

A Methodist on the Late Father McDevitt.

TO THE EDITOR OF BUTLER'S JOURNAL

DEAR SIR,—Alas, Death comes to all alike, and takes the rich and poor from their joys or sorrows as the case may be.

I was pained in heart when I read in the various dailies that the Rev. Father McDevitt's spirit had left forever its abode of flesh to rest forever in the calm light of everlasting life in the Paradise of God, after a life of over 70 years and a pastorate in Fredericton of 45 years. Few attain to such a long career of work for God and man as he of whom we are speaking. Looking back over his long life—first his school and then his college days, then his solemn consecration to the ministry and his duties as priest, guide, comforter and friend to the living and dying all faithfully performed as clearly as he saw it, he could very calmly lie and face Death, knowing his work was done and that he had given a faithful account of his stewardship.

I have known Father McDevitt (not personally, as I never had the pleasure of his acquaintance, never spoke to him once—only by reputation did I know him) for nearly twenty-five years, and in all that time I never heard anyone speak but in kindness of him. The Fredericton people are all dear to me. Am very sorry I did not call to see him on the occasion of my last visit home. I know he would have received me graciously. My reason for not doing so was the wide difference in our religious beliefs; but he would never have seen the Methodist—He would only have seen TURNER HOWARD. To me, Father McDevitt was everything that was good and pure and holy and true. He is happy now—his soul is in Paradise:—at least that's my belief. The priest at the funeral desired the people to pray for his soul, but I say:—Pray for your own souls, his is happy now. The friends of his youth who have passed on before him are now enjoying his love and shall forever. May it be our happy lot to meet him. I should like to say much more but space will not permit, so I stand on the summit of the Methodist belief and look over to the summit of the Catholic belief and see our friend ascending from earth and I call:—"HAIL, FATHER McDEVITT; JUST ONE WORD; FAREWELL, FAREWELL, till we meet in Paradise, where the ransomed of the fold shall return and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy, with crowns on their heads and palms in their hands they shall kneel before the King in garments washed in the blood of the Lamb, and sorrow and sighing shall be no more.

A. TURNER B. HOWARD,
Hotel Ottawa, St. John, N. B.

[The above letter from our friend of other days breathes in every sentence love, humanity and true Christian charity—qualities for which he has been noted since we first made his acquaintance. Were all our Protestant friends of this type, such unchristian, proscriptive and uncharitable organizations as the A. P. A. would be buried in antediluvian ooze

"And justice reign and man be liker man
Through all the cycles of the Golden Year."
EDITOR JOURNAL.]

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