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ISLE OF WIGHT OBSERVER Saturday 18th Nov 1865

FUNERAL OF THE REV. J. TELFORD

On Monday last the body of this most exemplary and universally esteemed priest was removed from the Presbytery to the Church, which had been draped in black on the solemn occasion. So great was the desire of many of the inhabitants to be present at the Dirge on Monday evening, and the Requiem Mass on the following morning, that it was found absolutely necessary to admit by ticket only; the younger children of the congregation being excluded in order to give seats to some of those at least who were anxious to be present. The Bishop of Southwark and a large number of clergy were present on Monday evening, the church being crowded. The service was exceedingly solemn and impressive. On the following morning the church was again crowded, most of those present being dressed in mourning, when the Requiem Mass, with all its touching beauty, was most plaintively sung, most of those present being affected to tears. One could scarcely help reflecting how the Catholic Church cares for its children, and the link that exists between the living and the dead.

At the close of the requiem Mass, the Bishop gave a brief address, as follows:- "when the first martyr, St STEPHEN, had gone to his reward, and left to the church the example of his zeal and devotion, devout men raised a great lamentation over him. Here, then, was sorrow and grief, even in the presence of a sure and certain hope that he had obtained the heavenly prize. Why was this? They went out because they were devout men, fearing God. They all knew how difficult it was for human nature to assuage grief. The one whom they now mourned had labored for 20 years with the most affectionate regard over that congregation. The sick and the afflicted had lost a kind friend. The young, too, for whom his heart yearned, had lost a kind friend: and so also had his brethren in the ministry, for he always shared their cares and their joys. There were others who knew him, not as a pastor, but as a friend, and these all had sorrowing hearts for the loss of him whose voice they could hear no more. Surely, then, he could not allow so solemn an occasion to pass without thanking them all for their generous sympathy. The devout men who buried St. STEPHEN made a great lamentation because they had lost a fellow worker. He could say of him who was taken from them, he was always in earnest, and the service of God was his constant care, and there was ever an interchange of the warmest affection between him and his flock. His earnest desire was the salvation of immortal souls; and everything in that temple of God was, under his direction, beautifully carried out. For years indeed would the trace of his hand be indelibly fixed on that place. He was ever earnest in the service of God, and with the

same earnestness had prepared to die; thus he was cheered and strengthened in his last hour. Was it then enough to allow his memory to pass away? What was the duty of those he had left behind - those whom he had led on in the work of God? Simply that they should follow his bright example. The souls of sinners must still be sought. The poor must still have a friend. There may probably be some who would talk of raising a monument in his memory, but above all he would say, let their lives reflect his teaching; let every thought that was dear to him in his good work find an echo in each heart. They were now in sorrow; let them imitate the holy sorrow of those who buried St. STEPHEN. The last day alone would reveal how anxious had been the departed for their salvation. He (the Bishop) had lost a valued friend and fellow worker. He thanked them all; those who had so assiduously watched over and prayed for him, and those who were not of his flock. May they cherish his memory, and bear in mind that the church laid by this month for prayer for the holy souls who were not yet sufficiently purified to enjoy the beautiful vision. The patriarchs of old mourned not for a day but for 30 days. They (the Catholics of Ryde) could not mistake what should be their devotion for this month of November which was memorable to them for other reasons also. He would ask them to pray for the departed, and ask the Almighty to raise him soon to his glory, for it is a holy and wholesome thought to pray for the dead, that they may be loosed from their sins."

As the body was being removed from the church the organ pealed forth Beethoven's celebrated "Funeral March", which was played with much feeling by Mr C.W. SALTER, the organist of the church. The following is the order in which the melancholy cortege left the church for the cemetery: mourning coach, containing the bishop, the Rev.H.PHILLIPS (of Portsmouth), W.E. RATCLIFFE, esq., and Dr TURNER. Then followed the hearse, the bearers being young men of the congregation. The first mourning coach following the hearse contained Mr R. TELFORD and the Rev. Henry TELFORD (brothers of the deceased), Stuart KNILL, esq., and A. VIS, esq. The next carriage contained the household. The fourth carriage contained Dr. DOYLE, Father EMIDIUS, Dr. WEATHERS (principal of St Edmund's college), and the Rev. W. KELLY. In the next mourning coach were the Revs. J SILIVEIRA, LANGAN, SHEEHAN, and WILKINSON. There followed, in plain carriages, the Revs. R. MOUNT, CAHILL, PURCILL, GASCOIGNE, DORAN, WOOLETT, CRISPIN, DONOVAN, E. REARDON, and CALLAGHAN, Hon. W. STOURTON, Messrs. T.M. LEACOCK, E. RANDOLPH, FORSTER, HEYSHAM, and COCKS. The tenth carriage contained the Rev. J. BOWER, cross bearer, and acolytes.

On arriving at the cemetery gate the body was preceded by the cross bearer, followed by the acolytes, the choir, the whole clergy, and the Right Rev. Dr. GRANT (the Bishop of Southwark), who all commenced chanting "De Profundis" (Out of the depths I have carried thee"), and the "Miserere" ("Have mercy on me"). The body having been lowered into the grave the choir chanted the "Benedictus" ("Blessed be the Lord God of Israel"), when the procession reformed and left the cemetery. Thousands of people were in attendance, and many of the shops in the town were partially closed during the day; and thus was laid in the grave one whose honored name will long be remembered in the town of Ryde.

The funeral was conducted by the Messrs. LANGDON.