

THE PATRIOT'S FAREWELL

(For the *N.Z. Tablet*.)

Farewell! my native land, farewell!
Beloved land that gave me birth;
Where peace and love and sunshine dwell,
To me the fairest spot on earth.

I leave thee as the smile of morn
Gleams silvery on thy snows above,
And from thy fading shores is borne
The parting prayer of those I love.

I see thee as a glorious gem,
Resplendent in the morning sea;
Befitting is thy diadem—
For thou art queen of lands to me.

For thee my heart shall ever yearn,
Though pathless oceans roll between;
E'er in my dreams I shall return
To roam thy hills and valleys green.

Farewell! dear home of childhood days—
Fond scenes that filled me with delight;
My heart grows heavy as I gaze
Upon thee fading from my sight.

No war cloud yet hath dimmed thy sky,
Nor foeman on thy shores hath trod;
For thee loyal sons would proudly die
Ere foe shall desecrate thy sod.

Blest daughter of the Motherland!
For thee across the seas I go,
Beside thy mother's sons to stand
United ever 'gainst the foe.

Farewell! my native land, farewell!
Though ne'er again thy shores I see;
I only ask, the world may tell
Thy sons were true and died for thee.

Dunedin.

—HAROLD GALLAGHER.

RECEPTION TO VISITING HIBERNIANS

(From our Christchurch correspondent.)

Probably never before in the history of Hibernianism has such a representative gathering assembled at any centre as was present in Christchurch on the occasion of the visit of the Apostolic Delegate and consecration of his Lordship Bishop Brodie. Among those attending from the other chief cities were several priests and dignitaries of the Church, who have done splendid and enduring work for the Order in the Dominion. With a fine spirit of hospitality the local branches rose to the occasion, and right royally entertained their brothers, clerical and lay, from other parts of the Dominion. A banquet was planned on an extensive scale, and this took place in the Hibernian Hall on Saturday evening, February 26, the night, when all were seated, to the number of approaching 300, was an impressive and memorable one. Bro. J. Curry (president of St. Patrick's branch) presided, and representatives were present from Dunedin, Auckland, Wellington, and all the diocesan branches.

The president, in an appropriate address, cordially welcomed the clergy and other delegates to the gathering, emphasising the fact that although often before it had been the privilege and pleasure of the local Hibernians to meet and entertain visitors, never previously had there assembled so many distinguished

members of the society as were now in the city. He trusted all would thoroughly enjoy their visit, and to this end no effort would be lacking on the part of the Christchurch Hibernians.

Among those seated on each side of the president were the Right Rev. Mgr. Hackett (Paeroa), Rev. Father O'Donnell (Ashburton), Very Rev. Father Coffey (Adm., Dunedin), Very Rev. Father O'Connell, S.M. (Wellington), Very Rev. Chancellor Holbrook (Auckland), Rev. Father Golden (Auckland), and Rev. Father O'Hare, Rev. Brother Basil, and the local Marist Brothers. Bros. M. J. Sheahan and Flynn (Auckland), Bro. J. F. Gilbert (president, Kumara), Bro. P. Fogarty (P.P., Greymouth), Bro. J. R. Gill (secretary, Darfield), Bro. Mahoney (district deputy, Timaru), Bro. Foley (Waimate), also occupied seats of honor. The toast of 'His Holiness the Pope' was proposed by the president, and enthusiastically honored.

The Right Rev. Mgr. Hackett made a fine speech in proposing the toast of 'His Excellency the Apostolic Delegate.' He spoke of the high office held by his Excellency, and the evident important standing the Church had attained in Australia and New Zealand, and emphasised the exceptional qualification of the most distinguished ecclesiastic, first selected to fill the office of direct representative of our Holy Father the Pope. The significance of the high office, held by his Excellency the Most Rev. Archbishop Cerretti, and his visit to the Dominion could be thus briefly summed up as follows:—First, to bless all there is good in our democracy; secondly, to add another link to the golden chain that has bound our Catholic hearts to the See of Peter from the days of St. Patrick down to Pope Benedict XV.; thirdly, to raise to the episcopate, and to the episcopal See of Christchurch, one who will champion our Catholic rights and liberties, and be a tower of strength to the H.A.C.B. Society. (Applause.)

Mr. M. Grimes (secretary, St. Patrick's branch), in eloquent terms, proposed the toast of the clergy. This was responded to by the Very Rev. Chancellor Holbrook, Very Rev. Father Coffey, Very Rev. Father O'Connell, S.M., Rev. Fathers O'Donnell and Golden, the latter raising a chorus of cheers when he stated that he had been a member of the H.A.C.B. Society for 43 years. A number of other toasts were proposed and honored. During the evening several musical and elocutionary items were given, and an exceedingly enjoyable and pleasant evening was spent.

Lance-Corporal J. Ross, of the National Bank of New Zealand, and an old pupil of the Marist Brothers (writes an Island Bay, Wellington, correspondent), was farewelled at his home, Island Bay House, and was presented with a wristlet watch and a leather waistcoat. He has left for the front.

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