

the fact that all gentlemen in attendance at the Congress have been invited for the time being to become honorary members of the Club—of whose rooms they will have full use, finding there a thorough Celtic welcome. The invitation will, no doubt, be gladly accepted, and due appreciation will attend upon the advantages thus made available.

Melbourne, October 26

Although the General Communion of the Catholic Young Men's Society of Victoria, which took place at 8 a.m. in St. Patrick's Cathedral on Sunday, is not, properly speaking, to be included among the events of the Congress, it, nevertheless, may fitly be mentioned in connection with them. The sight of the great building filled with the united body of our Catholic youth was very beautiful. Three Masses were celebrated, respectively by his Grace the Archbishop at the high altar, the Bishop of Rockhampton at the altar of the Sacred Heart, and the Bishop of Armidale at the altar of the Blessed Sacrament. Afterwards a breakfast was held in the Cathedral Hall. His Eminence Cardinal Moran, Archbishop Carr, and the visiting prelates were present. On the conclusion of the meal a toast list appropriate to the occasion was proposed and duly honored, his Holiness the Pope, coupled with the name of Cardinal Moran, taking precedence. His Eminence made an eloquent response. It will be of particular interest to many readers of the 'Tablet' that one of the principal toasts, that of the visiting prelates and clergy, gracefully proposed by one of the hon. secretaries, was in the hands of a gentleman who, for many years, took an active and useful part in Catholic movements in Dunedin, namely Mr. R. A. Dunne. The Bishops of Maitland and Rockhampton responded. The Catholic Young Men's Society was proposed by the Cardinal, Mr. B. Hoare, one of the first vice-presidents, responding.

At 11 o'clock the Cathedral was again thronged. Pontifical High Mass was celebrated by the Right Rev. Dr. Dwyer, Coadjutor-Bishop of Maitland, who is especially distinguished as the first native-born Australian to attain to episcopal dignity, the Right Rev. Dr. Kelly, Bishop of Geraldton, being the second. The ceremonies were grand and solemn in the extreme. The long procession in which the Cardinal, Archbishops, Bishops, and clergy entered the church and on the termination of the ceremonies left it was most imposing, and the sanctuary, in which were present so many prelates, was a scene of great magnificence. The members of the hierarchy in attendance were the Cardinal-Archbishop of Sydney, the Archbishop of Melbourne, the Coadjutor-Archbishop of Sydney, the Bishops of Maitland, Sale, Christchurch, Rockhampton, Wilcannia, Sandhurst, Auckland, Armidale, the Coadjutor-Bishops of Maitland, Hobart, and British New Guinea. The music of the Mass was performed by a choir assisted effectively by an orchestra of strings. In the evening Pontifical Vespers were sung, the preacher on the occasion being Archbishop Kelly. At 10 a.m. on Monday

The Formal Opening

of the Congress took place in the Cathedral Hall. The inaugural address was delivered by Archbishop Carr, who prefaced it by reading a cablegram from Rome in which the Benediction of the Pope was conveyed, and also a letter from the Archbishop of San Francisco expressing his Grace's sympathy, and dwelling on the blessings and advantages of Catholic union. Dr. Carr's address was terse and vigorous, couched also in the graceful and polished style exceptionally characteristic of the illustrious writer. As, however, the address will appear in the published volume and has already appeared in that excellent monthly, the 'Austral Light,' it is not necessary for me to make any attempt to give your readers an idea of it. Such an attempt on my part, moreover, must result in failure. His Grace was followed by the Cardinal, who read a paper on devotion to the Blessed Virgin in the ancient Irish Church. Last week I acquainted you with the comparison that had been made between the volume of the Sydney Congress and that now to be published. Comparisons, they say, are odious, but to compare a writer with himself may perhaps be held less invidious. His Eminence's paper seemed to many to surpass anything they had so far heard from him. But again it is said that it was in turn excelled by that read by him on Tuesday forenoon on the relations that, throughout the nineteenth century, had prevailed between the Irish priests and the Irish people. His Eminence, in short, has the happy and somewhat rare gift of always expressing himself to the best advantage. A photograph, lent by the Cardinal for the purpose, of the Blessed Virgin as represented in ancient Irish illumination will be included in the published volume, and will form a most valuable and interesting addition to a valuable and important work.

