

The Late Cardinal Logue

DOYEN OF THE CARDINAL PRIESTS

(From the London Catholic Times, November 22.)

His Eminence Cardinal Logue died, somewhat suddenly, on Wednesday morning, passing peacefully away at six o'clock. He was in his 85th year, but, though burdened with the weight of years, he had carried out his customary duties to the last, and celebrated Mass as usual on Tuesday morning in Armagh Cathedral.

Donegal to this day bears the mark of centuries of oppression. In the wild northern country there are districts of mountain, moor and lake where those who live there eke out a bare existence by a perpetual and oft-times unavailing struggle with nature. Their little patches of farm land have been reclaimed from quaking bog and stony mountain side by the ceaseless labor of men, women, and children. Some little additions to their narrow means of livelihood have been won from the sea by those who dwell nearest to it. These dwellers are the "mere Irish" or mountain men, the remnant of the Catholics who were driven from their homes on the fertile plains below, when England determined to make Ulster Protestant by settling Scotch and English immigrants on the more fertile low-lying lands. The Irish who escaped the slaughter which preceded these operations fled to the mountains and bogs and there withstood every form of persecution for the Faith which they valued more than life itself. When Nature proved unkind and recurring famines took their toll of lives they preferred death by slow starvation to the food which was offered them by the "Soupers" provided they would only come to Protestant church or school.

Youth.

It was from this sturdy race that Michael Logue, the late Cardinal Archbishop of Armagh, Primate of All Ireland, came. He was born in the parish of Carrygart, near Letterkenny, in the diocese of Raphoe, on October 1, 1840. In his early days it was his one ambition to become a priest. In 1857 he entered St. Patrick's College, Maynooth, the *Alma Mater* of a long line of the most eminent among the clergy of Ireland. For seven years he studied there, and was distinguished for the talent which he displayed in his theological studies, and also for the close application and diligence which he devoted to everything which he undertook. There was nothing showy about him. He concealed rather than displayed the exceptional powers which he possessed. He was noted, too, for his kindness, shown in the help which he was always willing to give to those of his fellow-students who were less proficient in their studies than himself. At Maynooth he won one of the coveted Dunboyne scholarships, which entitle the holders to continue their theological studies on special lines for two years after their ordination.

Paris and After.

In 1865 he entered upon his studies at Dunboyne, but his reputation at Maynooth

had preceded him, and after a little more than a year he was appointed to a professorship. The Irish bishops were the governing body of the famous Irish College in Paris, where in the cruel days of persecution so many young Irishmen received that education for the priesthood which they were forbidden under pain of death to pursue in their native land. At the annual meeting of the bishops at Maynooth in 1866 they appointed Father Logue to the chair of Dogmatic Theology at Paris. For eight years he occupied it, and his reputation as a theologian grew. Father Logue was attached to the diocese of Raphoe, and the Most Rev. Dr. McDevitt, his Bishop, arranged for his recall from Paris in 1874. He was appointed parish priest of Glenswilly, a district not far from his native place. It is a coincidence that his predecessor in the See of Armagh and the Primacy was also for some years parish priest of Glenswilly. To this poor parish came Father Logue, whose life had so far been spent with books or in the professor's chair. His flock's needs were not merely spiritual but often temporal. It was here that he learned the grim realities that underlay the lives of the hard-working, patient, poverty-stricken flock committed to his charge. In 1876, however, he was recalled from pastoral cares to the professor's chair once more.

Maynooth.

At Maynooth the study of the old Gaelic language has been kept up. The knowledge of it was needed, as many of the priests who were destined for the West of Ireland required it in order to minister to their flocks. In Donegal the people largely spoke their native tongue, and Father Logue, who learned it as a boy in actual conversation, had during his Maynooth course made a very thorough scientific study of it. He both spoke and wrote it. In 1876 the professorship of Irish at Maynooth fell vacant, and the bishops appointed Father Logue to the post, at the same time making him Dean of the College. At the end of two years he left the chair of Irish Language for that of Dogmatic Theology, the same subject which he taught with such success in Paris. He was not, however, destined to occupy the chair for long. In the spring of 1879 Dr. McDevitt, the Bishop of Raphoe, died, and Father Michael Logue was returned as *dignissimus* when the clergy of Donegal met to elect his successor. The Holy See confirmed the choice, and on July 20, 1879, in the old Cathedral of Letterkenny, he was consecrated Bishop by the Primate, Dr. McGettigan.

Bishop of Raphoe.

For eight years he was Bishop of Raphoe. They were years of hard work, and he took little part in public affairs outside his diocese. He visited repeatedly every part of his diocese, laboring to improve the material conditions of his flock. Every attempt to develop local industries had his hearty co-

operation. In one of the periodical famines which visited Donegal he collected close on £30,000 for the relief of the starving victims. Political matters were much to the fore, but the Bishop made no formal pronouncements upon them. Everyone knew, however, that the national cause had a staunch friend in the Bishop—none stauncher. Soon after his appointment he determined to replace the humble edifice which did service for a cathedral by a stately church more fitting St. Columba's land. Donegal is St. Columba's country, and St. Columba is one of Ireland's national glories. Dr. Logue's appeal to Donegal men the world over and to Irishmen in general was generously responded to and the success of his design was assured. Ere he could inaugurate it he was called to a higher position in the Irish Episcopate. The venerable Primate, Dr. McGettigan, was in 1887 in failing health and asked the Holy Father for a coadjutor. On April 19 in that year Dr. Logue was transferred to Armagh as coadjutor, with the right of succession to the Primacy.

Cardinal and Primate.

On December 3, the aged Primate died, and Dr. Logue became Primate of All Ireland. In Armagh, as at Raphoe, he worked unobtrusively. Whenever there was need, however, for a lead in national or local matters he never hesitated to voice the sentiments of Catholic Ireland. So little did he court publicity that his elevation to the Cardinalate in 1893 came as a surprise to many people. The solid merits of the great Archbishop of the North were known in Rome, and Pope Leo XIII, desiring to show a special mark of favor to the faithful Irish people, selected the successor of St. Patrick for a dignity never before attained in the line of the 108 Primates who preceded him. St. Patrick was the first Bishop of Armagh, and it is worth notice that, while the See of Dublin had during centuries Danish or Anglo-Norman prelates, those of Armagh have always been a thoroughly Irish line. One, the Venerable Oliver Plunket, martyred at Tyburn, was the last Catholic to suffer death for conscience' sake under English law.

Armagh Cathedral.

The Cardinal's memorial at Armagh is the Cathedral. When he came there he found that, though started nearly fifty years before, it was unfinished. He determined to complete the work. Money was scarce. Population was dwindling, and so some doubted even the necessity for building a great cathedral. With passionate fervor he took up the work, determined that the glories of the ancient Irish Church should be revived once more in the Cathedral of the Primatial See of Armagh. To-day it stands a monument not alone of the Cardinal, but of devoted poverty. To God alone is known how many thousands of workers gave their mites to build it. It is the gift of a race, out of money won by hard toil not only in Ireland but in the furthest ends of the world. Where, less than two hundred years ago, Mass was heard by stealth on the hillsides St. Patrick's Cathedral witnesses to the failure of persecution. It was a proud moment for the Cardinal