

ST. PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL, MELBOURNE.

THE OPENING CEREMONY.

CROWNING A GREAT WORK OF FAITH.

(Condensed from the *Melbourne Advocate*.)

THE CONSECRATION.

ALTHOUGH generally believed that the cathedral was to be consecrated on Sunday last, that important function had, in reality, been performed on the 27th October, with minutest detail, as prescribed by the Roman ritual. It is not necessary to enter into a full description of what the consecration of a Cathedral is like, but a few particulars will, doubtless, prove of interest to the readers of the *Advocate*. At 6 a.m. on the day appointed for the function the consecrator (the Bishop of Sale), who was assisted by the Archbishop of Melbourne and by the Bishop of Dunedin and the clergy attached to the cathedral, began the function, which occupied nearly seven hours—that is, from six until nearly one o'clock. A remarkable feature of the ceremony was a cross marked by ashes, which extended the full length of the nave and transepts—a sign that the entire building was to be henceforth entirely dedicated to the services of the Almighty. At intervals were placed twelve "consecration crosses," from which projected brackets for holding candles. These were lighted during the ceremony, and allowed to burn on until consumed, so resembling the old Catholic custom of lighting candles on Christmas Eve and allowing them to usher in the birthday of our Lord. No one not actually engaged in the function was allowed within the cathedral, and everything was made as bare as possible. The ceremonies concluded with Pontifical High Mass by the consecrator (the Most Rev. Dr. Corbett), who thus had the privilege of offering the "first Mass" at the high altar in the completed cathedral. The law of compensation, they say, goes on in an unceasing and unvarying course, and it can be said in truth that the Bishop of Sale was richly compensated for the unusual fatigue his Lordship must have undergone during the seven hours the important function lasted.

THE OPENING CEREMONIES.

So great was the anxiety of people to get a glimpse of the interior of the cathedral that the early Masses from 7 till 9 a.m. were crowded on Sunday, the celebrants being visiting prelates. The cathedral during the previous week was jealously guarded from the curious. And, indeed, there was good reason for that course, as much of the finishing up of the chapels, etc., had to be pushed on, so as to be ready for the opening day.

OUTSIDE THE BUILDING.

So dense was the crowd which began to gather in the vicinity of the cathedral, even as early as 9 a.m., that the gates were closed and precautions taken to observe complete order in the admission of ticket-holders, those holding white tickets entering by the western or main gateway and setting themselves in the nave and the transepts, and those with blue tickets entering by the Albert-street corner gates and occupying seats in the chancel and side chapels. From every direction crowds were to be seen wending their way in the direction of the cathedral. Special facilities were afforded the travelling public by the railway department and the tramway company. But the owners of "hansons" and cabs did a thriving trade, as they delivered their living freights outside the cathedral and hurried back for re-loading. The assemblage around the cathedral was augmented at the rate of about 1000 every quarter of an hour, and when the Pontifical High Mass commenced its numbers must have reached fully 10,000, while a crowd about half as large as this had passed on through the gates into the cathedral itself. In order to keep a clear route for the tramcars through the mass of human beings outside the building a force of 120 foot police and a squad of mounted constables were present at the scene. A couple of score of the former were posted at the main entrance to the cathedral and at the various gates to prevent the crush extending to the cathedral.

THE PROCESSION OF PRELATES AND PRIESTS.

Shortly after 11 o'clock a merry chime pealed forth from the cathedral bells, and a procession, which, from its august purpose and the number and eminence of those taking part in it, riveted the attention of the thousands assembled in eager expectancy around the precincts of this sacred edifice. The following order was observed in the procession from the Archbishop's residence:—Dr. A. L. Kenny, and Messrs. Slatery, Coaghlan and Archer, Papal Knights, the Cross bearer and acolytes, the Cardinal-Archbishop of Sydney, attended by his private secretary (Very Rev. Denis F. O'Hara), the Archbishop of Melbourne (Most Rev. Dr. Carr), the Archbishop of Wellington (the Most Rev. Dr. Redwood, S.M.), the Archbishop of Adelaide (the Most Rev. Dr. O'Reilly), the Bishop of Ballarat (the Most Rev. Dr. Moore), the coadjutor-Bishop of Sandhurst (the Most Rev. Dr. Reville, O.S.A.), the Bishop of Maitland (the Most Rev. Dr. Murray), the Bishop of Goulburn (the Most Rev. Dr. Langan), the Bishop of Armidale (the Most Rev. Dr. Torreggiani), the Bishop of Bathurst (the Most Rev. Dr. Byrne), the Bishop of Grafton (the Most Rev. Dr. Doyle), the Bishop of Wilcannia (the Most Rev. Dr. Dunne), the coadjutor-Bishop of Goulburn (the Most Rev. Dr. Gallagher), the coadjutor-Bishop of Maitland (the Most Rev. Dr. Dwyer), the Bishop of Perth (the Most Rev. Dr. Gibney), the Bishop of Port Augusta (the Most Rev. Dr. Maher), the Bishop of Auckland (the Most Rev. Dr. Lenthall), the Bishop of Dunedin (the Most Rev. Dr. Verdon). The whole of the province of New South Wales was represented, but the venerable Archbishop of Hobart, Tasmania, and his coadjutor were unable to attend the ceremony, owing to illness. The "tight little island"

was, however, represented by the Revs. M. J. Beechmor and J. Murphy. The Most Rev. Monsignor O'Hea, a generous benefactor of the cathedral, and the Very Rev. Father Dahdah, representing the Assyrian Catholics of the Colony, were also present.

