

CHAPTER XVIII

FATHER KAVANAGH'S SILVER JUBILEE—HIS DEPARTURE FROM NIAGARA—HIS SICKNESS, DEATH, AND BURIAL

THE event of greatest importance in the career of Father Kavanagh as President of Niagara was the celebration, on the 14th of October, 1891, of his Silver Jubilee in the priesthood. The exact date would have been on the preceding 19th of July, but as a celebration on that day would occur in vacation, when Niagara's Faculty and students are scattered, it was decided by those having the affair in charge to choose some suitable date after the opening of studies. The 14th of October was selected, the friends of Father Kavanagh notified, and our institution put in readiness for the occasion. The protests, long and vehement, of the prospective jubilarians against a public celebration were ignored by the Faculty Committee and those of the alumni with a determination which for once, at least, was superior to his own decisive manner.

On the day itself the *Niagara Index*, to which Father Kavanagh had always been a consistent friend, came out in holiday attire with this legend on its front cover: "Silver Jubilee, 1866-1891, *Niagara Index*, Complimentary to the Very Rev. P. V. Kavanagh, C. M." A fine half-tone likeness of the celebrant was inserted as frontispiece, followed by the following "Jubilee Sonnet":

Father and friend! our simple praise to one
All simple thro' the circl'd years now flown;
Tho' high exalted, mindful of his own
However low; 'tis thus Saint Vincent's son
Ere that he dies hath earned the words "Well Done!"
Repeat not here the precious treasures sown;
Kind silence keep; he would not have them known;
Another sees the crowns that he has won.
Veil all that might his modest face suffuse;
Awake not here the strains of fulsome song,
Nor yet the heartfelt tribute here refuse;
All chorus'd then our voices roll along:
God bless our friend! May prayer choice blessings bring!
Howe'er we try what better can we sing?

This was followed by a sketch of Father Kavanagh's life and an editorial entitled "To-day's Celebration."

"The numbers of those who live to celebrate the 25th anniversary of their ordination to the holy priesthood are comparatively few. The majority of the laborers in the glorious field of salvation are called to their reward before the quarter century mark has been reached. To those, however, who have been permitted to continue their work of love, the long term of twenty-five years seems as a day. It is not to be wondered at, then, that the announcement of the Silver Jubilee of one of God's anointed is heralded with more than usual joy by Catholics as well as by the immediate friends of the priest. It is seldom that the approach of the completion of so notable a period of years has created the excitement and sent such a thrill of joy throughout the country as did the announcement made some time ago that Very Rev. P. V. Kavanagh, C. M., the beloved and revered President of Niagara University, would soon complete the twenty-fifth year of his successful career in the ministry of God. The friends of Father Kavanagh are not confined to any diocese or State, but are found in vast numbers in almost every city in the Union, and, in fact, throughout the old and new worlds. His influence and care have been felt with profit by a large army of men in every profession and walk of life.

"The efforts made by the more interested friends of Father Kavanagh to render the celebration of his 25th anniversary as a minister of God a day that will ever be remembered by him have been determined and untiring. The protests of the very reverend gentleman have been in vain, and it was resolved that, as a fitting opportunity had presented itself, it was not to be allowed to slip by without showing the appreciation which his brother priests throughout the country have for so beautiful and fatherly a disposition, and for such untiring and self-sacrificing zeal.

"For the twenty-five years of his priestly life Father Kavanagh has been almost constantly at Niagara, and during that time large numbers of God's workers have gone forth on their chosen missions. A heavy debt of gratitude is owed to him by all who have had the happiness of feeling at some time or other the benefit of his wise counsels and guiding care. The dearest moments in the lives of many are those passed while here at Niagara, under the directing hand of the one whom to-day we honor.

"The characteristically modest nature of our dear President would not permit, were his will consulted, anything like the demonstra-

tion with which he is greeted. Be it said to the glory of the members of Niagara's Alumni and to the friends of Father Kavanagh, that in spite of his protestations made about a year ago at a meeting of the Alumni Association, when it was made known that the time for a fitting tribute to be paid to him was fast approaching, they took it entirely from his hands and resolved not to heed, in this instance, his admonitions and refusals. Little did that generous heart dream of the sentiment which filled each breast at that meeting; still less did he imagine that his wish to let his anniversary pass without a celebration would go unheeded.

"The several committees in the East and West have left nothing undone in their desire to fulfill their pleasing task. The surprise of this morning for Father Kavanagh must have been something akin to that happiness which comes alone from the consciousness of having faithfully done one's duty, and of unexpectedly meeting with old friends and companions. It is with the greatest pleasure and with boundless joy that he grasps the hand of each alumnus as he enters once more his Alma Mater. Many and glowing would the tributes be were each of the hundreds of clergymen and laymen who have already arrived, and who will continue to come throughout the day, allowed to relieve his mind of the sentiments that must remain pent up on account of the feelings of Father Kavanagh.

"There can be no more appropriate testimonial to the regard in which he is held by all than that proclaimed by the large numbers who have hastened to revisit their Alma Mater and to pay their respects to him towards whom all our thoughts now turn. It is, moreover, with justice that they do so, for the foundations upon which their success rests have been firmly laid by him.

"In congratulating Father Kavanagh on the completion of so many fruitful years of labor, the *Index* does so with the consciousness that Niagara's journal owes its success and prosperity to him. It is the earnest and heartfelt wish of not only the present staff, but of those whose places we now occupy, that many, many years to come may crown him with the success that has met him in the past, and that his joys to-day may be but harbingers of the happiness that is deservedly his."

