

DEATH

EDMONDS.—On the 3rd November, at her residence, Scotia Hotel, Dundas street, Mrs. Annie Edmonds; aged 58 years. Deeply regretted.—R.I.P.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS

'A READER' (Nelson) and 'J.S.L.'—We have no information at present regarding the matter. Later on we may be in a position to throw some light on it.



*To promote the cause of Religion and Justice by the ways of Truth and Peace.*

LEO XIII. to the N.Z. TABLET

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 1904.

THE AUSTRALASIAN CATHOLIC CONGRESS



THE reports so far to hand of the doings of the second Australasian Catholic Congress now being held in Melbourne are necessarily imperfect and incomplete but the information already available is amply sufficient to show that from every point of view the gathering is a magnificent success. Broadly speaking, the most important essentials to a successful

Congress are numbers, enthusiasm, and judicious guidance and direction, and these characteristics are present in a most conspicuous degree on the present occasion. The aims of the members and the scope and purpose of the Congress were thus admirably stated by the President, the revered and universally beloved Archbishop Carr:—

'As the circle of human knowledge and human needs is ever widening, so the means of acquiring and communicating information, and of ministering to the needs of humanity, are ever increasing with the demand. Hence, after an interval of four years, an abundance of matter, old and new, presents itself for intelligent and practical consideration. In this consideration of the various questions which will be submitted for discussion we shall all aim at the glory of God, the good of His Church, the welfare of society, the advance of science, the support of the weak, the direction of the strong, the preservation of the "unity of the spirit in the bond of peace." We shall be careful to give offence to no man. While we defend our own beliefs and give a reason for the faith that is in us, we shall not use the occasion to insult the beliefs of those who differ from us. The effect of a well-ordered Congress is not to separate, but to bring men closer together. The Congress brings the clergy and laity into closer contact for the discussion of questions of common interest. It brings those who are not of the household of the same faith to listen more attentively to what is said, and to consider more dispassionately what is uttered in a public hall where men of all shades of religious opinions may be present.'

So far the proceedings give every promise that these laudable objects will be amply fulfilled. The tone and spirit of the deliberations have been all that could be desired; the papers and addresses have been prepared in an earnest, careful, and in some instances masterly way; the arrangements for the management and organisation of the nearly 2000 members so as to cover the ground most effectively have worked smoothly and without hitch; and in every respect the indications go to show that the net result of the great gathering will indeed be to promote the glory of God, the good of His

Church, and the welfare of the whole Christian commonwealth.

Of the papers that have so far been published in the press the contribution of most outstanding general interest is the very fine paper on 'The Priests and People of Ireland in the Nineteenth Century,' by his Eminence Cardinal Moran. It is written in the Cardinal's happiest style; and in presence of the learning, dignity, patriotism, and consecrated zeal of this great prince of the Church the malevolent scribblings of a renegade McCarthy seem poor and petty indeed. We sincerely hope that means will be taken to give the widest possible circulation to this splendid deliverance, for it forms just the sort of comprehensive and crushing reply to recent slanderous publications about Ireland that was badly needed. Other notable papers referred to in the reports are an exhaustive research into 'Devotion to the Blessed Virgin in the Early Irish Church' by his Eminence Cardinal Moran; a paper on 'Mary Immaculate and Democracy' by the Most Rev. Dr. Keane, Archbishop of Dubuque, the publication of which we await with great interest; an essentially practical paper on 'Bible-reading' by the Most Rev. Dr. Delany (Coadjutor-Bishop of Hobart) in which his Lordship unfolded a scheme for publishing a paraphrase of the Catholic Bible in lucid up-to-date English which found much favor with the Congress; and a paper on 'The Roman Catholic Puzzle,' i.e., the Education Question, by the Rev. Father Fitzgerald. It is pleasant to note that New Zealand was well represented in the active work of the Congress. The Most Rev. Dr. Lenihan was chairman of the 'Charitable Organisations' section; the Most Rev. Dr. Grimes made a number of pithy, breezy, and distinctly helpful speeches on various of the papers submitted, and the Rev. Father Cleary is reported in the 'Advocate' as having given 'an interesting account of the proposal to form an "Australasian Press Association," amongst whose duties would be the appointment of a central secretary in London, who would send cables to the Adelaide "Southern Cross," which would be forwarded to all the Australian Catholic journals.' The scheme outlined by Father Cleary, though appealing more perhaps to journalists than to the average layman, is one of great practical importance, and it is much to be hoped that some definite step will be taken in the direction of carrying it into effect.

A marked and edifying feature of the Congress is the spirit of mutual charity displayed by members, as a result of which not a word has been uttered that could wound or give offence and not a single jarring note has been struck throughout the proceedings. We were specially pleased to note the evidence of a universal desire to make recognition of the part played by his Grace the Archbishop of Melbourne, not only in calling together and controlling the Congress, but in building up and defending the Church throughout the archdiocese. Dr. Grimes evidently voiced the feeling of the whole assembly when he declared that 'the refined feeling and kindness of manner of his Grace, even when engaged in controversy, had won all hearts. The Archbishop's name was a household word throughout Australia.' And the glowing and eloquent tribute of a lay delegate, Mr. W. Sheehan, was but a just and fitting expression of the affectionate esteem in which the honored prelate is held by priests and people throughout the Commonwealth. 'I may be permitted to remark,' he said, 'as regards our revered Archbishop, that he has done honor to Victoria, has uplifted public tone, has lent a grace and dignity to controversy, and whilst showing himself to be an able controversialist, with ability to strike with crushing force, has always proved himself to be a kind and courteous gentleman, who has scored as much by his kindness and benevolence as by his scholarly attributes and intellectual prowess. And I know that whilst he is loved and revered by his own people, he is respected and admired by every fair-minded, intelligent man in the States.'