

THE CATHOLIC CONGRESS

(From our own correspondent.)

Melbourne, October 11.

Practical proof that the prediction of brilliant success, uttered in connection with the Congress, will not meet with contradiction may be discerned in the fact that the members' fees, received by the central secretaries up to the end of last week, amounted in number to 800. This, let it be noted, does not include returns from secretaries in outlying places. Members, too, will receive the full worth of their money. Not only will they be admitted to all the meetings and entertainments of the great week, but each of them will be presented, free by post, with a copy of the handsome volume containing a report of the proceedings, the addresses delivered, and the papers read.

For those who have any knowledge of the volume issued as a result of the Congress at Sydney, it is of pregnant meaning that that now in process of preparation, 600 of its pages being already in type, is reliably promised to excel the other. This other volume, nevertheless, is of admirable merit. The Catholic household in which it finds a place possesses in it a source of information on most subjects that are of interest and importance to Catholics, and on many that non-Catholics also consider of concern to themselves. It is a publication that does infinite credit to the Catholic people, manifesting, as it does, the deep learning, high intellectual standing, and practical good sense by which not only their hierarchy and clergy are distinguished, but with which also many members of their laity are endowed. In several instances profound and difficult questions are explained in a manner so clear and simple as to make them almost incredibly comprehensible to the ordinary, or even to the dullest, understanding. Of particular interest appear to be the papers on matters relating to education or moral training, read at the Congress on the part of several communities of nuns. Who, for example, can be better qualified to offer advice and suggestion as to the training of girls on their leaving school than the community of the Good Shepherd at Abbotsford, who have had so much personal experience of the miserable results of a want of such training, and to whose devotion, endurance, and skill, reclamation from these results has, in countless instances, been due, and that almost beyond belief? The Dominican Nuns at Ashfield, near Sydney, had also contributed an admirable paper, well supporting the world-wide renown gained of old by their Order in the work of education. The Loretto Nuns, the Sisters of Charity, the Good Samaritan Nuns, the Faithful Companions of Jesus, and the Sisters of Mercy are each and all of them likewise most creditably to the fore. The cloister, in thus taking advantage of the opening afforded it and making its voice heard, nobly vindicates itself, and testifies to the world in a manner that cannot be gainsaid its sterling worth and the power it wields for good. But to enumerate in anything like detail the contents of the volume referred to and their significance would need far more space than I have at command. On every important subject something has been said, and well said—not in a mere ephemeral dealing, to be glanced at and thrown aside, but so as to deserve lasting and repeated attention. Those who do not possess this volume should try to obtain it. It is no doubt destined to form the first of a series that hereafter in itself will make no contemptible library and which will besides periodically furnish an instructive and convincing note of Catholic progress.

Catholics who cannot attend the approaching Congress should, nevertheless, avail themselves of the opportunity of securing the volume now in preparation, to be sent free of postage to everyone who enters himself as a member and pays his fee to the local secretary. The book, an improvement, as I have said, on the preceding volume, will be alone well worth the money. As a token that

The Importance of the Congress

is duly recognised by the outside world, I may quote the fact that the Postmaster-General has arranged for opening, for the week, at the Cathedral Hall a post and telegraph office, where all the business of the departments may be transacted. Arrangements have been also made for a news-agent's stall, where the various papers of the States and their capitals shall be obtainable. These, it is needless to say, will be details of much convenience to members attending from a distance. But is it not of infinite honor to the Catholic body that when their members come in their hundreds to a fixed place of meeting their object is no light or frivolous undertaking or passing amusement, but the religious, intellectual, and social advancement and elevation of the

community at large? Non-Catholics as well as Catholics are welcome. No finer manifestation of Catholic worth is imaginable.

Encouraging accounts of success continue to be received from local secretaries. In this respect your own Colony ranks particularly high, and expressions of acknowledgment on the part of the Central Committee to Rev. Father Cleary are fervent and sincere. Hardly a more telling proof of sincerity can be recorded than that given in the fact that the Hon. Secretary, Dr. Kenny, a busy professional man and a specialist, does not hesitate, as a mark of his gratitude, to receive your correspondent during the hours at which his patients are attending on him at his rooms in Collins street, so that you may have the latest details to hand. The Doctor is, indeed, an enthusiast, and enthusiasm, when supported and directed by practical ability such as Dr. Kenny's, is a certain earnest of success.

Expectation runs particularly high with respect to the celebration of Pontifical High Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral on Sunday, 23rd inst., when the Cardinal Archbishop of Sydney and a large number of prelates and dignitaries, including also Monsignor Boismenu, Coadjutor Bishop of New Guinea, will be present. The music will be exceptionally grand, a sum of £10 having been expended alone on the orchestra, and the function generally will be one of great solemnity and magnificence. Of special interest, again, will be the performance in the Cathedral, on Sunday evening, 30th inst., of Perosi's oratorio, 'The Transfiguration.' This will be the first performance of the work in Australia. Indeed, although two others of his compositions have already been performed in Melbourne, the composer still remains a stranger to many. They will now have a favorable opportunity of becoming acquainted with him. Those good New Zealanders, in short, who cross the Tasman Sea with the intention of being present at the Congress will run no risk of disappointment.

THE CONGRESS OPENED.

A Press Association cable message received on Tuesday morning says: The second Australasian Catholic Congress, representative of the Commonwealth, New Zealand, and the Pacific Islands, has been opened, Cardinal Moran presiding. The Pope cabled his blessing, wishing the Congress success.

Archbishop Carr, in the inaugural address, said they must be careful to give offence to none. While they defended their own belief and gave reasons for the faith that was in them, they would not use the occasion to insult the beliefs of those different from them.

You have all seen, I have no doubt,
How many people go about
With puffed up eyes and noses red,
A heavy feeling in the head.
'Tis wondrous strange to me that these
Should not endeavor to appease
These ills, which they so oft endure,
By using WOODS' GREAT PEPPERMINT CURE.

Messrs. Louis Gille and Co., Sydney and Melbourne, offer a 'Library of Irish Literature,' consisting of 14 books, for 10/-, postage included.

Johnstone's Headache and Neuralgia powders are reputed to be very effective, and have proved so in numberless cases. They can be procured from Messrs. Johnstone and Hazlett, chemists, Manse street, Dunedin.

Messrs. Duthie Bros., the well known drapers of George street, Dunedin, call the attention of our readers to their seasonable novelties in the way of white, cream, and ecru lace curtains, linoleums and floorcloths in newest patterns, also hearth rugs and door mats in large variety....

As this is the season of the year when good housewives are engaged in what is known as spring cleaning, Messrs. Brown, Ewing, and Co., of Princes street, Dunedin, call attention to their superior stock of curtains, floor coverings, linoleums, carpets, table-covers, etc., all of which are in the latest style, and will be sold at the very lowest cost prices...

The McCormick Reaper and Binder is the machine to buy, it is the machine that can be depended upon to harvest your grain in the best possible manner. Everything about its construction shows that it has been correctly designed, substantially built, and embodies all the modern improvements in binder building. Working in all conditions of grain it is easily handled by the driver, easily drawn by the team, in every way it takes the palm of excellence by reason of its splendid work. You make no mistake in pinning your faith to the McCormick. MORROW, BASSETT & CO...

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