and scholarly man who calmly passed away on Friday last. There was a time when no great public movement and no great social gathering were deemed perfectly representative in character without his presence. He was welcomed everywhere as one whose sympathies with all forms of goodness were without limit—whose generosity was far in excess of his means—and whose fidelity to his friendships and to his convictions was equally strong. He was one of the very few men in our midst, who was such a shining example of perfect tolerance that the bitterest bigots exempted him from their animosities. For a considerable time he occupied a responsible office in connection with the higher education of our Catholic youth. How he discharged its duties may be learnt from the lips and from the lives of those whom he trained to be noble, straightforward, liberal, accomplished Christian gentlemen. He was prepared for his end by one detachment after another of his best affections. He saw those whom he had loved and honoured called away to their reward; and he had long ceased to regard the world as of old. But his relations with good men—his attachments—his affections—had a sacred sanction. A learned and devout priest, a courageous, sincere, cultured gentleman—a patriotic citizen—a delightful companion while health was given to him, and his friends were about him—a man who was never deaf to the cry of want or suffering—who loved justice and hated iniquity—such was the noble Irish priest whom we have lost.

The Very John Forrest, Rev. D.D., was born near

The Very John Forrest, Rev. D.D., was born near Buttevant, County Cork, Ireland, on November 7, 1820. He was the eldest of seven children, four of whom were boys. Commencing his education in a very humble way at the village school, he proceeded to the study of classics in Buttevant under the tutorship of a competent master, Mr. Murphy, who taught his clever pupil so well that on the lad going to Bandon to attend the High School, conducted by an accomplished Protestant gentleman, Dr. Brown, who was a Trinity College man, he was at once put in the first class for classics, and afterwards succeeded in carrying off the highest honours in the school. He was about fifteen years old when he commenced his studies under Dr. Brown, and before taking his departure for Dublin, his master strongly urged the bright and gifted youth to go to Trinity College and study for the bar, predicting certain success and a brilliant career. But young Forrest had made up his mind to enter the Church, and setting aside all considerations of worldly prosperity he entered Maynooth when his age was seventeen. Once within the walls of the famous college he set to work at philosophy and logic, at the same time perfecting himself in classics and mathematics. It did not take long for genius to show itself, and the young student, winning all manner of honours and distinctions, literally carried off the palm of pre-eminence, and stood unrivalled in the college. In 1844 he went to Rome to complete his studies, and after sustaining a public thesis of a most difficult character at the Gregorian College he took his degree of Doctor of Divinity in 1847. Soon after he was ordained, and his first mass was celebrated in the Tomb of the Apostles, at St. Peter's. In the same year Dr. Forrest returned to Ireland, and at that time famine was raging through the land. He commenced duty at once at Castlemartyr, Cork, and afterwards laboured at Newmarket, in the same county. Something like a year later he went to Mallow, and with Dr. Croke (now Archbishop of Cashel) and Dr. J. M'Carthy (now Bishop of Cloyne) as his companions, assisted the parish priest, Father Justin M'Carthy, senior brother of the present Bishop of Cloyne. It was after Dr. Forrest had been a couple of years at Mallow that Dr. O'Quinn, the late lamented Bishop of Brisbane, and brother of the venerable Bishop of

