

Ashburton, Temuka, Timaru, Waimate, Greymouth, and Hokitika; and domestic chapels have been erected in the convents in Christchurch, Timaru, Temuka, Waimate, and at Mount Magdala. The expenditure for the erection or enlarging of these ecclesiastical or scholastic properties has reached large proportions. Without taking into account what is daily required for their upkeep, the church and scholastic properties in Christchurch alone have cost £170,000 since 1887.

The Bishop's First Visit to Westland.

His first visit to Westland was in May, 1888. For some time before there had been incessant rains on the Coast. The newspapers said that they hoped the new Bishop would have a little fine weather, otherwise he would have a poor opinion of their country. Mr. Hugh Cassidy drove him from Springfield to the Bealey, where he was warmly greeted by Mr. J. O'Malley and his family. He started the next morning about daybreak, and drove a little beyond the Otira, where he was met by crowds that came from the Coast to receive him. Dean Carew is the only survivor of the priests then on the Coast; and Dean Regnault was, on the occasion of the visit to Hokitika, transferred to Waimate, where he laboured for nearly twenty-five years. Dean Martin was then in charge of Hokitika. He, and the priests at Ross, Kumara, and Ahaura, with its eight churches, have since gone to their eternal reward. Bishop Grimes spent over six weeks in Westland. During the whole of that time he had splendid weather, which was called 'Bishop's weather,' and some good stories are told in regard to the coincidence of the Bishop's visits and the absence of rain on the wet West Coast. Among those of the laity who came out to welcome him on the Coast were Mr. Martin Kennedy, Mr. Felix Campbell, Messrs. Griffin, Sheedy, Mandl, and quite a number of non-Catholics. Everywhere he met with the most cordial and hospitable reception, and the miners used to make holiday during his visits.

Twenty-five Years' Progress.

Since he has been Bishop of Christchurch, it has been his duty to bless and open the splendid convent of the Good Shepherd at Mount Magdala, which has done good for the whole of the Dominion. He has also had the consolation of bringing the Sisters of Nazareth into Christchurch, where they are now favorably known by all members of the community. He has taken part in the election of three bishops, consecrated one, been co-consecrator for another, buried three, has ordained several priests, and professed many a religious. He opened the College of St. Bede twelve months ago last January, and has watched over its steady progress, and he has brought the Sisters of Mercy into Christchurch, where they are doing great work in regard to the education of the children.

The erection of the stately cathedral in Barbadoes street is an important event in the history of the Catholic Church and of the city. In this great work Bishop Grimes made many sacrifices and displayed untiring energy. In 1897, he went to Europe, where people thought that he was seeking enjoyment amongst the cities of the Old World. As a matter of fact, while he travelled through Italy, England, Ireland, France, and Belgium, he preached, lectured, and appealed to friends and acquaintances on behalf of the Cathedral that was to be. On his return journey, he spoke no fewer than nine times in one day in a New York church, and obtained there £100. He also appealed to several churches in Canada. He was so successful that he returned to Christchurch with £3000 as the nucleus of the Cathedral fund. Two years later, in 1899, it was unanimously decided at a representative meeting that a cathedral should be built, and that it should be on the site of the old pro-cathedral. Courage and confidence were given by the enthusiasm of the people. Some gave £1000 each, others a thousand guineas, others sums from £100 to £500. Very few in the diocese gave less than a guinea. Many gave the savings of a lifetime. Stories are told of the sacrifices that were made. On one occasion, the Bishop was approached by a man who said that he and his wife had decided to make some sacrifice for the work. His wife would go without a new bonnet she had promised herself, and would give the guinea to the fund, and he himself would gladly

follow her example, and give to the cathedral the sum he had set aside for a new suit of clothes, and others announced that they intended to give to the temple of the Almighty a large portion of the wealth He had bountifully bestowed upon them. During one of his visits to Westland he, with the late Archpriest Le Monant des Chesnais, preached a fortnight's mission in Greymouth. With Father Goggan, for a time, and later on two occasions, he gave missions with the late Dean Foley in Westland and Canterbury, going into even the remotest districts. Whenever the people wished to give them any remuneration for their services, they asked that it should be given to the Cathedral fund. It was not very long before the generosity shown accumulated a large sum, and preparations were made for laying the foundation-stone. It was laid by the venerable Archbishop Carr of Melbourne, who, with several other prelates, came specially for the occasion. His Grace also came for the solemn opening, which is regarded as an epoch-making event in the history of the diocese. The ceremony was unique in Australasia. There were eight Bishops present, besides his Excellency the Governor, Mr. R. J. Seddon (then Prime Minister), and Sir Joseph Ward (the present Prime Minister). Archbishop Carr was again present at the anniversary opening, and opened one of the beautiful side chapels. The Bishop of Ballarat preached a most appropriate sermon, and spoke in glowing terms of the beauties of the magnificent temple.

Visits to Rome.

Bishop Grimes had four audiences with the late Pope Leo XIII., whom he saw at least six times, once when he consecrated the present Cardinal Archbishop of Naples. His Holiness urged and encouraged the Bishop to undertake the great work of building the Cathedral. He had two audiences with Pius X. During his last audience he gave His Holiness a large rich album with photographic views of the Cathedral. His Holiness seemed to be enraptured with it. He gave a generous donation towards the Cathedral, promised an autograph letter thanking and congratulating all for the magnificent structure, and sent the Bishop a reliquary, and told the Bishop that he felt sure that with such a faithful, generous, noble-hearted people, the debt on the Cathedral would soon be a thing of the past. The letter was received and is treasured, and also the handsome reliquary and the chalice presented by Pope Leo XIII. Bishop Grimes has known four Cardinal-Archbishops of Westminster, his native archdiocese. He was confirmed by Cardinal Wiseman, and was well acquainted with his three successors—Cardinal Manning, Cardinal Vaughan, and the present Cardinal Bourne. He is on the best terms with the Catholic Hierarchy of Australia, especially Archbishop Carr, of Melbourne, who has always been graciously kind to the people of the Christchurch diocese. As stated before, Bishop Grimes has never refrained from taking a citizen's part in affairs that touch the welfare of the community. He has always felt that patriotism is imposed upon bishop and priest, as well as upon laymen, and that, in addition, it is their duty to inculcate a public spirit in the hearts of all who come under their charge. The interest taken in the approaching event is shown by the fact that the Bishop has already received hearty congratulations from Rome, England, Ireland, France, America, Australia, Tasmania, and the Pacific Islands, as well as from many parts of New Zealand.

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