

Treston, Messrs. T. Hughes, J. Sweeney, and H. Miles. Miss Clara Hughes tastefully played the accompaniments, and to say that the refreshments were in Miss Staunton's hands is an assurance that nothing was left to be desired.

HOME AGAIN

WELCOME TO FATHER TUBMAN

(From our Timaru correspondent.)

Never before in the history of the Church in Timaru has such a reception been tendered to any returning or visiting pastor as that which was given to Father Tubman in the Drill Hall last Thursday night, on his return to the scene of his labors after twelve months' absence. The gathering was a large and enthusiastic one, among those present being Right Rev. Mgr. Mackay (Oamaru) and many leading citizens, his Worship the Mayor (Mr. J. Craigie) occupying the chair. Apologies were received from the Hon. W. Hall-Jones, Dean Regnault, Fathers Bowers and Keley, and others. Songs were acceptably rendered by Mesdames Skønner and Lynch and Mr. Jordan, Mrs. Mangos presiding at the piano. Mr. T. Lynch read the following address on behalf of the parishioners:—

'Revered and dear Father,—As your loyal and devoted children, we cannot allow you to return to this parish in which you have labored so long and so successfully, without expressing the joy your advent inspires. Twelve months ago we assembled here to wish you God speed, but the pleasure which your homecoming gives to those who at that time mourned, has turned the passing sorrow into an abiding joy. Your journey, embracing the historical religious and national shrines of the Celts, who form the preponderating element in your flock, we sincerely hope, has sent you back completely restored in health, and ready to take up again the work of erecting the new church, which is so urgently needed. As citizens of Timaru, we congratulate ourselves on having among us once more a progressive and leading Burgess. Individually your presence gives the support that one feels when a relative, friend, or sorely missed comrade once more returns to the accustomed seat; and as offspring of the old sod, and as scious of the faith ever ancient, but always new, our hearts warm to the pilgrim, and bound as the voice of the well-beloved, is once more heard. Of welcome we offer you, Rev. dear Father, the proverbial thousand, and could your years be the same, it would be our earnest wish they would be passed in the parish that now opens its arms to receive you.'

The Mayor, in formally welcoming Father Tubman back to the town on behalf of the burgesses, said he considered Father Tubman one of the chief inhabitants, and one who could least be spared. Father Tubman was the friend of everybody, and the love and respect in which he was held by his own flock was also shared by members of other congregations. Father Tubman was a man who always thought of others, and it was characteristic of him that even when travelling he found time to think of the Timaru Borough Council, and send them mementoes of the Holy Land. His Worship sincerely wished to see the new church completed in the near future, a standing monument to the energy and devotedness of a united flock, working under able guidance.

Mr. S. G. Raymond said that the remarks of his Worship had covered almost all he wished to say. He congratulated the guest of the evening on the success of his well-earned rest, and was particularly glad to hear that the Old Land had taken a decided change for the better.

Messrs. J. Hole and W. Priest also welcomed Father Tubman back.

Rev. Father Tubman, whose rising was the signal for long-continued applause, returned thanks for the magnificence of the welcome accorded him. He particularly thanked Monsignor Mackay, of Oamaru, and his Worship for their presence, and the Timaru press for the fine accounts they had written of his travels. He had thoroughly enjoyed, and he hoped profited by, his holiday, and was now ready to take up strongly the building of the new church, which they all so much desired. He found the people of the Old Land, if not prosperous, at least in a better way than they were twenty years ago. They, above all the peoples he had seen, possessed the secret of living happily and contentedly with their lot. He concluded by paying a graceful tribute to Rev. Father Bowden, who had charge of the parish during his absence. He then presented the Mayor with a genuine blackthorn stick, with the

following inscription on the silver ferrule: 'Presented by Father Tubman to Jas. Craigie, Esq., 1907.' After a suitable reply by his Worship the evening was brought to a close by the serving of refreshments.

WELCOME TO FATHER MARNANE, CHRISTCHURCH

(From an occasional correspondent.)

The welcome home to Rev. Father Marnane was held in the Art Gallery on Wednesday, March 13. The hall was crowded with an enthusiastic audience that greeted their pastor in the real Catholic spirit that is prompted by that admiration and respect that a Catholic has for his pastor. Every one seemed highly delighted to renew old acquaintances with their respected Rector, who returned to them very much benefited by his sojourn abroad. The musical programme was supplied by Mrs. Woodward, Miss McLaughlan, and Messrs. Petersen and O'Keefe. Miss Egan (Timaru) acted as accompanist.

Father Hickson, in welcoming Father Marnane, said that in the general order of things 'out of sight meant out of mind,' but in Father Marnane's case this rule was distinctly reversed by the frequent and earnest inquiries that were made respecting the welfare of their esteemed pastor.

Rev. Father Marnane, who on rising was greeted with prolonged applause, thanked them all for the warmth and hospitality of their reception. He said he was very glad to be home among the good people of St. Mary's, who were always before his mind wherever he travelled. He spoke at some length about the places he visited, especially Jerusalem with its interesting people. The Rev. Father spoke about Rome, describing it as one of the most beautiful and most up-to-date cities in the world. During his stay in that eternal city he was received in audience by his Holiness Pope Pius X., who conferred on him the power to impart the Plenary Blessing to his congregation on his return. Ireland, the Rev. Father said, has greatly improved since he left it twenty-two years ago. Everything in that peaceful and hospitable land has changed for the better, and if it receives that fair play that is extended to lands that have not by any means performed a fraction of the part that Ireland has done in consolidating the British Dominions, it will be a bright ornament in the Empire. Passing across the Atlantic to the United States, said Father Marnane, one comes to a country the direct antithesis of Ireland. Freedom is the watchword of the American people. The immense wealth of the country and the materialistic spirit, which is taking such a strong hold of the population, are having a bad effect on the nation, and before many years the accumulation of money will be the only aim in life of the American people. Speaking of the appalling disaster that befell San Francisco, the Rev. Father remarked that one could not gauge the vast proportions of this frightful calamity unless one personally saw the terrible destruction that the earthquake and fire had wrought in this fair city.

HIBERNIAN SOCIETY

TRIENNIAL MOVABLE MEETING

(From our Auckland correspondent.)

The triennial movable meeting of the New Zealand District of the H.A.C.B. Society was opened in the Hibernian Hall on Wednesday, March 13. Brother P. J. Nerheny (district president) was in the chair, and there were some 45 delegates present. His Lordship Bishop Lenihan was present at the morning sitting.

In opening the proceedings Bro. P. J. Nerheny welcomed the delegates. He remarked that it had been 20 years since Auckland had had one of the triennial meetings. He congratulated the members on the Society's financial position, and expressed pleasure at the steady increase in the funeral fund, which had now over £6000 in credit, while the other funds had largely increased. There were marked increases in members, and Hibernianism was making good progress, both financially and otherwise. He spoke strongly against the course some of the societies had taken in binding delegates to vote a certain way in respect to some questions.

His Lordship Bishop Lenihan said that it gave him very great pleasure to welcome the delegates. He thought that it would have been better had the meeting been held at Easter, so that Lent might have been avoided, and they would have been able to entertain the visiting delegates in a suitable manner.