

dred priests have gone forth from its hallowed walls, and the missionaries from All Hallows are to be found bringing the consolations of religion to the scattered exiles of Erin whithersoever they may have roamed. From what I have said you will, I think, conclude with me that at no period of Ireland's history has the piety of her faithful people shone with brighter lustre, or been enriched with greater fruitfulness, than at the present day. Throughout the 18th century, persecution for religion's sake cast its shadows, dark and deep and gloomy, over the land. In the beginning of the last century the first dim rays of cheering light appeared. At the close of the century we find that the clouds have been scattered, and that the sun of Catholic Faith is sending forth its joyous rays in meridian splendor.

The Prophecy of St. Malachy.

You will allow me to bring this somewhat discursive paper to a close by presenting to you the beautiful prophecy of the great Archbishop of Armagh, St. Malachy, as registered in the Life of the Venerable Martyr-Primate, Oliver Plunkett, who died for the Faith at Tyburn, in 1681. The prophetic virtue of St. Malachy is attested by his bosom friend St. Bernard of Clairvaux; and this particular prophecy bears with it the attestation of its genuineness from no less an authority than Mabillon, who stands foremost among the famous Benedictine writers of the Monastery of St. Maur. It was only after seven hundred years that the prophecy was to be fulfilled. This explains why it was that greater attention was not extended to it in the 17th century, at the time Mabillon attested its genuineness. The prophecy is as follows:—A few years before the Anglo-Norman invasion of Ireland, St. Malachy was stricken with his fatal illness in the Monastery of Clairvaux, in France. In his dying moments he was seen to shed tears, and those standing by asked why he thus wept, and the reply is given in that authentic document. 'Wee is me,' said St. Malachy; 'alas for my ruined country! alas for the Holy Church of God! How long, how long dost thou forget us? How long, my country, art thou consumed with sorrow?' A little after, as if someone had spoken to him, he said—'Be of good heart, my son; the Church of God in Ireland shall never fail. With terrible discipline, long shall she be purified. But, afterwards, far and wide, shall her magnificence shine forth in cloudless glory, and, oh! Ireland, do thou lift up thy head. Thy day also shall come; a day of ages, a week of centuries, equalling the seven deadly sins of thy enemy, shall be numbered unto thee. Then shall thy exceeding great merits have obtained mercy for thy terrible foe, yet so as through scourges as great and enduring. Thy enemies who are in thee shall be driven out and humbled, and their name taken away. But inasmuch as thou art depressed, in so much thou shalt be exalted, and thy glory shall not pass away. There shall be peace in abundance within thy boundaries, and beauty and strength in thy defences.' After this, Malachy was spent for a while. Then, with a loud and joyous voice, he exclaimed, 'Now, O Lord, dost thou dismiss Thy servant in peace. It is enough. The Church of God in Ireland shall never fail, and thou long shall it be desired, my country shall one day stand forth in its might, and be fresh in its beauty, like the rose.'

Diocesan News

ARCHDIOCESE OF WELLINGTON

(From our own correspondent.)

November 25.

The mission at St. Joseph's, Buckle street, was brought to a close on Sunday evening by the Rev. Father MacDermott, in the presence of a crowded congregation. The mission in Thorndon will be opened at the 10 o'clock Mass on Sunday next, and will be continued during the whole of next week.

On Friday evening, on the tenth anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood, the Rev. Father Ainsworth was entertained by the parishioners of Wellington South at a conversazione in the schoolroom, and presented with an address and a purse containing about 45 sovereigns. The first part of the programme consisted of a concert under the management of Mr. S. Cimino. Among those present were the Rev. Fathers O'Shea, MacDermott, Kimbell, Venning, and Graham. The chair was occupied by Mr. James O'Sullivan. At the conclusion of the concert the chairman, in a neat and happy speech, explained the object of the gathering, and conveyed to Father Ainsworth the good wishes of his people. The presentation was to be made by Mr. James Bourke, of Kilbirnie, a Catholic pioneer, whose generosity in the Catholic cause is so well known. Un-

