

loan. The town would be supplied with sixty thousand gallons of water daily, at 8d. per thousand gallons for the first sixty thousand, and 6d. per thousand for any quantity in excess of that. The cost of the works in connection with this plan would not be more than £2,000 or £3,000, as compared with £9,000 or £11,000 for the scheme that was recently before them. After some discussion it was unanimously resolved, "That the scheme submitted this day by the Most Rev. Dr. Nulty for providing the town of Mullingar with water, be adopted and that his lordship's offer to pump and deliver the water up to 60,000 gallons at eight pence per thousand gallons, and any quantity in excess of the sixty thousand gallons at sixpence per thousand gallons, be adopted."

PRESENTATION TO THE BISHOP OF DUNEDIN.

THE Most Rev. Dr. Moran arrived in Dunedin on Tuesday evening by the southern express, his Lordship having left the s.s. Wairarapa from Melbourne at the Bluff on Monday and proceeded to Invercargill. The Bishop was met at Mosgiel by the Ven. Archdeacon Coleman and several other members of the clergy, and was received at the Dunedin terminus by Messrs. Carroll, Meenan, Petre, Callan, Woods, Connor and Deehan, members of the Presentation Committee, and several others of the Catholic laity. On arriving at his house his Lordship was heartily cheered by a number of the Catholic people who had assembled in the street below.

On Wednesday evening, Benediction of the Most Holy Sacrament was given in St. Joseph's Cathedral. The Bishop entered the church in procession, attended by the Ven. Archdeacon Coleman and the Rev. Fathers Lynch, Mackay, O'Neill, Burke, O'Leary, Vereker, and Donnelly, the choir meanwhile singing the "Ecce Sacerdos Magnus." The Rosary of the Blessed Virgin was then conducted by the Rev. Father Lynch, the prayers being said alternately by the congregation on either side of the altar. After this, Benediction took place the Venerable Archdeacon Coleman officiating, the "Te Deum" being sung by the choir as well as the usual hymns, and, afterwards Zingarelli's "Laudate Pueri." The Blessed Sacrament being removed from the Tabernacle, the Presentation Committee entered the sanctuary, and the following address from the Catholics of Otago and Southland was read by the Venerable Archdeacon Coleman, who said that as the priests as well as the laity had taken part in the matter, he had been deputed to read the address. The laity, however, he added, had been by far the chief actors in the matter and the clergy had only given comparatively inconsiderable assistance.

"To the Most Rev. Dr. Moran:—

"During your visit to Adelaide, from which we are glad to welcome you back, a wide-spread feeling arose that the time was a most fitting one for the Catholic people of your diocese to do something to mark their sense of the reverence and esteem in which they hold you.

"The present is an epoch in the history of the Catholic Church in these Colonies. Its surprising growth has just been recognised by the conferring of new dignities and appointments. Nowhere, we will venture to say, has that growth—taking into account the small number and worldly circumstances of the people—been more marked than in Otago and Southland. Many of us who are old colonists cannot but be amazed when we look round and behold churches and convents and schools scattered over the land, and remember what was the state of Catholic religion before your Lordship's arrival here. The Catholic population consisted then of less than 7000, scattered over a territory of 300 miles in length by about 130 in breadth. Dunedin, as many of us remember, possessed no church deserving of the name, no presbytery, and no proper schoolroom, so that you found yourself destitute, and were forced to begin from commencements that may be fully described as most deplorable, having, besides, the assistance, in all your vast diocese, of only three priests.

"We think we would be truly ungrateful—that we would be wanting in our duty—if we, amongst whom you have lived for the last 17 years, and who, therefore know you best, did not seize the present time to make it known how grateful we are to you for your unceasing efforts on our behalf. You may rest assured that we recognise that it is mainly to your indomitable perseverance we owe our beautiful cathedral.

"Your Lordship's services to Catholic education deserve especial commemoration by us. Commencing from your arrival in Dunedin you succeeded, by your vigorous and constant warning and advocacy, in fully arousing the sentiment of the Catholic people, and making them in every part of the Colony alive to the dangers that threatened, and active and earnest in resisting them. If your efforts in bringing the educational grievances of the Catholic people frequently before the non-Catholic people and the Parliament of the Colony have not as yet been crowned with success, they certainly have succeeded in making the nature of the Catholic claims known, and if a measure of justice is obtained—as we see reason to hope it will be in the near future obtained—it must necessarily rest on the foundation laid by you. We trust, meantime, that you will continue to act as our leader in the matter, for we desire to march to victory under the banner beneath which the contest was begun and has been so far valiantly maintained.

"Another tie which binds an overwhelming majority of us to you is a "common Fatherland." We have always noted with joy and pride that though you have been for many years living away from your native land your voice and pen have ever been employed in aid of her just rights. You have ever inculcated the true principle that the man who is taught to forget and despise the land of his birth will not be slow to turn his back upon his religion also.

"It is a source of pleasure and pride to the Irishman of to-day to read in history of the great Irish bishops who, early in the century, laid the foundations of the Catholic religion in America; and we think we are not presumptuous when we say that hereafter when the history of the Catholic Church in New Zealand comes to be written your name will not be the least conspicuous amongst that great army of Irish ecclesiastics who, under God, have been the chief means of spreading the knowledge of and establishing the Catholic Church in

English speaking communities all over the world. We beg your acceptance of the accompanying cheque for £1140 4s."

