

your paternal heart. For all those fatiguing labours endured on our account we thank your Lordship most heartily. Each day we have prayed for your safety and success, and while offering this prayer we felt that our Heavenly Father was pleased with it, as our constant grateful remembrance of our Bishop made us more anxious to be good children, and to fulfil our duties according to his instructions. The past pupils of this school, represented by several here present to-day, enter also warmly into our sentiments and expressions of joyful gratitude.

"Permit us finally, my Lord, to thank all those who have so generously abandoned home and their loved green isle in order to share your missionary labour here and your eternal joys hereafter."

[Signed by the girls of St. Joseph's School.]

Some choruses were also sung, and pianoforte performances given by the girls, each and all of which were excellent in their particular way. The Bishop, in acknowledging the reception, spoke of the pleasure it gave him to see so many girls present, all looking so good and showing by their conduct how well they corresponded to the pains that were bestowed on their education. His Lordship expressed himself particularly pleased with the manner in which the verses and address had been read. Every one he added, who was present to-day, and who saw and heard all that took place must admit that the school was of a very high order. The Bishop, in concluding, pointed out as an example to people who excused themselves for not sending their children to Catholic schools, on a plea of distance, the little girl who had read the verses addressed to him. This child, said his Lordship, walked every day a distance of three miles to school, and three miles back, and what she did could also be done by others, if they and their parents desired it. He hoped to see all Catholic children in and around Dunedin regularly attending the Catholic schools and profiting by the instructing there given. The children in their address said that during his absence they had prayed for him. He had felt that they were doing so, and whatever amount of success had attended his visit was largely if not entirely, owing to the fact that he was conscious that they were praying for him. He might say, in return, that there was hardly an hour in which he had not thought of them, and not a day while he was away that he did not pray for them. His Lordship was also present in St. Joseph's school room with the address and the sonnet of welcome that had been read here and in the high school. The presentation was in the form of a chess table, beautifully inlaid in New Zealand woods by Mr. Hacker. The top of the table opened in the centre, and on the inside of each of the leaves an address was printed. In the centre, concealed by the leaves when closed, was a scroll on which the sonnet was seen through glass, round which a rich ornamental border had been executed in combined Italian and Oriental painting. All this was the work of the pupils of the Convent schools. The idea was decidedly original and it had been splendidly worked out. The table, we understand, as well as the pole screen presented in the cathedral to the Bishop, will be shown, by the request of the General Manager, at the approaching Exhibition.

In the afternoon at 3 o'clock the Bishop visited the Christian Brothers' schools which had been nicely adorned for the occasion. Immediately over the outer gate was an arch of evergreens. The school door was decked with wreaths and ferns, and over the steps leading up to the principal hall was a pretty Gothic arch surmounted by a cross of ferns, underneath which was displayed in richly coloured letters surrounded by flowers, the word "WELCOME." On entering the large room the scene was striking in the extreme. The room was tastefully decorated with flowers, ferns, and evergreens; from the girders were suspended several nice banners; circular wreaths bedecked the windows, whilst here and there a pretty banneret bearing the likeness of his present Holiness, and waving about in the gentle breeze of a lovely spring afternoon lent an additional charm to the scene. But the most striking and interesting sight of all was the boys of the school who, to the number of some 200, were assembled in the room. The younger ones were placed in front wearing across their shoulders azure-blue sashes. The Young Cecilians, as usual, occupied a conspicuous place in the farthest end of the room; while they, as well as most of the little ones in front, were provided with tiny flags which they from time to time waved freely in the air. All were on the tip-toe of expectation when a little lad gave the word, "the Bishop is coming." This was the signal for a burst of applause which became enthusiastic in the extreme as his Lordship entered the room, ascended the raised dais and imparted to the lads his Episcopal benediction. The intermingling chorus from so many youthful voices and the graceful waving of so many pretty bannerets was well calculated to produce on all present a striking effect. Accompanying the Bishop were the Very Rev. Father O'Leary, and Rev. Fathers Newport, Burke, Lynch (Adm.) Donnelly, O'Donnell, McMullin, Murphy, Lynch, O'Donnell and O'Neil. When the cheering had subsided the following recitation was nicely and correctly delivered by Master Francis Heley.

RECITATIVE.

In sorrow we have been
Since that sad farewell scene
In which our shepherd left us,
To brave the deep sea's foam,
To visit dear old Ireland
And journey thence to Rome.

In vain we tried when parting
To give three ringing cheers,
Our voices failed through sadness,
Our eyes were dimm'd with tears.

Oft since, at noon or eve,
When busy at our play,
The Angelus pealed forth,
We left our sport to pray
For one, we loved so well
Who still was far away.

