

## Monsignor Cerretti

HIS ACTIVITIES IN PARIS.

(By P. S. CLEARY, K.S.G., in the *Catholic Press*)

I had several opportunities of meeting Monsignor Cerretti, the Apostolic Nuncio at Paris, and called to bid him farewell on March 8. He is delighted to see Australians, and delights to hear even the slightest news about the land he loves so well. His last words were: "It is not good-bye! I hope to see you again in Sydney very shortly." And when it was suggested that his visit might be as a Cardinal to preside over the Eucharistic Congress, he smiled as if to say "Who knows?"

Monsignor Cerretti looks thinner than when he was in Australia. The heavy and responsible work of the past four years has told on him, and he is now "holding up" the most difficult job in Vatican diplomacy. But when he is reminded of some past episode, or hears a good report of some of his friends, the old sparkle comes to his eye, showing that he does not forget. He gets his *Catholic Press* every week, and it soon becomes apparent that he does not miss an item. Little parochial events which happened long after he had left, and we had forgotten, were recalled, and he is looking forward to next season for visits from old friends. He had seen it stated in the *Press* that Monsignor O'Gorman was likely to visit Europe shortly, but added that it might be in a year or so, when Parramatta's P.P. would make his first visit *ad limina* at the same time. There is very little happening, or about to happen, in any of the five continents that is missed by Monsignor Cerretti.

### FRIENDLY FRANCE.

His work in Paris is of the greatest importance. He is in touch with public men, friendly and unfriendly, and he observes that he finds many men of singular ability in French public life. Millerand, Poincare, and Briand are men of keen foresight, and it is their devotion to France which has made possible the remarkable change of attitude towards the Holy See that is noticeable everywhere. One day last week we saw about 200 children marching through the streets, accompanied by nuns, a sight which would have been impossible five or six years ago. Within the new few months the teaching congregations, the nuns engaged in charitable works, such as hospitals and orphanages, and even the contemplative Orders, will be back again, with unrestricted rights.

It would not be right to discuss the personnel of the public men who are pushing on this work. Practically all of them, except the discredited followers of Combes, see its advantages for France. Even journals, which have little regard for religious, like the most influential daily in Paris, *Le Matin*, are using their efforts to secure justice for the religious communities. In the popular House, the Chamber of Deputies, the majority in favor of liberty is about 250, but in the Senate, which comes less frequently under the electoral whip-lash, the majority is really but five. Yet such pressure of patriotism was brought to bear on the minority that the opening of diplomatic relations with the Vatican was approved by the Senate with a majority of 52. This majority did not mean that the malcontents stayed away, for they came and voted in favor, a number from each group sugaring the bitter pill by the declaration that they did it for France. They really did it because they knew that the power of the Press, which made them, would leave them stranded if they did not bow to the inevitable. As one-third of the Senate retires every three years, the election renewals will increase the majority, and thus enable the French political leaders to carry out more fully the policy which has already been forecasted by President Millerand.

### MAY REVISIT SYDNEY.

But it is no secret that Monsignor Cerretti would prefer a sphere in which he would have less to do with civic life, and could devote his ability to ecclesiastical organisation. As doyen of the ambassadors, he is required to attend many public functions which have not the remotest connection with his sacred duties. He must be present at dinners and welcomes to royalties, and at civic receptions, for which, as we knew in Sydney, he has no personal liking. But it is his duty, and with the Paris Nuncio, duty is a first consideration. Should it so happen that this dearly-loved prelate will head a Pontifical delegation to Sydney, at the long-expected Eucharistic Congress, he will get a reception from Australians which will not easily be forgotten.

## WEDDING BELLS

GILL—MURPHY.

The marriage was solemnised on the 25th ult., at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament, Christchurch, by Rev. J. Hanrahan (Darfield), of Mr. Patrick James Gill, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. P. Gill, of Kirwee, and Miss Margaret Murphy, eldest daughter of Mr. Thomas Murphy and the late Mrs. Murphy, of Co. Fermanagh, Ireland. Appropriate music was played by Miss O'Connor, Cathedral organist. The bride, who was given away by her cousin (Detective McHugh, of Auckland), was attired in ivory crepe-de-Chine and overdress of georgette and train of white satin lined with pale pink crepe-de-Chine. She also wore a bridal veil and wreath of orange blossoms, and carried a bouquet of hot-house flowers. The bridesmaids were Miss Susan Murphy (sister of the bride) and Miss Minnie Gill (sister of the bridegroom), who wore pretty frocks of champagne crepe-de-Chine, and hats of black tulle relieved with gold trimming. Mr. James Gill was best man, and Mr. P. McHugh groomsman. After the ceremony a reception was held in the Hibernian Hall, where a number of guests were entertained and the customary toasts honored. The newly-wedded couple left later for the north on their honeymoon, the bride traveling in a smart navy tailored costume and hat to match relieved with henna, and gray fox furs.



POLAND—HILL.

The marriage was solemnised recently at St. Mary's Church, Paeroa, by Rev. Father Dunphy, of Mr. James Poland, eldest son of Mr. H. Poland, M.P., and Miss Jeff Hill, eldest daughter of Mr. H. Hill, Awaitei. The bride, who was given away by her father, was attired in ivory satin. She also wore a handsome Brussels-net veil (lent for the occasion by the bridegroom's mother), and carried a beautiful shower bouquet. The bridesmaids were Miss Eileen Poland, who wore a dress of eau-de-vil taffeta silk, and mob cap of eau-de-vil tulle and silver leaves, and carried a bouquet of yellow flowers; and Miss Amy Hill, who wore a lilac crepe-de-Chine dress, mob cap of lilac tulle and silver leaves, and carried a bouquet of lilac flowers. The bridegroom was attended by Mr. Ivan Poland and Mr. Ernest Hill. Appropriate music was played by Mrs. Cooke. After the ceremony a reception was held at the Returned Soldiers' Hall, which was tastefully decorated for the occasion. The guests were received by Mrs. Hill (mother of the bride). Numerous and costly wedding presents, including several cheques, were received. The newly-wedded couple left by the evening train for Te Aroha, *en route* to Rotorua, where the honeymoon was spent.



It is not common experience that when we show to persons who have never seen them before beautiful views, whether in the city or the country, which we have been in the habit of passing by without any sense of pleasure, simply because we have become so accustomed to the sight of them, we find our own enjoyment renewed in their enjoyment of the novelty of the scene?—St. Augustine.

Now obtainable, a beautifully illustrated volume

## "After Sixty Years"

DIAMOND JUBILEE OF THE INSTITUTE OF NOTRE DAME DES MISSIONS.

A Record of the Order of Sisters of the Missions in New Zealand.

Golden Jubilee Celebrations at the Pioneer Convents.

As only one edition (comprising a limited number of copies) has been printed, an early application for copies is necessary to prevent disappointment.

SINGLE COPY, 2/6; POSTAGE 6d.

MANAGER,

Tablet Office, Dunedin.