

IRISH GUARDS AT WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL

CARDINAL BOURNE'S TOUCHING ADDRESS.

At 8.30 on Sunday morning (says the *Liverpool Catholic Times* of August 16) upwards of 1000 members of the Irish Guards, destined for active service, attended Mass at Westminster Cathedral. The parade was under the direction of Lieut.-Col. Morris. The celebrant of the Mass was Father Ritter. The splendid bearing of the men was the subject of general remark. The famous Guards were addressed by Cardinal Bourne, whose solemn and eloquent words deeply impressed the departing soldiers, to whom also their recollection will bring strength and comfort on many a battlefield.

Cardinal Bourne based his address on the text: 'Watch, therefore, for you know not the day nor the hour.' His Eminence said: 'If, my dear children in Jesus Christ, our Divine Master Himself were to come in bodily form in your midst to-day and speak to you with His own Divine lips I know not what other words He would use to address you than those I have already quoted from His own Divine sayings. These words are set for the instruction of every one of us, and there is no one amongst us who can tell from day to day when he will be called out of this life to give an account to the God Who made him of how he has spent the days, months, and years on this earth. But to you, surely, these words will come to-day

With Tremendous Force.

Many of you cannot tell in how few days, in how few hours you may be called upon to give up your lives to God in defence of your King and country. Our Divine Lord has told us in another place how there will be two working in a field and that one will be taken and the other left. There is no one amongst you who can foretell what his lot will be or how soon he may be called out of this life to render to God an account of the life that has been entrusted to him. Think of what has happened in these few last sad days, how many brave men have already been called into the presence of God. It seems to me that there are two thoughts which, above all, will give you heart and courage and earnestness in the stern work which is placed in your hands. The first thought, surely, is the justice of the cause in which you are called upon to fight. Many a time, as we look back over the history of the world, there may have been moments when brave men entered into the combat exposing themselves to the loss of their lives, and all the while there may have been the consciousness that perhaps, after all, the cause in which they were fighting was not a just one. For you there can be no doubt.

This Conflict Has Been Forced Upon Our Country—upon a country longing for peace and unwilling to fight, except in extreme necessity—this has been forced upon us in defence of our country, in defence of our honor, and in defence of our international obligations. So you may go forward with that full sense of the justice of the cause in which you are fighting. The second thought I put before you,' said the Cardinal in conclusion, 'is a thought which gives courage to the brave man—the thought that he is without reproach in the sight of Almighty God; the full consciousness that you are able to go forth, if necessary, to give up your lives and pass into the presence of God without even the stain of sin on your souls. That,' said the Cardinal, with great impressiveness, 'is in your own hands. I beg of you most earnestly to use the few hours that still remain to you before you leave this land to place yourselves under the protection of Almighty God. It is your most pressing duty to use the present moments to prepare yourselves, one and all; to watch and pray and to be ready, because no one amongst you knows the hour when he may be called out of this life.'

His Eminence subsequently blessed the soldiers, who afterwards marched back to Wellington Barracks. En route, they received a rousing ovation.

CATHOLIC FEDERATION

CHRISTCHURCH DIOCESAN COUNCIL.

(From our own correspondent.)

The adjourned meeting of the executive of the Christchurch Diocesan Council was held in the Federation rooms, Wiltshire Buildings, on last Monday evening. The president (Mr. W. Hayward) presided, and there were present Mr. J. E. Doolan, Mr. J. R. Hayward, and the secretary. The whole of the business transacted at the last annual general meeting of the Diocesan Council was reviewed. A report on matters theretofore dealt with and remitted to the Dominion Council for final consideration was given by Mr. J. R. Hayward, Christchurch representative to that meeting, and approved of. It was decided that a deputation from the executive should wait upon his Lordship the Bishop in reference to a subject brought up and discussed at the Diocesan Council meeting and remitted to the executive for further action. A circular letter from the general and organising secretary was read, and it was decided to at once move in the matters therein outlined.

Prior to the executive meeting the Catholic Immigration Committee met, the president of the executive committee presiding. The secretary (Miss L. Johnson) gave a very satisfactory report of the work done since the inauguration of the committee. With reference principally to girl immigrants, nine have passed through the committee's hands, all of whom are apparently doing well, a record being kept of their addresses. Reference was made to a marked diffidence of the girls in nearly every instance to make themselves known to those appointed to meet them, being evidently more inclined to evade recognition than otherwise. It is not easy to understand what influences are at work to bring this about, but no doubt a solution of the difficulty will some time be discovered. Nurse Guiney was elected to the committee, and together with the secretary was empowered to inquire and report on the best arrangements to be made to secure rooms for their clients to meet at on the occasions of their weekly days out, and for accommodation when out of employment. This, it is intended, will evolve into a permanent institution on the lines of the Girls' Friendly Society.

CHRISTCHURCH NORTH.

The St. Mary's branch of the Catholic Federation was held on Sunday evening, the Very Rev. Dean Hills, S.M., V.G., presiding. There was a good attendance. A matter of great importance—the boarding out of Catholic children in Catholic homes—was again discussed. The object of the Federation is to find suitable Catholic homes where the faith of the child would not be jeopardised, as experience has proved that great laxity has been shown by those responsible in placing children in homes of very indifferent Catholics. The remuneration the Government grants is about ten shillings a week; and the Federation would be very pleased to receive the addresses of suitable Catholics who would help in this good work.

Gisborne

A Requiem Mass was celebrated yesterday morning for the happy repose of the soul of the late Father Paul Kehoe, who died at the Catholic presbytery, New Plymouth, on last Friday morning. Father Kehoe (says the *Poverly Bay Herald* of September 23) worked with much success in Gisborne some years ago (1888-1894). By the death of this fine old priest another pioneer missionary is lost to the Church. St. Mary's choir rendered the music, and at the end of the Mass the organist played the 'Dead March.' There was a large congregation, Rev. Father Golden officiating. The altar was tastefully draped in black by the Sisters of St. Joseph. It may be mentioned that Father Kehoe built the front of the existing presbytery, and that he enlarged the church at Parnell.