

### EDICT OF CONVOCATION OF A PLENARY SYNOD OF AUSTRALASIA.

PATRICK FRANCIS, BY THE GRACE OF GOD AND THE FAVOUR OF THE HOLY SEE, ARCHBISHOP OF SYDNEY, METROPOLITAN, ETC. To the Most Rev., and Illustrious, Archbishops and Bishops of the Australasian churches, and to all who by right ought to take part in a Plenary Synod, Health in the Lord.

The Most Rev., the Prelates of the Australasian churches, having signified to the Holy See their desire that a Plenary Synod of all Australasia should be held, and this design having been approved of by the Sacred Congregation for the Propagation of the Faith, our Holy Father, Leo XIII., the Supreme Pastor of the Church on earth, by a brief dated 10th of June last year, and annexed to this Decree, has granted power to us to canonically convoke such a synod of the Australasian churches, and to preside at the same as Apostolic Delegate. Wherefore we, by virtue of the authority graciously granted to us, proclaim and summon a Plenary Synod of Australasia to be held in the cathedral church and adjoining buildings, of the city of Sydney, which place appears to be most convenient for all the prelates, this year on the 18th of the kalends of December, which will be the Saturday before the Feast of the Patronage of the Blessed Virgin Mary, whose intercession for the success of our undertaking we earnestly invoke.

As to the rest this Synod will enable the venerable prelates, who have but one heart and one mind, an opportunity of enforcing the most wise decrees of the General Council of the Vatican, of correcting abuses, if any, in ecclesiastical discipline, of maintaining and encouraging Catholic education and of promoting the salvation of souls and the good of the Church.

But that all this may be done in accordance with the canons, we ask and require that the Most Rev. Prelates come to this Synod with their theologians chosen from the secular or regular clergy, and should they be lawfully hindered from being present, that they would send procurators.

We also request them to notify the convocation of this Synod to all their dioceses who, either by law or by custom, have a right to be present at a Plenary Synod.

In fine, since they labour in vain to build the house, unless the Lord build it we pray and exhort the most devoted prelates and the entire clergy and people that by prayer they would assist us and all who shall take part in this Synod, assiduously imploring the great and good God to send the Holy Ghost to illuminate our minds and strengthen our hearts, that all our acts and efforts being happily begun may be brought to a happy termination, in the promotion of piety, improvement of ecclesiastical discipline, increase of faith, multiplication of works of piety and mercy, so that those who are without, seeing these things, may glorify Our Father who is in heaven, and be brought to the one fold of salvation.

✠ PATRICK F. MORAN,  
Archbishop of Sydney.

Given at Sydney, the 15th day of April, 1885.  
To the Most Rev. the Bishop of Dunedin.

### MEETING OF IRISHMEN IN DUNEDIN.

(From the Otago Daily Times.)

A VERY large and enthusiastic meeting, was held last (Wednesday) evening in the Rattray street Hall to take steps to form an Irish Volunteer Corps. The hall was crowded, and when the proceedings began there were about 250 or 300 people present. Mr. J. B. Callan was called to the chair.

The Chairman, in stating the object of the meeting, said he was inclined to agree with those who said it was unlikely that the Russians would attempt a landing here. At the same time they would be less likely to carry out any such intention when it was shown that all classes of this community were prepared to give them a warm reception.—(Cheers). There were strong and growing objections to calling out the Militia, and it was obvious that any increase in the Volunteer force would render it less necessary to call out the Militia. He was glad to see such a crowded and enthusiastic meeting to-night. He knew that Irishmen would not be behind other sections of the community in unholding the common cause.—(applause)—and that they would be ready and willing to take their part in the discomforts, expenses, and, if need be, the dangers of war. Some people might ask why establish a Scotch corps, an Irish corps, or any distinctive corps at all? Why not join the Volunteer corps already established; He would say that they should have as many distinctive corps as possible, as it would tend to generate a spirit of emulation and worthy rivalry as to which would do best if war did break out.—(Applause.) In the British army such distinctive corps had always existed, calling forth a healthy spirit of emulation to do the best, not only for the cause for which they were fighting, but for the country they each represented.—(Applause).

Mr. T. Bracken moved the following resolution—"That this meeting is of opinion that a corps consisting of Irishmen and the sons of Irishmen should be at once formed to take part in the defence of the Colony, and to perform any other military duties for which occasion may now or hereafter arise." In supporting the resolution, he said that wherever Irishmen lived in the enjoyment of the blessings of free institutions they were always ready in the hour of danger to defend them. Great Britain and Ireland had many political differences in time of peace, but in time of war, when they were threatened by a common enemy, the sons of both countries would be found standing shoulder to shoulder fighting in the common cause.—(Cheers.)

