

## Presentation to Mr J. A. Scott.

On Tuesday evening of last week a large number of the Liberals of Bruce assembled in St. John's schoolroom for the purpose of tendering Mr J. A. Scott, who contested the seat for the electorate in the Liberal interest, some token of the esteem in which he is held. The chair was taken by Mr John Crawford Anderson in the absence of Mr John Tongh, and the proceedings opened with a short entertainment consisting of vocal and instrumental items.

Mr Anderson said they had met together that night to honor Mr Scott, who had contested the Bruce seat with Mr James Allen. Mr Scott was not successful, but he fought manfully, on the best terms, and as a gentleman. Two conflicting elements which they had not calculated on had entered into the Bruce election. In the first place, Mr Scott was a prohibitionist. He was not going to enter into the facts concerning other elections, but he could not help saying that he was convinced Mr Scott could not feel other than disappointed at the action of some of his prohibition friends. Mr Scott, however, had no reason to feel dismayed. He was a man of deep thinking and close reasoning; he had good powers of oratory, and he believed Mr Scott would yet come to the top of the tree, and in prophesying that he was prophesying on a certainty. Referring to the action of what he termed another section of the electors, who allowed religious feelings to sway their judgment, he said that if the politics of New Zealand were to be decided on such lines, then heaven help our country and any politicians who came forward. Mr Anderson then handed Mr Scott a purse of sovereigns and an illuminated address, and in doing so said he hoped that in the next political race he would come out on top.

The following is the text of the address, which was signed by many of the leading Liberals in the electorate:—

'To J. A. Scott, Esq., M.A., LL.B.

'Sir,—We, the Liberals of Bruce, feel that we would be doing you but scant justice and ourselves but little honor, were we to allow you to retire into private life again after the late political contest without expressing in some tangible way our admiration of the plucky fight you made, the courtesy you extended to your opponent, your thorough grasp of the political situation, and the manliness with which you accepted defeat. We are constrained by the result of the late election to admit that we are at present unequal to the Conservative element of Bruce in numbers, but we are confident that with such men as you amongst us we may fairly claim to be at least equal in intelligence, and cannot long remain numerically inferior. The honest straightforward tactics you employ cannot fail of success in the end, and it is our earnest hope that you may long dwell amongst us to pursue them as heretofore. We beg your acceptance of this address and accompanying purse of sovereigns as a souvenir of our late friendly alliance, when we worked so harmoniously together in the great cause of Liberty and progress, not, we trust, fruitlessly and for the last time.'

Mr Scott, in replying, said he had a difficulty in adequately expressing his appreciation of their splendid and practical gift, and the kind things they had said about him. He wished to thank them from the bottom of his heart for these and for the address which had been so skilfully illuminated by their friend, Mr Rowley. He compared his fight with the sitting member to David's encounter with Goliath, the difference being that in this instance Goliath had come out on top. But there were people who were ready to show their appreciation of David. David was not dismayed, and he felt confident the day would yet come when he would be able to take a hand in assisting the grand old cause of Liberalism. He spoke of the injustice those people had done to themselves and to him, whose better judgment was swayed by religious leanings, and in reference to the action of the prohibitionists he could state his feelings by pointing to the sailor, who, when disposing of a parrot, said the bird was not much of a talker, but was a beggar to think.—(Laughter.) Though he (Mr Scott) might say very little, there was nothing to prevent him being a 'beggar to think.' At the same time he believed if the prohibitionists had given him a reasonable measure of support they, as a party, would have stood higher in the public estimation than they did to-day. After giving a few amusing anecdotes concerning his election experiences, he said he felt hopeful for the prospects of Liberalism in Bruce, and considered it had a fair chance if fairly treated.—(Applause.) The election was a searching time for the candidate and his supporters. A man was very fortunate if he emerged from a political fight with his character untarnished and he was deeply thankful to see from the address that he stood as high, if not higher, in their respect and in the respect of the community than he did before he entered on the political campaign. In concluding a lengthy and feeling address he said he would never forget the kindness they had shown him, nor would he ever cease to treasure the address with which they had presented him.

During the evening songs were rendered by Misses M. Coleman, A. Hanniffy, K. M'Laughlin, and Messrs A. M'Bey, and H. M'William. Miss N. Scanlan contributed a pianoforte solo, and Mr W. Kirby a violin selection.

After Very Rev. Father O'Neill had addressed a few words to the audience the gathering terminated with the singing of 'Auld lang syne.'

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## Catholic Schools in Melbourne.