Consulting the files of the ever handy *Index*, we find in the issue for November 1, 1891, the subjoined exhaustive account of the way in which Niagara's fifth President was honored by Niagara's children and Niagara's friends in general:

"NIAGARA'S GALA DAY

"It was our desire to publish in the Jubilee issue of the *Index* a complete programme of the exercises to be carried out on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of Father Kavanagh's entrance to the holy ministry. Circumstances, however, prevented the execution of our plan. It will interest those of our readers who were unable to be present on the 14th ult. to learn in what manner Niagara's sons and friends thought best to honor and manifest their love and esteem for so kind a Superior and so true a friend. Nature seemed to smile a pleasing assent to the celebration and to lend her aid in making it a success. The fear was frequently expressed on the preceding days that the cold and rain which then prevailed would continue on the 14th, and thus dampen the festivities. A glimpse, however, of the sun on the eventful morning put all fear aside and made the hearts of hundreds leap with joy. The day was all that could be desired. For several days the decorators had been busily engaged in transforming both the interior and exterior of the University from its wonted classic and severe appearance into a fairyland of bunting and silk. The designs were novel and pretty and produced a pleasing effect.

"Often has it fallen to our lot to witness her in her gala attire, but never was she so gorgeously or richly dressed as on the 14th. The front of the building was fairly hidden behind a covering of flags, streamers, and banners. Under each window was placed a shield surmounted by two American flags, while from the gables of the side wings of the University, and crossing each other in the center, were wide streamers of bunting and strings of flags of all nations. The striking feature, however, of the front of the building was, perhaps, the drapery and combination of colors that seemed to emanate from a central point just over the main entrance. A large banner, artistically worked and bearing the ensign of our country, was made the radiating point from which were extended on either side long streamers of bunting. Flags of different nations were likewise extended from the corners of the gables of the main building, and produced a happy effect as they toyed with the gentle breeze. Above the banner were three large flags, the American holding the place of honor, while on either side were the Papal colors and the emerald banner of Erin. Festoons, wreaths, and rosettes on a background of bunting lent an additionally bewildering effect as they appeared along the rail over the veranda.

"The first thing to proclaim a welcome to the arrivals was the large arches that had been erected at the entrances to the college

grounds. It would seem that so much had been done to make the exterior of 'Old Niagara' attractive and gay that the interior would of necessity become forgotten. This, however, was not the case. The corridors and halls received their share of attention, and were ornamented in a manner at once fitting and appropriate. The P. V. K. Hall drew from every one exclamations of admiration and elicited unstinted praise for the decorators. A complete description of the hall as it appeared when the finishing touches had all been made would be a task too difficult to attempt. The ceiling and walls with their silk banners, gold-fringed hangings, groups of swaying flags, and Japanese ornaments gave a pleasing and artistic effect. The college color, purple, was predominant, and occupied the most conspicuous place, being drawn in the form of a curtain on both sides of the stage.

"It may be truly said that never since Niagara was founded had she looked so bright, nor had such efforts been put forth in the line of decorations. Too much praise cannot be given Father Hayden, in whose hands the whole matter rested, for the zeal and taste he manifested in the arrangement and selection of the various ornaments, draperies, and hangings.

"The influx of visitors on the 13th gave promise that the number of those who would be present on the following day to pay their respects and do honor to Father Kavanagh would be beyond expectation. The arrivals were continuous and eager to compliment the reverend gentleman, and only a knowledge of what was to come served to check their enthusiasm. Time was not allowed to slip away on the morning of the 14th. As early as 7 o'clock the University Band was on hand to welcome the Western delegation of Niagara's Alumni, who arrived a few minutes later in their Pullman car. The coach was decorated with streamers of red, white, and blue, and with a profusion of the college colors. It was, indeed, a pleasing sight and bespoke the love of Niagara's Western sons for their Alma Mater and the dear President whom they were resolved to honor. From that hour until long after 10 o'clock the throng of visitors continued to arrive.

"The carriage service at Suspension Bridge and Niagara Falls was unable to cope with the pressing demand, and the New York Central kindly consented to stop their train on the bank near the University. Fully one hundred availed themselves of this opportunity, and were favored once again with the familiar scenes along the Niagara River. The delegates from the East reached

Suspension Bridge on the preceding day, and were warmly received as they entered the University on the 14th. The hearty handshake with which each new arrival was greeted by Father Kavanagh, as well as the joyous meetings of old companions and friends, was characteristic of Niagara's faithful children. The lessons they had learned while under Father Kavanagh had not been forgotten, and the same spirit that has ever placed a seal of distinction on the students of our college home still burned as deep as in the days of yore. Many and joyous were the exchanges of greetings, and the radiant countenances of all bespoke more clearly than words the happiness and consolation that were felt in one once more visiting 'Old Niagara,' and in seeing the kind face of Father Kavanagh, so dear to every alumnus of this institution.

