

number of representative persons there that day. Their beloved Archbishop and Metropolitan had sent one of his priests to represent him; the devoted Bishop of Dunedin had sent a representative; other priests had come from various parts of the archdiocese and of the diocese of Christchurch; and he (the speaker) had reason to know that other members of the clergy would have been present from the diocese of Dunedin and Christchurch and from the North had not these ceremonies fallen upon a Sunday. That showed the high esteem in which they hold Dean Regnault, and how they recognise what a happy choice has been made, in him, for a Provincial. Although, owing to the exigencies of his office, Dean Regnault was to remove to a more central position, he would continue to take a keen interest in that parish and diocese. That would help to mitigate their regret at his departure. It would also tend to soothe their sorrow that he was succeeded by one who was as well known in the diocese—by Father Aubry, who had been 22 years in New Zealand, and 15 years in the diocese of Christchurch. He (the speaker) felt sure he would be a worthy successor to two eminent men, the outgoing rector and Father Goutenoire. His Lordship concluded with brief references to the dignity and the responsibilities of the priestly state, and with an exhortation to his hearers to accord a loyal and affectionate co-operation to their new rector. He then formally invested Father Aubry with the office of rector of the Waimate missionary district.

Father Aubry expressed his sincere thanks to his Lordship for the high honor conferred upon him. He had felt highly flattered at the request to become successor in Waimate to the Very Rev. Father Provincial. He thanked his Lordship for his paternal advice, for his confidence, his encouragement, and would enter upon the task of rector with a certain amount of satisfaction because it was not the first time that he had discharged priestly duties in Waimate, and expressed the hope that his labors there would be fruitful. He had received a kind welcome from the people, and he earnestly prayed that he might be able to continue the good work which Father Goutenoire and the Father Provincial had done there for the glory of God and the good of souls. Having referred to the monumental work which was begun by Dean Regnault with the help and presence and blessing of his Lordship, Father Aubry said it would be a great comfort to his hearers to know that the ties of love that bound them to the Father Provincial were not to be broken; his duties called him to another sphere of labor, in which he would have the care of many churches, and therefore of theirs. He expressed the hope that the Father Provincial would extend to their new church till its completion the benefit of his prudent counsels, his experience in the building of churches, and his knowledge of the generosity of the people. Speaking of the Catholic schools, Father Aubry said that wherever he went he was comforted by the great work done by them, and he saw the devoted teachers spending themselves imparting to children instruction in piety and good manners. It was the greatest satisfaction to him to renew his acquaintance with the Sisters of St. Joseph. He had always found them excellent auxiliaries, and he esteemed it an honor to work for the people in the same sphere of labor as the Sisters of St. Joseph. The co-operation of the people in every good work was well known; there were abundant proofs of it, not only in Waimate, but in other churches of the district, and now in the laying of the foundation stone of the largest church in the district. Father Aubry concluded with happy references to his capable and devoted assistant (Father Tymons), with thanks to his Lordship, and with wishes for the latter's restoration to perfect health.

After Mass his Lordship the Bishop administered the Sacrament of Confirmation to over 100 candidates.

#### LAYING THE FOUNDATION STONE.

At 3 p.m. took place the ceremony of laying the foundation stone of the new church, to be dedicated to God under the invocation of St. Patrick. Despite an inclement day, a great concourse of people assembled on the spot, including contingents from places so far afield as Oamaru. The clergy present were his Lordship the Bishop, Very Rev. Dean Regnault, S.M., Rev. Fathers Aubry, S.M., Tymons, S.M., Tubman, S.M., Moloney, S.M., Graham, S.M., O'Connor, S.M., Morrell, M.S.C., and Rev. H. W. Cleary. Apologies were read from a number of clergy in various dioceses who were unable to attend.

