

The Late Father O'Hallahan, Kumara

We take the following further particulars regarding the funeral of the late Rev. Father O'Hallahan, from an obituary notice sent us by a Kumara correspondent. The deceased was born in Banteer, County Cork, where his aged parents still reside, and one of his brothers, Mr. D. O'Hallahan, is a resident of Kumara. On Friday evening the remains were removed to St. Patrick's Church. At 10 o'clock on Saturday a solemn Requiem Mass was celebrated by Rev. Father Leen, Rev. Father Creed being deacon, and Rev. Father O'Connor subdeacon. The church, which was draped in black by the Sisters of Mercy, was crowded to the doors. The Rev. Father Leen preached an eloquent sermon appropriate to the solemn occasion. Among those present in the choir were Very Rev. Dean Carew, and Rev. Fathers Aubry and Taylor. The funeral was very largely attended, despite the extreme inclemency of the weather. The procession left the church at noon to proceed to the Kumara railway station, and from there the remains were taken by train to Greymouth, where a large number of mourners joined in the funeral procession to the cemetery. The Very Rev. Dean Carew, assisted by Rev. Fathers Leen, Creed, Taylor, Aubry, and O'Connor, officiated at the graveside. Among a large number of messages of sympathy received by Mr. Denis O'Hallahan were telegrams from his Grace Archbishop Redwood, the Very Rev. Father Le Menant des Chesnais, V.G., Christchurch, and from Mrs. Seddon, with whom and the late Premier the deceased priest was on intimate terms of friendship. Telegrams were also received from all the priests of Canterbury.—R.I.P.

The Royal Palaces of Spain

An English periodical, writing of the marriage of the King of Spain, says that the most stately of Queen Victoria's many new homes will be the great palace of the Escurial, which stands an enormous and stately pile, amid rather dreary surroundings at the foot of the Guadarrama Mountains, some distance from Madrid. In this palace generations of Spanish Kings and Queens have made their sumptuous home, but of late years it has fallen into disuse, and is but seldom visited by the reigning family, chiefly on account of its remoteness and isolation.

In the palace at Madrid the Queen will have one of the most magnificent Royal homes in Europe. It was built by Philip V., the first of the Bourbon Kings of Spain, nearly two centuries ago, and was considered by Napoleon I. to be finer even than his palace at Versailles. When Napoleon first visited it, he exclaimed to his host the King of Spain, as he mounted its wonderful marble staircase, 'You are more splendidly lodged than I am.' This palace is of immense size, 500ft. square, and its interior is of great splendor. The throne-room is a gorgeous chamber, with its magnificently-painted ceiling, the exquisite mosaic of its floor, its wealth of many colored marbles, its wonderful chandeliers and mirrored walls; while the throne itself, the most splendid in Europe, is guarded by four large silver lions and flanked by two life-sized figures of Moors.

At El Pardo (where the young Queen stayed previous to her marriage) is another large and stately building which the King uses when shooting in the district; and among his other legal homes are the Aranjuez and Hdefonso Palaces; the Alcazar Palace, which, 'with its castellated walls, its rooms blazing with gold and colored porcelain, its exquisitely delicate arches, pillars, and ceilings,' is one of the most beautiful sights in Europe; and the famous Alhambra, whose splendor defies all description.

But there is little doubt that young Queen Victoria's favorite home in Spain will be the lovely palace of San Sebastian, a delightful building, which commands a magnificent view of the Bay of Biscay and the coasts of Spain and France, and which is the favorite summer residence of the King and his family. At San Sebastian their Majesties will find some escape from the pomp and ceremonial of their state, and will be able to enjoy a more unconventional and unfettered life.

Happily King Alfonso and his bride have many tastes in common. Queen Victoria is a clever actress, and has a passion for things theatrical which her future husband will share. They are both lovers of horses and motoring—King Alfonso is admittedly one of the finest horsemen and motorists in Spain—and they will, no doubt, have many delightful excursions together; and in numerous other directions, from a love of music to a passion for swimming, their tastes happily coincide.

The Irish Envoys and New Zealand

A meeting of the Sydney Executive Committee, appointed to make arrangements for the reception of Messrs. Devlin and Donoan, was held on July 9. His Eminence Cardinal Moran presided, and among those present was Mr. M. Kennedy of Wellington. After the transaction of routine business his Eminence said they were privileged that evening to have the presence of a representative from New Zealand, Mr. Kennedy, the president of the Irish League in Wellington, who assured him (the Cardinal) that the Irish delegates would get a hearty welcome if they went to New Zealand. He supposed, now that they had no obligation to visit the United States, they might be able to prolong their stay here for some time, and, perhaps, Mr. Kennedy would tell the committee what prospects there would be of a successful meeting or a series of meetings in New Zealand.

Mr. Kennedy said he thought the delegates would be quite successful in the four principal centres—Wellington, Christchurch, Dunedin, and Auckland. Whether it would be judicious or desirable for them to visit other parts of New Zealand could be considered as soon as they heard from Mr. Devlin. As president of the Irish Association, which was only recently formed in Wellington, he was asked to communicate with Mr. Devlin, who was at Perth at the time, but he had received no reply up to the date he left New Zealand. The Irish League was formed in Wellington some weeks ago, and the members were delighted to hear that the delegates were in Australia. The people would certainly feel very much hurt if Messrs. Devlin and Donoan did not go to New Zealand. Under the circumstances he was glad indeed to learn that the time of their stay in Australia had been extended, so that they might have an opportunity of going to New Zealand after all. He hoped they would. It was an instruction for him to be present that night. He was glad to see the extensive organisation the Irish had in Australia, and he was quite sure they would be equal to the occasion. He would try and inform himself before he left Sydney as to the population in the various districts of this State that the envoys were recommended to visit, so that it might serve as a guide to them in New Zealand when taking into account the inland centres. Yet, they could not close their eyes to the fact that in New Zealand the Irish population and the children of Irish parents were probably not more than half the percentage of those in Australia. Though many of their town had populations of 50,000 they would not get the same attendances that they would in a similar population here. Many of their politicians were of goodwill towards Nationalists, and he had no doubt they would give them very considerable aid when they came.

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