"The celebration began with a solemn high Mass, at which Very Rev. Father Kavanagh was celebrant. Right Rev. S. V. Ryan, of Buffalo, was present in cope and mitre. The assistants at the Mass were Revs. Jas. O'Connor and F. J. Henneberry as deacon and sub-deacon respectively. The deacons of honor to the Rt. Rev. Bishop were Revs. J. Nugent and M. Taylor. Rev. J. J. Mallen acted as first master of ceremonies, while Rev. Thos. H. Barrett held the position of second master of ceremonies. The sermon was preached by Rev. Martin Carroll. It was an eloquent effort and worthy of the speaker. In words of feeling and deep conviction he traced the history of Niagara from the days of its early trials and struggles down to its present prosperous condition and high standing. Touching, indeed, was the tribute paid to the present Head of the University, through whose untiring devotion and care is due in a large measure the success that has crowned Niagara's educational career. Delicately did he picture the loyalty and love that Father Kavanagh always manifested towards his spiritual father, Saint Vincent. It must have made his noble heart burn with joy as he heard expressed so eloquently the sentiments of esteem in which he is held by all his brother priests and by those not numbered among the clergy. In glowing words did the preacher allude to the many glorious traits in Father Kavanagh's character, traits, too, that are known so well to every one who has had the good fortune of experiencing his guiding hand. Deeply moved were the attending priests and laymen who, with all their hearts and souls, readily assented to every word the speaker uttered. Fervent were the prayers offered during the solemn sacrifice that the choicest blessings of heaven would fall upon the celebrant, and that many happy and fruitful years might

be added to those already passed by him in the exercise of his sacred functions.

“Shortly after Mass the committee in charge of the order of exercises for the day requested Father Kavanagh and the visitors, together with the students of the junior and senior departments, to repair to the Shakespearian Hall. When all had assembled, the entry of Father Kavanagh was the signal for an ovation. It would seem that the ardor of all had been confined so long that now, when the opportunity came at last, the pent-up enthusiasm of years had broken forth. On the stage with Father Kavanagh were the Rt. Rev. Bishop Ryan, of Buffalo; Very Rev. H. Behrens, Buffalo; Dr. J. Cronyn, of the Medical Faculty; Rev. J. J. Mallen, Brooklyn; Rev. L. A. Lambert, Rev. Jas. O'Connor, of Rochester; and Rev. D. Walsh, Buffalo. The exercises were opened by a congratulatory address from the students of the study hall, read by Mr. E. L. Dondanville. Occasion was taken here to present to their President a handsome misal and stand.

“It now came the seminarians' turn, and Mr. J. H. Walsh, in a few well-chosen and happy remarks, expressed the well wishes of the students of the senior department, and in their name presented a golden chalice. Dr. John Cronyn, of Buffalo, then arose, and expressing the pleasure he experienced in representing his profession on the present occasion, handed to Father Kavanagh the following address presented by the Medical Department of Niagara University: “*Very Reverend and Dear Father Kavanagh:*

“‘Considering that the Medical Department of Niagara University owes you much for the great interest you have always manifested in its success, and that an opportunity is now afforded to show the appreciation of its Faculty towards you while celebrating a jubilee of years of good and faithful labor, we beg to offer our congratulations, and a small mite in addition to the larger gifts of others, with the fervent hope that your years may be long in the service you so nobly adorn.

JOHN CRONYN, M. D., PH. D., *President.*

Buffalo, October 14, 1891.

For the Faculty.’

“When the applause that greeted the address had died away, the Rev. M. J. Dorney, of Chicago, stepped upon the stage, and for over half an hour held the large assemblage in rapt attention. The gifted orator was never in a happier mood, and allowed the feelings excited in his breast by the occasion to take form and come from his

lips in bursts of eloquence. This was truly the speech of the day. The love and attachment of 'Old Niagara's' students for Father Kavanagh was clearly pictured and the reasons for his endearment enumerated and explained. The kindly care of Niagara's President for those in his charge was commented upon, as well as those distinctive marks of a nature at once pure, simple, and manly. The speaker pictured his idea of the ideal man, and could not find a single quality that was not strongly marked in him whom he considered it the greatest honor to be permitted to address. In concluding, he desired, on behalf of the Western Alumni, to congratulate the very reverend gentleman, and to offer as a slight token of the good will and esteem of Niagara's Western sons a purse of \$1,500.

"When the applause that greeted Father Dorney at the close of his remarks had sufficiently subsided, Rev. Nelson H. Baker stepped forward. In words of the deepest feeling and gratitude he expressed the debt of love and thankfulness that all present owed to Father Kavanagh. The distinction, he said, had been conferred upon him of speaking in the name of the Eastern Alumni, and that it was his pleasant duty to present in their behalf a small token as a pledge of the esteem and love they bear for their former Professor and President. The gift proved to be a purse of \$3,500.

"Little did the noble assemblage dream of what was yet in store for Father Kavanagh. Rt. Rev. Bishop Ryan, seizing the opportunity, came forward, and was received with the wildest enthusiasm. He had a gift, he said, for his dear friend and former confrere which he was sure would be more heartily appreciated by him than anything that could possibly be given. It was nothing less than the Papal benediction, which he had been empowered to grant Father Kavanagh.

"Father Kavanagh's overflowing heart could not contain itself any longer, and he rose to convey his sincerest thanks for the many tokens of esteem he had received. Eloquent, indeed, were the words as they poured from that noble heart. Never did man receive a heartier welcome than did the honored President of Niagara. With the tenderest feeling he alluded to his past connection with Niagara's Alumni, and proclaimed his attachment to them and his interest in their welfare. In alluding to the several purses that had been given him, he requested that they be employed in founding a scholarship in the University. This, however, was not the will of the donors, and they requested Father Kavanagh to use the money for whatever purpose he desired.

