

The Sisters of the Sacred Heart

GRACEFUL TRIBUTE BY VERY REV. PAUL CULLEN, O.M.

In the course of his address on Sunday, September 23, at the opening of the church-school dedicated to St. Vincent de Paul, in the grounds of the Convent of the Sacred Heart, Burge Road, Camberwell, Victoria, Very Rev. Paul Cullen, O.M. (Provincial of the Vincentian Fathers in Australia) paid the following graceful tribute to the Sisters of the Sacred Heart (says the *Melbourne Tribune*):—

Among the first in the grand educational work of religion and patriotism has ever stood the great community of the Sacred Heart Sisters. While politicians wrangled and Governments fought about trusts and tariffs, these truly great ladies bent all their energies to looking after the girls of Australia, the welfare of its women, and the future mothers of the race. The Sisters of the Sacred Heart have a glorious history of achievement, the most fearless, devoted, enterprising, and successful contributors to what a great American Bishop called "the greatest religious fact in the history of humanity—the Catholic school system." Without wealth of their own, without endowments from others, without the aid of State, national or Federal, these heroic Sisters, like the Sisterhoods all over the country, have beaten out highways along the trails of the missionaries and everywhere broadened the paths to knowledge.

Well may you all rejoice to-day because you hand over your children to the care of such devoted women. And here I should like to pay a tribute to one of the many distinguished members of the Sacred Heart Community, Madame Janet Erskine Stuart, whose name must ever be associated with those noble women who have given their lives to the education of Catholic children. Her treatise on the education of Catholic girls is a mine of educational information. Throughout its luminous pages she emphasises the great and unchangeable fact that the formation of heart and will and character is, and must always be, the very root of the education of a child. She felt, in the words of Lionel Johnson—

Fair though it be, to watch unclose
The nestling glories of a rose,
Depth on rich depth, soft fold on fold,
Though fairer be it, to behold
Stately and sceptral lilies break
To beauty, and to sweetness wake:
Yet fairer still, to see and sing,
One fair thing is, one matchless thing:
Youth, in its perfect blossoming.

It is in the Sisters' schools here and all over the world that one may see "youth, in its perfect blossoming." Within the precincts of the convent ground, on a spot hallowed for years and years by the purity and holiness of conventual life, we have the happiness of witnessing the completion of this beautiful building, fair in outline, strong in structure, and worthy of the noble ends for which it is destined.

BLENHEIM NOTES

(From our own correspondent.)

October 13.

On Friday, October 5, a most successful "Paddy's Market" in aid of the Sisters of Mercy at Picton was held. Owing to the inclemency of the weather, the Town Hall had to be engaged by the organisers as headquarters. Showing what splendid support they received for their saleable goods, it was intended to keep the market open until 9 p.m., but it was found necessary to close shortly after 5 o'clock. The gratifying sum of £172 was realised, and great credit is due to the willing band of helpers who entered into the spirit of "the cause that needs assistance," etc., with enthusiasm, inspired by the unceasing assistance given by the indefatigable secretary (Miss N. Nolan). Following are the winners of the prizes:—Figures denote number of peas in bottles:—Box cigarettes, 289, W. Cameron; cake, 600, J. Bothwell; bag of sugar (No. 1), 444, Mrs. O'Brien; bag of sugar (No. 2), 682, J. McGrath; tray of sweets, 391, Mr. Ashton; dinner, 632, E. C. Constant; flour, 232, Mr. Spaulding; box of tea (No. 1), 790, K. O'Dwyer; box of tea (No. 2), 202, A. Lennox; turkey, 209, Bobbie Clouston; cigars, 480, Miss Fowler; box of soap, 85, Mr. Chandler; tray cloth, M. Taylor; doll, name (Rose), Pat Goulter; ham, 247, M. Hanley; weight of cake, 14lb 2oz, J. E. Thomas; weight of sheep, 85½lb, S. Angus.

The euchre tournament which is held weekly in St. Patrick's Hall is always very well attended and a most

interesting evening looked forward to, keen rivalry being displayed as to who will be the fortunate prize-winners.

The parishioners of Seddon and Ward are to be congratulated on the erection of a church at Ward. The foundations of the building have already been made. The building will be of brick with a square belfry, and will, according to the plans, be a handsome little church, and one which the Awatere Catholics may justly be proud of. It will be capable of holding between 150 and 200 people. The builders hope to have it completed about the end of the year.

Good friendship exists between the Oddfellows and Hibernian Lodges, and they have on several occasions foregathered, as a challenge, on either side, in a friendly game of euchre and quoits, also some showing of vocal and musical talent amongst the members. During last week one of these tourneys was held in the dispensary rooms, when the Hibernians won the games by a small majority.

The Late Mrs. Annie McGuire, Tuakau

(An Appreciation.)

There passed peacefully away at her residence, Tuakau, Auckland, on October 2, another of the fast-fading band of pioneers, in the person of Mrs. Annie McGuire, who had been in indifferent health for the past few years. The deceased lady was widely known and highly respected by all who had the privilege of her acquaintance. She was a devout and staunch Catholic and an ardent church worker, and her activities in this respect had been responsible for great good. The late Mrs. McGuire was born in Co. Armagh, Ireland, in 1848, and came to New Zealand with her parents when seventeen years of age. She was living at Pukekohe when she was married to the late Laurence McGuire over 50 years ago. Their first home was Tuakau, where the deceased had resided ever since.

In those days there were no formed roads, only bush tracks, and many were the difficulties of those fine old pioneers in bringing their farms into cultivation, having to carry their flour and provisions on their backs from the nearest store, a distance of 20 miles. It was a frequent thing for these early settlers to walk into Auckland on business and then walk back again. The difficulties of those worthy pioneers cannot now be imagined.

In the face of all those hardships the late Mr. and Mrs. McGuire formed their first home, cutting out of bush a farm which to-day stands as the most prosperous and picturesque in the district. It was owing to the supreme independence of spirit and the greatness of the pluck of the pioneer settlers such as these that have made our country what it is to-day.

Mrs. McGuire reared a family of ten children—five sons and five daughters—and these are now distributed over the district, wielding considerable influence in the social and public affairs of the community.

The deceased lived a life of usefulness and Christian charity, ever ready to assist in cases of illness or necessity. Possessed of a genial, kindly nature, she endeared herself to all. The Catholic Church in Tuakau has benefited in no small degree by the late Mrs. McGuire's generosity, for the beautiful marble altar (as well as other gifts) will stand as an enduring memorial to one who, in every way, is worthy to be called the perfect Christian.

The late Mrs. McGuire was attended most devotedly in her last illness by the Rev. Father O'Malley, who gave her the great privilege of having Mass offered up in her home when she was no longer able to come to church. She had also a privileged visit from his Lordship Bishop Liston. While passing through the district, with his Lordship's usual kindness and consideration for the sick and afflicted, the Bishop made a special visit to give the sick lady Holy Communion, his kindly act being deeply appreciated by Mrs. McGuire and her family.

Mrs. McGuire's husband predeceased her about 15 years ago. A Solemn Requiem Mass, celebrated for the repose of her soul, was very largely attended. A touching discourse was delivered by Father O'Malley on the life and example of the deceased, who was (he said) an example to the younger mothers to bring their children up in the high Christian ideals of our holy Faith and respect for parents.

The funeral, which took place in the afternoon, was the largest seen in Tuakau, people coming from all parts of the province to pay a last tribute of respect to one of sterling worth.

To her sorrowing family deepest sympathy is extended in their loss of a good Christian mother. May her beautiful soul now find its reward in God's kingdom!