The inspector of Catholic schools in the archdiocese of Melbourne, in his annual report, states that there are 21,216 children in the 109 primary schools of the colony. The total number of teachers is 463, of whom 203 are members of religious Orders. Over one-fourth of the schools are in charge of the Sisters of Mercy, the attendance at these schools being close on 6000 children. During the year ending September, 1902, the new school buildings cost £1929, and the expenditure in alterations, repairs, and appliances was £1492, making a total of £3421. The returns from the colleges and high schools show an expenditure for the year on new schools, alterations, and repairs of £20,025, the two new colleges erected by the Christian Brothers at Victoria parade and North Melbourne being responsible for half this amount. A total of 2645 pupils receive in the high schools and colleges an efficient religious and secular training. Within the past year 45 passed the Matriculation examination of the Melbourne University, 28 matriculated in music, and 355 satisfied the examiners of the London Colleges of Music. In conclusion the inspector states that the excellent discipline of the primary schools, and the attention and courtesy of the teachers rendered the work of examination easy and pleasant.

## Death of the Rev. Father McEnroe, S.J., Sydney.

A cable message from Sydney in the daily papers of December 27 briefly announced the death through an accident of the Rev. Father T. McEnroe, S.J. From our exchanges we are able to glean the following particulars of the cause of Father McEnroe's death, which took place at his residence, Loyola, North Sydney, on Christmas Eve. The evidence given at the inquest showed that the deceased, who was sixty-eight years of age, was in Greenwich road, North Sydney, on the date mentioned, when he saw a horse attached to a cart, in which was seated a young lad, madly rushing down the thoroughfare. He advanced into the roadway and endeavored to stay the animal's progress, but was knocked down and received the injuries which soon after proved fatal. Drs. Newmarch and Rorke attended to the sufferer, but without avail, as within two hours the reverend gentleman passed away. The skull was badly fractured and several ribs were broken.

The late Father McEnroe, who was a brother of the Rev. Father C. McEnroe, C.M., of St. Vincent's, Ashfield, Sydney, was well known in the Diocese of Dunedin, having been for some years connected with St. Aloysius College, Waikari, and was later on rector of Invercargill. Since then he filled the position of procurator at St. Ignatius College, Sydney, after which he went to Victoria, and at Hawthorne spent five or six years. For a period of between four and five years he was connected with St. Mary's Church, North Sydney, and for the past twelve months was in charge of the parish church in the Greenwich district, and resided at Loyola.

On December 26, at the Greenwich Church, a Requiem Mass was celebrated, at which Mgr. Carroll (Vicar-General) presided. The Mass was said by the Rev. Father Ryan, S.J. (chief of the Order in Australia), and was attended by a congregation that filled the small church, and which included Dean O'Haran, Fathers Cregan, Fleming, Sturtzo, S.J., Kirby, S.J., Brennan, S.J., Kelly, S.J., Gately, S.J., Rooney, and O'Reilly, besides representatives of all the religious Orders in the State, and many prominent lay members of the church. The funeral took place afterwards at the Gore Hill cemetery, the service being conducted by the Rev. Father Ryan, S.J.—R.I.P.

## NELSON.

(From our own correspondent.)

December 31.

It was with great joy and satisfaction good news was received after a long suspense from the Very Rev. Dean Mahoney concerning his health. On Christmas Eve the Rev. G. Mahoney received a cable from the Dean announcing his recovery. The cable ran thus: 'Christmas greetings to all, health wonderful, marvellous recovery.' On two different occasions lately a public novena was offered up for the Very Rev. Dean's recovery, and now we are offering up a novena of thanksgiving. We have great hopes of soon seeing the genial and happy face of the good Dean once more amongst us.

Father O'Donnell, of Victoria, who had been preaching the Retreat to the Sisters here, left last Monday for New Plymouth, where he will conduct the Retreat for the Sisters. While he was here he preached some eloquent sermons to large congregations at St. Mary's.

At the Australian annual writing and drawing competition the gold medal for general excellence in writing was awarded to Miss R. Young. This is the third year in succession that the medal has been won by a pupil attending these schools. Prizes for drawing and pencil writing were obtained by the following pupils:—Misses L. Harvey, K. Ryan, K. Brown, K. Stallard, R. Young, T. Martin, L. Hickey, D. Roughtony, D. Kay, N. Constable, M. Franklyn, A. Franklyn, F. Stapp, C. Parmenter, N. O'Brien, and Master A. Houll. Pencil writing: Misses G. Maughan, R. Roughton, D. Betts, E. Boundy.

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