

DEATH OF ARCHBISHOP HUGHES.; HIS SICKNESS AND LAST MOMENTS. SKETCH OF HIS LIFE.



His Grace Archbishop JOHN HUGHES expired at his residence in Madison-avenue, last evening, at 7 1/2 o'clock, after a lingering illness, in which he suffered much, but endured with fortitude....

SKETCH OF ARCHBISHOP HUGHES.

JOHN HUGHES, Archbishop of New-York, was born in the North of Ireland, in the year 1798. In 1815, his father who was a respectable farmer, emigrated to the United States. In 1817, JOHN HUGHES, then a youth of nineteen, unable to endure the trammels under which his religion was placed at home, followed his father. On his arrival in this country, he was placed with a florist to learn the art of gardening, but his tastes being more literary than horticultural, he devoted most of his time to study, and in his twenty- first year he entered the theological seminary of Mount Saint Mary's

at Emmetsburgh; Maryland, remaining there as pupil and teacher for several years. In 1825 he was ordained, in Philadelphia, as a Catholic Priest, and was settled over a parish in that city. While resident in Philadelphia, he was challenged by the Rev. John BECKENRIDGE to discuss the question, "Is the Protestant religion the Religion of Christ."

This controversy was the first of many of a similar nature, which the subject of this sketch carried on with various eminent divines of this country. It attracted so much attention when first published in the newspapers that the articles were collected and had a wide circulation in book form. In 1832, Father HUGHES founded St. John's Church, Philadelphia, and was its Rector until he removed to this City. In 1837 Bishop DUBOIS, of New-York, having become too old and infirm to attend to the duties of his office without assistance, at his request Father HUGHES was appointed his coadjutor. He was consecrated in this City Jan. 9, 1838, and in the following year was appointed by the Pope administrator of the diocese. Although he did not succeed to the Bishopric until the death of Bishop DUBOIS, yet from that time the government of this portion of the church was entirely in his hands.

He at once proceeded energetically to bring about necessary reforms; to rescue the churches from the debts which encumbered them; to remove them from the management of laymen, and to secure the titles in his own name. In these reforms he was violently opposed by the trustees, and only partial success crowned his efforts. In 1839 he visited France, Italy and Austria to solicit pecuniary aid for the Catholic churches in New-York. In 1841 he established a college in Fordham, Westchester County, under the name of St. John's College.

About this time Bishop HUGHES came prominently before the public on the school question. The Catholics charged that the public schools were sectarian in their character, and complained that they were taxed for the support of institutions to which they could not send their children.

A petition was sent to the Common Council to designate seven of the Public Schools as Catholic schools.

Remonstrances were sent in by the School Society and some of the churches, and the parties appeared before the Common Council, Bishop HUGHES making an elaborate address in favor of the petition, but it was rejected. The Catholics carried the matter before the Legislature, and it became a prominent feature of the ensuing political campaign, Bishop HUGHES advising the Catholics to run an Independent ticket, which they did. Bishop HUGHES was the master spirit in this exciting controversy, and defended himself against the many attacks of the religious press with great ability.

In 1845, Bishop Hughes again sailed for Europe to procure the services of some of the Jesuits and Sisters of Mercy. He returned in 1846, and a few months after was requested by President POLK to undertake a special mission to Mexico, but declined. In 1847, at the request of both Houses of Congress, he delivered a lecture in the Hall of the House of Representatives at Washington -- subject, "Christianity the only source of Moral, Social and Political Regeneration." In 1850, New-York was raised to the dignity of an arch-Episcopal See, and Archbishop HUGHES went to Rome to receive the pallium at the hands of the Pope. He soon afterward became engaged in a discussion with Dr. MURRAY, of Elizabeth, who attacked the Catholic religion in a series of letters over the signature of "Kirwan." Archbishop HUGHES replied, and the celebrated Kirwan controversy ensued. In 1854, the Archbishop made another visit to Rome in order to be present at the definition of the dogma of the Immaculate Conception. On his return he became involved in a controversy with EBASTUS Brooks, editor of the Express, growing out of the church property question. Mr. Brooks being at that time State Senator, in the course of a debate stated that Archbishop HUGHES owned property in New-York to the amount of \$5,000,000. The Archbishop at once attacked Mr. Brooks through the newspapers, and a long discussion took place, in which it is generally conceded that the divine had the advantage of the editor. On the 15th of August, 1858, he laid the cornerstone of the new cathedral on Fifth-avenue, which is designed to be the finest edifice church in the United States. When the rebels fired upon Fort Sumter, and the citizens of New-York assembled in a grand mass meeting at Union-square, Archbishop HUGHES, unable from indisposition to attend in person, wrote a letter to the Chairman, in which he

declared himself firmly and unalterably the friend of the Union, and the advocate of all and any measures necessary to put down treason and sustain the Government.

From the stand taken by him on that memorable April day he has never receded, but has continually, by precept and example, enjoined the duties of citizens in maintaining the Union and enforcing the laws. During the July riots, Archbishop HUGHES was confined to his bed by sickness, but he announced that if the people would meet him at his residence he would address them from the balcony. An immense assembly gathered there at the appointed time, and he spoke to them as announced, requesting them to obey the laws, to assist in enforcing obedience if necessary, and if wrong had been done to seek redress through the proper channels, and not by riots and turbulent outbreaks.

The prominent place he has occupied in public and the Church will not soon be filled. While he strove earnestly for the good of his own Church, he was always proud of the City which had been chosen as his adopted home, and its prosperity, as well as that of the whole country, was a constant desire. He has built up the Catholic Church in this City, dignified it, rescued it from debt, and been its untiring champion. Although he has all his life been engaged in controversies with someone or other, yet he has also enjoyed the warm friendship of many of the most eminent men of this country, and to them, as well as to the majority of our citizens, his death will be a source of unfeigned regret.