



RIGHT REV. MGR. BONAVENTURE CERRETTI, D.D.,
J.U.D., LL.D., Apostolic Delegate to Australasia.

PRESENTATION TO REV. FATHER SMYTH, TIMARU.

A SUCCESSFUL FUNCTION.

(From an occasional correspondent.)

When it became known that Rev. Father Smyth, S.M., the senior curate of the Sacred Heart Church, Timaru, had been transferred to Thorndon parish, Wellington, his many friends in Timaru decided that they could not let the occasion pass without expressing in tangible form their appreciation of Father Smyth's labors in their midst. Time for preparation was very short, but an energetic committee was set up, and they worked wonders in the few days at their disposal, the enthusiastic and successful gathering organised by them being a striking testimony to the respect and affection with which Father Smyth is regarded in the parish, where he has labored for the past five years.

The Catholic girls' school hall in Craigie Avenue was packed to the doors on Wednesday, May 13, when the presentation took place, and this in spite of the fact that the evening was unpleasantly wet and cold. Proceedings began with a selection played by an orchestra specially brought together by Mrs. N. D. Mangos. They subsequently gave several items, and contributed greatly to the success of the evening.

The gathering was then addressed by the chairman, Mr. W. Angland. He said that they had met to say farewell to Father Smyth. They all deeply regretted his departure, for he had done a noble work in their midst. He had taken a keen interest in the education of the Catholic children of Timaru, and he had borne a large share of the responsibility in the building of the Sacred Heart Church, that church which would always stand as a monument to Dean Tubman, their loved and respected pastor. Father Smyth had proved himself an able lieutenant to Dean Tubman in all his undertakings, particularly in the bazaars for the liquidation of the church debt. Father Smyth would be much missed in all parochial organisations. His eloquent sermons had done much towards keeping the sons and daughters of Ireland true to the Church of their fore-

fathers. Our loss in this respect would be Wellington's gain. The parish of Thorndon was acquiring the services of a brilliant member of the Marist Order, a staunch Irishman, and a splendid organiser. He wished again to express his regret at Father Smyth's departure, and he would conclude by hoping that in his new sphere of work he would find as many true and loyal hearts as those he was leaving behind him in Timaru.

Presentations were then made by the Hibernian Society, altar boys, school girls, and school boys. The present from the Hibernian Society was a cheque and a pipe; that from the altar boys, a breviary; that from the Marist school boys, a gold sovereign case; and that from the school girls, a Gladstone bag and a pair of gloves. The gifts were accompanied by complimentary references to the recipient, and all manner of good wishes for his future.

Mr. T. Lynch then read the following address, which was artistically illuminated at the Convent of the Sacred Heart:—'It was with very deep feelings of regret that we received the announcement of your appointment to Thorndon, Wellington, and we have assembled to express our deep appreciation of your zeal and devotedness in administering to our spiritual needs during the five years you have been in our midst, and also to show our deep affection for you personally. Your eloquence and earnestness in the pulpit will always remain bright in our memory, while the kind and fatherly interest you have always shown for the spiritual and temporal welfare of every member of your flock will be to us always a precious remembrance and an incentive to strive for higher things. We cannot forget the very keen interest you have taken in all parochial functions for the liquidating of the debt on the church and other works in the parish. During your five years with us you have organised and managed two bazaars in Timaru and one in St. Andrews, in each case establishing a record, almost doubling the proceeds of any previous undertaking of the kind. The proceeds of the last St. Patrick's concert also doubled anything previously taken at a similar gathering. The net proceeds of these various bazaars, concerts, etc., have been over £5000, and we feel that a great deal of the success has been due to your untiring energy and splendid capabilities as an organiser. It is impossible to enumerate the many directions in which your energies have been expended in our behalf, but we know and feel it all, and would ask you to accept this purse of sovereigns as a slight token of the affection and gratitude of the parishioners of Timaru, accompanied with our heartiest good wishes, for your happiness and welfare. We know that all exiles from Erin long to have a glimpse of the Old Land again, and we would like to think our little presentation would be a means of helping you in this great pleasure. We are, dear Father, on behalf of your affectionate and grateful parishioners,—W. Angland (chairman), N. D. Mangos (secretary and treasurer), committee, Mesdames E. Ward, N. D. Mangos, J. Sullivan, Misses K. Donoyan, M. McGrath, E. Kane; Messrs. M. Mullin, M. O'Meehan, J. J. Ardagh, D. Mahoney, D. Shea, J. P. Murphy, J. O'Rourke, T. Cronin, J. B. Crowley, T. W. Lynch, J. O'Leary.'

Mr. Angland then presented the guest of the evening with a purse of eighty sovereigns. The gift was accompanied by an enthusiastic burst of applause from the large audience.

The next speaker was the Very Rev. Dean Tubman, S.M. His remarks were as follow:—On occasions such as this, we naturally like to consider the present, to look back to the past, and to delve as far as we can into the future. You all know the occasion which has called us together: we have met to bid good-bye to Father Smyth, and we cannot help but think of all that he has done in the past for this parish, and of all the great works which he has carried to a successful issue. The eloquent speech of the ex-Mayor and the wording of the various addresses, have given you some idea of the many and important works undertaken by Father Smyth during his stay in Timaru. I endorse every word of praise given to him for the manner in