

## CHRISTIAN BROTHERS AND THEIR PUPILS.

On Wednesday morning, June 16, the pupils of the Christian Brothers' School assembled in St. Joseph's Hall, Rattray street, for the purpose of making a presentation to the Very Rev. Father Coffey. His Lordship the Bishop, Rev. Fathers Buckley, Corcoran, and D. O'Neill occupied seats on the platform.

Rev. Brother O'Ryan, in a few introductory remarks, said that they were gathered together that morning to do honor to their worthy Administrator, who was celebrating the twenty-fifth anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood. They were there to jubilate with him in the joy which must have inundated Father Coffey's heart when he travelled on the wings of memory to the happy day of his ordination five and twenty golden years ago. Their sentiments with regard to Father Coffey would be more happily voiced in the address to be presented to him that morning than words of his could then express. Brother O'Ryan then called on Master Charles Woods to read the following

Address.

'Very Rev. and dear Father.—We, the pupils of the Christian Brothers' School, gladly avail ourselves of the occurrence of the silver jubilee of your ordination, to offer you, in conjunction with the Brothers, our heartfelt congratulations, to wish you most sincerely every blessing, and to assure you of our affectionate esteem and reverence. We rejoice to see that twenty-five years of arduous labor in the vineyard of the Lord have not impaired the vitality of the splendid constitution with which God has blessed you. We cannot look back on such a long period of your priestly career, but we know from the attestations of those among whom you have labored that you have been uniformly remarkable for the exercise of the virtues becoming one consecrated to God. Your zeal in fulfilling the exacting duties of the sacerdotal state has ever been the distinguishing virtue of a life wholly devoted to the spiritual and temporal welfare of those who come under your fatherly care. To us it is a subject of pride that our priests are held in such high estimation by all classes in the community—a happy state of affairs due not only to the holy influence of their lives, but also in no small degree to the conspicuous ability and judgment displayed by you as a public representative of the Catholic body. The occasion of your silver jubilee, which by a happy coincidence corresponds almost to a day with the completion of our splendid new school, gives us an opportunity of expressing to you, our deep and lasting gratitude for the part you have taken in bringing such a great and necessary work, which concerns us most personally, to a successful conclusion. As a slight token of our gratitude, and as an appreciation on our

behalf of your personal worth as a priest and of your success as a wise and able Administrator, we ask you to accept the accompanying gift.

'In conclusion, we again tender you our cordial felicitations on this happy occasion. Our earnest prayer shall be that God may long preserve you to continue your great services to the Church, and that day by day He may shower upon you His choicest blessings.

'Signed on behalf of the Brothers,

M. B. O'RYAN.

'Signed on behalf of the boys,

'C. WOODS, L. SALMON.'

After the presentation of the address, Brother O'Ryan presented Father Coffey with a gold pyx.

Very Rev. Father Coffey, on rising to respond, was greeted with loud applause. He thanked the Brothers and boys for their congratulations and good wishes, and also for the presentations they had made him. He was pleased to be able to tell them that they would soon be able to take possession of the new school which, when fully fitted up, would be second to none in New Zealand. He urged the boys to remain on in school for a few years after gaining their proficiency certificates. Knowledge was no burden, and the training they would thereby receive would prove of inestimable value in after life, and would prepare them for entering upon professional careers. Father Coffey concluded his address with a request that the remainder of the day be observed as a holiday.

His Lordship the Bishop said that it gave him very great pleasure to be present at such a pleasant function, and to see the boys gathering round their pastor with such evident signs of affection, esteem, and gratitude. Father Coffey deserved their best thanks for his work in connection with the erection of the new school. His Lordship concluded by earnestly exhorting the boys to keep in close touch after their school days with their priests and teachers, whom they would find to be their most faithful friends and advisers.

At intervals during the proceedings the school choir, under the baton of Mr. J. C. Gillies, sang in their usual finished style, several songs, the rendering of which was considerably enhanced by the artistic accompaniment of Miss C. Hughes. Cheers for Father Coffey, and a hearty vote of thanks to his Lordship for honoring the gathering with his presence, brought the pleasant function to a close.

## THE DOMINICAN NUNS AND THEIR PUPILS.

On Wednesday, the 16th inst., the silver jubilee of the ordination of the Very Father Coffey was celebrated at St. Dominic's Priory. At the Mass offered in the



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