Bathurst, invited him to what he considered more congenial work, offering a position as professor at the Seminary of St. Lawrence O'Toole, in Harcourt-street, Dublin, of which establishment the late prelate was at that time head. About 1850 Dr. Forrest took his post on the staff at the Seminary, and he remained there for three years. Retiring from the Seminary, he was attached as a priest of the Archdiocese of Dublin, and continued as such till 1859, working earnestly at Athy, subsequently at Bray, and after that at Kingstown. It was while he was at Kingstown that he was selected for the office of Rector of St. John's College, Sydney. The council of the college commissioned the late Venerable Archdeacon M'Encros, who was about to pay a visit to Europe, to place himself in communication with the late Cardinal Wiseman, the late Cardinal Cullen (then Archbishop of Dublin), and Dr. Newman (since created a cardinal), and on behalf of the college to request those distinguished men to select and nominate a rector. It was upon the unanimous recommendation of the three Cardinals that Dr. Forrest was appointed. It may be mentioned that on his return to Ireland from Rome, Dr. Forrest sustained a public thesis at Maynooth, with wonderful success, thereby showing himself to be a splendid scholar and a theologian of the highest stamp. His Grace Dr. Croke was a fellow-student and a companion of Dr. Forrest, and among other of his contemporaries who afterwards rose to eminence in the Church were the late Bishop of Brisbane; Dr. M. Quinn, the present Bishop of Bathurst; Dr. Murray, present Bishop of Maitland; Dr. Kilduff, late Bishop of Ardagh, and Dr. M'Hale, who is professor of Hebrew and Scripture at the Irish College, Paris. During his connection with the Seminary in Dublin, Dr. Forrest was brought into daily companionship with Dr. Newman, who lived under the same roof, and a warm friendship was the outcome of their intimacy. Leaving Kingstown on receipt of the news of his appointment, Dr. Forrest was the recipient of a farewell address from his parishioners accompanied by a handsome present of money—an evident proof of the esteem in which he was held. Before proceeding to Sydney, the very reverend gentleman spent two or three months inspecting the Catholic Universities of France and Belgium, and he also paid a visit to Rome, returning to Ire-

paid a visit to Rome, returning to Ireland. In the month of June, 1860, he set out for this colony, accompanied by one of his sisters, who afterwards became the wife of Dr. Gilhooly, and is at the present time, as she has been for years, esteemed in our city as an amiable and good-hearted Catholic lady. On the 11th of September, 1860, Dr. Forrest landed at Sydney, and on October 3, having been installed without any public ceremony as Rector of St. John's College, was presented by the council of St. John's to his Excellency the Governor-General. A brief history of the foundation of the college will not be out of place here. In November, 1855, the "Affiliated Colleges partial endowment Bill" was passed, and the sum of £20,000 was granted out of the General Revenue towards any building fund created by an affiliated college in connection with the Sydney University. His Grace the Archbishop, in July, 1857, issued a Pastoral Letter on the subject, and on Monday, the 3rd of August, a great meeting of the clergy and laity of the archdiocese was held in St. Mary's Cathedral. His Grace presided, and the meeting was addressed by his Honor Judge Therry, the Very Rev. Dean Lynch, the Hon. J. Hubert Plunkett, the Venerable Archdeacon M'Enroe, Mr. Faucett, M.L.A. (now Judge Faucett), the Very Rev. Dean O'Connell, the Right Rev. Dr. Murphy, Bishop of Adelaide; Mr. W. B. Dalley, M.L.A., and the Very Rev. Dean Sumner. The greatest enthusiasm prevailed, and at the close of the meeting it was announced that the sum subscribed amounted to nearly £12,000, Archbishop Polding heading the list with £500. Meetings were afterwards held throughout the colony, and in December of the same year the money in hand amounted to £20,815 2s 9d, the city alone subscribing £13,322 15s, Bathurst £1461 14s, and Maitland £1839 12s. In 1859 the council of the College was formed with the following gentlemen, most of whom have since died, as Fellows:—Edward Butler, Rev. M. A. Corish, William Curtis, B.A.; William Davis, Peter Faucett, John V. Gorman, the Right Rev. Abbot Gregory, J. K. Heydon, James Hart, Rev. Jerome Keating, Andrew Lenahan, Randal M'Donnell, the Venerable Archdeacon M'Enroe, Thomas C. Makinson, B.A.; Richard O'Connor, John H. Plunkett, Q.C.; Rev. J. Sheridan, Very Rev. J. J. Therry, Eyre G. Ellis, solicitor and secretary. The next year, Dr. Forrest was installed as Rector, and W. A. Duncan was elected a Fellow in the place of Mr. M'Donnell. On Monday, October 8, 1860,

