

Mr. H. Ian Simson. The visiting clergy were Rev. Fathers Cahill (Dannevirke), Johnston (Waipawa), Tymons and McDonnell (Meeanee), and O'Connor (Napier).

The proceedings opened with an overture by the Hastings Orchestral Society, and during the evening musical items were contributed by Miss Ruby Cronin, Messrs. Hudson and Avison, the Sacred Heart choir (assisted by St. Matthew's choir). The accompaniments were played by Mrs. V. R. Roach.

The Mayor said that a noticeable and pleasing feature of that evening's gathering was the assemblage of all classes of the community, irrespective of creed, which was proof of the respect and esteem in which the Very Rev. Dean Smyth was held. During his twenty-three years' residence in Hastings Dean Smyth had labored diligently for the good of his parishioners and Church, and also for the advancement of the district, and he (the speaker) trusted that the Dean would be long spared to continue his good work.

Mr. J. T. Blake said that he, as one of the oldest parishioners, could not let the present opportunity pass by without thanking Dean Smyth for the many kindnesses he had shown to him and his family, and for his kindly and valuable advice he felt deeply grateful. Mr. Blake, on behalf of the parishioners, then presented Dean Smyth with a beautifully illuminated address, which read as follows:

'Very Rev. and Dear Father,—It is with deep regret we meet to say farewell to you. We cannot permit you to depart without placing on record our appreciation of your noble priestly labors amongst us. For over twenty-three years you have been our devoted pastor and trusted guide, working unceasingly on our behalf, giving of your best, spending yourself to promote our interests both spiritual and temporal. You have been a true father to your people. Your zeal for our spiritual welfare has ever been the same—earnest and unflagging. Thousands have been blessed by your priestly ministry. Your untiring energy and administrative ability stand revealed in our beautiful church, fine convent, large and comfortable schools, commodious hall, and neat presbytery, all of them worthy monuments to your name and memory. We are very grateful for all you have done for us and our parish. We had fondly hoped to see you spend the remainder of your days in our midst, but Providence has ordained otherwise. While we regret your approaching departure, we desire to appreciate the high estimation in which you are held by your superiors as testified by your appointment to so important and responsible a charge as the Meeanee Seminary. We earnestly hope that God's grace may be ever abundantly with you to enable you to fulfil the onerous duties of your new position, and whether near or far from us you will always hold the same place in our hearts that you have ever held. Signed on behalf of the parishioners—C. O'Donoghue, D. O'Reilly, F. Pimley, J. A. Pothan, J. Hennessy, C. Hughes, W. Y. Dennett, J. T. Blake.'

Mr. W. Y. Dennett, speaking as an old parishioner, said that during Dean Smyth's many years of labor in this district the people had learned to love him, which made the pain of parting so very much greater. He (the speaker) well remembered the time of the Dean's arrival in Hastings. In those days there was only a very small church—there was no presbytery, convent, or school. But very shortly after the Dean arrived he set to work to enlarge the church, then followed the presbytery, convent, and the magnificent church; and his latest labor was the fine hall in which they were assembled. The Dean's devotion to his people would make his memory live long in their hearts. Dean Smyth had also been the means of bringing the Sisters of St. Joseph to Hastings to teach in the schools, and the formation of a branch of the St. Vincent de Paul Society. He had also established a Young Men's Club. On behalf of the parishioners, he had much pleasure in handing Dean Smyth a purse of sovereigns, which little showed the wealth of the kindly feeling in the hearts of the subscribers.

Mr. A. V. Avison, conductor of the Sacred Heart choir, on behalf of the members, presented Dean Smyth with an enlarged photograph of the choir and a silver inkstand, suitably inscribed.

Master Patrick Carroll, on behalf of the altar boys, presented the Dean with an enlarged photograph of themselves; and on behalf of the Children of Mary, Master Lee handed Dean Smyth a beautifully-bound photographic album, containing photographs of the church buildings and parish societies.

Mr. Alfred Dillon, M.P., referred to the good work done by Father Reignier in the early days, and said the Dean was a worthy successor to such a man, and was respected by all classes and denominations. Meeanee had sustained a great loss in the departure of Dr. Kennedy, but the Dean would prove an able successor.

