

of the recently published testimonials from the Australasian Prelates in reviewing your latest work, "The Virginal Life." The new church and school buildings (eight in number) which you have been instrumental in erecting since your advent here are standing monuments of your zeal for the advancement of the spiritual interests of this parish. Should you have the privilege of an interview with our Holy Father, in Rome, you will be able to assure his Holiness that the loyalty of your parishioners to him is as unbounded as that of his children in other lands. When you revisit old Ireland, the land of your birth, which is to most of us the dearest spot on earth, and experience the felicity of meeting the friends of your boyhood, we feel that the warmth of the genuine Irish greeting will make amends for the trials and vicissitudes of a twenty years' exile. Asking you to accept the accompanying purse of sovereigns, and wishing you a prosperous voyage and a safe return to your loving people, and hoping that you will remember us in the Holy Sacrifice as we shall follow you with our prayers.

Mr. Bartlett then asked the Very Rev. Father Power's acceptance of a purse of sovereigns. In doing so he referred to Father Power's long service of 21 years in the Dominion, and his nine years' work in Hawera, saying he had always found that their priest had done and was doing his best to forward the interests of his flock. Father Power had asked that the parishioners should not do anything for him, but the parishioners had disobeyed their priest for once. He joined with previous speakers in wishing their guests a pleasant time and a safe return.

The Very Rev. Father Power upon rising to reply was received with long-continued applause. He said: Though I feel I have not done much to deserve them, I am gratified by the sentiments so kindly and so beautifully expressed in this address. I am gratified, not because my vanity has been excited, but because I feel I have parishioners kind and generous enough to discover and magnify the few points in my personality that are not altogether worthless. I have, it is true, paid some little attention to the children under my care, I have built, or rather I have persuaded others to build, one or two Christian schools and convents here and elsewhere, and I have tried to speak in these schools words of edification and encouragement; but I was performing a pleasant duty which had none of the characteristics of a task. For children are fresh from the hands of God, they are still unspoiled and unspotted by the world, and devotion to them is a joy to the priest who labors for them, while their grateful, holy love is like a precious fragrance round about him. I have spoken to you from the pulpit three times each Sunday during the past nine years, but when I examine my conscience to see if I have always spoken after that careful preparation and with that dignity which reverence for the word of God demands, I know that I stand more in need of your prayers than of your praise, for it is a serious thing to stand in the sacramental presence of the Divine Master and speak a message in His name to those who form His Mystic Body. It is true, that so far as my limited abilities enabled me, I have defended the Faith and the honor of Holy Church in the pages of the secular press, but to neglect to do so would be a grave dereliction of duty, and for the opportunity afforded me I have to thank the fair-mindedness and more than common liberality of the editors of the press in this parish. I have often spoken to you on the duty of loyalty to the Pope, the Archbishop, and the priests, and I am glad to acknowledge that you make most loyal spiritual children. There is an unswerving constancy in your devotion, in your service, in your fidelity, in your love, which manifests itself under every varying circumstance and leaves little to be desired. I know the demands that I have made upon your purse and your patience, and I know how expressive of faith and devotion has been your unvarying response. Your allusion to my beloved Fatherland and that of many amongst you is sweet and graceful. Ireland is the home of natural and supernatural beauty, still the fairest and still the holiest spot on earth; but, please God, I will tell there of the beauty of this new land whose provinces were once named New Ulster, New Leinster, and New Munster. I will tell of the beauties of Taranaki and of the grand monarch of the mountains that reigns in the midst of its fertile plains, whose royal head is diademed with the eternal snows, and whose robes are decked with nature's richest tints. But with more pride and patriotism I will tell of the spiritual beauties, of the sixteen homes of the Blessed Sacrament that nestle round that mountain, and of the eight Christian schools where the sweetest work of God is done, and of the thousand happy homes where the guardian angels bear the names of Jesus, Mary, and Patrick spoken with