"Among the presents which were laid on a large table in front of

the stage, as well as around the front of the platform, were the following: An elegant missal and stand from the students of the junior department; a gold chalice, seminarians; pyx and oil stocks, Sisters of Charity, Edward Street, Buffalo; cut glass cruets on silver stand, Sisters of St. Joseph, Suspension Bridge; large silver tilting water pitcher, Albany Orphan Asylum; beautifully bound missal, Rt. Rev. S. V. Ryan; silver water pitcher, Mrs. P. J. Doran, Baltimore; silver inkstand, Rev. J. W. Moore, C. M.; silver snuff box, Rev. J. J. Talley, C. M.; cruets and silver stand, Mr. Thomas Kavanagh, Buffalo; picture of St. Vincent in elegant silver frame, Sisters of St. Vincent's Orphan Asylum, Syracuse; silver watch, Niagara Faculty; two elegant chairs, Mr. Jas. O'Donoghue, Rochester, and Sisters of St. Joseph, Suspension Bridge; ivory cross tipped with silver, six large framed pictures of Cardinal and Bishops, Mr. J. McBride; easy chair, Mr. and Mrs. Albert, Baltimore; silver topped blotter, Miss Alice Kavanagh; silver watch charm, Sister Virginia, Chicago; silver medallion, Industrial School, Albany; card basket with chaplets, Sisters of Charity, Troy; silver topped cut glass inkstand and silver pen, and a beautifully embossed testimonial from Niagara's students now in Brooklyn Seminary.

"At the banquet which followed the meeting the different toasts responded to were: 'Father Kavanagh,' Rev. J. O'Connor; 'Our Country,' Hon. James Duncan; 'Niagara Laity,' Rev. L. Erhardt; 'Niagara in the West,' Rev. J. Nugent; 'Niagara's Early Struggles in Journalism,' Rev. J. J. Mallen. Songs were sung by Mr. E. Kelly and Rev. J. McIncrow.

"Among the guests were noticed: Bishop Ryan, Rt. Rev. Mgr. Gleason, Very Revs. J. McGill and J. F. O'Hare, Revs. J. Mallen, J. Killahey, J. O'Hara, W. Power, J. Durick, J. Hartnett, A. O'Rourke, M. Carroll, M. Dennison, and Dr. Creamer, Brooklyn. From Buffalo diocese were: Revs. C. O'Byrne, T. Carraher, R. G. O'Connell, M. Pyne, P. Mullaney, M. Noonan, J. Gardiner, N. Gibbons, P. Grant, Dr. Donohue, A. Bachmann, J. Fenger, W. Wilber, J. Schaus, J. McGloin, L. Smith, J. Dealy, P. Connery, M. Darcy, A. Barlow, D. English, T. Haire, T. Brougham, J. Biden, W. McNab, M. O'Dwyer, J. Cain, T. Kozlowski, J. Gleason, J. Baxter, P. Hoelscher, D. D., T. Hines, R. M. Barrett, O. M. I., Dr. Quigley, P. Cannon, E. McDermott, Frs. Sestor, J. Sheehan, J. Roche, J. Leddy, M. Kean, F. Naughten, P. Berkery, P. Milde, F. Sullivan, D. Walsh, N. Baker, D. Daley, T. Barrett, M. O'Shea, R. O'Donoghue, C. Schaus, D. O'Brien;

Messrs. E. Kelly, W. Corcoran, J. McCarthy; L. Hanley, M. D., J. Kavanagh, M. Lyons, Drs. J. Cronyn and G. Fell, Buffalo; P. Gavin, J. Reiger, F. McKenna, J. Lynch, Niagara Falls; E. Laurier, Dr. Talbot, Suspension Bridge. Chicago diocese was represented by Revs. F. Henneberry, P. Conway, T. Smith, D. McCaffrey, M. Dorney, M. F. Sullivan, A. Horan, M. Dinneen, F. Lynch, J. Walsh, J. Morrissey, J. O'Brien, F. J. Quinn, M. Foley, J. Hynes, F. Lynde, as also Messrs. O. Walsh, J. Vidvard, Hon. J. Duncan, Charles Plamondon, E. Cummings, T. Durkin. From other points: Revs. J. Gilchrist, and J. Nugent, Iowa; W. Ryan, J. Dolan, J. Halpin, J. Adler, Mr. Chas. Sutherland, Syracuse; Revs. F. Howard A. Cush, Dr. J. Gallagher, Cleveland; Revs. M. Ryan, Watkins; T. F. Carroll, Providence, R. I.; T. J. Sullivan, Thorold, Ont.; Leo Hallin, Ivy Mills, Pa.; Revs. P. McHale, and J. Landry, Germantown, Pa.; M. Cavanaugh, New Orleans; J. W. Moore, Baltimore; W. Casey, Palmyra, N. Y.; L. A. Lambert, Scottsville, N. Y.; J. J. Gormeley, Renova, Pa.; R. J. Powers, Cohoes, N. Y.; J. O'Connor, Seneca Falls, N. Y.; J. Davis, Lawrence, Mass.; J. McIncrow, Amsterdam, N. Y.

"We publish below a few of the letters of regret received by Father Kavanagh. They explain themselves:

ST. MICHAEL'S PALACE,
Toronto, Oct. 12, 1891.

