

**THE LIFE OF ARCHBISHOP
HUGHES,
FIRST ARCHBISHOP OF
NEW YORK, PP. 19-70**

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The Life of Archbishop Hughes, first Archbishop of New York, pp. 19-70 by Anonymous

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ANONYMOUS

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THE LIFE
OF
ARCHBISHOP HUGHES.

(FIRST ARCHBISHOP OF NEW YORK.)

With a full account of his Life, Death, and Burial; as well as his
Services in all pursuits and vocations, from his
Birth until his Death.

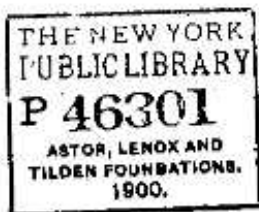
BORN IN CLOGHER, IRELAND, 1798.
DIED IN NEW YORK, JAN 3, 1864.

"BURY ME IN THE SUNSHINE."

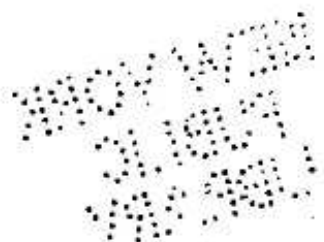
Archbishop Hughes' last words.

"I have fought the good fight; I have finished the course, I have kept the
faith; for the rest I know there is laid up for me a crown of justice, which the
Just Judge shall render to me."—*Funeral Oration of Bishop McCloskey.*

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THE LIFE AND SERVICES
OF
ARCHBISHOP HUGHES.

THE people of the North were shocked, on the morning of January 4, 1864, to hear of the death of this illustrious prelate, which occurred the evening previous, at half-past eleven o'clock; although the telegraph, two days before, notified them he was dying, still his death took every one by surprise. He was a truly good and able man, as well as a genuine Christian, and was esteemed by men of all religious sects. A better and more patriotic American than he never lived; he was noted for his goodness of heart, undoubted piety, devotion to his faith, ready championship of his church principles, sound common-sense, and liberality of spirit; and all these had made him a moral giant among his people. Upon the breaking out of the present war he proceeded to Europe, commissioned by the Federal authorities to make proper representations to the Catholic sovereigns of the causes and pretexts for the rebellion. On this errand he visited, among others, the Emperor Napoleon, and the result of these interviews will be found on another page, in a letter from the Archbishop to the Hon. Mr. Seward, Secretary of State.

On his return home to the United States, he entered into a brief controversy with the Catholic Bishop of

Charleston, S. C., concerning the rebellion, where he took strong Union grounds, and his reply to the Rebel prelate was eminently patriotic. He has built up the Catholic Church, dignified it, rescued it from debt, and been its untiring champion in an able manner, and has always had the warm friendship of many of the most eminent men of this country, and to them, as well as to the majority of our countrymen, his death was received with unfeigned regret.

In the following pages will be found a full and correct résumé of a life well spent in a Christian manner, doing good at all times for his fellow-beings, and beloved by every one his position brought him in contact with.

MOST REV. ARCHBISHOP HUGHES, D. D.

John Hughes, D. D., Catholic Archbishop of New York, is dead. In the fulness of ecclesiastical honors, such as no other prelate ever won and wore in America, the Archbishop has been gathered to his fathers. On January 3d, 1864, at half-past eleven o'clock precisely, he expired. In his own terse language, he died "believing in the truth of the doctrines taught by the Holy Catholic church as firmly as he did in his own existence." Nay, more, he has written: "I believe that, as containing the fulness of Divine revelation, it is the only true church on the earth, although many true Catholic doctrines are found floating about as opinions in the religious atmosphere of Protestantism. This is my profession of faith, of the sincerity of which the Almighty is my witness." A true Christian died when the breath left the body of the revered and lamented Catholic Archbishop of New York.

HIS BIRTH, PARENTAGE, ETC.

Archbishop Hughes was born in the town of Clogher, Tyrone county, Ireland, in the latter part of the year 1798. He was therefore about sixty-five years of age at the time of his death. He was the son of a small but respectable farmer, who left his native land for the New World in 1817. He was followed thither by his son, who commenced his career in this country as a florist, having been placed for that purpose with a noted gardener of New York.

