

tress of an elegant mansion like yours. She will not make you happy, Señor. I should be proud to see you married to some lady of a good Cornua family, and if she were not a child like Maria, but some person of age and intelligence, surely she would be more companionable for you."

The widow had made a bold stroke, and she waited to watch the effect of her words, but the old man's face was immovable. He stood watching her with his little, sharp, piercing grey eyes, and said not a word.

"Ah, Señor, do you not answer me; you cannot," she persisted, encouraged by his silence. "You, too, have noticed that Maria is not fit to be your wife. Now, if you really desire a young and pretty wife, you select one with some style about her, like my Petra or my Ramona; not such an awkward, ignorant creature as Maria, who might make a decent wife for your stupid secretary, but not for you."

"Caramba! Señora," roared the old man. "I shall marry whom I please. I have loved Maria ever since she was a child, and that's the end of it. As to my secretary, I am fond of the young man, and must beg you to speak respectfully of him; and, let me tell you, he is quite able to manage his own love-affair when he chooses to have one."

The widow trembled with rage, but she dared not say another word. The old man had her tight in his clutches.

At last all the preparations were complete. The villa was a bower of luxury and beauty, the adjoining chapel was magnificently decorated, and the grounds were a paradise of sparkling fountains and flowers. For three successive Sundays the banns between Señor Don Jose de Zayas and Senorita Don Maria de Rivera had been proclaimed in the Cathedral of Cornua, and nothing remained but the ceremony of the priest's blessing on the marriage.

On a sunny morning in early morning Don Jose's carriage stood before the widow's door, and the crowd, which always gathers upon such occasions, waited impatiently to witness the departure of the bride. She appeared at last—lovely apparition in a cloud of white lace and orange blossoms. It was easy to see that she was trembling. A bright red spot gleamed on each of her cheeks, and she entered the carriage without raising her eyes from the ground. The widow and her daughters followed, and Maria was whirled away from the home where she had toiled and suffered for so many sad years.

When the bridal party reached the chapel it was already crowded with the invited guests. Jose Benito, attired in the most elegant fashion, was at the door to receive the bride and conduct her to the altar, where the priest stood waiting. The happy bridegroom had not yet appeared. As they ascended the altar stairs a commotion was seen in the middle aisle, and an old man, clad in a sailor's suit of blue flannel, embroidered with many anchors, came elbowing his way through the crowd.

"Blessed be the day on which I was born in the shadow of the Tower of Hercules; blessed be the bridal pair, and most blessed of all be the hour in which I have torn off my toggery and put on decent clothes!" he cried, in a loud, hearty voice, which rang to every corner of the chapel.

The excitement was intense. Men sprang to their feet; the guests, who all recognised the old man at once, thought the bridegroom had suddenly gone insane, and began each talking to the other.

"Silence, all!" thundered the old man. "This place is this hour are sacred. Reverend Father, proceed with the ceremony."

The solemn voice of the priest was now heard reading the marriage service, and the assembled guests became still. They were stupefied with astonishment, and not until the priest had spoken the final words which made the handsome young pair kneeling before him husband and wife did even the widow recover herself sufficiently to speak. Then springing to her feet, she screamed:

"What outrageous burlesque is this? What—"

She was silenced at once by the bridegroom, who, after kissing his bride, turned and faced the guests.

"Senora and friends," he said, "I am Jose de Zayas, the millionaire; this lady is Maria my wife, and this dear old man—laying his hand affectionately on the sailor's shoulder—is my noble and faithful friend, Antonio. Reverend Father, pronounce the benediction."—*New York Freeman*.

## ARRIVAL IN DUNEDIN OF THE ARCHBISHOP OF MELBOURNE AND THE BISHOP OF BALLARAT

On Friday evening the Archbishop of Melbourne and the Bishop of Ballarat, accompanied by the Bishop of Dunedin arrived in Dunedin from Queenstown—where they had spent the preceding days. The Auxiliary Bishop of Sydney, who was also a member of the party, had remained at Gore to visit some friends there—coming on to Dunedin next day. A large number of the Catholic congregation had assembled at the terminus to welcome the distinguished visitors, and, as their carriage drove away, they were cheered. On reaching the Bishops' palace, whither they were at once conveyed, they were met by the members of the local branch of the H.A.C.B.S., who had asked permission to present them with a trifling souvenir of their visit—in the shape of a photographic album presented to each prelate and containing pictures and views connected with the Catholic mission and of the scenery of the Colony. Mr. James O'Connor, President of the Society, by whom the presentation was made, read the following address:

"Most Rev. Prelates.—We gladly avail ourselves of the opportunity to bid you welcome to our city and colony with the hope that your visit to our bracing climate and beautiful scenery may be attended by the most beneficial results. Although we do not personally belong to any one of the dioceses over which you respectively preside, we are still united to them by the fact that our Society is established and flourishes throughout Australia. This, we need not say, is owing largely to the patronage and encouragement given it by the Archbishops and Bishops of the colonies, to whom, Most Rev. Prelates, you form no exception, and for this we thankfully acknowledge ourselves

your debtors. It will, no doubt, be pleasing to you to learn that the progress of the Catholic Church in this distant colony is also accompanied by the growth of our Society whose principles are such as to foster a sincere devotion to religion, joined with that spirit of patriotism that has ever been an honour and a safeguard to the Irish people in whatever country they might find themselves. For this also we are deeply indebted to our own good Bishop, who has, from the first, afforded our Society his patronage and protection. As Catholics, principally of Irish birth or parentage, it is particularly pleasing to us to welcome to our city distinguished prelates, who, like yourselves, hail from the Emerald Isle, and to whom we are thus bound by a double tie of sympathy. In conclusion, we would ask you kindly to accept a trifling souvenir of your visit."