MY DEAR FATHER KAVANAGH:

I regret exceedingly that I shall not be able to be with you on the 14th inst. to join your hosts of friends in their heartfelt congratulations, and to testify to you my deep respect and esteem for you as a man and as a priest. The sad occasion of the celebration of the month's mind of my only brother in the Cathedral here on Wednesday next is the cause that prevents me from being present with you on that day. I wish you a most happy celebration, and I say to you *ex imo corde ad multos annos*.

Believe me to be with sincere esteem, faithfully yours in Xt,
JOHN WALSH, Archbishop of Toronto.

DIOCESE OF COLUMBUS,
Columbus, Ohio, Oct. 13, 1891.

VERY REV. P. V. KAVANAGH, C. M.:

Dear Friend,—I thank you very cordially for your kind invitation to attend the Silver Jubilee of your ordination to-morrow; and I regret very much that I must forego the pleasure and the honor of

taking part in it. It has long been my desire to pay you a visit at Niagara, and I had anticipated doing so on the occasion of your Jubilee. Receive my warm congratulations, however, and, as in a case like yours, the anniversary should be an occasion also of thanksgiving to Almighty God on the part of all your friends for the good work that twenty-five years of faithful and zealous service, especially in the cause of Catholic higher education, have accomplished. I unite with my felicitations to you a fervent act of thanksgiving to our Lord for your ministry in behalf of ecclesiastical as well as secular education. I hope that you will be long preserved to illustrate the Church in the United States by still more fruitful labor, and that you may live to see at least your Golden Jubilee. I think if any of your fellow workers in the ministry have reason to be grateful to you, they are the Bishops, to whom you have furnished so many pious and efficient assistants. Hoping again that your Jubilee may be the occasion of many encouragements to you from men, and consolations from God,

I remain sincerely yours in Xt,

JOHN A. WATTERSON, Bishop of Columbus.

EPISCOPAL RESIDENCE,

31 and 33 Washington Avenue,

Detroit, Mich., Oct. 14, 1891.

VERY REV. P. V. KAVANAGH, C. M.:

Very Rev. Dear Friend,—Your kind invitation was on my desk when I returned home last evening. It would afford me great pleasure to attend the celebration, but I am prevented by home engagements. Permit me to offer my hearty congratulations on the happy event.

Yours faithfully in Xt,

JOHN FOLEY, Bishop of Detroit.

ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH,

Hartford, Conn., Oct. 11, 1891.

VERY REV. FATHER KAVANAGH, C. M.:

Your kind invitation to your Silver Jubilee is to hand. I am sorry I cannot be present, for many reasons. I always like to honor a veteran of the fold, but, as you know, my labors for the last nine months have been overpowering. All I can say is to wish you many years of future usefulness, good health, and happiness.

Yours very sincerely,

JAS. HUGHES, V. G., *Administrator.*

ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH,
Albany, N. Y., Oct. 13, 1891.

VERY REV. AND DEAR FATHER KAVANAGH:

Accept my most heartfelt thanks for your formal and for your very kind personal invitation to the celebration of your Silver Jubilee. It would afford me the greatest pleasure to present you my congratulations in person, but I will not be able to enjoy that privilege. I must therefore content myself with uniting with all your friends in offering you my most sincere and warm congratulations upon the happy completion of twenty-five years in the sacred ministry. Praying that God in His infinite mercy may spare you for many years to come, in order to labor for the advancement of higher education and the extension of our Holy Faith, I remain, Very Rev. and Dear Father Kavanagh,

Yours very sincerely,

THOMAS M. A. BURKE.

MT. ST. MARY'S COLLEGE,
Mt. St. Mary's P. O.,
Near Emmitsburg, Md., Oct. 11, 1891.

VERY REV. P. V. KAVANAGH, C. M.:

Very Rev. Dear Father,—Your kind invitation to be present at the celebration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of your ordination has just been received. I wish I were free to accept it, for it would afford me great pleasure to be with you on this happy occasion. I have some duties to attend to this week which will not allow me to go so far from home. Thanking you for the invitation, and praying that God may grant you many years to continue your work at the head of the noble institution over which you have for years presided with great success, I remain, Very Rev. Father,

Sincerely yours in Xt,

EDW. P. ALLEN, *President*.

CARMELITE MONASTERY,
Falls View, Ont., Oct. 12, 1891.

VERY REV. AND DEAR FR. KAVANAGH:

Our whole community joins me in offering you at the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of your ordination our most cordial congratulations. May God preserve your useful life for many years to come, and allow you to celebrate a Golden Jubilee on earth before you celebrate in Heaven.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

A. J. KREIDT, O. C. C.

ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH,
Brooklyn, N. Y., Oct. 11, 1891.

VERY REV. P. V. KAVANAGH, C. M.:

Very Rev. Dear Sir,—I beg to acknowledge the receipt on the 9th inst. of your very kind invitation to the celebration of your Silver Jubilee. I should consider it an honor, as it would, indeed, be a great pleasure to me, to be one of the many friends who will greet you on the joyous occasion, but the circumstances in which I am just now placed deprive me of all this gratification. I pray you to accept, however, my hearty congratulations and sincere wishes that the Golden Jubilee of your ordination will find you in health and vigor in the great work in which you are engaged, if not in a more exalted sphere.

Very sincerely and respectfully,

THOS. TAAFE.

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH RECTORY,
Utica, N. Y., Oct. 12, 1891.

DEAR FATHER KAVANAGH:

Thanking you very much for your kind invitation, I regret that my engagements are such as to make it impossible for me to take part in the happy festivities. Please accept my heartfelt congratulations, with the wish that your years may be lengthened out until the golden comes to take the place of the Silver Jubilee.

