

a church which will be a bright monument to the Catholic people of this district, and to-day we have laid successfully the present stone, not of a new Presbytery, but a higher and proper name, a new Deanery of the Waikato. (Hear, hear). I have referred to you as the third line of pioneers; now I have passed over some portions of the African desert, where in the long past, the pioneer Arabs had made it possible for the people who followed them to carry on trade along these difficult sandy roads of the far interior. A singularly appropriate quotation arises in my mind:—

An Arab sheik in deserts wide,
Once sorrowed so for thirsting man,
He led before the caravan,
And digging wells he thirsting died.

He died of thirst! The wells remain!
Oh, dashing, patient, pioneer,
God's angels, what a triumph here
To know no well is digged in vain.

We plant a tree beside this well
Of knowledge in the west most west
Yon peaks rise up and call it blest
They stand eternal sentinels.

Some far off day when we are dust,
And all this vast vale teems with life,
Some brave souls fainting in the strife
May rest them here and speak us just.

May say we few through worlds of time
Blazed out new ways for worlds to come;
And mourned not but bravely dumb,
So died, full trusting God and time.

We also are one line of pioneers digging wells of truth, charity, and love of God in the distant West, and when the time comes we can rest calm and serene in the knowledge that no well has been digged in vain. We are here to lay the foundation of a new edifice, of new works of charity and religion; we will lay them as the

old Arab pioneers laid them, trusting God all the time, and so we lay the stone to-day as we did the larger stone of a more important building a few days ago, trusting God all the time; trusting God that the progress in the civil and religious life which has marked this historic town and district may continue, and when this broad vale beyond its boundaries is teeming with life, they will speak of you as pioneers of the third line, as we have spoken of the second line and the first. And so to-day in the name of all you in the third line I declare this foundation stone, which is an evidence of the progress and prosperity in your district, well and truly laid.

Very Rev. Dean Darby thanked his Lordship for the high honor conferred upon him in making him Dean of Waikato. All his life he had trusted in God; all his life he would continue to do so, and he would never be confounded. Some Providence favoured them and favoured him. He had with him the Bishop of Auckland, the Dean of Sydney, and the Dean of Masterton, and his brother priests; he had his own people with him—what more could any man desire? He had lived in the district for many years; he had endeavoured to do his best for Almighty God, and he hoped to do more for Him. His Lordship's quotation reminded him of another—a poem referring to the dying man who had two sons, which was recited by the Dean. Continuing, he said he felt that in the days to come he was going to be in a district which would become the backbone of Auckland—a district which held a high distinction for him. Not only was it going to become a great material centre, but also a great spiritual centre. It was glorious to see young women consecrating themselves to Almighty God, and already in this district seven young women had given up their lives to His service; but the vocation of priest was much rarer than that of the convent, and he prayed that God would bless the district and its church, so that we might be able to give back to Him not merely gifts of a material kind, but the highest gifts we could bestow—the sons and daughters of men to become His priests.

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