

tion and social standing to what they were four years ago. Were the labours of that time again required of him he would gladly undertake them. It was on receipt of information at 12 o'clock one day that the wants of the diocese could not be met that, in less than an hour and a-half afterward, he was *en route* for Europe. He had since travelled 36,000 miles. He left with the uneasy feeling that the Bishop might succumb in his absence; and this troubled him the whole of the journey. They had expressed their gratitude to him (Father Coleman), but it should have been to the Bishop for sending him. The object of his mission was to procure priests, nuns, and Christian Brothers, and to establish students in colleges to supply the wants of the diocese in the future. From information he had of the six clergymen he got—information given by those who were bound to supply it correctly, and from his own personal knowledge for years of one of them—he knew that they would be an honor to the diocese. They had all volunteered to come here, and it was only men influenced by a desire for the advancement of religion who would give up home-comforts to do so. He had also procured two nuns and two postulants to educate the children, and they, with the nuns already here, would have an effect on the generation to come. More than a year ago he was told by persons who differed from them in religion, that the females attending these schools could be known in the streets by their demeanour. He hoped that he had brought them a treasure which would be valued at its proper worth, when all those who were then listening to him were dead and gone; and that the impressions and good sentiments, the modesty of demeanour, and holiness of life, for which the Irish people and the Catholic people of the Old World were remarkable, would become natural to their children from the training they would have received, and that in the future, more than the present, would the seed which was now being sown bring forth fruit. The Christian Brothers, who were to teach the boys, he regretted to say, were not to be had, but he great efforts he had succeeded in getting a promise that the diocese could get two or three in about eighteen months from this date. His Eminence Cardinal Cullen had done all he could in the matter for him, and the diocese should be grateful to his Eminence. He then referred to the courteous reception he had experienced in Honolulu, America, and Europe. His Eminence Cardinal Cullen had received him into his house, and had treated him hospitably. Amongst others, the Cardinal Prefect of the Propaganda and the head of the Irish College in Rome had received him well. Two places were granted to this diocese in the College of Propaganda, which was no small matter. He then gave a description of the churches of Rome, the persecutions suffered by the Catholics there, and the confiscations made by the Government of Victor Emmanuel. It might be asked—Why did the Romans submit to such oppression? and in answering this question he gave as the reason, that for centuries the Roman people had enjoyed peace—their thoughts were not turned on deeds of war or of blood, but rather upon the fine arts and painting. They found it difficult to realise the state to which they were reduced. He then referred to the appropriation by the Italian Government of Church property in Rome, mentioning that the religious had been brought to great misery. He hoped, from what he had observed, this diocese would contribute more liberally to the Pope in future. He had seen the Holy Father, who was a prisoner in the Vatican, and he had given his blessing to be bestowed on this diocese. Catholics here were doubly taxed—taxed for schools they could not send their children to as well as for their own; but there was a fair and enlightened public opinion forming that would ultimately right that. No people were more in earnest to promote the welfare of the diocese than the Catholics were; none rejoiced more than they did to see this Province prosper. They did not want to interfere with the education of any person outside of their own body. The Church did not want that Catholic children should be tampered with, and their minds prejudiced against their Bishop, priests, teachers, and the religion that Catholics professed. It was an injustice to the Catholics of the Colony and Province to have to pay for schools that were purely irreligious and materialistic, and, where they were not so, were essentially denominational, and opposed to the Catholic faith. Let others teach their children what they pleased, but they hoped they would teach them nothing wrong. All Catholics wanted was a fair share of their own money. (Applause.) He hoped that the time was not far distant when those who differed from them would see the justice of the Catholic claims, and be more ready to co-operate in procuring redress. Those who differed from them had learned to respect their consistency and perseverance. It was necessary to have schools and a house for the Christian Brothers. A purse of sovereigns was very useful, and, like other people, he could find a use for it.—(Laughter.) But he did not want money. He knew that as long as he laboured faithfully for the Catholics of this diocese, or any other Catholic people, that he should never want for the necessities of life. He begged to offer the 210 sovereigns they had presented him to his Lordship as the foundation of a fund to provide accommodation of the Christian Brothers when they come here.—(Great applause.) But he would retain the purse as a memento of their kindness.