In the afternoon sectional meetings were held, at which various papers were read, one or other of the prelates presiding at each. In the evening at 8 o'clock

the Archbishop of Melbourne received the members of the hierarchy and clergy, and the members generally in attendance—in number exceeding 1800—in the Cathedral Hall. The hall is, in fact, a noble apartment and one of which the Catholics of Melbourne may well be proud. It is seen to perfection in the blaze of the electric lamps with which, in most tasteful arrangement, it is provided. On the occasion in question the floor was carpeted throughout. Seats were confined to one line against the wall, running from end to end. On the side opposite was a buffet provided with refreshments. There was, however, little time allowed for the contemplation of the carpet. The members came pouring in until not a vacant spot could be discerned. A babel of tongues also arose and filled the building with an almost overwhelming hum, but the tone was that of an orderly, though rejoicing, multitude. The prelates took up a position on the floor in front of the platform, the Cardinal occupying a central place. Here his Eminence received the immense company present, who, one by one, approached him, a long row making its way through the surrounding crowd, all of whom in turn formed part of it. The members were permitted to kiss the Cardinal's ring and his Eminence, instead of betraying weariness or fatigue, had a gracious word for each. On the conclusion of this ceremony the Cardinal with the Archbishops and Bishops ascended the platform, which had been duly prepared and adorned for their occupation, where also they were visited by some of the more distinguished among the members. A principal business of the evening was afterwards performed in the photographing by flash-light of the assembly. All the arrangements of the evening were directed by the energy and skill of the hon. secretary, Dr. Kenny, whose ability and unsparing efforts in promoting the successful working of this great and important gathering cannot be too highly applauded. Among the duties devolving on the secretary on the occasion referred to was that of overcoming the modesty which, he said, kept the company back from the buffet. I must not forget that a very capable orchestra, strings and piano, had been provided for the evening. The music of the human voice, however, as heard in conversation, was evidently preferred, and the musicians hardly succeeded in making their instruments audible. Among the announcements made by Dr. Kenny was that at noon next day a photograph of the members would be taken on the outside of St. Patrick's Cathedral, and that in the afternoon a special train would convey the members to Kew, where they had been invited to visit the college of the Jesuit Fathers. There was a large attendance in the Cathedral grounds on Monday, and the photograph taken must give a very good idea of

The Important Character of the Congress.

A notable feature in connection with it is the large proportion of men present, more especially at hours when it is difficult for them to make attendance convenient. This alone shows the importance attached to the matter. The special train for which Dr. Kenny requested particular patronage was crowded, many passengers being obliged to stand. The company on arrival at the college were conducted to a spacious hall capable of conveniently accommodating them. In an address delivered in Latin the Very Rev. Father Superior welcomed the Cardinal, his Eminence replying in the same tongue, but continuing in English for the benefit of his less learned hearers. The subject of the meeting was education on which it was proposed that five papers should be read. Two were actually read and criticised by Archbishop Kelly and Bishop Murray. Friends and admirers of the venerable Bishop of Maitland, of whom there are many, would rejoice to see him still so full of vigor and so bright in humor. Dr. Kelly is a powerful speaker, every word he uttered being deliberate, well chosen, and to the point. The Cardinal and the Archbishop of Melbourne had been unable to remain for the reading of the papers, and when two out of five had been read and criticised, fairly and candidly, a telegram was received from Dr. Carr directing that as the afternoon was close, the reading should be cut short so that the company might walk out into the fresh air and enjoy the beauty of the college grounds. A thoroughly pleasant afternoon, in a word, was spent.

So far this is the extent to which the business or entertainment of the Congress has gone. Much more remains to be chronicled, and then, too, in the space allotted a newspaper correspondence, a mere outline can only be given. There are other meetings of various kinds to be held, including one of special interest at the Convent of the Good Shepherd, Abbotsford. I have not attempted to give a list of the clergy present. They are very numerous, and to obtain their names must involve a work of time. Those from Dunedin, however—Fathers Cleary and Coffey—have been welcomed by many friends. Many more are gladly expecting Dean Burke, who is on his way hither, via Sydney.