

## Notes

### The Oldest Prelate

A recent cable message from Hobart announces the death of the venerable Archbishop of that See, the Most Rev. Dr. Murphy. He was the oldest prelate in Christendom, was consecrated in 1846 Vicar-Apostolic of Hyderabad (India), was transferred to Hobart in 1865, and at the time of his death had far out-passed his ninetieth summer. A more extended notice of his career appears elsewhere in this issue. His spirit passed on last Sunday—

'Life's race well run,  
Life's work well done,  
Life's victory won'.

Had the venerable prelate's soul and body dissolved their long partnership in France, we might possibly have had a cable message from Paris announcing that he died as a protest against the Papal Encyclical on Modernism. He died, however, not among the enemies of religion, but among his own—among his spiritual children of the household of the faith over whom he had ruled for more than forty years. Peace to his gentle soul!

His successor is a prelate of distinguished ability—of ripe and varied scholarship, and one of the foremost educationists under the Southern Cross. We wish him a fruitful administration, ad multos annos.

### A Missionary Mystery

We have of late been hearing a good deal about the progress of Reformed missions in the Argentine Republic. The story is being told through New Zealand by a returned missionary who is placed in the extremely delicate position of being at the same time the reporter of his own achievements and those of his fellow-workers, and of soliciting funds on the strength of the work that has been done, or of the hopes of work that may yet be performed. It is rather unfortunate that these recurrent begging expeditions from Argentina, Bolivia, and elsewhere, are usually accompanied by uncharitable, ill-conditioned, and at times (as we have more than once shown) wholly misleading 'tilts at Rome', as the indignant veteran Protestant missionary, Dr. Needham Cust, calls them. In regard to Argentina, it now seems that, after all, there has been a great deal of cry and little wool—the results seem to lie rather in the hopes of a bright to-morrow than of the achievements of yesterday and to-day. So much we learn, in substance, from a letter written by the missionary-collector (the Rev. Robert F. Elder) in the 'Otago Daily Times' of December 30. 'As a matter of fact', writes he, 'I do not know of any Spanish-American church in Argentina that is entirely self-supporting'.

We are curious to know what has become of the numerous Protestants from the British Isles and from Germany that have become merchants, manufacturers, estancieros, shippers, professional men, etc., in the southern republic? Many of these have risen to great wealth and influence. They could, presumably, support many a Protestant church in Argentina, if Protestantism made any appeal to their conscience and their religious sentiment. And what has become of their Spanish-speaking children and grand-children—many of them also endowed with great wealth? Have they become Catholics? Or have they drifted away wholesale into agnosticism and irreligion? Surely, there must have been a terrible debacle of Protestantism in Argentina if, within all its wide domains—even within the great cosmopolitan city of Buenos Aires—a missionary on the spot is not aware that there is even one 'Spanish-speaking Protestant church' 'entirely self-

supporting', and if the few adherents of the Reformed creeds must needs send delegates across the Pacific to entreat financial aid from a young country like New Zealand. Surely there is a mystery here. And can it be that the Reformed missionaries are neglecting their own, and devoting their efforts, instead, to capturing the believing Catholic poor, through the allurements of some temporal advantage, in the capital of the republic? If this be their work—and we do not affirm that it is—their missions will be as costly and as barren as those to the Catholic poor in Ireland and in Italy.

### DIOCESE OF DUNEDIN

The annual vacation at Holy Cross College, Mosgiel, ends on February 15.

The Rev. Father McInerney, S.J., preached at Vespers at St. Joseph's Cathedral on Sunday.

The Rev. Cecil Morkane, who was ordained in Rome some months ago for the diocese of Dunedin, is at present doing temporary duty at the Cathedral.

The Rev. Father Hunt, C.S.S.R., is conducting a retreat at the Home of the Little Sisters of the Poor, Anderson's Bay. The Rev. Father Campbell, C.S.S.R., conducts missions next week in Maitaura and Wyndham. The following week a mission will be given in Gore by Fathers Hunt and Campbell.

At St. Joseph's Cathedral on Christmas Day Masses were celebrated almost continuously from six o'clock until ten. At eleven o'clock Pontifical High Mass was celebrated by his Lordship the Bishop, Rev. Father Cleary being assistant priest, Rev. Father Corcoran deacon, Rev. Father Coffey, Adm., subdeacon. The sermon on the day's festival was preached by the Rev. Father Coffey. Gounod's 'Mass of St. Cecilia' was given by the choir. Mr. J. O. Feil was conductor, and Mr. Vallis acted as organist. At the early Masses very large numbers approached the Holy Table. The high altar was decorated with much taste, the work of Misses Murphy and White.

A meeting, representative of St. Joseph's Cathedral parish and of South Dunedin, was held in St. Joseph's Hall on Sunday evening for the purpose of making arrangements for the annual schools' picnic. The Rev. Father Coffey, Adm., presided. The report and balance sheet for the past year were presented and adopted, both being considered very satisfactory. The question of the date and site of the next outing was referred to a sub-committee, consisting of Messrs. J. J. Marlow, J. Salmon, and J. Hally. Messrs. J. Salmon and P. F. Rogan were appointed joint secretaries. After discussing matters of detail it was decided to adjourn to a future date, when the report of the sub-committee will be considered.

### Death of Archbishop Murphy, Hobart

On Monday forenoon the sad news was received in Dunedin that his Grace Archbishop Murphy, of Hobart, the oldest Catholic prelate in the world, had passed away on the previous day in the 93rd year of his age, and the 62nd year of his episcopate. It was only a few months ago that the venerable prelate made a visitation of a remote part of his archdiocese and at the same time had his first experience of a drive in a motor car. The 'Monitor,' in the course of an editorial on the completion of the late Archbishop's sixty years in the episcopate, said:—'We know of no other Bishop in the Universal Church for whom such length of service in the episcopate can be claimed. Pius IX. sat for years on the pontifical throne, and in the exercise of his sovereignty saw the "years of Peter," but the saintly Pope passed away before he had completed the fifty-second year of his episcopate. His illustrious successor, Leo XIII., who also as Pope saw "the years of Peter," was not spared to celebrate the sixtieth anniversary of his episcopal consecration. On the opening day of that sixtieth year he had seen the celebration of his jubilee solemnly begun with religious rite and ceremony, and with all the pomp and pageantry befitting such a unique event in the Church. Before the anniversary itself had come round it pleased God to call the venerable Pontiff to his reward, and another Pope filled the Papal throne. The Archbishop of Hobart saw his people honor the opening of his diamond jubilee year, when the sixtieth anniversary of his consecration came

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