On retiring Master Heley was heartily applauded by his school-mates, and then the Young Cecilians braced up their nerves, and stood up to their full height to acquit themselves of their part of the ceremony. Under the leadership of one of the Brothers they sang with great spirit and expression the "ode of welcome," which we here give in full.

ODE.

To-day in joy we meet
Our Pastor lov'd to greet,
For here unto his children
He's returned in joy once more.
Then a hundred thousand welcomes
To this fair New Zealand shore.
Then welcome, welcome, welcome,
You are welcome as the flowers,
You are welcome as the summer
To this fair land of ours,
And we'll all forget our sadness,
And we'll raise our voice in gladness,
And we'll bid him joyous welcome
To this fair land of ours.

And to the zealous band
Who left their native land
And crossed with you the ocean—
Like old Erin's sons of yore—
We bid a hearty welcome
To this fair New Zealand shore.
Then welcome, welcome, welcome,
You are welcome as the flowers,
You are welcome as the summer
To this fair land of ours,
And we'll give them cordial greeting,
And we'll have a merry meeting,
And we'll bid them joyous welcome
To this fair land of ours.

The effect produced by the clear distinct utterance of the words, and particularly the prominence given to the *staccato* repetition of "Welcome, welcome, welcome," was exceedingly pleasant. Then, in honour of the new arrivals, Master Nicholas Moloney sang with his usual sweetness, "The green shores of Erin I've left far behind me," which was chorused by the rest of the Young Cecilians. Master Edward Duffy then ascended the platform and gave with great spirit and fine elocutionary effect Davis's grand poem "The men of Tipperary." This was the last appearance of young Duffy in Dunedin, as he left next day for Melbourne. The youthful orator evidently felt this, and he put such soul into the piece that the lads heartily applauded him at the end of each verse. The next item on the programme was Dr. Calcott's charming glee "Fairyland," rendered in four parts by the Cecilian quartette with great freedom and sweet harmony. Master Francis Heley afterwards caused much amusement by his droll rendering of "People will talk." The Rev. Brother Director then came forward and said:

My Lord Bishop,—Before calling on the boys to present you with the address they have prepared, I would wish to make one or two brief remarks. It was a fine old Irish custom when the children had welcomed home their father after his return from distant parts, the eldest son, who had been left in charge during the absence, should come forward and give an account of the behaviour of the younger members of the family. So it devolved upon him (the Director) to give an account of the boys committed to his care. He was happy to say that the conduct of the boys during his Lordship's absence had been very good and highly satisfactory. He did not say that no individual boy had done anything blameworthy, or that the conduct of every single pupil had been all that could be desired, but that, on the whole, the boys had been very well behaved, and fairly attentive to their studies. He would wish also to remark that the boys had not forgotten his Lordship whilst away, for they had regularly offered the Angelus every day for the success of his (the Bishop's) mission, and for his safe and speedy return. In their ode of welcome the boys said they had often left their sport to offer this beautiful prayer for their beloved pastor, and he (the speaker) from his own personal observation, could bear witness to the truth of the assertion. The boys very wisely said in the ode just referred to, that they did this "at noon or eve," and he jocosely remarked they did well to make this limitation. For, though many of them were, no doubt, early risers, yet he feared the greater number were so fondly clasped in the arms of Morpheus when the stalwart arm of the sexton pealed forth the morning Angelus that they were in sweet oblivion of all sublunary affairs, and earthly things were to them, for the time, matters of the sublimest indifference (laughter). However, he believed the lads made up for it after when they did get up. His Lordship had been pleased to speak very highly of the boys on a memorable occasion on the Rock of Cashel. He (the speaker) said the boys were well aware of this, and were grateful to his Lordship for the kind compliment. But he considered that the boys deserved the praise they had received on the occasion alluded to, for he could say, in truth, that the lads then in the room before his Lordship heartily loved the dear old land of their fathers; their hearts throbbled for her welfare, and they were ever ready to lend a helping hand, as far as they could, for anything that would tend to the welfare of Ireland. He (the speaker) would likewise venture to assert that many of them were as familiar with the names of Con of the Hundred Battles, Niall of the Nine Hostages, Owen Roe O'Neill, "Dauntless Red Hugh," and other distinguished characters of Irish his ory as were their young cousins on the banks of the Suir or the Shannon. The Director also passed a high eulogium on the boys for the exertions they had made to clear off the debt incurred by the erection of the gymnasium and by asphaltting the playground. Not only was that debt cleared off, but also many other very necessary improvements were made during the absence of his Lordship, and almost completely paid for by the