

"At any rate," added the Lord Mayor to the exhibitors, "I do not intend to have the Comrades of Ireland, if I might call you so, prevented coming here to-night and to have the Comrades of the Great War coming in here next week. In consequence of the public being prevented inspecting the beautiful exhibition he would close the Mansion House against all other meetings."

COMMONWEALTH NOTES

VICTORIA.

By direction of his Grace Archbishop Mannix, collections were to be taken up in the Catholic churches throughout the archdiocese on Sunday, March 21, in aid of the starving children of Europe.

The Federal authorities are not finding it as easy as they anticipated it would prove to deport the Rev. Father Charles Jerger, one of the priests who was interned in Australia during the war (says the *Tribune*). On Monday, February 23, Father C. Jerger and Dr. Max Herz were brought to Melbourne with a view to being spirited away from the land of their adoption. Father Jerger's sister, Mrs. Ward, who is now in Melbourne, and other friends, went to work at once, and approached certain Federal members, including Messrs. Hugh Mahon (whose disclosures in regard to the atrocious treatment of the interned priests in Australia have been read with such indignant interest), T. J. Ryan, and Frank Tudor, M.H.R.'s. It had been learned that it was the intention of the Government to send Father Jerger to Java, and there leave him to whatever fate might befall him. A strong protest against this iniquitous proposal was made to the Prime Minister, and Mr. Ryan took the legal point that the Commonwealth had no power to deport Father Jerger, he having been naturalised in England long before the war. Mr. Ryan contended that this naturalisation held good throughout the Empire, and that there was no power to deport a naturalised British subject from Australia. It is also understood that the Dutch shipping company objected to being used by the Australian Government to secure the deportation of a priest against his will, and that it would not accept him as a passenger, unless he went voluntarily. The upshot was that Father Jerger and Dr. Herz were during last week sent back to Sydney by the Commonwealth authorities, who are apparently finding themselves in an awkward dilemma.

A crowded and enthusiastic meeting of citizens was held in the Cathedral Hall on Friday night, March 12, to make arrangements for a presentation to his Grace the Archbishop of Melbourne (the Most Rev. Dr. Mannix). Mr. John Wren was voted to the chair. In the course of a fine tribute to his Grace, the chairman said they had assembled to give a tangible proof of their veneration and esteem for one of the greatest men in the world to-day, his Grace Archbishop Mannix. (Cheers.) Dr. Mannix in all his speeches had never said one word that could bear the interpretation of bigotry. His fault in the eyes of some people was that he consistently and persistently stood up for the freedom and the liberty of his native land—Ireland. He moved: "That this meeting pledges itself to raise the sum of £50,000, in order to present a cheque for that amount to Archbishop Mannix at the Exhibition Building on St. Patrick's night." It was desired that all donations should be by cheque, marked "Not negotiable," and that no money would be collected that night. The motion was carried by acclamation, and donations to the amount of £23,383 were promised at the gathering, including the following:—Mr. J. Wren, £5000; Mr. P. Cody, £5000; Count T. O'Loughlin, K.C.S.G., £5000; Countess O'Loughlin, £500; Messrs. J. J. Liston, R. Roberts, M. Healy, and C. Frilay, £1000 each; Dr. J. Murphy, £1000; Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Murphy, £1000. In acknowledging a vote of thanks, moved by Mr. Liston, the chairman said the meeting had established a record. The proceedings, which were characterised from start to finish by unprecedented enthusiasm, were finalised by a spirited singing of "God Save Ireland." This remarkable proof of a people's respect for one who has been the subject of vitriolic attacks from press, pulpit, and platform, has given a blow to the Victorian bigots from which they will reel for some time to come (says the *Freeman's Journal*). Money, they say, speaks, and the princely gift to be made to his Grace on St. Patrick's Day in the presence of 50,000 people (a moderate estimate), at the Exhibition, will put the last nail in the coffin of the unholy alliance of Hughes-cum-sectarianism.

