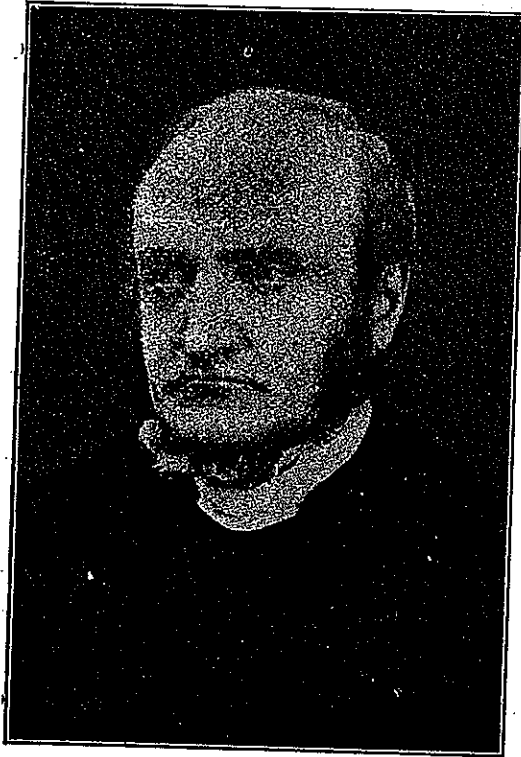


JOSEPH WILLIAM BURKE.

The late Canon Burke was born in Dublin, Ireland, on May 24th, 1825, his parents being Dr. Joseph Wm. Burke and Jane Darby, his wife.

Dr. Burke was attached to the 95th Rifles and served under Wellington in Spain. He crossed with the army and slept in snow dugouts in the Pyrenees. He was present at the Battle of Waterloo and for his services received a medal.

When on his way to India in a troopship with five hundred soldiers on board, they met a returning troopship in the Bay of Biscay on which there was an outbreak of some disease. As they were without a doctor, Doctor Burke was transferred to the

returning vessel. The following night a storm arose and the outgoing vessel was lost with all on board. Dr. Burke was, therefore, the only survivor of five hundred who left England for India.

The following letter over the signature of Fitzroy Somerset, afterwards Lord Raglan, who died in the Crimea War, in 1855, is of interest. "His Grace" refers to the Duke of Wellington. Here follows the letter:

"Horse Guards,
"30th March, 1846.

"Sir,—It being the intention of the Commander-in-Chief to recommend you for an Ensigney without purchase in the 8th Regiment of Foot, I have it in command from His Grace to inform you thereof, and to desire that you will lose no time in reporting yourself to the Adjutant-General. The 8th Regiment will embark for India immediately.

"I have the honor to be, Sir,

"Your most obedient humble servant,

"FITZROY SOMERSET."

"Joseph Wm. Burke, Esq."

Canon Burke's mother's uncle, Admiral Henry d'Esterre Darby, commanded the Bellerophon at the Battle of the Nile in 1798.

Joseph William Burke received his primary education at an academy for general instruction, Mountjoy-Square, South Dublin, the Rev. Thos. P. Huddart being head master. At a public examination, held on Dec. 18th and 19th, 1837, Master Burke was adjudged three premiums for particularly distinguishing himself in Greek Testament, Arithmetic, and Spelling. He was then only twelve years of age. He graduated at Trinity University, Dublin, in 1852, and then came to Canada. He returned to Dublin in 1854, and there married Miss Emily Coates. He returned to Canada in the same year, resided a short time in Elora, then in Dundas, and for a time in the United States. He then took a position as a teacher in the High School at Perth, County of Lanark.

He was employed in some capacity on the construction of the G. T. R. between Montreal and Toronto, under the contractors, Peto, Brassey and Betts. He qualified as Provincial Land Surveyor on October 16th, 1857, at which time his place of residence appears to have been Elora, where he practiced for a few years. He probably served his apprenticeship with Mr. E. H. Kirtland, who then made his headquarters at Elora. They were great friends and worked together on surveys for the Provincial Government. Mr. Henry Smith was articled to Mr. Burke from 1857 to 1861, and acted as chief assistant to Kirtland and Burke.

In 1859 he received instructions to survey the Townships of Pennefather and Dennis, on the North shore of Lake Huron, and in the following year made a triangulation survey of Goulais River.

Mr. Burke left Elora about 1862 and took a position in Toronto as teacher of mathematics in an academy for young ladies, and also gave instruction to young men, including articled students in surveying.

He then began his studies for the Ministry, and on March 12th, 1865, was ordained by the late Archbishop Lewis. On March 13th, 1865, he was appointed to the Parish of Lanark, where he remained for two and a half years, then to Almonte two and a half years, and to Prescott five years. At the death of Archdeacon Paton, in 1874, he was appointed, on June 6th, Rector of St. Thomas' Church, Belleville, where he remained until he retired on July 1st, 1920. After this date he resided at Carleton Place with his daughter, Sophia, and her husband, Canon A. Elliott. He died there January 31st, 1907, the interment being at Belleville.

There were three children, William Robert Burke, O. L. S., who died suddenly on June 10th, 1897; Sophia Sarah Emma, who married Rev. Canon A. Elliott; and Emily, who died at the early age of 11 years, and was buried in the cemetery of the Little Blue Church near Prescott.

Canon Burke was a noted scholar, and when practising as a surveyor he gave much assistance to candidates for examination.

The following eulogy is from the pen of Sir Gilbert Parker:

"Dear Ponton,—Since finishing the previous letter to you this evening I have received yours of November 14th, telling me of the death of our old friend, the Rev. Mr. Maclean. Indeed we have been hit hard these last few years. I think that the death of Canon Burke, who was one of the dearest friends I ever had and one of the best men I ever knew, was as great a blow as I have received in many a year. If any man ever influenced me for good, I should say that man was Canon Burke. Ascetic, high-churchman, ritualist as he was at heart, there was something beautiful in his character, something everlastingly true in his life which made one feel that he embodied the faith of all men in all time. I think that Mr. Maclean would say the same thing if he were writing as I am writing now.

"Believe me to be,

"Yours very sincerely,

"GILBERT PARKER."

At the Institute for the Deaf and Dumb he was a frequent visitor, and at his death the "Canadian Mute" closed a biographical sketch with the statement: "What a man! In intellect, a giant; in humility, a little child."