**Mr. M'Donnell.** On Monday, October 8, 1860, Dr. Forrest delivered a scholarly lecture on Education in the Hall of St. Benedict's Young Men's Society. Archpriest Therry, Archdeacon M'Encree, J. H. Plunkett, M.P., James Hart, M.P., Peter Faucett, M.P., Edward Butler, Richard O'Conor, W. A. Duncan, and J. V. Gorman were present, and the very rev. lecturer was cheered and applauded in a most enthusiastic manner. Mr. Plunkett in proposing a vote of thanks to the Very Rev. Dr. Forrest, said "they had taken a contract for the erection of the college building, and in the course of twelve months, he hoped to be able to congratulate them on the completion of a noble structure. The Rector, Dr. Forrest, was not disposed to wait for bricks and mortar, and he intimated his willingness to do all he could in the way of forwarding students pending the erection of the college." Dr. Forrest certainly did set to work in earnest, and in January, 1861, the college was in full working order in the temporary building on the Newtown-road, near the University, then known as St. John's Hall, and now the property of Mr. F. J. M'Carthy, M.A. In this hall Dr. Forrest unaided, and with only a moderate amount of encouragement, conducted the work of the college with marvellous success; and every

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when the new building was erected his energy and his varied attainments enabled him to carry on the college without the aid of professors. He taught mathematics, philosophy, classics, and logic as one who was master of all; and if proof were wanting of the success of his teaching it would be found in the fact that nearly every one of the students distinguished themselves at the University, and in after life, many of them at the present day holding honourable and responsible positions throughout the colony. The Rector's hospitality was proverbial, and he was at all times a good-hearted and genial-mannered gentleman. Dr. Forrest continued to fill the office of Rector till some seven years ago, when, on account of failing health, he retired and was succeeded by the present Archbishop. After leaving St. John's he made his home at Balmain, and it was there he lived for the last few years almost a recluse. The very reverend gentleman



a recluse. The very reverend gentleman had been gradually becoming enfeebled in health for a considerable time past, but he looked so well and strong a week or two ago, that the unexpected announcement of his death caused a painful sensation among his friends. At the beginning of last week he was confined to his room, and on Friday afternoon he died a calm and peaceful death. The immediate cause of death was paralysis brought on by cold, and the medical skill of Dr. Evans, Dr. M'Kay, and Dr. Gilhooly was unavailing. Father J. J. Carroll, of St. Augustine's, Balmain, adjoining Dr. Forrest's house, attended the very rev. gentleman in his last hours, and administered the consolations of religion.

At a meeting of the Council held at St. John's College on Tuesday, the Rev. P. Le Rennetel, S.M., Acting Rector presiding, the following resolution was passed:—"The Council of St. John's College, in view of the recent death of the late Very Rev. Dr. Forrest, many years Rector of the College, desire to express their sense of his many good social qualities, and of his great learning, classical and theological. They also desire to tender to his much loved sister, Mrs. Gilhooly, and the members of her family, their deep condolence on the occasion, and request the Rector to convey to them a copy of this resolution."

#### THE FUNERAL.

On Saturday morning the funeral obsequies were commenced shortly after nine o'clock. The coffin was placed in the northern end of the Cathedral, covered by a pall, and surrounded with lights and flowers. At the High Altar the Office of the Dead was performed with all the impressiveness that so sad an occasion, and the assemblage of such a large choir of priests, could produce. Clergy from all parts of the city and suburbs came to the Cathedral to assist at the solemn office, and rarely have so many of the clergy gathered together before in St. Mary's. Besides the Very Rev. the Vicar-General (Dean Sheridan) there were present the Very Rev. Dean Hanly, Very Rev. Dean Flanagan, St. Peter's; Very Rev. Dean O'Brien, St. Benedict's; Very Rev. Dean M'Carthy, Concord; Very Rev. Dean Mahony, St. Mary's; Very Rev. J. Dalton, S.J., Riverview College; Very Rev. P. L. Dunne, O.S.F., Woollahra; Revs. D. Clancy, S.J., and William Kelly, S.J., Society of Jesus College, Woolloomooloo; Rev. Fathers Coue and Muraire, of the Society of Mary; Rev. Father Joyce, O.S.F.; Rev. P. Le Rennetel, S.M., Acting Rector St. John's College; Rev. J. J. Carroll, Rev. J. P. Fitzpatrick. Rev. P. O'Reilly. Rev. H.

