

I have a pleasant duty to perform, and am thankful for having the honor of doing it (continued the Mayor). On behalf of the congregation of Hastings and Clive allow me to present you with this purse of sovereigns. It is a memento of this auspicious occasion, and I can assure you it poorly represents the great wealth of regard and esteem which we all have for you. It has been subscribed freely and willingly, and I can assure you it is accompanied by good wishes and kindly feelings from the bottom of the hearts of the givers, which, to my mind, are more valuable than the gold this purse contains. Since you have sojourned amongst us you have been to us as a father to his children, and treated us with that affection and love which has made a very deep impression on our hearts. I am safe in saying that I voice the sentiments and feelings of every lady and gentleman present in wishing you long life, good health and happiness, and it is our sincere prayer that Almighty God may spare you to celebrate your golden jubilee amongst us.

Dean Smyth's Reply.

Very Rev. Dean Smyth, in replying, said that the proceedings of the last few days reminded him of the old Latin motto, 'De mortuis nil nisi bonum.' It seemed to him in listening to all the kind things lately said that they must be talking of someone else, and that he must be dead, and that the people were observing the spirit of the terse Latin motto. It had been a continuous strain of praise. His imagination had run away with him for the time, and he almost thought he must be deceased and that the Archbishop had made Father Galerne parish priest—perhaps this was only an anticipation. However, he had assured himself that he was still alive, but undergoing an ordeal of kindness, which would nerve him for further exertions. He could not find words to fully give expression to his feelings for all that had been said and done. Dean Smyth then gave a resume of his career, detailed his ordination by the Archbishop of Armagh, spoke of his life as a student, and of the careers of his fellow-students. All, he said, had their special ambition. Many had since distinguished themselves in literature, science, and art, and other walks of life. A priest, too, may have his ambitions to carry out properly his work in the Church, and may even fairly hope for distinction in the Church. He had not desired or expected the honor of a deanship, but as the Archbishop had said that he had earned it, it would not be for him to refuse it as it would be contradicting his Grace. Father Smyth, alluding to the purse of sovereigns, said that the wish had been expressed that he might see his golden jubilee. He hoped so too. But in one sense he had already enjoyed both the silver and golden jubilee by their handsome presents. Dean Smyth spoke at some length upon his mission in Hastings since his arrival here on January 30, 1886. He gave a resume of the cost of the various buildings. The presbytery had cost £730; altering old church for school purposes, £100; school buildings, £1170; convent, £1400; and church, £3300. He concluded by repeating his deep gratitude, to the clergy who had come, some of them great distances, to do him honor, to the congregation for their presents and affectionate sentiments to him, and last and perhaps greatest, to the Sisters and children whose beautiful present and ciborium and address had filled him with holy joy and holy pride.

The Mayor then made a presentation of a silver-mounted walking stick to Father Galerne, as a mark of the parishioners' esteem during the short time he had been amongst them.

The Rev. Father Galerne acknowledged the gift in suitable terms.

During the evening the following rendered vocal and instrumental items: Mr. McDuff Boyd's orchestra, Misses Caulton and Vickers, Mesdames Woolley and McDuff Boyd, Father Galerne, Messrs. W. Vickers, McDuff Boyd, A. L. Ryan, and Father Ainsworth.

At the conclusion of the programme the ladies of the congregation waited on those present with light refreshments, consisting of tea and coffee and delightful confectionary and fruit, which were greatly appreciated.

Sunday, August 23, being the twenty-fifth anniversary of the ordination to the priesthood of the Very Rev. Dean Smyth (says the 'Hastings Standard') Solemn High Mass was celebrated in the Sacred Heart Church at 11 o'clock. Very Rev. Dean Smyth was celebrant, Rev. Father Huault deacon, and Rev. Father Lazaire sub-deacon. Among the clergy present were the Ven. Archdeacon Devoy and Very Rev. Father Lewis, V.G. Rev. Father Galerne assisted the choir, who sang Farmer's Mass in B flat. The sermon was preached by Archdeacon Devoy, who took for his text, 'Thou art a priest for ever according to the order of Melchisedech.' The preacher dwelt on the dignity and duties of the priesthood. They were there, he said, to assist at the silver jubilee of Father Smyth. Of the twenty-five years he had held the sacerdotal dignity, seventeen years, with only a short interval, had been spent in the parish of Hastings. It was a subject of rejoicing, not only among

the parishioners of Hastings, but also amongst the entire clergy of the archdiocese, that after so much arduous and anxious work he was still in possession of health and strength to go on with the good work. The proofs of his zeal and energy were all around them, in the magnificent church, the presbytery, the schools, and the convent. Father Smyth could only say with the Psalmist, 'I have loved, O Lord, the beauty of Thy house.' These works were a standing memorial not only to his labors in the parish, but also to the co-operation of the parishioners. Archdeacon Devoy stated that his friendship with Father Smyth had commenced 35 years ago, when they were students together, both in Ireland and France and he (Archdeacon Devoy) had assisted at Father Smyth's first Mass, and had bade him 'good-bye' on his departure for America, little thinking that they would be working together in distant New Zealand. The preacher concluded by hoping that Father Smyth would celebrate his golden jubilee. After the Mass the Vicar-General of the archdiocese (Father Lewis) stated that Archbishop Redwood had charged him to tell them that he wished to join them in the congratulation to Father Smyth, and as a token of his Grace's appreciation of Father Smyth's long and valuable services a letter was read from the Archbishop formally appointing him Dean of Hastings. Father Smyth, who was much affected, replied briefly, accepting, with gratitude, both the congratulations of the clergy and laity, and the honor conferred on him by the Archbishop. In the evening there were solemn Vespers and Benediction, with a sermon by the Very Rev. Father Lewis.

Monsignor Mackay in Fiji

In a private letter written to a friend in Dunedin the Right Rev. Mgr. Mackay gives an account of his visit to Fiji on his homeward trip:—'We arrived at Suva on Sunday afternoon (he writes) and I called upon Bishop Vidal, by whom I was very kindly received. On Monday we visited Rewa, which is about 15 miles up the river. We proceeded there by one of the many channels of the river which has been deepened by the blasting of the rocks which obstructed the navigation. This work had been carried out by the boys of the mission, who took away the stones for the building of the new church. Owing to the clearance effected all the steam launches can now go by this channel, which is a short cut to the Mission Station. Quite close to the landing stage at Rewa we saw the famed lime-kilns, which are really holes dug in the ground, about 2ft deep, in which timber and coral procured from the reefs are burnt, the whole making a first-class lime which is being used in the building of the new church—a really fine structure, of which Father Rougier is architect, clerk of works, and general overseer. It was in one of these "lime-kilns" that the alleged Bible-burning took place. When the people of Namosi, with their chief, became Catholics the natives brought their books to the Catholic school, where they were received by one of the French Sisters, who did not count them. The Wesleyan authorities alleged that the number of books of all sorts distributed among this tribe was 238, and apparently on this they based their allegations as to the number destroyed. The Sister picked out the dirty and torn books, placed them in a kerosene tin, and emptied the contents on the burning coral. Bishop Vidal, as soon as he had heard of what had been done, sent for all the copies preserved, which numbered from 180 to 200, the balance destroyed being from 30 to 50, all of which were altogether unfit for use. So you can understand what a mountain was made out of a molehill.'

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