

NEW CATHOLIC CHURCH.

(Hawera Herald, February 18.)

It was indeed a memorable day on Sunday for the Catholics of New Plymouth, for never before had there been such a large and representative assemblage as was present at the consecration of the new St Joseph's Church. The building, which is remarkably imposing as a specimen of architectural skill, has been erected from designs by Mr P. G. Smith, of this town. It is in the Early English Gothic style of architecture, and built of wood, on a cut stone foundation. The nave is 60 feet by 30 feet, with walls 20 feet high, stayed with buttresses and roofed with an open Gothic-framed rib principal roof, diagonally sheeted and covered with galvanized corrugated iron. There is a neat, roomy porch on the front elevation, with two double doors, and dressed stone steps permitting of easy and comfortable exit. The sanctuary, at the end of the nave, for the High Altar, is 20 feet by 20 feet with a large deep-moulded arch, supported on heavy turned columns, and on each side are the small chapels of the same design. The vestries, one on each side of the sanctuary, are 14 feet by 12 feet, placed in the angles, giving a uniform appearance neatly breaking up the outline of the plan. The building was erected under the superintendence of Mr P. G. Smith, architect, New Plymouth.

Sunday was a most exquisite day. The sky was clear, and the sun shone brightly during the whole of the day. Everything was in favour of the auspicious event. A special train from Hawera, which stopped at intermediate stations, arrived at 10.45 a.m., which brought up not only the choir from the Hawera Catholic Church, but about a hundred and thirty of the members of that denomination. Others came by the train, which is said to have brought to New Plymouth 250 settlers from Hawera and intermediate stations.

The permanent seating in the church could not accommodate all the congregation, and a good deal of improvised seating had, therefore, to be provided. At 11.15 a.m. the ceremony of consecrating the church was commenced by his Grace Archbishop Redwood, assisted by the Rev Father Mulvihil (Hawera), the Rev Father McKenna and the Rev Father Cognet (New Plymouth), and altar boys walking in procession from the Sanctuary to the main entrance of the building, where the ceremony of blessing the new edifice was commenced. The procession then passed around the outside, and on entering the church again prayers were said. After that the interior was blessed, his Grace sprinkling the walls of the building with holy water. The procession then passed into the Sacristy. On the return of the clergy his Grace was robed in full canonicals, and took his seat to the left of the altar, looking from the congregation. The ordinary service of the Mass was then proceeded with.

Just before the "Credo," his Grace Archbishop Redwood preached. He prefaced his sermon by saying it was only a few months since the beautiful church that they were consecrating that day had been dedicated to God on the occasion of the ceremony of laying and blessing the foundation stone. He was going to preach to them that day about God, and the obligations they owed their Creator, whose creatures they and he were. It was his intention to base his remarks on the words, "I am Thy servant; give me understanding that I may know Thy Commandments." He said his remarks were addressed to those who he assumed believed there was a God. His Grace then proceeded to demonstrate what was the nature of the services they should render to The Creator to whom they owed all they possessed. They must believe in The Creator. Anyone who denied there was a Creator went against all teaching, stultified himself, went against his conscience, and against the common sense of those around him. It was no use talking to such a man. On the other hand if they believed in the Creator, which they must necessarily do, then they must obey all His divine commands and injunctions. Archbishop Redwood then showed the power of the commands of God, which was unlimited and unfettered, and then proceeded to point out that His love was extended to all, and was not confined to any particular one of God's creatures. The preacher gave several striking comparisons, illustrating his remarks on the power and beneficence of God, and exhorted his hearers to obey the Commandments. His Grace concluded a powerful and reasoning sermon by congratulating the people of New Plymouth on the erection and possession of such a beautiful church as they were in, which was a credit to the architect who designed it, to the builders, to the priest who arranged the interior, and to the people who so liberally subscribed.

A collection was then made, and a substantial sum was subscribed.

The music was in the hands of the Hawera choir, under the conductorship of Mr Joseph Higham, assisted by an orchestra consisting principally of members of Mr Garry's orchestra. The respective parts were as follows:—Sopranos, Mesdames Flynn, Whittaker, and Miss Knight; Altos, Messrs K. and N. Flynn, and Edwards; Tenors Messrs J. Gilman, Bachelor, Collins, and Hall; Basses, Messrs J. Russell, E. Walton (of Auckland), and J. Higham; Orchestra: Organ, Miss A. Flynn; first violin, Mr B. Cottier; second violin, Mr Booth; double bass, Mr F. Hughes; first clarinet, Mr S. Cottier; second clarinet Mr Fred Newell; first trumpet, Mr E. Tate (Hawera); second trumpet, Mr F. Hornum (Hawera). The music rendered in the morning was Haydn's No 1 Mass. Of all that great author's masses the No 1 is the most sublime, the choruses being quite as great and massive as those of the composer's Creation. The "Kyrie" opens with a grand solemn adagio in which the trumpets form an important feature, where it is a change to 3-4 time in which the fugato makes its appearance. The respective parts took up well the fugue theme.

