

TERENCE MACSWEENEY'S HEROIC LOVE OF COUNTRY.

It was truly a heroic love of country that actuated Lord Mayor Terence MacSweeney, the great Irishman who died the slow death of a hunger-striking patriot-martyr in a foreign prison at Brixton, England.

His "creed for Ireland" was formulated when he was elected Lord Mayor of Cork. His inauguration speech was:—

"I come here more as a soldier stepping into the breach than as an administrator to fill my post on the municipality. We see in the manner in which the late Lord Mayor was murdered an attempt to terrify us all. Our first duty is to answer that threat in the only fitting manner: to show ourselves unterrified, cool and inflexible for the fulfilment of our chief purpose—the establishment of the independence and the integrity of our country and the peace and happiness of the Irish Republic. To that end I am here.

"I was more closely associated than any one here with my late murdered friend and colleague, both before and since the opening of the Irish war for independence, in prison and out, in the common work and love for Ireland, down to the day of his death.

"That is the reason I take his place. It is, I think, a fitting answer to those who struck him down.

"We discussed what ought to be done and what could be done, keeping in mind as duty bound not only the ideal line of action, but the line practicable at the moment as well. It will be my duty and steady purpose here to follow that line as faithfully as it lies in my power to do so.

Contest of Endurance.

"This contest on our side is not one of rivalry and vengeance, but of endurance. It is not those who can inflict the most, but those who can suffer the most, who will conquer, though we do not abrogate our function to demand that murderers and evil-doers be punished for their crimes. It is conceivable that the army of occupation could stop our functioning for a time. Then it becomes simply a question of endurance. Those whose faith is strong will endure to the end in triumph.

"The liberty for which we strive to-day is a sacred thing, inseparably entwined with that spiritual liberty for which the Saviour of Man died and which is the foundation for all just government.

Takes Bravest and Best.

"Because it is sacred and death for it is akin to the sacrifice on Calvary, following far off but constant to that divine example, in every generation our best and bravest have died. Sometimes in our grief we cry out the foolish and unthinking words, 'The sacrifice is too great.'

"But it is because they were our best and bravest that they had to die. No lesser sacrifice would save us. Because of it our struggle is holy. Our battle is sanctified by their blood. Our victory is assured by their martyrdom.

"It isn't we who take innocent blood, but we offer it, sustained by the example of our immortal dead and that divine example which inspires us all for the redemption of our country.

"Facing our enemy, we must declare our attitude simply. We see in their regime a thing of evil incarnate. With it there can be no parley any more than there can be a truce with the powers of hell.

Asks No Mercy.

"This is our simple resolution. We ask no mercy, and we will accept no compromise. But to the Divine Author of Mercy we appeal for strength to sustain us in our battle, whatever the persecution, that we may bring our people to victory in the end.

"The civilised world dares not look on indifferent while new tortures are being prepared for our country or they will see undermined the pillars of their own governments and the world involved in unimaginable anarchy.

"But if the rulers of the earth fail us we still have refuge in the Ruler of Heaven, and though to some the judgments of God seem slow, they never fail and when they fall they are overwhelming."

At the hour of danger what is necessary to save a nation? I can see nothing but devotedness. Woe to the people amongst whom devotedness is extinct.—Pere Felix.

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Greymouth

(From our own correspondent.)

November 12.

His Lordship Bishop Brodie has concluded his episcopal visitation of the West Coast, and was everywhere tendered a very hearty welcome. Dr. Brodie was delighted with the Brothers' and Sisters' Schools, and found the standard of religious knowledge extremely satisfactory. Quite 200 candidates were presented for Confirmation, this Sacrament being administered at Greymouth, Dunollie, and Brunnerton. Concerts were tendered by the congregation and the convent pupils in welcome to, and in honor of his Lordship's visit.

The Trinity College Musical Examiner who recently conducted an examination in the Grey centre, conversed in glowing terms with a *Star* reporter, on the ability of the Convent pupils, and their splendid showing in the test pieces. Miss Doreen Daly, of Blackball, who is only 14 years of age, secured her A.T.C.L., and came in for special praise. In every grade the pupils of the Sisters of Mercy were high in the honors list.

The annual concert for the Marist Brothers takes place on Thursday, and in a fortnight the ladies of the congregation are conducting a garden fete, to augment the funds of the Convent bazaar. The re-building of the Brothers' School and Convent are pressing needs, and the parishioners are proving themselves equal to the work in hand.

Close on £60 was realised at last Sunday's collection for the starving children of Central Europe.

A Solemn Requiem Mass will commemorate the Month's Mind of Ireland's latest martyr, Terence MacSweeney. A large congregation can be counted on at St. Patrick's.

Invercargill

(From our own correspondent.)

November 15.

The Gore Celtic Dramatic Club, under the direction of Rev. Father Farthing, which has so successfully staged the comedy "Jane" at Gore, Wyndham, and Mataura, will present the play at the Municipal Theatre, Invercargill, on Tuesday, the 23rd inst. Financial success is already assured as a very large number of tickets have been disposed of, and those holding same should make sure of good seats by looking at Begg's. Where the comedy has been played the press references have been flattering, so Invercargill patrons may look forward to something out of the ordinary from these talented amateurs. The proceeds are to form the nucleus of a fund in connection with a big bazaar to be held next year. The object—the building of new schools—is such a worthy one that it is expected that the theatre will be taxed to its utmost on the occasion.

HIBERNIAN SOCIETY, TIMARU.

The quarterly meeting of St. Mary's branch of the H.A.C.B. Society was held in St. John's Hall on Monday night, November 8. The president (Bro. B. Conlon) presided over a large attendance of members. The sick visitors reported that all members on the sick funds were progressing favorably. The balance sheet and auditor's report were read and adopted, and showed that notwithstanding the increase in doctors' fees, etc., there was a steady increase in the membership. During the quarter sick pay to the amount of £85 5s 8d was paid out, and also £30 as maternity allowances. Accounts amounting to £102 10s were passed for payment. Receipts of the evening amounted to £184 14s 8d. After the meeting the members spent a social hour in reminiscences, which were greatly enjoyed.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION IN THE WEST INDIES.

At Port of Spain (Trinidad) an important and vital principle of Catholic educational ideals was put forward recently by the Director of Education, in a speech made before the Board of Education of the Colony.

Speaking of the schools in general, the Director of Education said that education without moral training has very little positive value, and that, therefore, religious teaching must form the foundation of educational methods.

The *Catholic News*, the official organ of the archdiocese of Port of Spain, welcomes this utterance of the educational authority, and sees in its practical application the realisation of a principle for which the Catholics in the West Indies—and in other places—have persistently and consistently struggled.

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