

In conclusion allow us to express a wish and prayer that God in His mercy may long spare you to do battle for religion, education and patriotism, and when at length your labours done here and you have passed to receive your eternal reward, that your soul may abide with the saints of our Isle, and your memory ever live green in the hearts of our people, a light to the brave, a strength to the wavering.

John Barrett, Edward Bohan, Peter McEvedey, P. J. Henley, John Fay, Pat. O'Boyle, Wm. Kelly, Joseph Young, John O'Boyle, Wm. McCormick, Archie Campbell, Jas. Leahy, Edw. Egan, Chas. Campbell, Wm. Harris, Thos. Ford, John Mangan, Jas. Haughey, Joseph Carroll, Redmond Condon, Patrick O'Connor, Maurice Riordan, Pat. Walsh, Edward Gorman, Jas. McCrossen, Jeremiah Hogan, Owen Donohoe, John Flood, Anthony Fay, Jas. Kilbride, John Kilbride, John Leamy, Thos. Donohoe, Thos. Kelly, Mat. O'Neill, Jno. Murphy, Michael Stapleton, Edward Stapleton, Wm. Gittens, Thos. Greenan, M. McPoland, M. Needham, Jno. Walsh, Mat. O'Brien, and 21 others.

To the Right Rev. Dr. Moran Bishop of Dunedin.

"My Lord,—We desire on behalf of Catholic residents of Timaru, to convey to your lordship our heartiest congratulations on the attainment of your fortieth anniversary in the priesthood, and of your thirtieth in the episcopate, and to emphasize our deep sense of your native genius and talent, your brilliant gifts, and matchless eloquence, alike as an orator, scholar, patriot, and bishop. We recognise in your eighteen years ministerial labours in this Colony the fruits of religion and education in the noble monuments of your energy for the furtherance of Catholicity, the magnificent churches, convents and schools erected throughout your extensive diocese. When a hostile Press and biased minds eagerly seized every available opportunity to defame our kith and kin, and tarnish our national aspirations, happily, while other influential personages maintained a stoical indifference, we found in your lordship a chivalrous champion of our rights, when by your facility of masterly resource, and single-minded zeal, you launched into existence the NEW ZEALAND TABLET—an organ which has grown into unquestionable power under your able supervision, we feel, therefore, that to your lordship alone a universal tribute of admiration for the splendid services you have rendered the Catholics of New Zealand is pre-eminently due; and we trust, in conclusion, that your lordship may long continue to labour amongst us in God's holy vineyard, an ornament to the Church, and the beloved of our race.

T. Sullivan, D. Mahoney, E. Egan, M. Sugrue, T. Gorman, P. O'Meehan, J. Kenny, J. O'Rorke, W. Moore, P. Ryan.

This address was splendidly engrossed and illuminated, and formed a work of art most creditable to Mr. Wade of Timaru, by whom it had been executed. The following two addresses were printed in ornamental characters on white satin, and, like those from Wellington and Timaru, enclosed in handsome gilt frames.

MAY it please Your Lordship,—We, the Catholics of Geraldine, following the example of your Kumara friends, beg leave to unite our voices with those of your diocesan in offering you our warmest congratulations on this the fortieth year of your priesthood. As an Irish Catholic Bishop you have, during a period of sixteen years, earned our deepest gratitude and excited our highest admiration. You have ever been in the vanguard of our progress as Catholics, and as Irishmen your guidance and your counsel have cheered us through all our difficulties. Others may strive to imitate your zeal and your patriotism, but none can surpass you in devotedness to God's Church and in loyalty to the Irish race. The NEW ZEALAND TABLET you established at a time when no Catholic paper existed in this country; you have maintained it till now in all the freshness and vigour of its early days. We beg also to state, Lord Bishop, that we fully appreciate your untiring labours in the cause of Catholic education, and to assure you that they, as well as your equally able advocacy of Irish national aspirations, are indelibly printed upon our memories. We, therefore, gladly embrace the opportunity to tender you our warmest thanks, and to express a fervent wish that our *soggarth aroon* may long be spared to sympathise with us, to defend us, and to direct us.

"Signed by Kyan Brophy, Wm. Fitzpatrick, Jeremiah Connolly, Thomas Markham, Edmund Burke, John Flannery, Thomas Corcoran, William Scully, Patrick Brophy, Martin Burke, Michael Spillane, John Scott, John Wolfe, Timothy McGillacuddy, John Farrell, James Riordan, Michael Cookery, James McQuillane, John Brett, John Quinlan, John McKnight, P. H. McShane, Martin Brophy, Daniel Cregan, Andrew Lysaght, James Gregan, Lawrence Coogan, Michael Guerin, Arthur Flynn, Michael Connolly, Timothy Kelliher, Patrick Ryan, Thomas Buckley, John Charles, P. O'Raw, William Earle, A. W. McDonald, John Clancy, Edward O'Brien, Roger McCarthy.

"LORD BISHOP,—The undersigned have been commissioned, by public meetings held at the various centres of population in the Grey Valley, to prepare and sign on behalf of the Catholic body, an address of congratulation to your Lordship on your attaining the fortieth anniversary of your priesthood.

"We regret that the actual anniversary passed by unknown to us, as we would have desired to celebrate that auspicious event in union with your own children of Dunedin, and to testify our esteem, veneration, and deepest love for our *soggarth par excellence*. Many *soggarths* we have, of our own flesh and blood, sympathising in everything with our feelings and aspirations; but it is no depreciation of them to say that you, Lord Bishop, are our *beau ideal* of an Irish priest and bishop.

"Indeed we know that they, as we, are proud of our only Irish bishop, and consider as redounding to their own honour whatever is done in your lordship's honour. We may not say *esto perpetuus*, but we say from our hearts *ad multos annos*.

