

BISHOP DE ST. PALAIS.

His Funeral at Vincennes — Address of Bishop Dwenger.

Indianapolis Sentinel, July 4.

A large crowd of strangers gathered in Vincennes yesterday to attend the funeral of the late bishop, Maurice de St. Palais. There were excursions from Evansville, Terre Haute and other points in the vicinity of the late bishop's home.

Bishop de St. Palais was loved by all who knew him, and especially by the citizens of Vincennes, with whom he has dwelt for over a quarter of a century, and consequently the citizens of that place felt deeply the loss they had sustained, and the whole population, without regard to sectarian views, recognized in him a father who had given them counsel and sympathy when most needed, and they all turned out to pay a last tribute of respect to his memory. Throughout the whole audience which assembled in the old cathedral to witness the last sad rites, there was one expression of sorrow, and tears were brought to the eyes of many when Bishop Dwenger, in his address, referred to the many noble traits of the late prelate, especially his charity and perseverance in establishing a home for those who had been so unfortunate as to be left alone in the world. The 200 orphans who have been under his charge were moved to tears when they were brought to realize that they had seen their dear father for the last time.

THE CATHEDRAL.

The cathedral had been beautifully draped in mourning for the occasion; festoons of crape were hung from the pillars, windows and doors. The sanctuary was also heavily draped in mourning, the throne of the late bishop being one mass of crape and flowers, and over the catafalque were the inscriptions: "Our father" and "The father of the fatherless," worked in black cloth with flowers, and the catafalque itself was covered with an arch of flowers.

TUE SERVICES.

At 8:30 a. m. the services for the dead were said in the cathedral by Archbishop Purcell and others of the bishops and clergy who were present.

At 10 a. m. the procession was formed and marched to the church in the following order:

Chief marshal, orphans, visiting societies, local societies, St. John's Benevolent Society, Hibernian Benevolent Society, clergy, hearse, Catholic congregations, citizens.

The procession formed in open order on Second street, and the hearse containing the remains, preceded by the clergy, passed through it. It was a grand sight to see the archbishop, bishops and clergy as they moved up the aisle of the church. Archbishop Purcell, of Cincinnati, and Bishops Dwenger, of Fort Wayne; Baltes, of Alton; Foley, of Chicago, and Spaulding, of Peoria, and about one hundred of the clergy participated in the services. After the remains, which were encased in a beautiful casket profusely decorated with flowers, had been placed upon the catafalque, the requiem mass was said and participated in by the following clergymen:

His Grace, Archbishop Purcell, of Cincinnati, celebrant; assistant, Very Rev. Father Benoit, Vicar General of Fort Wayne.

Deacon, Very Rev. A. Bessonies; sub-deacon, Very Rev. J. Guegen.

Masters of ceremonies, Revs. Mougins and Missi.

Chanters, Fathers Chasse and Petit.

Choristers, Fathers Merz, Dudenhausen, Seegmiller, Klein, Allarding and Sandermann.

Censor bearers, Fathers Schnell and Fleischman.

Acolytes, Fathers Merkle and John Doyle.

Bearers, Fathers Seibmann, Ewors, Kintrup, Seibertz, Dickmann and Deistl.

Chaplain to his lordship, the bishop of Fort Wayne, Rev. E. Audrant.

Chaplain to his lordship, the bishop of Alton, Father McDermott.

Orator, his lordship, Bishop Dwenger, of Fort Wayne.

BISHOP DWENGER'S SERMON.

Bishop Dwenger, of Fort Wayne, preached the funeral sermon, taking for his text the 4th chapter of Ecclesiastes. The following is an abstract of the bishop's address:

When I last stood upon this pulpit it was an occasion of joy. I was invited to bless God for the twenty-five years of the late bishop's episcopacy. Then I was the exponent of joy. To-day I am the exponent of grief and sorrow. Methinks I can yet see the venerable old father there on his throne shedding tears of joy and gratitude for all the mercies which God had bestowed upon him, surrounded by his dear priests, full of joy and happiness. To-day, alas! the throne is empty, and we are gathered around the mortal remains of that same dear, venerable father to pay the last debt of love, respect and gratitude to his memory. God has called him away to eternal rest, but his name will live from generation to generation.

Allow me to try at least to explain to-day our common grief and sorrow. The Rt. Rev. Maurice De St. Palais was born November, 1811, in the south of France, of one of the oldest and most noted families in that part of the country. Their motto was "Faithful among the faithful," and well did that pious and noble family observe that motto, in an impious age, when infidelity had affected so many families. We see here a noble family. They left the world and all its pleasures to serve Christ. Their deeds are recorded in heaven.

