

brightest jewel in his crown; I refer to his exemplary home life. This is not the time for prying eyes to penetrate the sanctity of the home. Evidences exist on all sides showing what that home life was like in the midst of all the hurry of State and under the plaudits of the people he never forgot that the most sacred spot on earth was his home with his beloved wife, for years the faithful sharer of his trials and triumphs, and with his beloved and loving children. Most of his legislation of recent years was inspired by the desire to make the homes of his people like to his own—sanctuaries of peace and happiness.

We to-day, in company with our fellow-countrymen, mourn his loss, but that loss is not absolute, and hence our sorrow is not of the hopeless kind. The work of good men live after them, and the example which they gave ends not when the cold clay has claimed its own. The spirit which they raised lives on and the world is richer thereby, and we who knew them are proud of the privilege. New Zealand to-day smiles through her tears, because by identifying herself with the life of her late first citizen she feels honored and highly honored in the honor paid to him. You have set before you the lessons taught by the life of the lonely, friendless exile in a new country, by the man full of life and energy and strong of will with high ambition and noble resolve carving his way through trials and difficulties until he wins the respect and homage and confidence of a whole nation, yes, of a mighty Empire. You have the lessons taught by the true husband and father, by the patriot breathing the free air of a free country, sacrificing his life in its service. And while we learn these lessons standing in sorrow beside the patriot's grave, may we pray to the Giver of all good gifts to comfort those dear sorrowing hearts in whose home death has left a void that can never be filled.

A Northern Appreciation.

Referring to the death of Mr. Seddon at St. Mary's Church, Paeroa, on Sunday, June 17 (says the 'Ohinemuri Gazette'), the Very Rev. Dean Hackett said:—The death of our beloved Premier is a great public calamity—not only a loss to New Zealand, but a loss to humanity at large. He was a strong and able leader, a man of heroic mould and nature, who loved liberty for itself and who wished everybody to enjoy it. By his death the cause of Liberalism lost its tried and trusted chieftain, whose public life was one of unwavering devotion and constant effort for the betterment of the toiling masses. The Dean said he did not know what particular denomination claimed the late Premier as a member; his religion was, however, expressed in deeds rather than words. To Richard John Seddon the whole world was his country and mankind his kin. The beneficent laws placed on the Statute Book of the Colony during the thirteen years of his Premiership would be forever associated with his memory, and a grateful posterity would bless his name and recognise what 'A sower of infinite seed was he, a woodman that hewed toward the light.' Pope Leo XIII., in his admirable pronouncement on the 'Conditions of Labor,' advocated the great principle of arbitration for the settlement of all disputes between capitalist and wage-earner. During Mr. Seddon's term of office that principle was embodied in the legislation of this country, and to-day all the troubles and complications of the labor question clamoring for consideration in older lands are settled in our arbitration courts. Dean Hackett referred to a remarkable speech made by the late Premier at the Catholic College, Riverview, Sydney, shortly before his death, and quoted several passages, from which we select the following:—'Through a long political life I have ever made it my aim to side with the weak.' No more appropriate epitaph (said the Dean) could be inscribed on Mr. Seddon's monument. The Catholics of the Colony remember 'Sto'ie,' and the valiant champion that stood by its cause until the Judge declared in court that 'he would not hang a cat on the evidence.' In the same speech (continued the Dean), the great statesman declared that 'a man's first duty, after his duty to God, is patriotism to the country that gave him birth.' Referring to Ireland on the same occasion, Mr. Seddon declared 'if the English people had adopted New Zealand's methods of legislation, trouble with Ireland would never have arisen, and I look forward to the day when England will profit by the example of her daughter, and so restore unity and concord to Ireland.' To-day New Zealand mourns her dead leader. We join in that mourning, and express our sympathy for the bereaved loved ones at Wellington. The thousands of telegrams that have been sent from all parts of the world speak eloquently of the Premier's worth and world-wide fame. The magnificent wreaths laid on his coffin are expressive of the country's gratitude.