reverence morning and night, and this sometimes in the rich and eloquent and ancient Gaelic tongue. The twenty years of fatigues and trials for which you think I need a recompense have been to me twenty golden years of happiness, without one continuous half-hour of sadness. It was inevitable that persons should make mistakes in my regard and I in theirs, for it is only God Who makes no mistakes, but in the case of my parishioners and their pastor, the differences of friends have ever been but the beginnings of friendship. It will be so in the case of the young, zealous, and energetic priest under whose care I am leaving you with confidence. He and you will be to each other a mutual help and a mutual comfort. I, as in duty bound, will offer the holy Mass especially for your spiritual and temporal welfare every Sunday and holiday during my absence; and you, I know, will pray for me that on my return from the holiday which your gift will make more enjoyable, we may feel ourselves nearer to God and dearer to each other.

Deans Grogan and McKenna and Father Treacy all joined in wishing Father Power and Miss Power bon voyage, a pleasant trip, and a safe return.

Rev. Father O'Dwyer (who will be in charge of the parish during Very Rev. Father Power's absence) said he hoped that he and the parishioners would during their pastor's absence be a happy family. He endorsed the remarks of previous speakers.

Very Rev. Father Power returned thanks for the kindly references to Miss Power.

Interspersed with the speeches an acceptable musical programme was given, to which the following contributed:—Misses Connell, A. Gallagher, Sutton, O'Neill, C. O'Reilly, Swan, and Father Power. The accompaniments were played by Mrs. W. A. Quin and Mrs. D. Banks. The ladies provided refreshments on a liberal scale.

Christchurch Catholic Club

(From an occasional correspondent.)

Owing to the resignation of Mr. W. Hoban as president of the Club, Mr. D. Edmonds, jun., was unanimously elected to the position.

The Amateur Athletic Club in connection with the Club held a sports meeting in Lancaster Park last Thursday evening. The meeting proved a great success, the following being the winners:—440yds, J. Shaw (1), J. Munro (2); 100yds, J. L. Leydon (1), J. Munro (2). The following acted as judges:—Messrs. J. R. Hayward, W. Hayward, E. Harper, J. J. Dobbs, and D. Edmonds.

An extraordinary meeting of the Club was held last Tuesday, and there was a very large attendance. The secretary read the financial statement for the quarter, which showed the Club to be in a sound position. An apology was received from the patron, Sir George Clifford. The matter of providing more suitable rooms came in for a considerable amount of discussion, the unanimous opinion being that the present room is wholly inadequate, as it is far too small for the number of young men who daily make use of it. It was resolved to make inquiries as to the cost of erecting a suitable hall in a central position, also the advisability of buying a suitable house capable of being made into a club-house.

A billiard tournament is now in progress, and the Dramatic Society is busy preparing another play, to take place shortly.

Mr. Hoban, who has occupied the position of president of the Club for some time past, has, through pressure of private business, been reluctantly compelled to resign office. During Mr. Hoban's term of office the Club has made rapid progress, and his resignation was received with much regret. At the conclusion of the meeting a hearty unanimous vote of thanks was accorded the retiring president. Consequent upon his retirement the following changes have been made: President, Mr. D. Edmonds, jun.; vice-president, Mr. J. L. Leydon; executive, Mr. D. O'Halloran (late vice-president of the Temuka Club).

Within a short while (says the 'Catholic Press') six prelates from the Commonwealth will be on their way to Rome to pay their visit ad limina, and one of them, the Most Rev. Dr. Dalrymple, who succeeds Archbishop Murphy to the See of Hobart, goes to receive the Pallium from the hands of the Pope. The other prelates who intend voyaging to the centre of Christendom are his Grace the Archbishop of Melbourne, his Grace Cardinal-Archbishop Kelly, of Sydney, their Lordships Fishers Dubh (Rochampton), Higgins (Ballarat), and Doyle (Lismore).