"Many be your years yet amongst us to voice our feeling and aspirations, to champion our rights, and to defend our national character as you have so nobly done in the past, in that creation of your own—the inimitable, incomparable NEW ZEALAND TABLET. Many be your years during which to rejoice us with truly priestly and Irish addresses as we were privileged to hear when we had the

honour of a pastoral visit from you. *Ad multos annos*. We heartily wish, at least, that a decade hence we shall find you still in our midst, and then we hope to enjoy the privilege of congratulating you in comm<sup>n</sup> with Irishmen everywhere in New Zealand.

"In conclusion, we beg to express our satisfaction at the announcement, recently made of your Lordship's intention to soon re-open St. Aloysius College, because we know that to any institution under your care no suspicion of anti-Irish or un-Irish leaning can attach, and in such an institution, at least, young New Zealand is certain to be trained to cherish the traditions of its Irish parent.

"Signed on behalf of the Catholics of the Grey Valley y.

"Ahaura:—J. J. O'Donnell, John Kennedy, James Barry, James McLaughlin, Benjamin Gouga. Marsden: James Finn, Peter Giffney, Matthew Murphy. Maori Creek: Arthur Flaherty, John O'Sullivan, Jeremiah O'Connell, Patrick Blanchfield. Maori Gully: John Hogan, James Kelly, Bernard McGuire. Notown: John Flynn, John Deegan, Patrick Gillin, Thomas Hilliar. Nelson Creek: Michael Noonan, Richard Larkin, Michael Drennan. Henry McGill, Michael Savage, Michael Erskine, Hugh McLaughlin."

The Bishop replied as follows:

My Dear Friends,—How can I suitably thank you for these too flattering addresses, and the very large cheque for £1140 5s, which you have now handed me? In former times, on similar occasions, I have been obliged to acknowledge that I had not words to express my sense of my obligations to you; but never, I assure you, has my inability to convey to you my sentiments been so keenly felt by me as on the present occasion. Your kindness, consideration, and generosity to me overpower me and bring home to me the conviction that there are occasions on which words are a very inadequate medium for conveying an idea of what one really feels. And so far as I am concerned the present is one of these occasions.

You are pleased to recall to mind the position of the Church in this diocese at the time of its erection; to contrast that position with what obtains here now; and to attribute to me the chief credit for the improvement. Many of you now present in this cathedral, erected mainly through your generosity and filial co-operation with your clergy are competent witnesses of the truth of the statements contained in these addresses. You were here when the late venerable Pontiff made Dunedin a diocese, and you have been here ever since; you know what you state to be a truthful description; and I cannot gainsay any of the statements made by you. But I, too, have a long memory, and I remember that, from the very first, the laity of this diocese have gladly, earnestly, and ungrudgingly come forward on all occasions when their co-operation was asked, to aid us in all good works undertaken for the advancement of religion, the glory of God, and the spread of Catholic education. Without you we could do next to nothing, and if to-day Catholicity in this country has attained to that position which has been recently recognised by the establishment of a hierarchy and an ecclesiastical province, this is mainly due to the faith, zeal, and open-handedness of the laity. The eulogium, therefore, which you so unselfishly bestow on me rebounds upon yourselves, and in recounting what you are pleased to designate as my services to religion and education here, you are unconsciously sounding your own praises. Instead of being elated at this grand demonstration and magnificent testimonial, I can, in all sincerity, assure you that I feel humbled and distressed, recalling to mind, as I cannot help doing, the little that I have done, and the many opportunities I have lost of doing more for a people so forgetful of shortcomings and so grateful for even little services. My position here has indeed been an enviable one, situated, as I have been, in the midst of loyal devoted Catholic congregations, and helped in every way by an admirable body of priests, nuns, and brothers. As to Catholic education what I could do, both by word and pen, to promote it I have indeed done gladly and perseveringly, and am prepared to continue the battle till success shall crown our efforts. This success may be near or it may be far off; there are indications that it is nearer at hand than some people think, but whether Government will do us the simple justice that is our due or not, there shall never be any relaxation in our efforts to multiply our Catholic schools and render them still more efficient than they have been in the past. Nor do I regret the fight that has been fought and the obstinacy with which justice has been denied us. The result has been most fortunate for us as a body. This long-continued contest has been the means of thoroughly instructing our people in the true principles of education, of hardening them in the conviction of these principles, and developing a zeal that will tell upon future generations. From a wide experience in many colonies, I am enabled to say unhesitatingly that our Catholic children who attend Catholic schools are admirably taught, not only in their religion but also in secular subjects, not only thoroughly instructed, but mentally developed in a way that will enable them to take and hold a high place amongst their fellow-citizens in the battle of life. I am satisfied that no such development would or, indeed, could have taken place had they not the advantages they possess in their own Catholic schools, whilst, in the absence of these, their ignorance of their religion, as experience proves, would have been lamentable, and even most injurious to society and the State.

I cannot feel that I am entitled to the credit you are disposed to give me for my patriotism as a son of Holy Ireland. Being an Irishman by birth, in heart and feeling, knowing the glorious yet sad history of my country, proud of belonging to the oldest nationality in Europe, and that race which was engaged in evangelising a great part of Europe before Alfred conquered the invaders of his county, or Charlemagne received the Imperial crown from the hands of the successor of St. Peter, feeling intensely for the wrongs and sufferings of a people expatriated by inhuman laws, and detestable administrations it strikes me I should be less than a man were I not a patriot, and ready to lend a helping hand in raising up the oppressed, feeding the hungry and homeless, and lifting up my voice, poor and little influential as it is, in denunciation of eviction and unjustifiable coercion. To me it appears the most natural thing in the world for an Irishman to be an Irish patriot and Home Ruler, and the most unnatural thing were he not both. Nevertheless, I thank