

CHINESE PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES.

There recently arrived in the City of the Apparitions the first Chinese pilgrimage (says the *Universe*, London). Fourteen Catholics from the north of the Celestial Empire, attached to the British Army near Dunkirk and Calais, before returning to their distant Fatherland, formed the wish of going to Lourdes. This they proposed to their chaplain, Father Van Dyk, who, in the face of almost incredible difficulties, organised the party. The little pilgrimage was not only one of the most striking, but also one of the most edifying that have been seen. Every day at 4.30 a.m. the Chiuamen started their prayers; they merely said they had not come to Lourdes to lie in bed. At all times of the day one saw them, two by two, going down to the Grotto and reciting, or, rather, chanting in their own way, the Rosary or the Litany of Our Lady, and then going to offer a candle to burn at the foot of the statue. They made the Way of the Cross in the same way. As doubtless many people do not know, the Chinese do not say, but sing, their prayers, and this psalmody is of an undulating and monotonous nature which is not unlike certain chants of the Arabs or the sound of bagpipes. During the second part of the Mass they also chanted their prayers aloud, and they all went to Communion, and then in procession with Father Van Dyk, as he carried the Ciborium back to the Rosary Church. Before finishing their pilgrimage they insisted on paying their homage to the Bishop of Lourdes, and as he was unfortunately away they sent him a telegram, to which he returned a most cordial reply.

VALEDICTORY TO FATHER PHELAN, MASTERTON.

There was a most enthusiastic gathering of the Masterton Catholic community at St. Patrick's Assembly Hall last night (says the *Wairarapa Daily Times* of February 27), on the occasion of a farewell social by the parishioners to the Rev. Father Phelan. On behalf of the subscribers throughout the Masterton parish, Mr. Simon O'Regan presented Father Phelan with a beautifully-bound black morocco wallet, containing approximately £65. Mr. O'Regan, in a neat little speech, testified to the popularity of the departing priest, and referred to the pleasure of his old parishioners in the knowledge of Father Phelan's promotion to the pastorate of Carterton. During the period of the epidemic Father Phelan was a chaplain at the Featherston Camp, and Mr. O'Regan spoke of his untiring efforts and excellent work during that unfortunate time. In acknowledging the gift, Father Phelan deprecated the flattering remarks made about him, but stated the pleasure it gave him to know that his efforts had been appreciated. He parted with his many Masterton friends with regret, bowing to his ecclesiastical superiors' orders. After an enjoyable euchre tournament, the evening was pleasantly spent in other socialities, Mesdames Eastwood and W. J. O'Dwyer and Miss G. Donovan supplying the music for the occasion.

Prayer is an uplifting of the heart; a glance towards heaven; a cry of gratitude and love, uttered equally in sorrow and in joy.—The Little Flower.

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