The Archbishop of Melbourne in reply (as reported by the *Evening Star*) said he need hardly tell them that he felt deeply gratified by the very cordial welcome they had accorded Dr. Moore and himself, and, he might say, Dr. Higgins, although he was not as yet in the City. He (the speaker) knew they would be gratified to learn that the wish they expressed in their address was already realised. That wish was that the bracing air and the beautiful scenery of New Zealand should add to their health—a desire, as he said, already realised; and he was quite sure that these two factors would also add to the length of their days. It was Davis that said, when he was speaking of the climate and the soil of Ireland, that "its climate is as soft as a mother's smile, and its soil as fruitful as God's love"; and surely the description Davis ascribed to Ireland might well apply to New Zealand. They were only about a week in the country, but nevertheless they had seen a good deal of the picturesque beauty and the vast fertility of the soil, and he thought they might congratulate those of their countrymen who were fortunate enough when they left the Old Country to settle down here, where they could provide themselves with comfortable homes, and be in a position to not only establish themselves in independence, but also to give to their children the means of securing future wealth and future happiness. They reminded them in the address that they were bound to the dioceses with which they were connected, and he might tell them that they were specially connected with the diocese with which he was connected—viz., the diocese of Melbourne. As they were aware, Melbourne was the centre of their Association. It was in Melbourne their chief president lived, and it was from Melbourne, therefore, that a good deal of the direction of the entire Society was derived. What he had found since he came to Melbourne was that the members of the Hibernian Society were, as they stated in their address, devoted to their religion. They were devoted to the spirit of nationality, and were also exercising what was another admirable trait in their character—viz., a spirit of thrift, for which every man deserved praise as he deserved reward. These were the three principles on which their Society rested—the spirit of religion, the spirit of patriotism, and the spirit of thrift; and speaking for the members of their Society, with whom he was himself acquainted, he could say that they were pursuing these three objects with admirable perseverance and admirable success. He had no doubt at all but that the branch of the Society established in Dunedin was proceeding on the same lines, for which reason, he was sure success would attend their efforts. First of all, their Society was founded on a spirit of religion, and in this connection he might say that no man could be a good citizen who was not faithful to his God and faithful to the practice of his religion. Again, their Society was founded on a national spirit. Most of them, as they mentioned in their address, came from the Emerald Isle, and they were not ashamed of it, or of its history, or of its traditions; they were not ashamed of the men to whom it had given birth—men who had shed a lustre in every sphere of life and in every country, he might say, in the world. And, again, they were devoted to that spirit of thrift which every man ought to practise in the day of youth and health, when God gave him opportunity for laying aside what he might need in the evil hour and in old age. The man who was wise in time, who looked before him, and who made good use of the opportunities which God gave him in the time of strength and youth, was to be commended beyond all measure. He was glad to find a large representation of their Society, and to notice amongst them not only those who had reached the age of maturity, not only those who had passed the term of middle age, but also the young men, indeed, the young boys, among them, because it was by the training of the elders that these young men and young boys were brought up true to the three principles to which he had referred. These young men would take their elders' places hereafter, and would hand down the traditions committed to them; and he had no doubt that with the vast resources of this country, with the untold wealth, with the innumerable opportunities it afforded for a man who had a strong hand and heart and an active brain to seize on these opportunities—he had no doubt, he said, that they would lend to their children having the means and opportunities of advancing themselves in life, and building up for themselves here a new Ireland—different, indeed, from the old in this: that while they were true to the religion of the Irish people and to the nationality of the Irish people they would have opportunities of earning for themselves material wealth, which, unfortunately, was denied to the people at home. In concluding his words, the speaker referred to the pleasure it gave him to witness the manner in which their Society had federated throughout all Australasia. He was delighted to find them so strong in Dunedin, and to see that they were so earnest in their efforts. He could only say further that he received with the utmost pleasure the souvenir of his first visit to Dunedin. He had also to thank their amiable and energetic Bishop, who had done so much for Dunedin and for the entire diocese over which he had ruled so long and so well, for having given them that opportunity of meeting the Dunedin branch of the Hibernian Catholic Benefit Society, whose souvenir he should treasure as long as he lived (applause).

Bishop Moore said that as his metropolitan had so fittingly replied to the address he (the speaker) was sure they did not expect much from him. He offered them his sincere thanks for the very nice