Rev. J. P. Fitzpatrick, Rev. P. O'Reilly, Rev. H. B. Callachor, Rev. D. P. Quirk, M.A., Rev. James Mahony, Rev. J. J. Garvey, Rev. J. Collins, Rev. J. M. Garavel, Rev. A. T. O'Dwyer, Rev. Father O'Brien, Rev. P. Ryan, St. Mary's; Rev. Father Moynagh, Rev. P. Hewett, Rev. D. M'Carthy, Rev. Father Patterson, Rev. Father M'Intyre, the Rev. A. Ambrosoli, Rev. P. Young, and Rev. M. Walsh. After the Dirge the Requiem was commenced, the Rev. J. M. Garavel officiating as celebrant, with the Rev. Father O'Reilly as deacon, and the Rev. M. Walsh as sub-deacon, Father M'Intyre acting as Master of Ceremonies.

At the termination of the service Father Patterson played some selections of an appropriate character on the organ. In accordance with arrangements made the funeral left St. Mary's shortly after two o'clock. As the coffin was borne from the Cathedral and carried to the hearse through the principal western entrance the deep notes of the organ filled the church, while without was heard the tolling of the bells in the tower. The funeral arrangements were under Mr. P. Kirby's direction, and nothing could have been more dignified or religious than the *cortege* and its appointments. There was a complete absence of any showy "trappings of woe," and this appropriate simplicity served to add to rather than lessen the solemnity of the burial. A long line of carriages followed the hearse, and then came other private vehicles and cabs. Among those who attended the funeral were his Lordship Dr. Lanigan, Bishop of Goulburn; Sir John Robertson, K.C.M.G., M.L.A., Sir Patrick Jennings, K.C.M.G., M.L.A., his Honor Mr. Justice Faucett, W. A. Duncan, C.M.G.; Mr. T. M. Slattery, M.L.A.; John Hughes, K.S.G., J.P.; John Donovan, LL.D.; F. B. Freehill, M.A.; F. J. M'Carthy, M.A.; J. G. Paterson, LL.D.; M. E. Maher, B.A.; J. S. Donovan, J.P.; William Hughes, J.P.; John Hourigan, J.P.; J. J. Curran, J.P.; W. E. Plunkett, Under-Secretary Department of Justice; Mr. E. G. Ellis, Mr. E. F. Flanagan, Mr. John Bird, J.P.; Mr. Thomas Butler, Mr. P. Hourigan, Dr. Gilhooley, Mr. John Nagle Ryan, Mr. B. Mulronev, Mr. M. M'Dermott, Mr. R. Cannon, Mr. Richard O'Connor, Mr. Daniel O'Connell, Mr. F. A. Blake, Mr. John Hughes, junr., and Mr. M. Cherry. The ceremony at the grave was performed by his Lordship Dr. Lanigan, assisted by Pere Garavel and Father Quirk, and among the clergy present were Dean Flanagan, Dean O'Brien, Rev. P. Young, Rev. Father Patterson, Rev. D. Clancy.

Young, Rev. Father Patterson, Rev. D. Clancy, S.J., Rev. Fr. Dooley, S.J., Rev. W. Kelly, S.J., Rev. J. J. Garvey, Rev. J. J. Carroll, Rev. P. O'Reilly, Rev. M. Walsh, Rev. P. Hewett, Rev. Father Moynagh, and Father Ryan. The

coffin was a perfectly plain one, but on it were a number of wreaths and floral crosses formed of delicate white roses and fragrant violets. The grave is in a central position in the cemetery, only a few steps from the monument that marks the resting place of the first Archbishop of Sydney, the lamented John Bede Polding. The Right Rev. Monsignor Lynch, one of Dr. Forrest's oldest and most intimate friends, was prevented from attending the obsequies. Monsignor Lynch, who was ill on Friday and Saturday, sent an apology, and expressed his deep regret that he was unable to come from Campbelltown to show his respect for so dear a friend.

*Requiescat in pace.*