

FEATURES OF THIS WEEK'S ISSUE

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MESSAGE OF POPE LEO XIII. TO THE N.Z. TABLET.

Pergant Directores et Scriptorum New Zealand Tablet, Apostolica Benedictione confortati, Religionis et Justitiam causam promovere per vias Veritatis et Pacis.

Die 4 Aprilis, 1900.

LEO XIII., P.M.

TRANSLATION.—Fortified by the Apostolic Blessing, let the Directors and Writers of the New Zealand Tablet continue to promote the cause of Religion and Justice by the ways of Truth and Peace.

April 4, 1900.

LEO XIII., Pope



THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 1923.

IRELAND AT GENEVA



IRISH papers now to hand are full of the ceremonial at Geneva, when, on Monday, September 10, the Free State was received into the League of Nations. In many ways the occasion was unique. Never was such lively interest taken in the admission of a nation, and never was such applause heard as when it was announced by the President that by the unanimous verdict of

the delegates the admission of Saor Stat na Eireann among the nations of the earth was confirmed. There was loud cheering and clapping of hands in token of the welcome given to the old land by the peoples who had long watched her struggles for freedom with interest and sympathy, and an unprecedented honor was conferred on President Cosgrave when he was invited to address the assembly.

Mr. Cosgrave rose to the occasion, speaking first in Gaelic and later in English. He began on a note that is surely ominous of Ireland's mission in the world of the future. *In n-ainim De*—"In the name of God"—he wished them peace and health, the representative of the most Catholic land on earth proclaiming his religion before them all at that solemn moment. He went on to point out that although Ireland was the youngest member of the League of Nations, she was, even as a nation, the oldest, perhaps, of them all. He and his colleagues had but recently come from Bobbio where they had assisted at the centenary celebrations in honor of the great Irish missionary, St. Columbanus. Thirteen centuries ago, Columbanus was one of the many saints and scholars who brought from the schools of Eire the lamp of faith and learning which was to light the darkness of medieval Europe. In those far away days the Irish nation was the cradle of culture and of religion. Only to-day are students adequately realising how magnificent was her work for true civilisation, for the cause of humanity, for peace on earth among peoples. As she was then, they hoped to make her once more, a powerful influence for order and morality, for the permanence of peace, for the spread of human freedom and toleration. The old nation, once more in her rightful place, would be true to the traditions of the past, and would bring her high Christian ideals among the councils of the League. In a telling sentence, he reminded them how he had read a short time

before on the monument erected to Columbanus, these momentous words:

Si tollis libertatem, tollis dignitatem!

"If you take away liberty you also take away dignity." Freedom was essential to right growth, to right development, and Ireland, emerging from her long struggle would be a champion of freedom and of all the aims and ideals for which the League stood. The speech was translated into French for the delegates who did not understand Irish or English, and its sentiments were warmly applauded by the audience. Among the representatives of the fifty-four nations were many who had traditional reasons to welcome Ireland with delight into their assembly. Many of them had gone through the same long fight against tyranny and oppression, and they knew what it was to be crushed by the armed might of a stronger power. Many of them represented peoples who in far distant years had given a home to Ireland's Wild Geese, when the exiles had to flee from persecution in their own land. Many of them, too, knew what splendid services these exiles had done in the lands of their adoption, and what valor on the field and wisdom in the council chamber they had displayed time and again. Names like Taaffe, O'Donnell, O'Neill, Dillon, O'Brien, McMahan were in civil and military senses as well known over Europe during the past three centuries, as were the names of Columbanus and Donatus and Scotus in more distant years and in a different sphere of influence. Hence, the warm welcome to the nation so young and yet so old; so young in her new dignity, in her fresh idealism, in her hopes for the future; so old in her sorrows, in the constancy with which she bore them, in the Faith that was her strength and her inspiration in them.

Thus, with her great traditions, with her high hopes, Ireland takes her place among the nations, a Nation once again in the eyes of the world, as she has been a nation always in truth and justice. She is not admitted on suffrance or as an inferior. She has received international recognition of her independent status, and thus a seal has been set on the work of the dead patriots, Arthur Griffith and Michael Collins, who made possible this honor now done to their native land. While the membership of the League is a safeguard for her interests, another result of it will be a more widespread knowledge of Irish affairs throughout the world and, in Ireland, a keener interest in other countries. But, more than all, it is to be hoped that Ireland, with her profound Christian convictions, with her ardent idealism, will supply the League with that elevated insight and understanding, lack of which has hitherto been the chief cause of its failures to make good its promises. Ireland will stand for justice and truth and freedom, and, as far as in her lies, will supply an antidote to the evils of avarice and ambition which have been the fruitful causes of trouble since the end of the war, as they were the radical causes of the war itself. Small as she is in territory, in population, and in wealth, her moral influence in a disturbed civilisation is likely to have large results in the work of reconstruction which still remains to be undertaken.

INVERCARGILL'S NEW SCHOOLS

Catholic educational buildings are going ahead in Invercargill nowadays. St. Joseph's School is already completed, and in convenience and dimensions is all that a school ought to be. Teachers, pupils, and even such severe critics as Inspectors, are highly pleased with it. It will be solemnly opened by the Right Rev. Monsignor Mackay, on Sunday, November 25. Rev. Dr. Kelly will deliver an address on education on the occasion. It is confidently expected that there will be a large gathering of Invercargill Catholics to show their appreciation of the fine building which will long remain as a monument to their faith and self-sacrifice. The new boys' school is also growing up at present, while the magnificent convent buildings are now roofed and almost ready for occupation. It is gratifying to note that Catholic progress in the thriving capital of the south is keeping well abreast of the rapid civil and economic development of the town and district.