

His Lordship Bishop Whyte

EPISCOPAL VISITATION AT GORE.

His Lordship Right Rev. James Whyte, D.D., Bishop of Dunedin, made his first formal visitation to the parish of Gore, when on Sunday, September 4, he administered the Sacrament of Confirmation in the parish church to 80 candidates including 5 adults. His Lordship celebrated the first Mass, and was edified to see that a large number of the parishioners received Holy Communion thereat. The Bishop preached a beautiful discourse to the congregation at the 11 o'clock Mass, to the delight of the people who were present. At 2.30 p.m. the church was again crowded to witness the Confirmation of the children, and to hear his Lordship impressively address those confirmed and the congregation generally, on the meaning of the sacred rite, and the duties of those who were confirmed. Benediction of the Most Holy Sacrament, given by his Lordship, was a finale to a day that was a red-letter one for the Gore Catholic congregation.

On Monday his Lordship, accompanied by the Very Rev. Father O'Donnell and Rev. Father Farthing, proceeded to Mataura, where the Bishop confirmed 23 candidates in St. Lawrence's Church, in the presence of a large congregation.

On Tuesday the 6th inst. a visit was paid to Wyndham for the same purpose, when 36 candidates were confirmed in the presence of a large assemblage of parishioners. The congregation arranged a conversazione for 2 o'clock in the afternoon. Father O'Donnell and two or three of the parishioners spoke a few words of welcome to his Lordship, when Mr. Shepherd read to the Bishop an address of welcome to the district. A musical programme was rendered under the guidance of Mr. Percy Brennan. The Bishop expressed his pleasure at being present amongst the Wyndham people and making their acquaintance, and also the hope of being able to renew and perfect his acquaintance with them in the future.

On the same evening a large and representative gathering of the Catholic community of Gore met his Lordship at Holland's Hall. The Very Rev. P. O'Donnell, in a few well-chosen words, welcomed the distinguished guest. An address of welcome on behalf of the congregation was read by Mr. E. Smith, on behalf of the New Zealand Catholic Federation by Mr. D. L. Poppelwell, and on behalf of the Hibernian Society by Mr. D. Cronin. In replying his Lordship expressed his pleasure at being present, and hoped by degrees to make the acquaintance of the people of the diocese. One thing that gave him pleasure that evening (he said) was to be in the company of Father O'Donnell, one of the old priests of the diocese. He had great reverence for those priests for they blazed the track and put the diocese in the condition in which he found it. He congratulated the people on their co-operation and generosity, and upon the possession of such a beautiful church. Referring to the Catholic Federation, he said, the Federation had no desire to belittle people of other denominations. The sole object of the Federation was to propagate Christian principles for the good of society and the nation of New Zealand. As to the Hibernian Society, everything that pertains to Ireland were the subject of propaganda. People were frequently misled as to the true state of affairs in that country by the general newspapers, whose writers adjust themselves to whatever is the propaganda of the hour. Select musical items were given and much enjoyed during the conversazione, members and friends of the church contributing to the programme.

On Wednesday the pupils of the school of the Convent of Mercy entertained his Lordship with a select programme arranged by the good nuns, bidding his Lordship welcome. The Bishop was very pleased and was quite at home with the young people of the school. During the remainder of the week some of the outlying districts of the parish were visited, his Lordship departing for Dunedin after a strenuous week.

What we are, and where we are is God's providential arrangement—God's doing, though it may be man's misdoing; and the wise way is to look your disadvantages in the face and see what can be made out of them.

Answers to Correspondents

J.L. (Wellington).—Thanks for loan of pamphlet. Strong but true. We need not worry. As the Italians say: *Che sara sara*—What shall be shall be! *Wir werden einmal siegen*.

S.T. (Napier).—(1) Barton, Childers, Blythe, Hobson are among the Protestant Sinn Fein leaders. Griffiths is a Catholic. (2) The arrival of Asquith stopped the massacres. Maxwell's last victory in 1916 was to drag Connolly from his hospital bed, tie him up on a chair and shoot him. (3) Yes, they were followed all over Ireland and not one murderer escaped.

S.M.A. (Westport).—Having answered your question we destroyed your letter and do not remember the name now. Please do not take it for granted that the editor can remember anything.

S.M.C.—For your information we mention a note we came upon this week. Algernon Blackwood in *John Silence* says that a spiritist might explain cup-tossing by saying that doing some silly, nonsensical thing fixes the mind without putting a strain on it, and thus leaves the subliminal consciousness free to act. That is quite clear, isn't it now?

CURRIC.—Frankly this nonsense about a truce amuses us. If the daily press continues to misrepresent Ireland, do you think we and others are going to remain silent because a few people cry "Truce! Truce!"? The truce is between the fighting men and there is no reason in the world why that fact should prevent anybody who wants to reply to the day-lies from doing so. We never heard a more unsound proposition than that the Self-Determination League should become inactive at the very time when its activities might be of most value. Instead of being silent it ought to be bombarding the British Government from all parts of the Empire with reminders that honor binds the Empire to keep its pledges. Stir up your branch and the other branches until they rival Otago and Southland, which, notwithstanding their small population, have done as much as all the rest of New Zealand combined for the League. In fact as far as numbers go we are the only branches that count for much.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

CONFERENCE OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, KAIKORAI.

The third annual meeting of the Conference of the Immaculate Conception, St. Vincent de Paul Society, Kaikorai, Dunedin, was held last week, Very Rev. Father Coffey, Adm. (spiritual director), presiding. The report for the year ending July 31 stated that the conference consisted of 12 active and 20 honorary members. Twenty meetings were held during the year with an average attendance of 9 members. 49 garments were made and sent to the St. Vincent de Paul Orphanage; help was extended to three families and a number of visits were paid to the sick. The conference records its thanks to Father Coffey for his sympathetic interest and assistance, and to honorary members and friends who have contributed to its funds. Great regret is expressed at the death of the late president (Mrs. Cornish), who passed away the previous night. At the conclusion of the meeting the members of the conference, as well as those of the St. Joseph's Cathedral and Sacred Heart (North-east Valley) conferences who were in attendance, visited the home of their late president and fellow worker in the sacred cause of charity, and recited the Holy Rosary for the repose of her soul.—R.I.P.

Following are the office-bearers:—President, Mrs. Gebbie; vice-president, Miss Heffernan; treasurer, Mrs. Hill; secretary, Mrs. Ford; wardrobe-keepers, Mrs. McConnell and Miss Garstang.

A lecture by Rev. Father E. J. Lynch on "The Thirteenth, the Greatest of Centuries," will be given under the auspices of the Irish Society (Dunedin) at the Overseas Clubrooms, on Thursday evening, September 22.

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