

## HONOR WHERE HONOR IS DUE.

Whosoever is the hand which has written the article on 'Australia and Catholicity in the *Corriere* of Rome, it belongs to one who knows that continent well but wishes to deprive the Irish race of the credit due to it for what it has done to build up the Church under the Southern Cross. However, Bishop Phelan writes to the same paper to give honor where honor is due:

Hôtel de Russie, June 1, 1914.

Dear Mr. Editor of the *Corriere d'Italia*. Permit an Australian Bishop who has come to Rome for his *ad limina* visit to express in the name of the other bishops, the clergy, and the Catholic laity of Australia, his deep feelings of gratitude for the flattering words which appeared in the *Corriere d'Italia* yesterday morning, under the heading 'Rome and Australia' concerning the condition and the progress of the Catholic Church in that country. I should like to add a few more words to give your readers a more adequate idea of the marvellous change that has taken place in the Church in Australia during the last century. As a matter of fact, Fathers Therry and Connolly were not the first priests to come to Australia. Three priests had already been deported there in the sad days of persecution. They took advantage of their situation to exercise their ministry to the few Catholics of the country; but this was prohibited, and they were severely punished. Just one century ago, another Irish priest, Father Flynn, went out to his Catholic fellow-countrymen in Australia. As soon as the civil authorities got wind of his presence he was told that all the colonists had to be Protestants and that no Catholic priest would be tolerated in the country. He was then suddenly arrested and sent off to England so quickly that he had not even time to take the Most Blessed Sacrament from the house where he kept it to administer it to the sick. As there was no other priest, the owner of the house kept a light burning for two years before the Blessed Sacrament, and here the faithful came in secret to adore it. Such intolerance and cruelty raised such a storm in Parliament that the Government had to abandon this attitude, and so at last Fathers Therry and Connolly were permitted to land in Australia. The Irish Catholic, by name Davis, in whose house the Most Blessed Sacrament had been venerated in the meanwhile, considered the place as sacred. He gave his house and the ground around it for the construction of a church, and more than 30,000 francs towards expenses. The magnificent Church of St. Patrick contains to-day the Blessed Sacrament over the very spot of ground where it was kept and venerated secretly a hundred years ago. Meanwhile O'Connell emancipated the Catholics of Ireland and also those of England. Since then a large current of emigration has come from Ireland to Australia, and Catholics have not only a religious but also a political hold in the country. In order not to occupy unnecessary space in your journal I shall fix in a few figures the change which has come

about this last century. Just one hundred years ago there was only one priest and a few thousand Catholics in Australia. To-day there are 900,000, not counting those of Tasmania and New Zealand. There are 5 Archbishops, 12 Bishops, 3 Vicars-Apostolic, and about 1000 priests. The Catholic episcopacy as well as the clergy and laity are, with few exceptions, all Irish. We have 1400 churches, 2 seminaries, 24 high schools, 132 boarding-schools, 162 semi-boarding-schools, and 732 elementary schools. All these are maintained by the contributions of the faithful. The Government contributes nothing to the Catholic schools, while the Catholics must contribute to the maintenance of the State schools.

PATRICK PHELAN, Bishop of Sale.  
NOTES.

His Eminence Cardinal Farley will reach Ireland by August on a visit to his old friend Cardinal Logue, Archbishop of Armagh.

So far ten cardinals and one hundred bishops have promised to attend the Eucharistic Congress at Lourdes.

Rev. P. McConnelis, Melbourne; Rev. G. Johnson, Toledo; Rev. J. Mogan, Nashville; and Rev. J. Lee, Wilmington, were among one hundred others ordained priests this morning in St. John Lateran.

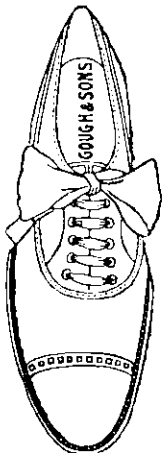
## Waihi

(From an occasional correspondent.)

July 7.

The half-yearly meeting of St. Joseph's branch of the H.A.C.B. Society was held in St. Joseph's School on Sunday. There was a large attendance of members, and they all displayed a keen interest in the welfare of the branch. During the quarter eight new members have joined, one was initiated on Sunday, and four others have been proposed. The branch has been in communication with the district secretary for some time re the members joining the Auckland Hospital Conference, and a letter from the district secretary, giving the necessary particulars, was discussed and members decided to accept the terms offered. There were contests for most of the offices, and the election resulted as follows: President, Bro. T. Kelly; vice-president, Bro. J. Shields; secretary, Bro. T. J. Ryan; treasurer, Bro. J. J. Ritchie; warden, Bro. T. Cotter; guardian, Bro. H. Beck; sick visitors, Bros. S. Sullivan and A. McGuire; auditors, Bros. P. Kelly and T. Cotter. The new officers are all energetic members of the society, and it is anticipated that by the time the next election of officers takes place we will be able to report the continuation of the good work which has been done in the past.

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