Right Rev. Dr. Liston's Arrival at Auckland

Cordial Welcome to the Coadjutor-Bishop

Imposing Solemnities: Popular Rejoicings

(From our own correspondent.)

A cordial welcome was tendered to his Lordship Dr. Liston, Coadjutor-Bishop of Auckland, on Thursday, December 23, at the Auckland railway station. The train being more than an hour late, many people had to leave the station before the Bishop's arrival, but he was greeted by a large and enthusiastic gathering, including his Lordship Bishop Cleary, Right Rev. Monsignors Mahony, Gillan, and Hackett, the local clergy, and many prominent Catholic and non-Catholic citizens. Hearty cheers were given for his Lordship as he walked along the platform to the Bishop's motor and was driven to the Bishop's Palace, Ponsonby.

On Christmas Day his Lordship Dr. Liston Pontificated at Solemn High Mass in St. Patrick's Cathedral. His Lordship was assisted by the Rev. E. Lyons as deacon. Rev. D. Silk subdeacon, and Very Rev. Father W. Forde, Adm., master of ceremonies. His Lordship Dr. Cleary presided and introduced Dr. Liston. Deacons of honor at the throne were Rev. A. Moynihan, C.M. (Malvern, Victoria) and Rev. J. J. Bradley (St. Patrick's Cathedral) His Lordship Dr. Liston officiated at Pontifical Vespers in the evening. Rev. Fathers Lyons and Silk being deacon and subdeacon respectively, and Very Rev. Father Forde, Adm., master of ceremonies. His Lordship Dr. Cleary presided and preached an appropriate discourse.

On Sunday his Lordship Dr. Liston officiated at an ordination ceremony in St. Patrick's Cathedral, when the Rev. E. Lyons, of Auckland, a former student of Holy Cross College, Mosgiel, and latterly of St. Patrick's Ecclesiastical College, Manly, Sydney, was raised to the priesthood. Very Rev. Father Forde was archdeacon, and Rev. Father Bradley master of ceremonies. The young priest was assisted by Rev. Father Silk. Very Rev. Dean Cahill (Parnell) and Rev. Father Moynihan, C.M. (Malvern) were present in the sanctuary.

The official reception to his Lordship Dr. Liston took place on Sunday evening. Members of the Hibernian Society, in regalia, lined up outside the Cathedral and formed a guard of honor to the Coadjutor-Bishop; and as the imposing ecclesiastical procession entered the Cathedral the full choir sang the "Laudate," Mr. Hubert Carter taking the solo. The Holy Rosary was recited by Father Bradley, and at the conclusion of the devotions Miss E. Lynch sang "Hear Ye, Israel"; Mr. Dixon "Ye People Rend Your Hearts"; Mr. Dobbs "Sanctum et Terrible"; and the choir the anthem "Adeste Fideles," the various parts being taken by Mrs. White, Miss Desilda, Messrs. Dixon and Venables. Addresses were then read and presented by the Right Rev. Mgr. Mahoney on behalf of the clergy, from the laity by Mr. Kalaugher, Catholic Federation by Very Rev. Dean Cahill, and from the Hibernian Society by Mr. M. J. Sheahan.

The address from the clergy was as follows:—

To the Right Rev. James M. Liston, D.D.,
Bishop of Olympus,
Coadjutor-Bishop of Auckland.

May it please your Lordship,

Representing the whole of the clergy of the diocese of Auckland, we extend to your Lordship a hearty welcome to this, the scene of your future labors. With all our hearts we rejoice that the Holy See has, in you, chosen one whom we consider to be eminently qualified for the position of Coadjutor to our beloved Bishop. Your Lordship has brought to your work in this diocese high mental attainments and qualities of heart and soul which will not alone win for you the respect and affection of priests and people, but will also be a source of great moral and spiritual power for the extension of the Kingdom of God among us. Even in your college days, you manifested those signs of high promise which have been so richly fulfilled in your later years. The marked esteem in which you were held by your superiors during the years of your ecclesiastical training, was deservedly followed, even in the early days of your priesthood, by the confidence reposed in you by the late saintly Bishop Verdon, of Dunedin, when he placed you in the responsible position of Rector of the Provincial Ecclesiastical Seminary of New Zealand. This important appointment, for one so young in years, was the testimony of an experienced trainer of youth, to your abilities as a scholar, as an administrator, and as a student and moulder of human character. These and other valued attainments, ripened by years of experience and study, you will now bring to bear upon your still more exalted and onerous work as Coadjutor-Bishop of this large and rapidly progressing See of Auckland. In your ministrations among us, your Lordship may count upon the respect, the affection, and the cordial co-operation of the clergy of this diocese. You do not come among us as a stranger; for no bishop bearing as you do, a divine commission as a shepherd of souls, can ever be a stranger to the hearts of a Catholic people. But your Lordship is united to us by other bonds that drew you nearer to our hearts even before the happy day our Chief Pastor on earth bound you in a closer union to this episcopal See. For the consecrated years of your priesthood have been as the golden pages of an open book to us; you have been the skilled trainer and exemplar of a number of our clergy, the able exponent and defender of Catholic truth and Catholic interests in the press, the friend or acquaintance of many of us, the esteemed and respected of us all. We bid you, thus, a double welcome. We ask you to feel that, in coming among us, you are coming among your very own. The doors of our hearts are thrown wide to welcome you, and we pray God to give you length of days brimful of blessing; "May He give to thee according to thy own heart, and confirm all thy counsels." (Psalm, xix.)—We remain, your Lordship's devoted servants in Christ, on behalf of the Clergy of the Diocese of Auckland: William H. Mahoney, William G. Van Dyk.

26/12/20.

Following was the address from the laity:—

To the Right Rev. James M. Liston, D.D.,
Bishop of Olympus,
Coadjutor-Bishop of Auckland.

On behalf of the Laity of the diocese of Auckland.

It is our privilege to extend to your Lordship a very hearty welcome and to feel deeply grateful to his Holiness Benedict XV. for having selected you as the recipient of the high dignity of Coadjutor to our dearly beloved Bishop. Your untiring energy and great zeal for the love of God have been proved and recognised in the parish over which you presided for 16 years. Not only by members of your own flock were you loved and revered, but your readiness at all times to assist in the cause of sympathy and charity gained for you the well-deserved esteem of the whole community. Monuments of your work you have left behind

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