In concluding his address the Dean summed up in a few sentences the lessons taught by the Premier in life: 'Love God and the country that gave you birth. Forgive your enemies and never forget old friends. Have a great love for humanity and help your fellow-men, no matter to what creed or country they belong.' These were his principles to the end of his useful life, and death itself will not shut out from us the light of his example.

At the conclusion of the evening devotions the congregation stood during the playing of the 'Dead March.'

H.A.C.B. Society, Christchurch.

At a numerously attended meeting of members of the St. Patrick's branch of the H.A.C.B. Society, in the Hibernian Hall, on Monday evening, June 18 (writes a Christchurch correspondent), on the motion of Bro. G. J. Sellers (president), seconded by Bro. J. Nelson (vice-president) the following motion was unanimously agreed to:—That the members of the H.A.C.B. Society of Christchurch desire to add their tribute of regret at the loss sustained by the Colony in the death of the late Premier, the Right Hon. R. J. Seddon, and to sincerely sympathise and condole with the widow and family in their time of sorrow. May God watch over them and give them strength to bear up in their bereavement.' In the course of his remarks in proposing the resolution the president said that it is admitted on all sides that the late Premier was a most noble man. The dictionary defines the word 'noble' to mean high in excellence or worth, lofty in character, magnanimous, etc., and all these terms apply in their full force to Mr. Seddon. That in order to see what excellent and numerous reforms he had accomplished it was simply necessary to look back during the last fifteen years. Mr. Sellers then enumerated and commented on a few of the measures brought about by the statesman, whose loss they deplored. Among these, he said, are the annuities scheme and the Bill dealing with the employment of girls, who previously were not only confined too much in the workrooms but also received little or no wages. Then there was also the free-breakfast scheme which long ago had been proposed by Sir George Grey and which would have been carried out by Mr. Seddon had he lived. Mr. Seddon likewise took great interest in friendly societies, and this was done without distinction of creed or nationality. In short, every word he expressed and every idea he entertained were for the people. He was a man of the people and for the people, and in the demise of Richard John Seddon the workers of the Colony had lost their best and ablest friend. The secretary was instructed to embody the resolution in a letter, and forward it to Mrs. Seddon and family.

Diocesan News

ARCHDIOCESE OF WELLINGTON

(From our own correspondent.)

June 23.

The United Irish League intends to hold a social evening in St. Patrick's Hall, probably on Wednesday, July 4.

His Grace the Archbishop will administer the Sacrament of Confirmation at the Sacred Heart Basilica to-morrow afternoon. About sixty candidates are to be presented.

His Grace the Archbishop was absent from Wellington on the receipt of the news of Mr. Seddon's death. He cabled a message of condolence to Mrs. Seddon at Sydney.

The city was filled with visitors during the week, and hotel accommodation was severely taxed. About 300 passengers came from Greymouth and Westport to be present at the funeral of our late Premier. The line of the funeral procession on Thursday presented an ever-memorable spectacle. The arrangements were left in the hands of Lieutenant-Colonel R. J. Collins, of the Treasury, and the manner in which order was observed and maintained throughout reflects greatly to his credit. The Hibernian Society was well represented. The display of wreaths was unparalleled. They came from all quarters, and occupied the whole of the main lobby of the House of Representatives. The spot chosen as the burial ground is in the Bolton street Cemetery, near the Observatory. The site is a prominent one, and commands a fine view of the harbour and surrounding country. It also overlooks the Parliament Buildings, where the late Premier labored so long for his country's good. A more fitting spot could not be chosen.

W. LANGFORD, Furnishing Undertaker and
Certificated Embalmer.

Funerals Furnished—Lowest Prices

Established in Auckland 1842
Christchurch 1881

W. LANGFORD.

Private Residence, 41 Hereford Street.

Telephone 1501

Workshop, N.E. Belt Telephone 689

Office 132 Cashel Street, Christchurch