Messrs. Woods and Meenan the hon. treasurers, then presented his Lordship with a cheque for £1140 4s, being the contributions of the Catholics of Otago and Southland, as well as of several of those living in other parts of the Colony and of some non-Catholic friends. Mr. Whitty next read the following address from the H.A.C.B.S., St. Patrick's Branch, Wellington, which had been engrossed on vellum and beautifully illuminated by Mr. Bock.

"May it please your Lordship,—We, the members of the H.A.C.B.S., of Wellington, beg to unite in the general felicitations now being extended to your Lordship. We gladly avail ourselves of this occasion to express the fervent sentiments of veneration and esteem which we entertain towards your Lordship as a Catholic prelate and illustrious Irishman. We were rejoiced to learn through the TABLET that your Lordship recently celebrated the fortieth anniversary of your sacerdotal ordination, and to perceive that your Lordship was then the recipient of many beautiful addresses expressive of the sincere and loving regard in which your Lordship is held by the faithful children of your diocese. Many of us remember with pleasure the period when your Lordship was in temporary ecclesiastical charge of this diocese, and are grateful for the many good works then effected by you. Since your return to your own diocese we have with joy witnessed the able labours of your Lordship by voice and pen, in the cause of Christian and Catholic education as opposed to the godless Government system, to the danger of which you early sounded the alarm and which you have since fearlessly assailed. As be fitting our Society, we desire to especially address your Lordship in your exalted character of an Irish Catholic priest and Bishop for we feel that as such you have a claim upon the sympathies of your countrymen throughout the colony. We are proud to recognise that your Lordship as a prelate of Holy Church has ever been foremost in pointing out to Irishmen and their children the great consequences to Holy Faith in New Zealand of asserting their national distinctions and denouncing any timid or time-serving policy which would cause them to lay these aside in order to avoid the prejudice, or to merit the complacent sympathy or esteem of their fellow colonists. We are convinced that any Irishman or son of an Irishman that fails to exhibit a reverence for his native country and when occasion requires to give practical expression of his nationality will at no remote period yield in the matter of religion also, and hence it is our great desire (as so frequently indicated by your Lordship to us) to instil into the hearts of our children, with the teachings of our holy religion, a love of Ireland, a knowledge of the history of our race and nation, and of the struggles of their forefathers for faith and fatherland. In common with the Catholics of the Colony at large we feel deeply indebted to your Lordship for the establishment of the TABLET and for the great fostering care since bestowed upon it, by which it is now enabled to raise its voice in no weak or uncertain key to champion our rights as Catholics and Irishmen. We are grateful in an especial manner to your Lordship for the esteemed patronage at all times extended by your Lordship to our Society, the warm interest displayed in its organisation and welfare, and the frequent kindly recommendations made in its behalf to the Catholics, and particularly to the Irish Catholics of the Colony for adherence and support as a Catholic Society, combining all the elements of a religious and benefit society, while preserving among its members—the scattered children of Erin—a spirit of nationality and a bond of union and co-operation. We are sensible how inadequately we have expressed our true feelings towards your Lordship, but as an Irish priest and bishop—our *soggarth aroon*—we must only rely on your warm heart to supply our deficiencies. In conclusion, our sincere prayer is that Almighty God may long spare you amongst us, a pillar of our Church, and the pride of our race. We beg to subscribe ourselves, on behalf of the Society—John Curry, President; Jeremiah Scanlon, Vice-President; Giles Bradley, P. President, Michael Bohan, Treasurer; Peter Moroney, Secretary; Thomas Cahill, M.D."

Mr. Perrin, then read the following four addresses, stating that he had been requested to act on behalf of the Catholics presenting them. He added that with that from Leeston and Southbridge a donation of £40 had been forwarded which was included in the cheque handed to his lordship.

"To the Most Rev. Dr. Moran, Bishop of Dunedin.

"May it please your Lordship,—We, the undersigned Irish Catholics of Southbridge and Leeston, beg your Lordship to accept the accompanying testimonial. Your deep religious fervour and enduring patriotism, your paternal solicitude for the children of our Holy Church, the sons and daughters of the dear Old Land, deserve more recognition than we can give; but we do not forget the sincere and kindly regard shown for our welfare, when you once visited us, and we hope your Lordship will, in the same kindly spirit, accept this small token of our esteem.

"And we desire to congratulate your Lordship on the number of years it has pleased God to give you health and strength to labour in His vineyard; and while thus labouring in the service of your Divine Master, to perform duties that few others could do, we recognise your noble efforts to assist Irish patriots in their struggle for freedom.

"When Catholics were in a very small minority in this Colony, divided, contemned by other religious bodies, yours was the voice that championed their cause and asserted their rights; and, recognising the prodigious task before you, you at once saw the necessity of a Catholic newspaper and established the NEW ZEALAND TABLET. To the teaching of the TABLET may be attributed the respectable and united position held by the Catholics of this Colony to-day. From almost nothing, they have been converted into an acknowledged power, and with justice we can ask—

'What bursts the chain far o'er the main,
And brightens the captive's den?'

and answer

'Tis the fearless voice and the pen of power:
Hurrah for the voice and pen,
Hurrah!
Hurrah for the voice and pen.'