fortunately owing to indisposition Mr. Bourke was unable to be present, and in his stead his son, Mr. Thos. Bourke, handed to the Rev. Father the purse and called on Mr. E. Fitzgibbon to read the address, which is to be illuminated by the local Sisters of Mercy. The chairman then on behalf of Mr. Philpott presented Father Ainsworth with an oil painting of himself. The work is undoubtedly a fine one, and speaks well for Mr. Philpott's future as an artist. Father Ainsworth made a very feeling reply. He sketched briefly his career as a priest, from his ordination in Meanece to his location in Wellington South. Now, thanks to the grace of God, they had a beautiful church, a commodious school, a fine presbytery, and splendid grounds. The congregation had almost trebled within the last two years, and everything was working smoothly. His people had responded nobly to his appeals, and the people outside his parish had been very kind and generous. He trusted that he would be long permitted to labor in their midst. He could not say all he would wish to say, but he thanked them all for their kindness and generosity. To Mr. Philpott he was specially grateful. His future as an artist was a very promising one, and as an artist his first desire was to have his work hung in the House of God. The church of Wellington South was already adorned with the works of his genius. The Rev. Father O'Shea, parish priest of Te Anau, also spoke of the ability and zeal of Father Ainsworth. His fellow-clergy were proud of him, and he thoroughly deserved all the good things said concerning him. At the conclusion of the presentation refreshments were dispensed in the club room by the ladies of the parish, and a pleasant social evening was spent. The committee are deserving of every credit for the splendid arrangements made, and the ladies as usual had everything up-to-date in the refreshment room. Mr. Parkinson had a deal of hard work as secretary, and he got through it in a most creditable manner.

On Thursday evening Messrs. McKeown and Coyle, who represented the New Zealand Catholic Young Men at the recent Conference in Melbourne, were entertained by the Catholic Club in St. Patrick's Hall. The chair was occupied by the Rev. Father Kimbell. There was a crowded attendance. After the usual toast of the 'Pope and the King' had been proposed by the chairman and duly honored, Mr. E. Fitzgibbon, president of the Federation, proposed the toast of the delegates. He referred to the good that would accrue to the New Zealand societies as a result of the visit, and appealed to Catholic young men to unite so that they might the better support their clergy in promoting the cause of Holy Church for the welfare of all. On behalf of the federated societies he thanked the delegates for the able manner in which they had fulfilled their mission, and for the many sacrifices they had made. The toast was received with great enthusiasm. The delegates in their response gave an interesting account of their visit. They realised more than ever what a grand thing it was to be a member of the Catholic Church. Everywhere they were treated with the utmost hospitality, and before their departure they had the honor of an interview with his Eminence the Cardinal—an interview which will live long in the memory of the delegates. The Rev. Father Kimbell, in replying on behalf of the clergy, referred to the recent utterance of the German Emperor, whom the Rev. Father described as one of the ablest yet not most diplomatic sovereigns of Europe. The threat was one of his Imperial Majesty's vagaries. The Catholics were among the most loyal of his German subjects; they held the balance of power in the Reichstag, and it was absurd for the Emperor to speak as he had done. The rev. speaker also expressed the hope that the young men would meet the clergy more often than they had done and make themselves known, a sentiment that was received with applause. Songs and recitations were given by the following gentlemen:—Messrs. T. Leahy, E. J. Healy, J. Quinlan, E. Fitzgibbon, A. Hawkins, A. Searle, T. O'Sullivan. Mr. W. McLaughlin played the accompaniments during the evening. He was accorded a hearty vote of thanks for his kindness. The proceedings were terminated by the singing of 'Auld lang syne.'

The executive of the Federation are at present compiling a report on the work done at the Melbourne Conference. This report will be read at the coming Conference in Dunedin on Christmas Day, to which all the societies in the Colony have been asked to send delegates.

The Catholic Literary Society's meetings are to be continued during the summer months. This arrangement will be welcomed by all desirous of improving themselves in the art of speech and debate.

The adjourned general meeting in connection with the memorial to the late Brother Mark, was held in St. Patrick's Hall on Friday evening. On the motion of Mr. Martin Kennedy, seconded by Mr. D. Ryan, it was decided to endow St. Patrick's College with an extra scholarship, to be competed for by pupils of the Boul-