After the sermon came the "Credo," a weighty allegro chorus. The next movement is the "Et Incarnatus," one of Haydn's most beautiful, heavenly compositions. It is in the form of an alto solo, then repeated with soprano and alto in duet; the same theme is again repeated in trio, 1st and 2nd soprano and alto. The solo parts

were sustained by Mesdames Flynn and Whittaker, and Miss N. Flynn. The clarinet solos in this passage were a beautiful feature, and Messrs S. Cottier and Fred Newell did them full justice, and the pizzicato accompaniment of the strings was most effective. The "Credo" changes to the minor, and a solo trio for tenor and first and second bass, the respective parts being taken by Mr Gilman, Russell, and Walton. The next passages, the "Et Resurrexit" and "Et Vitam" are again two heavy and brilliant choruses. At this part of the service is sung the Offertory, the piece rendered being a "Tantum Ergo," a duet for soprano and alto in allegretto 3-4 time, composed by the organist, Miss Flynn. It is a most melodious and devotional composition, and does the young lady composer the highest honour and credit. It was very appropriate in its position in the service. The duet was sung by Mrs Flynn and Miss Nellie Flynn. The "Sanctus! Sanctus! Sanctus!" ("Holy! Holy! Holy!") opens with a full solemn adagio chorus, which breaks into an allegro fugato. The "Agnus Dei" is a solemn adagio chorus, which is followed by the "Dono Nobis," the last chorus, which brings the Mass to a most brilliant completion. The voice parts were well sustained throughout. The orchestra was a great factor in the music. The instrumentation is a most difficult one, and requires first-class artists to perform and an able and talented conductor to lead them, and the way they attended to their respective parts proves them all to be artists.

This concluded the morning service.

There was another large congregation at the Vespers service, when Archbishop Redwood delivered a sermon on how to keep the Commandments, which was a sequel to the sermon in the morning. Before proceeding to deliver the sermon, His Grace, on behalf of himself and the Rev Father McKenna, the priest of the parish, heartily thanked the Hawera choir and the orchestra for the valuable services they had rendered that day. His Grace then proceeded to show that the Commandments could only be kept by conscientious and constant prayer, and, in an impressive address, he exhorted his hearers to always cultivate praying. Mothers and fathers, he added, should always set a good example in this respect to their children like Jesus Christ had set the example to the Apostles.

The musical portion of the services consisted of the Vesper psalms; the Magnificat (Webb), a sparkling chorus interspersed by solos, which were taken by Mrs Whittaker, Miss N. Flynn, and Mr Gilman; Zingarelli's Laudate, tenor solo and chorus, the soloist being Mr Gilman; Offertory, Ave Maria (Cherubini), Miss Carrie Knight, soloist; Benediction, O Sicutaris (Steinforth), the trio being taken by Messrs K. and N. Flynn, and Messrs Bachelor and Higham; Litany, solos and chorus (Higham), the soloists being Mesdames Whittaker and Flynn, and Mr Gilman; Tantum Ergo (Lambalotte), and Hallelujah chorus completed the musical service.

The Hawera choir and visitors from other centres left the same night by the 9 o'clock special train.

OBITUARY.

"THE remains of the late Mr Thomas Dugdale Curry, for 23 years a member of the *Evening Standard* sub-editorial staff (says the *Journalist* of January 5), were on Saturday last interred in the Roman Catholic churchyard at Mortlake. The deceased gentleman had been in failing health for two or three years past, suffering at times from acute attacks of heart disease. His friends, however, had of late no special cause for anxiety until last Friday week, when he was taken ill at the office and had to return home. Very serious symptoms set in on Christmas Day, and on the 26th he expired without a struggle while seated in his chair, the cause of death being peritonitis and stoppage of the heart's action. The coffin—which bore the inscription 'Thomas Dugdale Curry; died 26th December, 1894, aged 57 years; R.I.P.'—left the house, 21 Albert Square, Clapham Road, on Saturday afternoon, conveyed in an open hearse, and followed by two mourning coaches. On arrival at Mortlake it was carried into the church of St Mary Magdalene, where the office for the dead was repeated by the Very Rev Canon Wenham. The brief concluding portion of the service was read in the graveyard, which immediately adjoins the church. Mr Hantly Pryse Gordon (brother-in-law) and Mr Louis John Forrest (nephew) were the chief mourners; and other friends present were Mr Henry Coulter (*Morning Post*), Mr Thomas Curdill, and, from the staff of the *Standard*, Mr George A. Henz, Mr James Geddes, Mr Edgar Barcoe, Mr William Maxwell, Mr William Mudford, and Mr Arthur Wood. A number of wreaths were sent, including one from the proprietors of the *Standard* and one from the staff. Mr Curry, who leaves a widow but no family, commenced his career as a journalist many years ago on *Galignani's Messenger* in Paris, and witnessed some of the most stirring scenes during the siege, being once arrested and placed in a position of the most imminent danger. During his long connection with the *Standard* he had earned the warm esteem and affection of his colleagues, and of a large circle of pressmen generally. None of recent losses will be more sincerely regretted."

The imprisonment alluded to took place on a charge of sympathy with the Germans, unjustly made in the fever of the French defeat, Mr Curry being a graduate of the University of Bonn. His wife's nationality as an Irish woman obtained for her a hearing, and, after much suffering and anxiety on her part also, led to his release. Mr and Mrs Curry then left Paris, and were engaged for nine days in travelling, by means of open cattle trucks on the Continental railways, to London, passing on the way under fire of the guns of Phalsburg which was at the time besieged. Mrs Curry, we may add, is a sister of Mrs John F. Perrin, wife of the editor of the *NEW ZEALAND TABLET*. Deceased, who was of a singularly bright and kindly nature and as much beloved in private as esteemed in his public capacity, was a convert to the Catholic faith. He had been constantly visited during his illness by the Redemptorist Fathers, who had a house in the neighbourhood of his residence.—*Requiescat in pace.*

J. F. STRATZ, 261 High Street, Christchurch.

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