The religious Orders were very largely represented and amongst the clergy who took part in the procession were the Very Rev. Father Devoy, V.G., Wellington. Rev. Father McKenna of Master-ton, and Rev. Father Lewis of Timaru. It was computed that over 200 priests took part in the procession. A large number of the Christian Brothers and a number of the Marist Brothers were seated near the clergy in the chancel.

DISTINGUISHED VISITORS.

Amongst the visitors present were the following:—From Government House, his Excellency the Governor and Lady Brassey, Captain and Mrs. Freeman Thomas, Mr. Albert Brassey, the two Misses Brassey, Captain Wallington, Captain Pelham, Mr. Luas, Miss Cox, Lord Richard Nevill, and Mr. Osborne, Lady Turner and Miss Turner, Lady Williams, Sir John Madden (the Chief Justice), Sir Hartley Williams, Mr. Justice Holroyd, Mr. Justice A'Beckett, Judge Casey, Judge Gaunt. The Government was represented by the Attorney-General, the Hon. I. Isaacs; the Solicitor-General, the Hon. H. Cuthbert; the Hon. Chief Secretary, the Hon. A. Peacock; the Minister of Mines, the Hon. W. Foster the Postmaster-General, the Hon. J. G. Duffy; the Hon. A. McLean. The Legislature was represented by the President of the Legislative Council, and a large number of M.L.C.'s and M.P.'s. Consulates were represented by the following Consuls:—Consul for Austria, C. A. Pinchoff, in consular uniform; Consul for Russia, Baron Sternberg; Consul for Belgium, Mr. E. Pollet; Consul for Turkey, Dr. C. Ryan; Consul for Spain, Mr. F. B. Freehill (Sydney); Acting Consul for France; Consul for Italy, Cavaliere Corte; the Consul for Denmark, Mr. F. Were; the Consul for Netherlands, Mr. J. Reelfs; the Consul for Greece, Mr. Curtain. The Municipal bodies were represented by the Mayor elect of Melbourne, about a score of councillors, and nearly all the suburban mayors and presidents.

As the imposing procession of prelates and priests entered by the main door the resounding notes of the grand "Ecce Sacerdos Magnus" (Behold a Great Priest) burst forth from 250 picked vocalists, supported by a powerful orchestra of 25 performers. All eyes were strained in the direction of the western door. The stately figure of the Cardinal Archbishop of Sydney, in his bright scarlet robes, was the object of first and chief attention. Immediately after his Eminence came his Grace the Archbishop of Melbourne (wearing the pallium, the symbol of archiepiscopal jurisdiction,) to whose labours, after that of the late Dr. Goold and his worthy Vicar-General, the Catholic body of this colony is indebted for the completion, at a cost of £50,000, of a Cathedral which compares worthily with her sisters of Europe and America.

To return to the procession. All having entered the sanctuary, with the exception of the greater body of the clergy, who had reserved places in the chancel and chapels, the celebrant of the Pontifical High Mass (the Bishop of Sale), who had entered from the vestry some minutes previously, was vested at the altar, with the assistance of his ministers. The custom for a bishop, not in his own diocese, is to occupy a fall chair in the sanctuary, but in the case of a prelate, in this connection, of cardinalatial rank, precedence is given to him; consequently his Eminence occupied the throne, the Archbishop of Melbourne being seated on the opposite side in an episcopal chair. The prelates faced each other as follows:—On the Gospel side of the sanctuary—The Cardinal, the Archbishop of Adelaide, the Bishops of Maitland, Dunedin, Auxiliary of Sydney, Armidale, Port Augusta, Perth, and Auckland. On the Epistle side—The Archbishops of Melbourne and Wellington, the Bishops of Goulburn, Bathurst, Wilcannia, and Grafton, the Coadjutor-Bishops of Sandhurst, Goulburn, and Maitland, and Very Rev. Fr. Dahdah. Several of the permanent rectors sat behind the prelates.

The celebrant of the Pontifical Mass was the Most Rev. Dr. Corbett, who possesses a rich voice of much volume, which could be distinctly heard in every part of the great building. And how fitting was that hymn taken up by the distant choir on such a day, when glory was, indeed, being given to God on high!

It had been printed on the order of the ceremonies of the day that the sermon would follow the first Gospel, but that arrangement was departed from. Passing on to the "Preface," how beautiful and soul-stirring are the words immediately preceding that grand soul-inspiring hymn resembling, as it does, some of those composed by the "Angelic Doctor" (St. Thomas Aquinas), of whom a famous writer says that "even in a single antiphon the saint unlocks whole abysses of Scripture," and adds that "his compositions are more like angelic music, made audible to human ears than mere poetry of earth." Then come those magnetic words "Sursum Corda!" (Lift up your hearts), and instantly came forth the response, "Hic ubi ad Dominum" (We have lifted them up to the Lord). The "Sanctus" hushes the vast congregation into deep silence, and from that moment until the awful words of consecration are pronounced, and the people are given the opportunity of looking upon the Crucified One, face to face at the "Elevation," not a movement is heard, all pouring forth praise, supplication, and thanksgiving to the "Great White Throne." And after the "Agnus Dei," how soothing is the sight of the prelates and priests giving the kiss of peace ("pax vobis") to each other, after the custom of the East, by placing both hands on the shoulders of the recipient!

After the Communion the Cardinal delivered the opening sermon.

THE CARDINAL'S DISCOURSE.

"Let God arise, and let His enemies be scattered, and let them that hate Him flee from before His face. God is wonderful in His saints; the God of Israel is He who will give power and strength to His people. Blessed be God." (First and last verse of 67th Psalm.)

The heavens proclaim the glory of the Most High. The firmament with its countless gems of light, the sun in the brightness of

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BLEND TEAS.

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