In 1836, when the venerable Brute, the first bishop of the diocese, went to France to secure missionaries for work in the field over which he had charge, Indiana and half of Illinois embraced this diocese. There were only three priests in the diocese. Brute went over to gather young apostles around him. He could not offer what the world esteems; not even enough to eat, for in those days the pioneer missionary often suffered the pangs of hunger. Martyrdom attended the ranks of the clergy, and France was an easy field in itself. And this young priest, so talented, so noble, and so highly connected as the late bishop, with honor, emolument and position certain to him at home, renounced all for Christ's sake. He gave up all to become an apostle in the wilderness. This saintly Bishop Brute, addressing these young men, reminds me of the words of Christ, "Leave all and follow." They left father, mother, brother and sister, home and friends, and came here in a complete wilderness, forsaking all, even their own language. This was one of Joseph's greatest trials when he was sold. It required faith to make this sacrifice. At that time this land was not what it is to-day. The church was not situated as we are at this time. The missionary was often weeks and months in the saddle seeking the few Catholics, often without food for himself and horse. Then they could not construct cathedrals and organize large congregations. They had to fertilize the spiritual earth.

With joy and zeal the late bishop entered upon his mission. His first mission was St. Mary's, in Daviess county. Like an apostle he went there and soon organized a church and congregation. He was not allowed to remain there and enjoy the fruit of his labor, but was called to a mission in Chicago. This was a poor mission—almost ruined by the falseness of its pastor. This mission was soon built up by St. Palais, and he bought the valuable property which now belongs to the church in that city. He went to Logansport and then to Madison. Bishop Bazan, on his death-bed, addressed St. Palais as his successor, and it was a day of joy when he was appointed bishop. It was the one great hope of the

clergy and laity that this would be done. A great deal was accomplished by his predecessor, but the diocese at present shows what labor he has done, especially his efforts in behalf of the orphans. The zeal of our father was not of a quick and fiery nature, but it was that of sound, true and persevering piety, coupled with a high order of administrative ability. He was like a father in the midst of his children. To the orphans he always had a fatherly word.

To know him was to love and revere him. He was as innocent as a child. So pure, holy and unpretentious was his life that all loved and revered him. His principal trait of character was his great and wonderful charity. He was a great father to his priests, and the clergy have indeed every reason to feel that they have lost a father. He was unable to utter an unkind word even where it was desired.

The orphans have lost a father who, when they lost their parents, procured for them a motherly care. He was a father to the fatherless. How often was a shout of joy heard when it was announced the bishop is coming. Did you not gather and cluster around the good bishop and tell your little troubles while he would listen to you with a fatherly love? You will see that good bishop no more. You will not be able to gather around him any more. You have lost him, but in heaven he will indeed be your father. You ought to promise you will remember him in your prayers before his body is taken under the altar to be buried. You should remember how he has loved, taught and labored for you. Whilst we mourn his loss we should not forget him in our prayers. The miter looks beautiful, but indeed it is often a crown of thorns. His cross is often beautiful outwardly, but indeed it is often a sad load to his heart. I know that he was in grief and sorrow shortly before his death, and I know that it has hastened his death.

Sweet it must be to recount the labor and trials when the triumph is achieved and the victory is won. Sweet it is to say, on the death bed, I have fought a good fight and have preserved the faith, and expect to receive the crown of glory immortal which God will give me. We trust that our good bishop now possesses this crown, and his children will preserve the good example of such a good and charitable life, remembering the beauty of charity—pray that God will grant eternal blessings, and that divine light may shine upon him.

AT THE TOMB.

At the conclusion of the services the remains were removed to the vault in the chapel, which is directly under the altar, where the remains of the late bishop were entombed alongside of those of his illustrious predecessors.

The vaults are arranged in the shape of a square, the remains of Bishops Brute and St. Palais lying parallel with each other, facing north and south, and those of Bishop Bazin facing east and west.

NOTES.

Archbishop Purcell has nominated Father Bessonier, of this city, administrator of the diocese, which authorizes him to exercise most of the functions of a bishop. He will continue as such until a successor has been appointed.

While the workmen were preparing the tomb of Bishop St. Palais it became necessary to remove the slab covering the tomb of the late Bishop Brute, who was buried on the 26th of June, 1839, when it was found that his remains were in almost a complete state of preservation. His hair and whiskers had grown about six inches, and his cross, ring and vestible were almost as well preserved as if he had only been buried a short time.

Besides the clergy of the diocese, the following from abroad were present: Dr. Mullen, of Chicago, pastor of the church which the bishop founded in that city, and Fathers Crowley, Walters and O'Reilly, of Fort Wayne.

Mahoney, the sculptor, took a death mask of the late bishop on Wednesday from which he proposes to cut a bust.