Father Coleman then handed the money to the Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN, on behalf of the congregation and the diocese, thanked Father Coleman for his munificent gift—for it was a munificent gift. It was a large sum of money he might have kept for himself.—(Father COLEMAN: I am only sorry it is not ten times as much.) Father Coleman on his mission to Europe had been far more successful than he (the Chairman) had expected. The diocese was under obligations to Father Coleman for the exertions he had made during the past four years, especially for the way he had managed affairs on his late mission, there being now a sufficient supply of priests. They had yet to prepare for the Christian Brothers, and to make sacrifices in the cause of education. They had to make sacrifices, but what would be the good of living without sacrifices. He did not think there would be any use in that sort of life—it would be mere vegetation. They must fight and be prepared to make sacrifices, and they would then

have the consciousness of doing their duty. They should be assured that they were rearing up a fine Catholic race. The world was advancing every day, and he believed each generation was better than the previous one. He once believed in the good old times, but did not do so now. The present was better, and the future would be better still. He was determined to improve on the past, and had not the least doubt whatever that they would co-operate with him. The congregation was outgrowing the present church. They must get a new church, and two or three others also. He then suggested for the congregation to think over it that the church be used as a school for the Christian Brothers; that portion of a new church be erected and used for divine worship; and that the present school buildings be taken down and removed to South Dunedin, where they could be used as a school and church. The new church could be proceeded with gradually on a plan; and the part first erected need not be finished inside. He had bought a piece of ground in South Dunedin for £200, and should be only too happy to offer it to the congregation for the purpose for which he bought it—as a site for a church. (applause.)

Mr JOHN CARROLL said that when he attended the meeting he intended to have been but a silent spectator of the proceedings, but he hoped he should be allowed to make one or two remarks with regard to the generous conduct of Father Coleman in handing over such a handsome gift to his Lordship for the wants of the diocese. He was quite sure that such an action would not be lost upon the Catholics of Dunedin, and the solid foundation laid by Father Coleman would be an incentive to every member of the congregation to come forward and generously aid the good work so nobly begun. He had much pleasure in proposing a vote of thanks to the Vicar-General for his handsome donation towards the proposed efforts being made to provide Catholic education.

Mr J. J. CONNOR said that, like the preceding speaker, he had not come that evening to take part in the discussion, but to testify his hearty sympathy with the object for which they had assembled. However, the generous conduct of Father Coleman had caused him to alter that intention. Reference had been made by the rev. speaker to the unjust treatment of the Catholics as a body on the matter of education, but he was assured that the fair and equitable quota of that fund, which all impartial minds must admit they were entitled to, was but a matter of time. Catholics had proved to the community at large that, on the all-important question of education they were thoroughly sincere, of which the many great and heavy sacrifices on its behalf gave ample proof; and the noble and generous self-denial of their worthy Vicar-General was not one of the least. He begged most cordially to second the proposition.

The motion was carried by acclamation, as was also a vote of thanks—proposed by Mr DUGAN, and seconded by Mr CARROLL—to his Lordship for his occupation of the chair, and the proceedings terminated.

#### THE ENGLISH OPERA COMPANY.

THROUGH the continued illness of Miss Alice May, which rendered her unable to appear in public for some time, the opera season came to a premature close—at least for a time—on Saturday night. Before, however, taking such a step no effort was spared by the management to compensate for the enforced absence of the *prima donna*, and a succession of light and sparkling operettas, admirably suited to the company, were submitted for the public delectation. The response, however, to the efforts of the stage manager were not of such a nature as to induce him to continue the season until such time as the health of Miss May would admit of her re-appearance. On Thursday week Miss Lambert appeared in the rôle of the Grand Duchess of Gerolstein, and we confess we were most agreeably surprised at the clever manner in which the character was sustained. Of course, as an actress and vocalist, there is no comparison to be drawn between that lady and Miss May, Miss Lambert lacking that graceful vivacity which forms such an attractive feature in all Miss May's delineations, and in addition to this she was placed at a disadvantage in assuming a character in which Miss May had gained such deserved laurels; but, standing by itself alone, it was an excellent piece of acting, and to those who had not seen the latter in the same character it could not fail to have been otherwise than pleasing. Fritz and Wanda were represented by Mr Vernon and Miss Howe, and we are bound to confess that neither character suffered by the change of cast from its presentation on a former visit, there being ample scope for the comic abilities of Mr Vernon as Fritz, an opening of which it is just to say he availed himself to the utmost. As Wanda, Miss Howe appeared to more advantage than Miss Lambert in the same character, the naïveté of the peasant girl being admirably portrayed and warmly applauded. As Baron Puff Mr Wilkinson was extremely amusing, and although exception might be taken to the somewhat overstrained burlesquing of the character, we have but little doubt but that such a license was freely forgiven for the amusement which Mr Wilkinson afforded to the audience. On Friday evening the "Crimson Scarf" was submitted, followed by a musical version of "Box and Cox," the principal characters in the former being sustained by Messrs Hallam and Levison, and Miss Howe. The scene is laid in Venice, and, as might have been expected, is largely composed of conspirators' plottings and lovers' plans; nevertheless the music, without being of the highest class, embraces some remarkably pretty airs. On the closing night the triumveretta of "Cox and Box" preceded the "Rose of Auvergne," better known as "Spoiling the Broth." In the former the comic ability displayed by Messrs Vernon and Templeton was warmly applauded, the eccentricities of the former gentleman causing no small amusement to those present.

The distinguished convert, the Marquis of Ripon, is at present visiting the Lakes of Killarney.