The foundation stone, duly inscribed with date, etc., was duly laid and the customary blessings given by his Lordship the Bishop. In a cavity in the foundation stone there were placed sundry coins of the

realm, copies of the 'N.Z. Tablet' and the local papers, and a Latin inscription, of which the following is a translation: 'Pius X. being Supreme Pontiff, happily reigning; Edward VII. King of England; William Lee Plunket Governor of New Zealand; Joseph Ward Prime Minister; John Manchester Mayor of Waimate; and Peter Regnault, Provincial of the Society of Mary, Rector of the parish; the Revs. Paul Aubry and James Tymons assisting; the foundation stone of this church to be erected in honor of St. Patrick, was blessed and laid in the presence of a great gathering of people by the Right Rev. J. J. Grimes, Bishop of Christchurch, on the 26th day of January, 1908. Francis Petre architect; Murtagh, Ford, and Mills contractors. \* J. J. GRIMES, S.M., Bishop of Christchurch; P. Regnault, S.M., Prov.; P. Aubry, S.M.; Jas. Tymons, S.M.; Henry W. Cleary; N. B. Moloney, S.M.; F. J. Morrell, M.S.C.; John Francis O'Connor, S.M.; J. Manchester.

His Lordship the Bishop said it was a most gratifying sight to see such an immense gathering in spite of the inclement weather. Numbers had come to mark their appreciation of the work done by Dean Regnault, and to assist at the impressive and solemn Scriptural ceremony, for it was taken from the words of Holy Writ. That ceremony appealed to the sympathy, the faith, hope, and love of a Catholic people. It would be ungracious on his part and unfair to them to detain them long on such a day, but he would express his deep satisfaction at the number present. His Lordship referred to the new church as an evidence of the spirit of progress among the people, pointed out that it was rendered necessary in order to meet the necessities of worship, and appealed to his hearers to show their appreciation of the great work which Dean Regnault had undertaken in a spirit of trust in them and of faith in Almighty God, and he felt sure that neither Dean Regnault nor his successor would feel any difficulty in securing what was required. In conclusion, he urged them to give generous donations, quoted the old motto that he who gives quickly gives twice. He had asked God in the sacred rite just finished to shower His blessings, both temporal and spiritual, on those who would contribute. They had observed old and hallowed rites in that imposing ceremony. It carried them back to the time when, in the old lands, civilisation and faith had been brought hand in hand by missionaries sent by the Popes. They came in the same vestments to-day and used the old, undying language of the Church, and taken the words of the rite from the Old and New Testaments. His Lordship concluded by emphasising the need of prayer and of thankfulness for all the good gifts received from on high, and by expressing the hope that the great work of that day would be crowned with blessings for time and eternity.

Dean Regnault expressed his gratitude at the numbers that had gathered there, despite the inclement weather, from all parts of the district and from towns in South Canterbury and North Otago. He was also very grateful that so many members of other denominations had come with friendly feelings and material and assistance in that great work. In that district people of different religious beliefs were in social matters all one, with friendly feelings towards one another. Catholics had shown great generosity; members of other denominations, before they were called on, had sent their cheques. He thanked them one and all. The style of the church was unique so far as churches in this country were concerned. It was Lombardo-Romanesque. The cost of it would be between £6000 and £7000. The present contract was for £4000. At present the means at their disposal amounted to about £2100; by the time they would leave he hoped it would be something like £3000, and £1000 would remain to be raised by bazaars and collections. The first amount raised for the new church was £560 raised by a bazaar conducted by Father O'Connell six or seven years ago; the next, £800 left by the will of the late Mr. N. Quinn; and lastly, £435 left by the will of Mr. M. McGovern. Interest on the bequests brought the sum up to £2100. Dean Regnault then intimated that Sir William Steward and the Mayor of Waimate would speak.

Sir William Steward said it was a red-letter day for Waimate and the Catholic Church here, and one that would long be remembered by those present. Waimate was singularly fortunate in possessing in the Catholic priests that had been in the district for the last thirty years Christian men who were not only loved by members of their own Church, but by all other believers of other branches of the Christian Church. They all remembered Father John, who did such evident service not only to the Catholic Church, but to the cause of Christ and of humanity in the district. The speaker paid a high tribute to the worth and work of Dean Regnault, and enumerated the

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