

The Cardinal wrote the life of Oliver Plunkett, and published all documentary evidence in connection with his trial and execution. The relics at Manly were in the possession of John Hubert Plunkett, who was the first Attorney-General of Australia. They came into the possession of the Cardinal through the widow of the above-mentioned descendant of the martyr. Here was the bell which the venerable Archbishop used to ring in his prison to summon his gaoler, also his gold watch, which he presented to the gaoler, who had been kind to him, and, most interesting of all, the crucifix which the victim had held in his hand while he was being executed. It might be mentioned in passing that the Archbishop was first hanged, then cut down alive, disembowelled, and finally quartered. A watch of a different kind from that mentioned above, was the humble brass-cased one which the Cardinal handed me for inspection. It had been once owned and in the possession of Father Damien of Molokai, whose fame as a martyr in the South Sea Islands evoked such interest some years ago, and in whose defence and eulogy he late R. L. Stevenson wrote a series of letters which are considered to be classics. Father Damien worked for years living amongst the lepers, and finally, contracted the dread disease himself and died a martyr for suffering humanity.

For nearly two hours his Eminence conducted me over his collection. A wonderful variety of objects they were. From a 'Madonna and Child,' beautifully worked in silk by Queen Maria of Portugal, to contemporary portraits of Queen Elizabeth and Henry VIII.; from ancient and exquisitely beautiful Irish gold and enamel cups (a lost art) to curious one-sided medals of Cromwell's time; from ancient objects used by numbers of Popes in the Vatican to rare manuscripts hundreds of years old. And so the time passed all too quickly, and I found myself talking to his Eminence as freely as I would have done to my own parish priest in New Zealand. By and bye a servant

arrived with tea and cakes, and the Cardinal acted the part of the perfect host, pouring out tea for me and chatting happily and freely the while. It was then I had time to notice the physique of the venerable Cardinal-Archbishop. He stood, without the slightest trace of a stoop—a really commanding and stately appearance. His face seemed to always wear a semblance of a happy smile, and yet there was dignity in his whole bearing. One could easily imagine him a leader of men and no one could mistake him for other than a great scholar. It was indeed wonderful the amount of respect his every utterance obtained among all classes and all creeds in Australia. It was his unbounded hospitality and kindly nature which will always be prominent in my memory. After I had partaken of afternoon tea (the Cardinal would have none), his Eminence took me through his valuable collection of rare paintings, and finally showed me a number of Maori curios—mats, greenstone, etc.—of which he seemed proud. All of these were presented to him during his several visits to New Zealand. The Cardinal grew reminiscent, and told me many little incidents relating to his trips to Maoriland. His memory was wonderful, and he related things which happened many years ago with a freshness of detail as though they had but taken place yesterday. He spoke affectionately of the Dominion and New Zealanders, and I left the Palace feeling wonderfully impressed with what was probably the last audience granted by the late Cardinal to a New Zealand layman.

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