Speaking at the annual Communion breakfast of the H.A.C.B. Society in the Cathedral Hall on Sunday, March 14, Dr. Mannix said that he was leaving on a visit to

Rome and the Old Country on May 19, and as soon as his business was done he would come back to Australia by the first ship that sailed. Archbishop Mannix further stated that he was as grateful to his friends as if he had got the £50,000 they proposed to give him; but he could not, consistently with the principles he held, accept their marvellous generosity, and he would decline their generous offer resolutely and absolutely. When he died, as Archbishop of Melbourne, he hoped he would not have a penny in his personal account. Archbishop Mannix has sent the following letter to Mr. John Wren (chairman of the Presentation Committee):—"My dear Mr. Wren,—I wish to convey to you, and through you to those associated with you at last night's meeting, the expression of my deep and lasting gratitude. Your very generosity humbles me and makes me wish that I had indeed been able to render you some notable service. What you did at that meeting and what you propose to do are the outcome of the unrivalled generosity of my friends rather than the measure of any claim that I have upon them. For I have been repaid a hundredfold for anything that I have done or have tried to do, either as an Archbishop or as a citizen. At all events, I have made it a rule for myself not to accept any such personal gift as you propose to offer. When I left Ireland seven years ago my friends there failed to induce me to depart from that self-imposed rule. My friends here will therefore not misunderstand me when I ask them to extend to me the same consideration for my personal wish which I claimed in Ireland, and to abandon this purpose of making me a presentation of any kind. I am more grateful than words can tell, but at the risk of seeming ungracious and unresponsive I must ask this added favor of being allowed to have my own way in a matter on which my mind is quite made up. I trust that you will accept and convey my heartfelt thanks.—Believe me, my dear Mr. Wren, sincerely yours, ✠ D. MANNIX."

NEW SOUTH WALES.

A great concourse of Irishmen and Irish-Australians gathered at the Agricultural Grounds on Saturday (says the *Catholic Press* of March 18) to witness the St. Patrick's Day celebrations. It was one of the biggest crowds on record, the attendance being estimated at being at least 1000 in excess of that of the previous demonstration. And what a typically enthusiastic Celtic gathering it was! Not the slightest hitch occurred at any time during the day to mar the pleasure and enjoyment of the occasion. All the arrangements worked with the precision of well-oiled machinery, and the spirit which animated the great gathering was cheeriness and optimism for the successful consummation of Ireland's destiny. The special feature of the demonstration was the oration by Rev. Father T. A. Fitzgerald, O.F.M., in which he dealt, in an exceedingly able manner with the Irish question. The thunderous applause which so frequently punctuated his splendid address amply proved the intense sympathy of every man, woman, and child in that mighty audience for the cause of Ireland. The celebrations were favored with magnificent weather. The sky remained unclouded during the whole of the day, and a gentle sea breeze wafting over the grounds tempered the brilliant rays of the sun, which earlier in the day threatened to be rather unpleasantly warm.

QUEENSLAND.

His Grace the Archbishop of Brisbane (Most Rev. Dr. Duhig) presided recently at the meeting of the Brisbane Musical Union. His Grace emphasised the desirability of popularising music. In Italy, he said, the best bands in the cities played in the gardens every afternoon. People could not patronise such performances without learning to love good music. One of the finest bands played in the gardens at Rome, and the same thing happened at Milan. The Italians came to love good music because so much music was played in public. It was a strange thing that one seldom or never heard of bequests in Australia for the study of music, yet there were many people in the Commonwealth who were in a position to help the study of music more than they did. He thought that if music was played more in the open the effect would be to raise its standard, and consequently to improve the standard of public morality and clean living.

It is much more easy to find an honest man or a charitable man than to find a man who will be your friend. Every true friend must be an honest man, but every honest man is not a friend.—Father Quadrupani.