I remain, yours sincerely in Christ,

J. S. M. LYNCH.

ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH,
Albany, October 10, 1891.

MY DEAR FATHER KAVANAGH:

Until to-day I was confident I would be with you; now I find to my regret I cannot go. Well, God bless you. I am certain I will meet you at the Golden Jubilee. How pleasant that will be! Meantime wishing you health and blessing, I am sincerely yours,

M. SHEEHAN.

CATHEDRAL OF THE HOLY NAME,
Chicago, Oct. 12, 1891.

VERY REV. P. V. KAVANAGH, C. M.:

Dear Father Kavanagh,—I regret very much that it will be impossible for me to be present at the celebration of your twenty-fifth anniversary. Up to the present time I hoped to be one of Niagara's

rejoicing with your numberless friends on this occasion but also to express our personal love for you — a love which, for many of us, it would be ingratitude to withhold. Be assured that on next Wednesday we will not fail to join with you in thanking God for the numberless blessings bestowed on you and your labors during the past twenty-five years. To these acts of thanksgiving we will add our humble petitions to God and His Blessed Mother, that you may be spared for many a year to render hundreds still unborn as deeply your debtors as many of the undersigned feel themselves to be.

We are, in love of our Lord and Saint Vincent,

Your unworthy confreres,

THE STUDENTS AND NOVICES OF ST. VINCENT'S SEMINARY.

After the celebration of this historic event in the life of Father Kavanagh, he feared lest he had not been cordial enough or explicit enough in expressing his thanks to all who had been instrumental in making the event such a gigantic expression of love for himself and the institution so dear to his heart. To allay his apprehensions he inserted the following card in the *Index* under date of November 19, 1901:

“Owing to the extensive and varied programme carried out at the recent Jubilee exercises held in my honor, I did not have the opportunity to thank at length those who were chiefly instrumental in making the occasion a success. To the Executive Committee especially I desire to express my appreciation of their untiring efforts. Rev. Dr. Quigley, Fathers Henneberry, Baker, Nugent, Walsh, Dorney, Biden, Conway, Messrs. Duncan, Vidvard, Plamondon, with many others, at the expense of valuable time and with much trouble to themselves, perfected arrangements in a manner most flattering indeed to me, yet only in consonance with their reputation as gentlemen of marked executive ability.

“The presentation to me of a purse of \$5,000 from our combined alumni was an act of generosity for which I take this public occasion to express my sincerest thanks. I am deeply grateful for the good will and liberality which prompted the presentation of so munificent and substantial a gift. When I reflect, moreover, that the disposition of this sum has been left entirely in my hands, I would be indifferent to noble sentiment if I failed to acknowledge, as I now publicly do, the deep sense of gratitude which I feel at this new proof of our alumni's confidence in me, their old Prefect and Preceptor. Therefore to each and every one of the combined Executive

Committee, as well as to the rest of our devoted alumni, I beg leave to express here formally, but none the less sincerely, my deepest appreciation of the honor which they conferred upon me by their welcome presence, their congratulations and their munificent gifts. I can only pray that God may long preserve them in their spheres of usefulness, keeping them what they have always been, honorable and cherished children of "Old Niagara."

P. V. KAVANAGH, C. M.

The remaining three years of Father Kavanagh's administration ran along with that monotonous quiet which seemed to be, after all, the element of life most agreeable to him. To use a common but significant phrase, he was a great home body, disliking extensive trips which necessitated any lengthy absence from our institution, and preferring representation by others instead of attending personally those gatherings, official or social, which make such frequent demands upon men in his position. A brisk walk along our river bank, especially when the elements were in their wildest mood, or a gentle saunter through the vineyard, orchards, or smiling fields, so plentiful within our own domains, was all the relaxation that he cared to seek when brain was heavy or heart was sad from labor or pain, or both. For, it was an open secret among the members of his faculty that for many years Father Kavanagh had been ailing from a malady which Dr. Talbot had foretold to a few would terminate his life.

When studies opened in September, 1894, Father Kavanagh was missing from his accustomed place, having resigned the presidency of Niagara and accepted an appointment as pastor of our church of the Immaculate Conception, Baltimore, Md., thus changing places with his successor, Rev. Father P. McHale, C. M. Sorrow at Father Kavanagh's departure was widespread among priests, students, and domestics who had lived under his fatherly rule. The fact that he himself had long petitioned to be relieved of a burden which he had never borne except through obedience to his Superior's commands, mitigated the grief of Niagara's household, while the advent of his successor, so admirably suited in every way to preside over Niagara's destinies, plainly indicated that God had provided wisely for our future.

We cannot refrain from giving our readers an opportunity to learn how Father Kavanagh was regarded in the diocese in which he had labored so long. It was the gifted pen of the late Father

Cronin, once a member of Niagara's Faculty with Father Kavanagh, which gave the following tribute:

"After an honored service of twenty-nine continuous years as Professor, Prefect, Vice-President, and President of Niagara University, the Very Reverend Patrick Vincent Kavanagh, C. M., has at last, at his own request, been temporarily assigned to a position of less pressing responsibility and harassing care.

"Father Kavanagh has surely well earned a period of comparative rest. From four o'clock in the morning until far into the night, he has toiled all those years for God and the weal of the institution with which he has so long been identified. The worthy successor of the venerated Father Rice, Father Kavanagh flung himself with generous self-sacrifice into the work which the other laid down; and the great growth and prosperity of the University under his presidency show the signal manner in which God has blessed his labors.

