

15. The leading features of the county system we desire have already been explained. We propose that the country, exclusive of towns, shall be divided into counties governed by elective bodies, endowed with very considerable revenues, and charged with carrying out large public works. The counties will be distinct from the board districts, excepting that in a few instances where the districts already are of great extent an option will perhaps be given to them to become counties, and thus to merge into one the revenues of the two bodies. The present Waste Lands Boards we propose to continue for a time, but we hope to provide at no distant date for the addition of the elective element to them. We do not propose to interfere with the land laws, excepting that we may ask the Assembly to consider the expediency of increasing the upset price, and enlarging the facilities for obtaining land on deferred payment. The Lunatic Asylums we propose to keep under the direct control of the Government, with the aid of local Boards nominated by the Governor. A qualified Inspector of Lunacy Asylums has been selected at home, and will, I expect, shortly arrive in the Colony. We propose to devolve the charge of other charitable institutions upon the authorities of the municipalities and the counties within which they are situated, giving to those local bodies a power of placing the institutions in the hands of special committees or trustees. We regret that in some parts of the country these institutions are now purely Government institutions, and we think larger opportunities for the exercise of voluntary benevolence should be afforded. The railways, as has been stated already, we propose shall pass into the entire charge and control of the Colonial Government. Abundant reasons for this necessity have been shown.

16. I desire, for obvious reasons, not to anticipate the financial statement, but I will not shrink from giving your Honor some particulars. We propose to introduce a Bill providing for the disposal of the land revenue. This disposal will be of thoroughly local character, excepting that we shall submit, for the consideration of the Assembly, the alternative of a gradually diminishing contribution from the land revenue to meet the interest on railways, rather than provide those payments from an income and a property tax, as we are not willing that interest on railways in course of construction should be met out of borrowed money—the revenue must supply the means for paying such interest. From the first, the land revenue, which has benefitted so largely from the railways, should have provided this interest. It will be for the Assembly now to consider whether the unsold lands or the sold lands and current revenue shall supply the amount required. Whilst otherwise we propose to thoroughly localise the land revenue, we also intend that Road Districts and Counties shall be guaranteed by the consolidated revenue the receipt of their appointed subsidies, irrespective of whether or not the land revenue of the particular Provincial district supplies for the time being the necessary amount.

17. Your Honor will, I hope, consider that in the particulars I have given you, I have not displayed undue reticence. I should be glad to find that these particulars will lead you to support the policy they embody, and I feel sufficiently assured of your Honor's generosity to believe that you will not object to being the medium of disseminating throughout Otago information which I confidently believe will more than satisfy every one in the Province who is not prejudiced beyond the possibility of exercising freedom of judgment. At any rate the information I have given you will undeceive those in the Province who are opposing Abolition under a total misapprehension of its nature, and of the consequences which will follow to the majority of the people of Otago. What we now propose will mean the realisation of the aspirations of many years.

18. I reciprocate your Honor's kindly remarks. I hope I have not said anything calculated to cause you personal annoyance, and I fully recognise, even where I am unable to agree with you, your Honor's public-spirited desire to promote the advancement of Otago and New Zealand. Were you a member of the Colonial Government for three months, I am convinced that you would cease to doubt the necessity of upholding the law which has decreed the Abolition of the Provinces.

OPENING OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH, UPPER HUTT.

The Catholic Church, Upper Hutt, was dedicated by Bishop Redwood, on April 23rd, a large number of Wellington residents being present at the ceremony. The church has been enlarged to a considerable extent. It was formerly a long narrow building, being all that the congregation could attempt at first. Now it is not only sufficiently commodious for present requirements, but is well finished both inside and out, and is unquestionably a credit to the district, and to those who assisted in providing the means for its erection. The building stands upon a good section of land, laid down in grass and well fenced. At the gate an arch of green leaves and flowers had been constructed, and the ground was decorated with flags in honor of the auspicious occasion. This effect could be witnessed from the railway station as the crowded train arrived a little after ten o'clock, carrying for the most part members of the Church residing in Wellington. The rest were excursionists who took advantage of an opportunity for an outing afforded by the special train, the first which has travelled to the Upper Hutt on Sunday since the line was opened for traffic to that extent.

Proceedings commenced at half-past ten o'clock, when a large assemblage had gathered in the Church, and on the road immediately in front of the gate. A procession of males and females carrying banners, members of the Hibernian Society, proceeded to the house of Mr. Brown, adjoining the churchyard, and which was made to supply the place of the episcopal palace. There the Bishop received the procession, and was escorted to the gate of the churchyard, where Father Yardin read the following address:—"My Lord,—May I be permitted again to present to your Lordship all the Catholics of the Upper Hutt, to tender their profound respect for the representative of his Holiness the Pope, and their

filial affection to their spiritual father. With heartfelt gratitude they welcome their first pastor, whose presence is an honor to all, whose words are an encouragement and a reward, and whose blessing will fulfil their most ardent desires, viz., the dedication of this Church. For many years the first Catholic settlers in this valley have exerted themselves to the utmost for its erection. Measuring their resources by the fewness of their number, they were looking forward to its completion; but they have been assisted by Catholics of neighboring districts, by a number of friends who are not of the fold, and by many of those hard-working men on the line who have devoted a handsome portion of their earnings to this good work. We ask of them all to accept our sincere thanks. All have shared in the work, and now all may with honest pride look on its achievement, and enjoy it as a reward. May your Lordship while dedicating this graceful church to the glory of God graciously deign to invoke the best blessings of Heaven on those who have helped to erect it or will hereafter contribute to pay off its debt."

