

drawn, not so much against individuals as such, but against Jesus Christ and His Church. They are consumed with hatred against Catholicism. This is an argument for its Divinity.

(5.) It is earnestly to be hoped that Catholics in Scotland and England will steel their minds and harden their hearts against any and every story whatsoever that they may read detrimental to the Catholic Church abroad. The Anti-Catholic movement in Britain is a weak and foolish thing: it lacks earnestness, sincerity, depth of conviction; its supporters are not people of weight. It provokes ridicule, and very often fizzles out in some stupid way. On the Continent it is far otherwise. One only needs to live for some time in a country where anti-clericalism is rampant, to realise how deep and terrible is its enmity to the Catholic religion; how utterly lost to all sense of truth and morality in attempting its ruin. The anti-Catholic bodies are organised far and wide with agents in every branch of life, bound together by deadly hatred of a common foe, inspired with all the concentrated malice of the Devil towards Catholic Christianity (Protestant Christianity does not trouble them), and they cease not to use means the most cruel and diabolical to attain their object. Indeed, their excess of zeal often leads them to fabricate the most grotesque and incredible charges, which every sensible Catholic knows at once to be sheer nonsense. But the story appears in Protestant journals and in the British press: Catholics read it: they are discredited, grieved, scandalised: what can they say? Let them say without fear, without doubt, 'It is a lie' it is the Devil sowing his seed!' and in 999 cases out of 1000 they will be right. The 1000th case may very well be left to the ecclesiastical authorities.

PRESENTATION TO THE Rev. Father Coffey, Adm.

As was generally expected, the pastoral duties which, for a period extending over seven years, the Rev. Father Coffey had exercised among the Catholics of South Dunedin, were not allowed to come to an end without some tangible expression of regret at his departure and practical token of their esteem and regard and appreciation of his work whilst among them. During his time in South Dunedin Father Coffey had seen the congregation increase and multiply to a marked extent. The progress covered both the spiritual and material domain of his administration. The Catholics of South Dunedin are not, generally speaking, overburdened with the world's goods, but what they lack in wealth they amply make up in generosity. Among the principal works carried out during his time was the erection of the fine new brick convent for the Sisters of Mercy, the adornment of St. Patrick's Basilica, one of the notable features of which was the erection of the Stations of the Cross at a cost of over £300, the completion and opening of the St. Vincent de Paul Orphanage, in which he has always shown the greatest interest, the enlargement of the parish schools, and the liquidating of the debt on the Basilica, which will very soon be extinguished altogether. Of course in all this he had the hearty and generous co-operation of the people, to whom much credit is due. The parish societies, too, came in for a good deal of his attention, and more especially the Young Men's Club, which he helped and encouraged in every possible way, recognising in it one of the best institutions in the parish.

No sooner had the Catholics of South Dunedin realised that they had to part with their pastor than they took steps to make him a presentation, and thus in a practical way to give expression to their regret at his departure, and appreciation of his zealous work amongst them. At a general meeting of the parishioners the matter was placed in the hands of a committee, of which Mr. C. A. Shiel was chairman and Mr. Marlow secretary. The presentation took place in the school-room, South Dunedin, on Monday evening in the presence of a large gathering of parishioners. In the unavoidable absence of Mr. C. A. Shiel, chairman of the presentation committee, Mr. J. J. Marlow, Mayor of St. Kilda, presided, having on his right the Rev. Father Coffey, Adm. The following clergy occupied seats on the platform: Rev. Fathers Howard, Delaney, Cleary, O'Malley, Liston, and Corcoran, as well as several of the laity.

The chairman read a letter from Mr. C. A. Shiel, expressing regret for his unavoidable absence. In the course of his communication Mr. Shiel paid a high tribute to Father Coffey's worth and work, his charity, and his popularity, both with Catholics and non-Cath-

olics. He wished the Rev. Father many years to use his untiring energy in the larger sphere to which he had been called, and that he would enjoy many years of uninterrupted happiness.

At the conclusion of a musical programme the chairman said that he had before him a little task for which he would prefer to have been better prepared—to make a presentation to the Rev. Father Coffey expressive of the regard and esteem felt for him by the Catholics of South Dunedin. Since his advent amongst them he had done great work, and—apart from his duty as a Catholic priest and merely as a citizen of South Dunedin—he had won the admiration of all classes. As a priest he had done work which had endeared him to his people, and he would leave behind him feelings of the highest regard and esteem that would last for years to come. To many an Irishman who had just come out from the Old Land Father Coffey had proved a real and true friend, and although he would always have a warm place in his heart for his native land, still he had a great love for his adopted country. He had nothing further to add to the address which he was about to read but to say that Father Coffey carried with him to his new sphere of labor their very best wishes for his success. (Applause).



REV. J. COFFEY, ADM., DUNEDIN.

The Address.

Rev. and Dear Father,— ...

The regret with which we learned of your departure from South Dunedin has been tempered by the knowledge that you are not going far from amongst us, that your new position will give wider scope to those splendid qualities that have enabled you to do such grand work in our midst.

It is rarely given to a priest to see such marked evidence of successful administration as has been granted to you to see in this parish during the seven and a half years you have been in charge. Yours has been the pleasure of witnessing the completion and opening of the Orphanage and its establishment on the sound basis it now occupies; the erection of the splendid Convent of Mercy, the enlargement of our schools; the beautifying of our church and freeing it from debt; the acquiring of additional land to allow of further expansion; and, more than all, you have seen the members of your congregation doubled.