Mr. Fagan seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously. Mr. John Carroll moved the next resolution, as follows:—"That a committee be formed—consisting of Messrs J. P. Spring, W. G. Neill, T. S. Graham, J. Carroll, J. B. Callan, T. Bracken, J. F. Perrin, and C. S. Reeves—for the purpose of carrying out all the measures necessary for the formation of an Irish corps, receiving the names of

those willing to join, giving a title to the regiment, and generally attending to all that is required in the matter."

Mr. J. J. Connor seconded the motion, which was agreed to unanimously.

The names of those willing to join were then taken, 189 of those present, coming forward for the purpose.

The members of St. Patrick's Brass Band have offered their services to the corps when formed.

### CHRIST CHURCH.

(From our own Correspondent.)

April 28, 1885.

NEXT to warlike things, which still maintain the lead in the public mind here as well as elsewhere in the Colony, matters educational have made the most stir during the past fortnight.

The most noticeable is the stir which is best described as a preparation for a stir. I allude, of course, to the preparations for the bazaar in aid of the Convent Building Fund, which will begin the day after to-morrow. It will, I understand, be a great thing in bazaars. A committee of ladies and gentlemen have been hard at work for some months; many members of the congregation have been helping them; the good Sisters of the convent have cast their bread upon the waters in the shape of beautiful stuffs and elegant fabrics, that have come back to them, after many busy days, from the fair hands of their numerous friends and well-wishers in time to be cast upon the waters again, with the certainty of coming back at once in the shape of money; the electric light will play upon a fancy scene of tasteful decorations and fancy costumes; a strong chorus and orchestra have been got together for the opening; the missionary rector has made several eloquent appeals on behalf of the good Sisters who, he explained, were debarred by the Apostolic prohibition from speaking for themselves in the churches; on the whole, it is safe to predict a large sum as the result of all these labours. Touching the main question of bazaars, the missionary rector took the opportunity of explaining that he preferred the collection system to the bazaar system. There are, of course, many who agree with him. There are also some who hold that a house-to-house assessment would not only give a better yield, but be fairer in its incidence. One of the chief arguments that weigh with the opponents of the bazaar system is that the expenses of a bazaar, which swallow up so much of the proceeds, are unknown to the other system. To this the bazaar advocates are swift to reply that advertising always pays, and that spending of money on a bazaar is in reality spending it upon advertising. There are many other arguments *pro* and *con*, of course, into which it is not necessary to enter here. I need only conclude with an expression of my belief that all who prefer other modes of financing will follow the precept and example of the missionary rector, and do their best, seeing that a bazaar has been determined upon, to help to make it a success. This is only another way of saying that our congregation is anxious to uphold the cause of true education.

The news that the Militia is to be called out has evoked complaints from the young men who have truthfully given their ages that many young men have baffled the inquiring police-sergeants by false answers. Is this from want of patriotism and honour, or is it from a horror of the Militia uniform? A gentleman who says he has seen samples of a shipment of a thousand suits, assures me that, arrayed in the blue jumpers, moleskin continuations, and Glengairny caps, the brave defenders of their country will, at a short distance, not be distinguishable from Her Majesty's convicts. My friend, I think, forgot that the belts and pouches, to say nothing of the rifles and side-arms, would make a great difference. He also forgot that there is something more than dress between the honest and dishonest portions of society. To talk about confusion of uniform is to separate society into those who have been forced out, and those who have not. Besides, the unbecoming (and perhaps in some cases confusing) character of the uniform was not known when these false particulars of age were given. We must put them down, I fear, partly to youthful thoughtlessness and partly to a radical inability to understand the beauty of truth or patriotism.

Yesterday all the Volunteers were out by order of the Defence Minister (Secretary of War would be a better word), under the command of Colonel Lean. It was a useful field-day on the Port Hills, and the enemy was of course repelled at all points. The manoeuvres were very successful, and the men were much admired wherever they went. The Volunteers have suddenly grown most popular.

Mr. Thomas Hall, pastry-cook and confectioner, Princes street, Dunedin, supplies the best possible refreshments to suit all orders.

The Dunedin Iron and Woodware Company are prepared to furnish, at the most reasonable rates, iron, timber, and furniture of all kinds. They also deal in kerosene oil of superior brands, and in paper-hangings, paints, and oils. Their steel-plated wire mattresses will be found of unrivalled quality.

Mr. Percival, George street, Dunedin, conducts the oldest established optician's business in the city. He has always on hand a large and excellent stock of spectacles and all the instruments belonging to his trade.

Mr. Harris's Imperial Boot Depot, Princes street, Dunedin, should be visited by all persons desirous of obtaining boots and shoes of the newest fashions and best quality at moderate rates.

In the just published life of George Eliot, an anecdote which has a peculiar application now is told of Emerson and Carlyle. The authority cited by George Eliot is Miss Bremer. "Carlyle was very angry with Emerson for not believing in a devil, and to convert him he brought him through all the horrors of London—the gin shops, etc., and finally to the House of Commons, plying him at every turn with the question—'Do you believe in a devil now?'"