The Rev. Mr. Hobbs (Anglican) said that he had to apologise for the absence of Rev. Mr. Kayll, who was unfortunately unable to be present that evening. Dean

Smyth had been a very intimate friend of the speaker for many years. He believed, however, that the parish of Hastings, and far beyond it, would benefit by what at present appeared to be their grief, as the good labors in which the Dean would be engaged would be a distinct gain to the district. He felt that he must congratulate the Archbishop of Wellington on being able to supply this diocese with a man who was both severe and gentle to train the students for the very solemn work before them. In conclusion, he had to thank the Dean on behalf of himself and his congregation for the many kindnesses extended by him, and he hoped Dean Smyth would be long spared to continue his good work.

Mr. A. L. D. Fraser said that he had been asked by Sir William Russell to say a few words on his behalf, and he could assure those present that it was with regret that Sir William had been unable to attend, as he was a very old friend of Dean Smyth politically. Personally, he had known the Dean in connection with works for the public welfare, and all through his career he had not been found wanting.

Dr. Macdonell and Mr. Ian Simson also added their need of praise, and expressed their regret at Dean Smyth's departure.

Rev. Father Quinn said that to see such a large gathering, representative of every class and creed, was indeed a great source of pleasure to him, as it was an indication of the high esteem in which the Dean was held. It was now about two and a half years since it had been his good fortune to be associated with the Dean. 'You have to live with a man before you know him,' said Father Quinn, 'and I can honestly say that even with the aid of the most powerful microscope it would be impossible to find any fault with Dean Smyth.' Continuing, Rev. Father Quinn said the Dean was indeed a man who forgot himself in his zeal to help others. He was one he could look upon as a wise counsellor; in fact, his departure was to him like the parting of father and son. He trusted that God would bless him in his new work.

On rising to reply, Dean Smyth received a great ovation. He said there had been certain philosophers who, we were told, denied their own existence, and he thought there were times when people were placed in such extraordinary circumstances that they might be pardoned if they did not know themselves. This reminded him of a little legend which is said to have happened in Limerick. In the olden days the people of Limerick could not come to an understanding with regard to the election of a Mayor. At last they agreed to elect, as chief magistrate of the city, the first man that crossed Thomond Bridge leading to the town. It so happened that the lucky individual was a poor man carrying a bundle of rods. People laid gentle hands on him, telling him they were about to make him Mayor, and led him into the city, where he was clothed in the robes of office. The poor man was naturally almost beside himself, and a little later on in the day his dear wife, who had been anxiously searching for him, found him seated in the Mayor's chair, clad in his magnificent robes. Regardless of conventionalities, she ran up to him, saying, 'Shon! Shon! don't you know me?' 'How could I know you when I don't know myself!' came the reply. The Dean said he felt himself to be very much in the same plight. When listening to the beautiful address and the eloquent speeches, prompted, no doubt, by kindly and generous feelings of heart, he asked himself, 'Am I Father Smyth at all, or has there been a transmigration of souls?' He sincerely hoped that this had not happened, and that he was still the same old Father Smyth. In the address and eloquent speeches he had been spoken of as priest, pastor, and citizen, and reference had been made to the success which had attended his efforts in the parish during the past twenty-three years. Well, he could say without any shadow of vanity or egotism that he had tried to conceive the true idea of priesthood, and what a priest should be in himself, in his relations to his people, and to the public at large. A priest was not placed merely to fulfil certain functions, but he was there to educate and bring out what was best and noblest in the human composition; to do his share towards increasing the reflection of the adorable Trinity which is in man, and thereby to bring out the noble qualities of the mind, the heart, and the will—the mind to know, the heart to love, and the will to do. To succeed in these it required that he should not only be in his church every Sunday, but also in the nursery of the churches—that is, the schools. They had referred to this in their address to him. And it was on this account that priest and people united to build and maintain their own schools, and this he considered was one of the noblest works in the parish. His Grace Archbishop Redwood, in speaking to them of the necessity of attending to their schools, had said he would rather see a school in a parish than a church, because if we had no schools our churches would be empty. When he came to the parish of Hastings

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