

people. In sunshine and in storm, in adversity and in prosperity, you have shared our joys and our sorrows. By precept and by example you have taught us fidelity to the Grand Old Faith, love of Country, pride in its traditions, and self-sacrifice to the interests of religion and genuine patriotism. Your broad and enlightened views, and generous genial sympathy have made your name dear to the heart of the Gael, be he Highlander or Irish, to whom you are a chief-tain and a leader. May you be spared to reach your golden jubilee crowned, as to-day, with the love and esteem of your faithful people. The accompanying gift is but a small token of our proud appreciation of your talents, your zeal, your genial kindness, your devotedness, and your many gifts of mind and heart that have enabled you to do so much for the advancement of religion and education in New Zealand.

Signed on behalf of the parishioners of Milton:—
W. Kirby, chairman; John Moroney, secretary; A. Kelly, treasurer; R. Grealish, sen.; J. Kane; D. Hassitt; J. Scantan; J. Boyle; J. Lynch.

April 16, 1907.

At the conclusion of the address, Mr. Moroney presented Father O'Neill with a purse of sovereigns.

On behalf of the Hibernian Society, Mr. J. P. Lynch congratulated Father O'Neill, and expressed in happy terms their appreciation of his services during the past 23 years.

Monsignor O'Leary spoke on behalf of the clergy of the diocese. It was a pleasure to him to see there representatives of all creeds and classes in the community—a proof of the esteem in which Father O'Neill was held even by those outside his own congregation (applause). He spoke of Father O'Neill's successful academic career, which was completed when he was canonically three years too young to receive priestly orders. The speaker also detailed the circumstances (already briefly referred to at the beginning of this report) under which the jubilarian came to Dunedin and was raised to the priesthood by Bishop Moran, by dispensation, while still eighteen months under the canonical age. Monsignor O'Leary also reviewed Father O'Neill's long and fruitful career as pastor of Milton, referred in kindly terms to his unflinching good spirits, his geniality, his generosity, and in the name of the clergy hoped and prayed that he would be spared 'ad multos annos' (applause).

The Rev. J. C. Small (Anglican) in the course of a witty and pleasant speech said it was not the first occasion on which he was honored by being on the platform to address a meeting organised for the purpose of showing the general esteem and regard in which Father O'Neill was held in the district. He congratulated the jubilarian on having attained the 23th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood. His late Holiness Pope Leo XIII. once said to a noble lady, a religious, who had been praying that he might live to see his hundredth year: 'Dear Sister, why put such a limitation to the decisions of Divine Providence?' Why did previous speakers only hope that Father O'Neill might reach his golden jubilee? On behalf of the community of which he (the speaker) was a member, he prayed to the Almighty that Father O'Neill might long be spared to continue his good work to the glory of God and the honor of his Church (applause).

The mayor paid a fresh tribute to Father O'Neill as a public man and a churchman, and to his generous people who, though a small community, had built churches, schools, etc., and had not a penny debt upon them. 'What a splendid people', said he, 'the Irish are!'

In rising to reply, Father O'Neill was greeted with prolonged applause. He had never before experienced the same difficulty in giving expression to the feelings that were surging through his mind. He thanked them heartily for the kind things they had said. It was to him a day of great rejoicing. The religious aspect of his jubilee took the foremost place in the day's festivities. He had a great deal to be thankful for to the Provider of all good things. He was raised to the sacred ministry through the instrumentality of one of whom it had been said that 'he was every inch a bishop, and a gentleman to his finger-tips'—the late lamented Bishop Moran.—(Applause). To have served under him was in itself a liberal education of the highest order. And when Providence raised him (the speaker) to the position of 'the youngest parish priest in the world,' he was favored by being placed over a people whose faith and devotion and love of religion were not surpassed. (Applause). His youth and inexperience may have been obstacles to success, but he had discharged the duties Providence placed upon him to the best of his ability, and they (his hearers)

were pleased to say, in terms far beyond his deserts, that his labors had not been entirely unsuccessful. There was one other subject for which he was grateful to Providence. He had been made one of a body of clergy better than whom were not in the Church of God. (Applause). A more loyal, devoted, and self-respecting body of priests was not to be found in the wide world. The example of his fellow-priests and their ready, generous, and unselfish aid had been the greatest strength and consolation to him. He had also been fortunate that, in the work of education, he had co-operators who left nothing to be desired. The secular teachers had done good work; but from the time the Dominican nuns took charge, an immense load had been lifted off his shoulders. Their work was thoroughly well done. (Applause). Without the proper training of the children, our Church would not be in the condition that it is; our hope was in the rising generation, and when its education was attended to, we have no fear for the future. (Applause). There was one other matter for which he had to be thankful—that his lot had been cast among people who, even where they differed on the most essential matters, displayed a spirit of practical good will, and from the first showed only kindness and the most hearty co-operation in his undertakings. (Applause). He therefore tendered his most heartfelt thanks to his separated brethren for the financial and moral aid which had helped him to overcome the difficulties that bestrewed his path. The speaker concluded with thanks to the mayor, the children, the nuns, and to all (prolonged applause).

During the evening a fine programme was presented—vocal numbers by Mr. King, Mrs. Porter, Misses Ross and Woods; instrumental selections by Miss Woods (piano) and Mr. Haig (violin); and recitation (Mr. Christie). Dainty refreshments were supplied by a committee of ladies of the congregation.

The Christchurch Exhibition

After a season extending over nearly six months, the New Zealand International Exhibition was brought to a close on Monday night. The closing ceremony took place in the main corridor, where the opening was also held. It was a brilliant scene that met the eye. While the enormous crowd in front of the main entrance of the building were watching the arrival of his Excellency the Governor from the entrance gates to the doors of the building, the volunteers, picture que in their red and blue uniforms, and with bayonets fixed, kept clear a narrow lane which the vast multitude on their side jostled and pressed in effectually to evade.

In the course of an address to his Excellency, the Hon. W. Hall-Jones said:—Every test which can reasonably be applied to the success of an Exhibition pronounces this to be one of the most successful ever held in the Australasian colonies. The best proof of this is probably the attendance, and the attendance up to this date is no less than 1,970,000. This, considering that the whole population of our Colony, including the Native race, does not exceed 975,000, is surely in the highest degree gratifying.

At the conclusion of his Excellency's reply, Lord Plunket read the following cablegram, which he had sent:—The Secretary of State for the Colonies,—My Government desires that the following message may be transmitted to the King on behalf of my Government and the people of New Zealand:—

"I have the honor to inform your Majesty that I have to-day closed the New Zealand International Exhibition. The favorable anticipations your Majesty was gracious enough to express regarding this undertaking have been fully realised. The attendance nearly approached 2,000,000, and the sympathetic interest shown by your Majesty and by the Imperial Government have materially assisted in its success. My Government feels assured that not only will the Exhibition prove of permanent advantage to New Zealand, but will also have aided in strengthening the ties which bind the colonies to each other, the throne, and the Mother Country."

The Governor then declared the Exhibition closed.

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