HE GOES TO ST. MARY'S THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY, EMMETTSBURG, MARYLAND.

Possessing superior intellectual abilities, his mind and ambition could not rest content with the humble and limited sphere in which he found himself placed, and as soon as he had completed his engagement with his employer he sought and obtained admission into the Catholic Theological Seminary of Mount St. Mary's, at Emmettsburg, Maryland. Speaking of this period of his life, the Archbishop, in a speech delivered in Dublin during one of his last visits to the old country, remarked :

"I was borne westward to another country beyond the Atlantic Ocean. In that country I had an opportunity of improving my education, for legislation there had not attempted to monopolize and appropriate to itself the key of knowledge; and there, although a Roman Catholic, I was made a freeman and an American citizen long before the Catholic Emancipation act was passed by the British Parliament."

HE BECOMES A TEACHER IN THE SEMINARY.

Young Hughes had devoted himself so assiduously to study during the time he could spare from his floricultural duties that it was not long after he entered the St. Mary's Theological Seminary that his superior qualifications attracted the notice of the principals, and he was

elevated to the position of teacher. This position he filled with great credit, and it was from this field of usefulness he was called to another, and he was

ORDAINED AS PRIEST IN PHILADELPHIA.

In the year 1825 Mr. Hughes was offered and accepted the position of priest of a parish in Philadelphia. His good work there, and the early but high development of talent he displayed, his firm, courageous and intelligent conduct in behalf of the religion to which he had devoted himself, his fortunes and his life, excited the apprehensions of some of the most distinguished divines of the Protestant persuasions, and a controversy ensued between Hughes and one of the most prominent clergymen of the opposing sects.

HE IS CHALLENGED BY A PRESBYTERIAN CLERGYMAN.

In 1830 the Rev. Jacob Breckenridge, of the Presbyterian church, proposed to discuss, through the columns of the newspapers, the following question:—"Is the Protestant religion the religion of Christ?" The Protestant divine is represented to have been then in the strength and vigor of his powers. But, notwithstanding this, Hughes accepted the challenge and entered into the discussion with the freshness of a youthful enthusiast. His ability as a sound theological thinker, and his industry and intelligence in searching the mystic authorities and in presenting the then almost hidden lights in our country of Catholicism, won for him the distinction of commanding the respect of his venerable and learned antagonist. In 1834 an oral discussion took place between the same disputants on the question:—"Is the Roman Catholic religion, in any or in all its principles and doctrines, inimical to civil or religious liberty?" And so prominent a share of public attention did these discussions elicit that a large

volume has been published, containing full reports of them, and are to be found in the libraries of eminent theologians in this as well as the old country.

HE FOUNDS ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, PHILADELPHIA.

In 1832 Dr. Hughes founded the Catholic St. John's church in Philadelphia, and remained its pastor several years. The church flourished under his auspices, and even the persecution of the Catholics and the destruction of St. Augustine in the lamentable riots in Philadelphia, in 1844, did not cause the faith of his followers to falter, nor that church itself to remain forever in crumbling ruins, a monument to the desperation of bigotry.

HE IS APPOINTED COADJUTOR OF BISHOP DUBOIS IN NEW YORK.

In 1837 it became necessary to furnish some assistance to Bishop Dubois, of the New York diocese, who had become infirm from the advance of years and protracted devotion to apostolic duties, and the Holy See appointed Dr. Hughes as his coadjutor. He was consecrated in New York on the 9th of January, 1838, and about two weeks subsequently Bishop Dubois was attacked by paralysis, from which he never recovered.

HE IS APPOINTED ADMINISTRATOR AND BISHOP OF THE DIOCESE.

In the following year the Pope appointed Dr. Hughes administrator of the diocese, and he remained entirely uncontrolled in its government. About this time he visited France, Austria and Italy to obtain pecuniary aid for his diocese, and, having succeeded, returned to this country and applied himself to the cause of Catholic education, and in 1841 opened St. John's College and established the St. Joseph's Theological Seminary, both at Fordam, N. Y. In 1842 he succeeded Bishop Dubois in the full dignity of bishop.