

# DEATH OF CARDINAL MORAN

## THE PASSING OF A DISTINGUISHED PRELATE

### A GREAT SCHOLAR, PATRIOT, AND ADMINISTRATOR

As was briefly stated in a part of our last issue, his Eminence Cardinal Moran, Archbishop of Sydney, passed away on the night of August 15, in the eighty-first year of his age. It appears that his Eminence was in Sydney on Tuesday night in connection with Church matters, and he returned to Manly and retired as usual. He was not again seen until his personal attendant entered his room at 9 o'clock on Wednesday morning and found the body lying across the bed. Evidently his Eminence had got out of bed during the night and thrown a cloak over his shoulders. He must have had a sudden seizure and fallen back dead. On the previous Sunday he opened the new presbytery at Chatswood and delivered a vigorous speech. The immediate cause of death was heart failure.

The late Cardinal Moran was born at Leighlin-bridge, Co. Carlow, Ireland, on September 16, 1830. When quite young he showed a studious, blended with a religious, disposition that was remarkable, and his boyhood gave indications of the characteristics of his life. After receiving an excellent primary training, he studied the higher branches of education for some time before leaving his native country in 1841 to commence his college career under the Jesuits, and later on at Propaganda College.

Ireland (says the writer of an illustrated Monograph, issued in connection with the late Cardinal's Sacerdotal Golden Jubilee in 1903) was remarkably well represented in the Roman College when Dr. Cullen, with his little nephew, the late Cardinal, arrived in Rome. Among those who were about this time going through the academics were Dr. Croke (Archbishop of Cashel), Bishop James Quinn (of Brisbane), Bishop Matthew Quinn (of Bathurst), Very Rev. Dr. Forrest (first Rector of St. John's College, Sydney), Monsignor Forde (of Dublin), Dr. T. McHale, V.G. (Tuam). In the group with Cardinal Moran were Dr. Murray (Bishop of Maitland), Archbishop Azarian (Patriarch of Armenia), Monsignor Maddalena (Archbishop of Corfu), Archbishop Chajah (Patriarch of the Chaldeans), the Most Rev. Dr. Dunne (present Archbishop of Brisbane), Monsignor Cameron (Bishop of Areschat, in Nova Scotia), and many other students who became illustrious prelates.

#### As a Student in Rome.

The young student went through a course of humanities, philosophy, and mathematics while attending lectures in the Roman College. In philosophy he attended for three years the lectures of the celebrated Jesuit Fathers, Forn and Manera, and of the Italian Professor C. B. Solymani. As a student the late Cardinal was a very zealous member of more than one archæological society, under the presidency of the famous Cardinal Mai. The connection thus formed gave him in after years ready access to the archives of the Propaganda and the Vatican, and through these latter to the leading literary preserves of the Continent.

The rivalry between the colleges of different nationalities was great, trying, and testing. Twice during his theological career the late Cardinal was selected to appear at a large reunion of the Cardinals of the Congregation de Propaganda as a picked student, and to expound the teachings of the Catholic Church against atheism and heterodoxy.

#### Ordination to the Priesthood.

He finished his theological studies towards the end of 1852, but as he was still under the canonical age, he was not ordained priest until the feast of St. Joseph, 1853. It is of interest here to note that it was on the feast day of his ordination, the feast of St. Joseph, 1884, that Cardinal Moran, then Bishop of Ossory, received from the late Dr. Murray (Bishop of Maitland) a cablegram, sent by the Bishops of the Province, congratulating him on his appointment to the See of Sydney.

For thirteen years after his ordination the life of Cardinal Moran in Rome was that of a high-class scholar. His researches in the Papal archives, and in those of the head houses of the religious Order in Rome, were unwearied. In the mother-house of the Franciscans, Carmelites, etc., in Rome there are caskets and pigeonholes full of the Irish correspondence between the years 1550 and 1800. He was struck by this quantity of terribly real correspondence, and he considered it an injustice to Ireland and her clergy that it should not be known. His first work was a series of sketches of the Penal times in Ireland, compiled wholly from original correspondence. His next was published in 1861, and is entitled *Memoirs of the Most Rev. Oliver Plunkett, Archbishop of Armagh*.

#### Appointed Vice-Rector of the Irish College.

He was in 1856 appointed Vice-Rector of the Irish College, under the late Archbishop Kirby, and also occupied the important post of Professor of Hebrew in the College of the Propaganda. Professor Moran, as he was then styled, continued to devote himself to the study of Irish historical records, both religious and political, stored away in the archives of the Vatican and in the houses of the religious Orders. As a result of these searches, Irish literature has been enriched by numerous works from his pen.

Further, he familiarised himself with all the modern advancements of the Church, and in a particular manner he concerned himself in the spread of religion by Irish prelates and Irish priests in Australia and the United States. So far back as 1859, when Archdeacon John McEncroe, of Sydney, visited Rome to urge the Holy Father, Pope Pius IX., to establish episcopal Sees in Australia, the petition was drawn up and personally presented, as Archdeacon McEncroe explained on his return to Australia, by 'an able and most courteous young friend, Professor Moran of the Irish College.' This historic petition of 1859 was followed by the establishment of the dioceses of Maitland, Bathurst, Armidale, and Goulburn. Between 1859 and 1866 Professor Moran acted as agent in Rome for his old friend, Bishop James Quinn of Brisbane; and up to his appointment as Bishop of Ossory in 1872 Professor Moran attended to the wants of the dioceses of Maitland and Bathurst, as the personal friend of the late Dr. Murray and the late Dr. Quinn.

#### BISHOP OF OSSORY.

In 1866 Professor Moran was invited by Cardinal Cullen to return to Ireland. His uncle was Archbishop of Dublin. Returning to Ireland in the same year, Professor Moran became Cardinal Cullen's private secretary, a post previously occupied by the late Bishop Murray. While associated with Cardinal Cullen, the