"In one sense we feel like congratulating Father Kavanagh upon having obtained at least this temporary respite from grinding care. He can now breathe the air of freedom and indulge more than ever before his fine intellectual tastes. And yet we cannot think of 'Old Niagara' without him. The institution seemed a part of his life. Every rock and tree and flower round about was imbedded in his affections. To his heart Our Lady of Angels, that looks down upon the rushing river, within whose beloved walls he has spent the young flower of his life, will always be the dearest spot on earth.

"A more devoted priest or golden-hearted man than Father Kavanagh we have never known. Generous, unselfish, and high-souled, he never knew what it was to do a mean thing. Honor and principle have ever been his guide. With heart open as the day to his confreres and all under his charge, is it any marvel that he was fairly worshiped by those who came in daily contact with his winsome character? Men may come and men may go, but the retiring president will never be forgotten in 'Old Niagara.' The memory of his sunny presence and noble nature will linger as a perfume round those historic halls."

No one acquainted with the two most concerned in the annexed poem will consider it egotistical if we append what was written as a farewell to Father Kavanagh by one who had spent fifteen consecutive years on the Faculty with that good man:

VALE!

FINISHED at last! my lustrum thrice gone o'er,
 And now to say "farewell" — 'tis grief indeed
 To one who well remembers how of yore
 He stood a Friend, that sweetest word in need.
 E'en tho' we part, the past shall wear its smile,
 Remembrance gilding what the years might hide;
 Kind words, like flow'rs, come back each little while,
 And faces miss'd, in dreams with us abide.
 Veil not his love that clings unto each spire,
 And cross, and stone, where proud "Niagara" stands,—
 Niagara! — To his heart that name is fire,
 Above all flame of love for native land.

* * * * *

God speed aright thy feet where'er they tread;
 Hope's brightest star shed blessings on thy head!

—G.

For about five years after leaving Niagara Father Kavanagh served as Superior in Baltimore and later at Saint Joseph's Church, Emmitsburg. He revisited the scenes of his life's labors on two great occasions, when the *Index* celebrated its Silver Jubilee, February 7, 1895, and again when the Alumni Chapel was reopened January 25, 1898. The affection with which he was greeted on both of these occasions by his former students and companions plainly showed that, if possible, love for Father "P. V." had been increased during separation.

Along in October, 1899, Father Kavanagh, after sojourning for a considerable time at Saint Agnes' Sanitarium in Baltimore, and later at Saint Joseph's Hospital, Philadelphia, in quest of relief from the malady which was consuming him, set his face towards "Old Niagara." He was resigned and cheerful although he felt that the hand of death was upon him. He halted at the Sisters' Hospital in Buffalo, hoping to recuperate sufficiently to continue his journey and reach the spot dearest to him on earth. The advice of physicians dissuaded him from leaving an institution so well equipped where every possible means known to medical science is exhausted for the benefit of its patients. During the two months that he remained under the care of the Sisters of Charity he received the most devoted attention from them, the doctors, and his brethren at Niagara. When his condition became more alarming, some one of the priests from Niagara was in constant attendance at his bedside. At length

in the evening of the 9th of December, fortified by the sacraments, surrounded by Saint Vincent's children, the priests and Sisters of our "double family," Father Kavanagh breathed forth his noble soul to God. His body, after lying at the home of his brother James, who with his family had been most devotedly attentive to their priestly relative, was removed to the Cathedral, where a solemn requiem Mass was celebrated. Very Rev. P. McHale, C. M., Father Kavanagh's successor as President of Niagara, was invited by the family to be the celebrant. The deacon was Rev. John W. Hickey, C. M., who has seen so many years of service at Niagara with Father Rice and Father Kavanagh. Father P. Conroy, C. M., Director of Seminarians, was sub-deacon. About fifty priests were in the sanctuary.

"After Mass his body was transferred by rail to Niagara, where it lay in state, guarded by the Faculty and seminarians, until Wednesday, when the funeral took place. The Seminary Chapel had been draped in mourning for the occasion; the entire house, in fact, was in mourning for him who had ruled it so gently, yet so firmly, for so many years. As long as the body remained, the deepest silence reigned throughout the house; everyone went about sad at heart; his loss was truly mourned by Niagara.

"The entire University, the seminarians in choir and the students in the body of the chapel, attended the services, which began at 10.45 A. M. A large number of priests also attended. The Solemn Office of the Dead was chanted by the seminarians and the priests. The mournful chanting was most impressive, for Holy Mother Church gives full expression in this office to the thoughts and feelings of all those present. Solemn Mass, *coram episcopo*, was then celebrated by Rev. J. W. Hickey, C. M., assisted by Rev. David Kenrick, C. M., as deacon, and Rev. E. J. V. News, C. M., as sub-deacon. Rev. P. J. Conroy, C. M., was master of ceremonies. The music of the Mass was rendered by the seminarians and the students. The sanctuary was crowded with priests come to honor the memory of Father Kavanagh, about eighty being present.

