

MESSAGE OF POPE LEO XIII. TO THE N.Z. TABLET.

Pergant Directores et Scriptores New Zealand Tablet, Apostolica Benedictione confortati, Religionis et Justitiae causam promovere per vias Veritatis et Pacis.

Die 4 Aprilis, 1900.

LEO XIII., P.M.

TRANSLATION.—Fortified by the Apostolic Blessing, let the Directors and Writers of the New Zealand Tablet continue to promote the cause of Religion and Justice by the ways of Truth and Peace.

April 4, 1900.

P. M. 1911. P. M.



THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1924.

ARCHBISHOP REDWOOD'S GOLDEN EPISCOPAL JUBILEE

RANCIS Mary Redwood was born on the Tixall estate, Staffordshire, in the year 1839. He came to New Zealand with his parents in 1842. He was ordained priest at Maynooth in 1865; was consecrated Bishop of Wellington by Cardinal Manning, in 1874; became Archbishop of that See and Metropolitan of New Zealand in 1887; and is still happily ruling

his vast diocese in this year of grace, 1924; when we, his spiritual children, are joined by his episcopal brethren in this Dominion, in Australia, and in the Pacific Islands, in celebrating his Golden Episcopal Jubilee. To mark this unique occasion in the history of the Catholic Church under the Southern Cross, twenty-three archbishops and bishops, including the Apostolic Delegate, assembled at Wellington this week, while from every diocese in the Dominion, and from many in Australia, there have also come members of religious orders and representatives of the secular clergy and delegates from various Catholic guilds and societies, who all regard it as a great privilege to be able to participate in the wonderful demonstrations of reverence and esteem organised to honor our venerable Metropolitan.

In another part of this issue we have published for the benefit of our readers at home and abroad the fascinating sketches that tell in his Grace's own words the story of his early life, of his miraculous vocation, and of his singularly successful career as a student in France and as a professor in a college in the Island of Saints and Scholars. We have reproduced also the account given in a London paper, fifty years ago, of his consecration, and of the speeches which on that occasion foretold the future greatness of the young Bishop of Wellington. Other articles in this issue are eloquent of his place in the affections of his own priests and people, and of the special claims to gratitude and admiration which his splendid services for their fatherland have established in the hearts of the sons and daughters of St. Patrick. The perfect organisation of the vast archdiocese which extends from Westport to Wairoa and from the Moku River to Kaikoura; the churches and schools and religious and charitable institutions in the populous parishes of that wide territory; the thriving college in Wellington and the flourishing seminary at Greenmeadows; and numerous ecclesiastical buildings in Christchurch diocese, once part of his See, are all substantial monuments to his apostolic zeal, his wise administration, and his pastoral care for the best interests of the flock committed to his charge. All these are lasting proofs of the extraordinary development of the Catholic Church under his rule for the past fifty years; and they all represent labors given unstintedly for the honor and glory of God and blessed with wonderful fruitfulness by Divine Providence through the passing years. Of that

development and of those labors historians of the Church in these islands will tell in due time, for the edification of future generations; but we cannot help recalling them with pride and admiration on such an occasion as this, for they are the sheaves with which he stands richly laden in the presence of all who hasten to honor him this week. Hardly less striking evidence of his greatness is found in the presence of the prelates who have come from afar to add greater splendor and dignity to his Jubilee, while the special distinction accorded to him by the Holy Father will be the crown of his glory and of his consolation in this memorable week of his life. From Ireland, where he studied and taught as a young priest—from green Erin whom he loves so well—greetings come to him straight from the hearts of the friends who remember him there; from France, where he spent the years of study and prayer that laid the foundations of his success as a bishop, come messages of esteem and affection; from England, his own native land; from America, where he has always had a warm corner in the hearts of many bishops, past and present, congratulations pour in upon him; and from many an altar all over the world Masses and prayers will ascend to Heaven for the good estate of our beloved Jubilarian, the Grand Old Man of the Church in the Southern Hemisphere. We thank God that in spite of his age he is still hale and hearty, and we pray that the Lord may preserve him and prolong his life and make him blessed amongst us for many years to come.

One is tempted to dwell on many phases of his career and avenues of reminiscence open on all sides as we contemplate his venerable figure. But we are compelled to curb our inclination to speak of his achievements; or to recall his friendships with such men as Cardinal Gibbons and Archbishop Ireland; or to discuss that beautiful gift of eloquence which made him the Chrysostom of Australasia; or to admire that scholarship, that broadness of vision, that vivid memory, which are all manifest even in his ordinary conversation; or to linger on his strong, simple faith and childlike devotion; or on those qualities of head and heart which have endeared him to all his friends and made him the idol of his flock. Of all these phases, too, in the proper time eloquent tongues will speak and gifted pens will write, giving expression to feelings which are universal throughout the archdiocese and far beyond its boundaries. Speaking for ourselves and for all our readers we cannot, however, refrain from taking this occasion to lay at his feet our whole-hearted homage, for no man living has done more for the *New Zealand Tablet* than Archbishop Redwood, and no man knows better than its Editor what a staunch and firm friend he has been to Bishop Moran's paper. Thus we have a very special reason to rejoice at the honor done to our champion and benefactor, and we are confident that we voice the cordial sentiments of directors and staff and subscribers when we pray that God may bestow on our Metropolitan His choicest graces, in full measure and overflowing, and continue to bless all his steps among us as he moves in his ripe age and dignity down the western slope of life towards the reward that is awaiting the faithful servant whose talents have been multiplied so gloriously. And, notwithstanding his eighty-five years, all New Zealand will join us in wishing the Jubilarian an enthusiastic *Ad Multos Annos*.

Special Note.—With a desire to give as complete a report as possible of the Jubilee celebrations at Wellington, the publication of this week's issue of the *Tablet* had to be delayed.

HELD OVER

Our reports of the observances and sermon at St. Mary of the Angels' Church, on Sunday evening, also the children's demonstration on Wednesday afternoon, and conversation at the Town Hall on Wednesday night; together with address from the Maoris and letters from the N.Z. University, and Early Settlers', and Historical Association of Wellington are unavoidably held over.

TAYLOR & SON

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