

from the parish to take charge of the Puhoi and Helensville districts. Mr. F. G. J. Temm (president) presided, and the following were present:—Messrs. J. F. Cloran (Sydney Catholic Club), M. J. Sheahan and W. Kane (H.A.C.B. Society), T. King (M.B.O.B. Association), F. Burns (Parnell Catholic Club), and a good attendance of members. The president explained it was with regret that the members learned of the departure of Father Kelly, who had for some time acted as chaplain to the club, during which time he had become a popular favorite on all sides. Although he had not been in the parish a great time, it augured well for him that he should be so soon appointed to take charge of a parish. He expressed, on behalf of himself and the members, sincere regret at Father Kelly's departure, and wished him every success in his new sphere. On behalf of the club he had pleasure in presenting the Rev. Father with a silver-mounted complete shaving outfit as a small reminder of his associations with the club. Messrs. Fernandez, O'Malley, and Foy also conveyed their felicitations and good wishes to the guest of the evening, after which Father Kelly responded, thanking one and all for the many kindnesses he had received whilst in their midst. The president also explained that opportunity would be taken that evening of presenting the diploma awarded to Mr. A. J. Fernandez, as winner of the essay-writing competition, recently held by the Federated Catholic Clubs. On behalf of the Wellington executive Mr. Temm congratulated Mr. Fernandez on his victory in the competitions, and, in presenting the diploma, expressed the hope that other members would emulate the example of that gentleman in the interest he always took in the literary branch of the club. Mr. Fernandez suitably responded. Mr. Frank Burns here intimated his intention of presenting to the literary branch a gold medal for competition during the coming season. The president gratefully accepted Mr. Burns' generous offer, and stated he would later confer with that gentleman regarding the conditions for the competition. During the evening the usual toast list was duly honored, and a musical items were rendered by Messrs Cloran, King, O'Malley, Owens, and Jury. Mr. M. Lillis acted as accompanist, the proceedings terminating with the singing of 'Auld lang syne' and the National Anthem. A hearty vote of thanks was accorded the Misses Lillis and Dunne for the manner in which they decorated the supper room and tables.

THE HIBERNIAN SOCIETY

PRESENTATION TO HIS LORDSHIP BISHOP BRODIE.

(From our Christchurch correspondent.)

The Hibernian Hall was crowded on last Monday evening on the occasion of a reception and presentation to his Lordship Bishop Brodie—an event in which every branch in the diocese was interested. The gathering was most enthusiastic, and representatives of the society were present from Timaru, Temuka, Geraldine, Ashburton, New Headford, and St. Mary's (Christchurch North), whilst the members of the local branch (St. Patrick's) were present with lady friends in very strong force.

The president of St. Patrick's branch (Bro. J. Curry) presided, and on the platform with his Lordship the Bishop were the Very Rev. Dean Regnault, S.M. (wearing the regalia of a past-president), the Rev. Fathers Long (chaplain), O'Hare, and Sir George Clifford. Also among those present were the Rev. Fathers Hoare, S.M., and Murphy, B.A. On arrival, his Lordship the Bishop was received by a guard of honor, consisting of officers and members in regalia. The stage was very appropriately decorated. On the front were the words *Cead mile failte*, whilst the Irish and New Zealand flags were suspended overhead. Quite an effective feature was the presidential honors' board, displayed as a gackground, and containing a long list of the names of all the presidents of St. Patrick's branch from the society's first beginning to the present day. An enjoyable musical and elocutionary programme was contributed by Mrs. Baxter, Misses M. G. O'Connor,

Lawlor, Donnell, and Thomson, Messrs. J. Joyce, F. Rowe, and R. Beveridge. Mrs. Baxter, and Miss K. O'Connor were accompanists.

The president, in an appropriate speech, presented his Lordship the Bishop with a magnificent 15 carat gold Celtic pectoral cross, set with four large emeralds, the cost of which, he said, had been subscribed to by every branch, and every member of every branch in the diocese. No more appropriate gift could be made, and it was one which would be an enduring reminder of the faith and loyalty of the givers, and of their love and veneration for his Lordship, now their chief pastor. He had, too (continued the president), another most pleasing duty to perform, and that was to present his Lordship, on behalf of the Hibernians of Wailii, with an enlarged framed photograph, showing the entire block of church buildings of that town, in which his Lordship so long ministered, and with such conspicuous success, as pastor. He then announced his Lordship's appointment as a honorary life-member of St. Patrick's (Christchurch) branch of the society.

His Lordship Dr. Brodie thereupon signed the register.

The Very Rev. Dean Regnault, S.M. (pastor of St. Mary's) said: I look upon it as a great honor and a great privilege to be associated with the Hibernians of this diocese, so soon after my return to their midst, in wishing a hearty welcome, and making a presentation to his Lordship the Bishop. I beg to thank the Hibernians for the honor they have conferred on me. My Lord, I fully endorse all that the worthy president of St. Patrick's branch has said so well. We, the Hibernians of this diocese, welcome you with filial respect and affection, because you are the delegate of our Holy Father the Pope; we welcome you because you are our Bishop; we are proud of you because of the work you have already done, and because of your personal worth which we are learning every day to appreciate more and more. The ideals of our society, as you are aware, are religion, patriotism, and benevolence. The Hibernians of the diocese of Christchurch are true to their high ideals. In the course of the visitation of your diocese, you will meet many Hibernians; you will meet them in fifteen parishes. There is one thing you may rest assured of, and it is this: Wherever you meet a Hibernian, you will meet a man who is proud of his religion and true to it; who is devoted to his pastor, and at the same time a man who looks to Ireland with affection, and does all in his power to help her in her struggle for freedom and happiness, and sympathises with her in the hour of sorrow and trial. At the present time a cloud is passing over Ireland, and the heart of every Hibernian is bleeding. Because a Hibernian is true to his faith, true to his country, or the country of his fathers, he is also true to his adopted or native country, true to New Zealand, true to the Empire, under whose flag he has enjoyed, in this country, liberty, happiness, and prosperity. Hence, when the bugle has sounded the alarm, no one has responded to the call of the Empire with more enthusiasm, with greater generosity, than the Hibernians, or the sons of Hibernians. Their heroic deeds are recorded on the hills of Gallipoli, and their names will shine gloriously on the most glorious page of New Zealand's history. Yes; the descendants of the Irish race, have, in fairly large numbers, joined the ranks of our society, and by their contact with Hibernians, they learn to emulate the heroism of their forefathers in defence of faith and fatherland, and to emulate the young men of their race, who have played such an important, such a brilliant part in the building up of other nations. The foundations of the society in your diocese were laid in August, 1873, when thirteen Irishmen, men loyal and true, met together and decided to apply to the district board, Dunedin, for a dispensation to open a branch in Christchurch. The dispensation was obtained, and the branch was opened by Bro. Carroll (district president) on September 4 of the same year. Most of the officers elected on that occasion have been called to their reward. Bro. T. O'Connell, one of the trustees, and Bros. Pope, Nelson, and Joyce, are still amongst us, with all the signs of perennial youth. Great progress has been made since then; yet there is room for more. There are still many Catholic youths along the highways and hedges who ought to be compelled to come in.

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