"Directly after Mass Father N. H. Baker, 1876, of West Seneca, N. Y., delivered a touching and eloquent eulogy on the deceased. The reverend gentleman was a student under Father Kavanagh and knew well his noble character. In the course of his remarks he dwelt on the personal magnetism, the sweet, affable manners, the sincerity and purity of the life, yet the strict disciplinary methods of beloved Father 'P. V.,' not only in regard to the Study Hall but especially to the Seminary. He was characterized by Father Baker as one of the

few great men, a man set apart by God especially for the work he performed, and a man whose equal it will be difficult to find. The preacher also dwelt on the great love his students bore the departed, which was especially shown on the occasion of his Silver Jubilee, yet, he said, 'midst all that honor and praise, Father Kavanagh was the same modest man he ever was; they have gathered here to-day, from far and near, to testify their fidelity and thanks to one who was ever their friend. The preacher, by the pathetic manner in which he described Father 'P. V.,' brought tears to many eyes.

"Rt. Rev. T. M. A. Burke, D. D., Bishop of Albany, gave the final absolution, after which the body was, for the last time, viewed by all present. Preceded by the students, seminarians, and priests the casket was carried to the graveyard north of the University buildings. Close by the tomb of Father Rice his body was laid. One by one his brothers of the Community and the priests present cast upon his coffin a shovelful of earth. Old men who had lived and worked, who had shared his joys and sorrows; young men, his students of long ago — all paid him, with sorrow, this last duty.

"There were present at the funeral services Father Kavanagh's immediate relatives of Buffalo, N. Y., his brothers James and Michael; his nieces, the Misses Augusta, Mary, Alice, Katherine, Elizabeth, and Mrs. T. J. Kavanagh; his cousin, Hon. E. S. Cummings, 1883, of Chicago. Delegations of Sisters of Charity, two from each of the four houses in Buffalo, and representatives of the Sisters of Saint Joseph from Niagara Falls, were also among the mourners. A large number of friends from Niagara Falls and Buffalo was also present.

"Of those who attended the funeral we are enabled to inscribe the following:

"Rt. Rev. T. M. A. Burke, D. D., Bishop of Albany; Very Rev. J. J. Sullivan, C. M., 1874; Rev. F. W. Krebs, O. C. C.; Very Rev. J. F. Butler, O. F. M.; Rev. Jos. Fisher, 1883; Very Rev. R. A. Lennon, C. M.; Rev. A. A. Bachman, 1873; Very Rev. F. O'Donoghue, C. M., 1870; Rev. J. T. Colgan, 1893; Rev. W. F. Likly, C. M., 1884; Rev. P. McGee, 1896; Rev. P. V. Byrne, C. M., 1866; Rev. J. J. Klejna, 1895; Rev. E. A. Antill, C. M., 1873; Rev. J. F. Kelley, 1895; Rev. D. Kenrick, C. M., 1860; Rev. Cæsar Keiran, O. F. M.; Rev. E. J. Quinn, C. M.; Rev. James Brennan, 1865; Rev. C. J. V. Eckles, C. M., 1871; Rev. A. J. O'Connor, 1898; Rev. Wm. J. McNab, 1866; Rev. F. X. Ludeke, 1889; Rev. T. H. Barrett, 1878; Rev. H. Wright, 1898; Rev. R. J. Storey, 1864; Rev. T. F. Gleason,

1895; Rev. J. M. Bustin, 1885; Rev. H. A. Dolan, 1897; Rev. B. B. Grattan, 1862; Rev. J. J. Moriarity, 1895; Rev. M. A. Taylor, 1876; Rev. Francis Sullivan, 1883; Rev. M. Salley, 1876; Rev. M. J. Kean, 1888; Rev. J. A. Lanigan; Rev. J. J. Nash, D. D.; Rev. D. L. Walsh, 1877; Rev. Daniel O'Brien, 1888; Rev. J. H. Halpin, 1878; Rev. C. O'Byrne; Rev. M. Noonan, 1886; Rev. M. Dwyer, Rev. T. A. Earley, 1889; Rev. John J. Dealey, 1890; Rev. J. J. Lynch, 1891; Rev. N. H. Baker, 1876; Rev. J. McGrath, 1873; Rev. J. V. Schaus, 1889; Rev. J. L. Morrissey and Rev. W. H. Darcy, 1893; Rev. F. S. Henneberry, 1879; Rev. Wm. M. Bernet, 1898; Rev. P. C. Conway, 1889; Rev. A. C. Porter, 1899; Rev. M. J. Kelly, 1894; Rev. S. E. Airey, 1897; Rev. P. T. Mullaney, 1884; Rev. E. J. Rengel, 1893; Rev. J. H. Quinn, O. M. I.; Rev. J. J. Butler, Rev. J. Fenger, Rev. D. Casey, Rev. James J. Roche, 1879; Rev. J. F. Tracy, 1894; Rev. P. Berkery, 1877; Rev. Phillip A. Best, O. C. C.; Rev. J. J. Bloomer; L. G. Hanley, Ph. D., M. D., 1887; Hon. E. S. Cummings, 1883; M. H. Lyons, 1884; G. H. Kennedy, 1889, Rev. J. F. Kennedy, 1896."

Good-bye! Father "P. V." Sweet be thy sleep under Niagara's sod!

No blazon'd shaft may rear itself aloft,
 Proclaiming to the world thy vict'ries won;
 Thy loudest dirge, the wild winds as they sigh
 Thro' leafless treetops when the day is done.
 But there's a mem'ry where Niagara flows,
 And there are hearts, too, that will hold it dear,
 Entwin'd around them as the sweet vine grows
 And buds, and blossoms,— thou art ever near!