The procession then proceeded to the church, which was formally consecrated, the Bishop being assisted by Father Yardin. Dr. Redwood then replied to the address. He was very much pleased at the display of goodwill contained in that address, and manifested in the decorations of the church and surroundings. He had no doubt that this good feeling would be manifest to the Almighty, and be rewarded by him. First he thanked them for all the honors they had been pleased to bestow upon him. Of course he could not accept them for himself, but as the representative of his Holiness Pope Pius IX., in whose name he came among them. He knew it was needless for him to state the delight he felt at being once more among them, and particularly as it was for the purpose of blessing the new church. He had to tender his sincere thanks to all who had assisted in the erection of the church. He had to thank the people of Wellington who had contributed liberally towards the work, also the surrounding districts who had lent their aid, and the inhabitants of this special district in which the church was built; and he fervently hoped and believed Almighty God would reward them for the sacrifices made in favor of a cause so holy. He desired also, in a special manner, to thank those hard-working men engaged on the line for their generous assistance. In conclusion, he invoked the blessing of Almighty God on the new church, and upon all who had assisted to place it there.

The service of High Mass was then proceeded with. Afterwards a confirmation was held—three girls and two boys being confirmed. The collection was eminently satisfactory, amounting to over £60. The Bishop preached an eloquent sermon on the Temple of the soul. He spoke of the relations between the material temple, the Church, and the temple of the Soul. It was thought necessary to make churches attractive and impressive in their construction, so that the thoughts of those that congregated there to worship might be exalted. It was necessary that men and women should so walk through this life that the temple of souls might be acceptable to God. The soul was the direct work of the Almighty, and it should be kept pure and holy, and beautified by virtue; profaneness and hideous sin should not be admitted into that temple. The Bishop dwelt upon the good influence of the Church—the indispensability of it. Prayer was necessary to a man as a means to eternal salvation. Jesus taught us this by His example and His words, saying, "Watch and pray, lest ye enter into temptation; ask and ye shall receive, seek and ye shall find." It was simply light to our feet, guiding us direct in the path of godliness. We came into these material temples so that we might keep our eyes constantly bent in the direction of virtue, and so that we might be eventually transplanted into the eternal Temple of God, there to enjoy everlasting life and bliss.

Service being over, the congregation adjourned to lunch at a house some little distance from the church. About 170 sat down to lunch, Dr. Redwood occupying the chair. The viands having been partaken of to the satisfaction of all, the Bishop delivered a short address, in which he proposed the "Health of Pope Pius the IX.," placing it first on the list, that being, he said, a truly Catholic meeting. The Hon. Dr. Grace proposed the toast of "His Lordship," of whom he spoke in highly eulogistic terms. Mr. Cruickshank proposed the "Health of Father Yardin," the local clergyman. Mr. O'Shea proposed the "Parishioners of the Hutt." The Bishop, the "Health of Mrs. James Brown," one of the oldest residents in the district, speaking of the kindness which clergymen had always received at her hands. Mr. James Brown responded. The "Health of the H.A.C.B. Society" was the last toast. The company then separated.

The ceremony of blessing the bell took place at three o'clock. The bell was suspended outside the church. The choir assisted in the ceremony, and performed very efficiently. The ceremony, which was witnessed by a large number of persons, being over, vespers were held, and this terminated the day's proceedings.—New Zealand Times.

Considerable sensation has been created by the secession to Rome of Mrs. Billington, wife of Major Billington, Inniskilling Dragoons. The first steps in Mrs. Billington's secession are said to have been caused by the visits of a lady missionary while the regiment lay in Dublin. Subsequently Mrs. Billington was in communication with Miss Adelaide Proctor, the poetess, herself a seceder, who completed what the lady missionary in Dublin commenced.

A Catholic priest has established a mission among the Esquimaux of the Arctic Circle. He travels over an immense district with sledges, sleeping nights under a snow hut.

The Archbishop of Boston, acting with a committee of laymen, has issued an appeal to the Catholics of the country to lend a helping hand, financially, to Mr. Donahoe, of the 'Pilot,' to set him on his feet again.

The year 1875 is said to have left no trace of its flight on the visage or physique of the Holy Father. He is truly a Colossus in the hair of Peter.