

MR. W. H. K. REDMOND, M.P., IN FIJI

Perhaps the most distinguished passenger on the R.M.S. Marama to-day (says the *Western Pacific Herald* of February 18) was Mr. W. H. K. Redmond, M.P., brother of the Leader of the Irish Parliamentary Party. Upon the Marama's arrival Mr. and Mrs. Redmond were met by the Rev. Father Thomas Fox and Mr. D. Smith (secretary of the Fiji Catholic Association), and were taken for a motor drive round Suva and surrounding country.

At 10 a.m. Mr. and Mrs. Redmond repaired to Bishops court, where they were welcomed by the members of the F.C.A., and where light refreshments were served.

Father Fox, in the course of a short speech apologised for speaking at all, as he said he had that morning promised the member for Clare, that there would be no formality about his welcome to Suva, and especially no speeches. However, he felt that he was voicing the sentiments of all the members of the F.C.A., those absent as well as those present, in wishing Mr. Redmond and his wife a hearty welcome to Suva. One of the objects of the association, said Father Fox, was to welcome distinguished Catholic visitors to their shores. Mr. Redmond was certainly a distinguished Catholic, and in the House of Commons had always shown himself a champion of religious liberty, and for the Catholic Church in particular had always claimed a fair field and no favor: That was all Catholics wanted. 'I must conclude,' continued Father Fox, 'otherwise my honorable friend will accuse me of making a speech, and breaking my word, but before concluding, I wish to add, that in addition to our admiration and good wishes, Mr. and Mrs. Redmond will ever be accompanied by our prayers to Almighty God for their health, happiness, and prosperity.'

Mr. Redmond, in reply, said I am most agreeably surprised at the cordial manner in which Mrs. Redmond and I have been received in Suva. Father Fox has been guilty of flattery when he called me a distinguished visitor. His complimentary remarks, and your cordial and warm reception, are, I am sure, meant more for the party in the House of Commons to which I belong, than to myself personally. Gentlemen, I am happy to be able to say, that if you want news from Home, I can give you good news; both from a religious and political point of view. I am able to report progress. Let me take one point as a sign of the times, and as a proof that bigotry and religious bigotry is gradually disappearing. One of the most painful scenes at which I have ever assisted in the House was when his Majesty the late King Edward took the oath of Accession, and, much against his own personal sentiments, was obliged by the Constitution to mortally insult the religious sentiments of many millions of his faithful Catholic subjects, and class them as idolaters. This blot, gentlemen, has been removed from the Statute Book, and his Gracious Majesty King George was not compelled to do such a thing. There is one object the Irish Party have in view, and that is that Catholics and non-Catholics should work together hand in hand for the prosperity of Ireland. In conclusion, I wish to tell Father Fox, and you, gentlemen, and all the members of the F.C.A., how grateful Mrs. Redmond and myself are. If ever you come to our home in County Wicklow, we will be delighted to give you, if not as warm a reception, at least as cordial as one as you have given us to-day.'

Mr. and Mrs. Redmond's deep interest in education was evidenced by their visit to the convent, where they were received by the Rev. Mother Superior. The Cathedral building also attracted Mr. Redmond's favorable notice, and he was deeply impressed when told that the stone had all come from the Pymont quarries at Sydney.

Mr. and Mrs. Redmond during the day paid their respects to Sir Bickham and Lady Escott, when Mr. Redmond's curio collection was enriched by the addition of a 'tabua' the gift of his Excellency. They also saw

Mr. Mahaffy, whose father, the distinguished Professor Mahaffy, of Dublin University, is so well known a figure in Irish circles as to be looked upon as an institution in Dublin.'

Consecration of Archbishop Harty

The consecration of the Most Rev. Dr. Harty as Archbishop of Cashel and Emly took place on Sunday, January 18, in the cathedral town of Thurles, Co. Tipperary. An immense concourse of people thronged the historic town, and the impressive ceremonies were attended by many members of the Irish hierarchy, in addition to representatives of the religious Orders, of the clergy of the archdiocese, and by numerous distinguished Irish laymen. Thurles was *en fete* for the occasion, triumphal arches, banners, flags, and heraldic devices, with a host of bilingual greetings of welcome to the new Archbishop distinguished the scheme of decoration on all sides. The consecrating prelate was the Most Rev. Dr. Fennelly (late Archbishop of the See), assisted by the Most Rev. Dr. Browne, Bishop of Cloyne, and the Most Rev. Dr. Sheehan, Bishop of Waterford. About 3000 people witnessed the solemn ceremonies in the spacious cathedral, and the privileged laity in the sanctuary included the mother of the new prelate, Mrs. Mary Harty, of Murroe, Co. Limerick. In addition to the officiating prelates, the following Bishops were present:—Dr. Fogarty, Killaloe; Dr. O'Dwyer, Limerick; Dr. Brownrigg, Ossory; Dr. O'Dea, Galway; Dr. Kelly, Ross; Dr. Mangan, Kerry; Dr. Cotter, Portsmouth; Dr. McKenna, Clogher; Dr. Morrisroe, Achonry; the Lord Abbot of Mount Mellerey; and the Lord Abbot of Mount St. Joseph's, Roscrea.

The consecration sermon was preached by the Most Rev. Dr. Fogarty. After referring to the episcopal office, its dignity and responsibility, his Lordship alluded to the character and gifts of the newly-consecrated Archbishop. 'Sprung from yourselves,' he said, 'you know the blood that runs in his veins.' Divine Providence, that makes its calculations in the silence of eternity, and sees the end in the beginning, endowed him with gifts of mind and character which distinguished him amongst his fellows, blessed his soul while still a child with light and grace, in preparation for the call that came to him, like Samuel, in the night, and placed him on the altar 'a faithful priest of God.' And then, still steadily pursuing, but not yet declaring, its high ulterior ends, installed him a professor of theology in the College of Maynooth—that unrivalled institution, great mother of Ireland's famous priesthood, and of many mitres—where his hand was schooled and strengthened to carry honorably the historic crozier of Cashel that is placed in it to-day.' In conclusion, his Lordship said: 'We hail the Most Rev. Dr. Harty as Archbishop of Cashel and Metropolitan of Munster; we rejoice at his appointment, we congratulate him on his exalted position, however much he himself may shrink from it; and, under God and with all our hearts and fervent prayers, we wish him many happy years of heaven-blessed rule to reign over a loyal and devoted priesthood and a people, who, like their fathers, love their country dearly, but love God still more, His Holy Church and the Pontiffs who speak for it.'

When the procession had returned to the college, a series of addresses of congratulation and loyalty were presented to Dr. Harty in the presence of a great assembly of the people in front of the cathedral. The addresses were received from deputations representing the chapter and clergy of the archdiocese, and from scholastic, national, and public bodies throughout Munster.

A banquet was afterwards held in the college, at which 400 guests were entertained, and in the evening there were firework displays in the College Park and a torchlight procession through the town.

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