

His Lordship said they were assembled there that day to give encouragement and to help the Little Sisters of the Poor, who had come to Dunedin for the purpose of establishing a home for the aged poor. The work of the Sisters was deserving of the warmest encouragement. Even in the most prosperous communities they found many who, after battling for years against adversity, were at length reduced to helpless poverty towards the end of their lives, and compelled to seek assistance. None were so helpless as the aged poor without friends, sympathy, or a home. It was for these the Little Sisters had provided a home. He might say a few words about the origin of the Order, which was founded 61 years ago—in 1840—by three highly pious, devout souls, who resolved to devote their lives to the work of assisting the aged poor in a little fishing town on the coast of Brittany. At first they met with a good deal of disappointment; their efforts were ridiculed and scoffed at, but they persevered, and after a few years others joined them. In 1851 they established homes outside of France, and during the time that has since elapsed wonderful progress had been made. At the present moment they had 300 houses scattered all over the world, and in these there are 43,000 poor people—helpless poor, who are watched over and cared for by the 5000 Little Sisters of the Poor. Was not this wonderful progress in such a short time? In 64 years 300 homes had been established, and in some of them 100, 200, 300, and 400 were provided for. It might be asked how such large

to the Little Sisters of the Poor who had come here and established the first branch of their Order. He was glad to say they had secured a really beautiful home. The place selected by his Lordship was admirably adapted for the Sisters' work. It was a beautiful place, and when the electric cars were running it would have all the requirements for a home. The only drawback to the situation was that the old people who came to live at the Home would be apt to renew their youth, so that there might be a danger of their going on living for ever. He had no doubt whatever that the old people would be very happy in the Home, and that they would receive the best of care and attention from the good Sisters. He desired to offer his congratulations to Miss Mulholland, who had been instrumental in bringing this movement to a successful issue. She had worked unceasingly for the Home; she had been endeavoring to secure the services of the Sisters for a long time, and her hopes being realised he had no doubt she was proud woman that day.

Mr. J. M. Gallaway said that those outside of the Catholic Church would fully appreciate this work that had been commenced, and should not hesitate for a moment to congratulate the Church upon the step it had taken. He had been connected with that other society that began at the other end—the St. Vincent de Paul Society,—and it had always filled him with the greatest admiration. He had seen the little children as they were brought into the Police Court ragged and uncared



THE LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR, ANDERSON'S BAY, AND THE FIRST OF THEIR 'GOOD OLD PEOPLE.'

numbers were provided for by the Little Sisters of the Poor, who had no fixed income or revenue whatever. They trusted entirely to Divine Providence and they had never been disappointed. They worked with courage; they went forth every day seeking the means of supporting those confided to their care, and exposed themselves to all kinds of troubles and inconveniences. They occupied themselves most earnestly during the day, and practised the strictest economy, and by good management and care were able to provide for that great number. They would, he was sure, receive great encouragement from the people. As an instance of how the work of the Little Sisters of the Poor was appreciated he might mention that Lord Aberdeen, when Lord Lieutenant of Ireland in 1888, invited the Little Sisters of the Poor and 200 of the poor under their charge to a banquet, and in the course of his speech on the occasion extolled their work, and spoke of them as benefactresses of the poor. In conclusion, his Lordship said that now the Little Sisters of the Poor were established in our midst he trusted they would have no reason to regret their coming, and that they would receive every encouragement from the people of Dunedin. They will give a good example to all by their virtues. Those of our poor and needy would find a good home there, where they would be cared for by the good Sisters, who sought only the honor and glory of God and the salvation of souls.

Mr. J. B. Callan said he desired, on behalf of the Catholic laity of Dunedin, to extend a hearty welcome

for, and had afterwards seen them in the care of the holy women who devoted themselves to their care, and the sight had done him good. The other side, represented by the present home, must also appeal to them all. There was a great deal of charity in New Zealand that might be called statutory charity. That was right and proper; still, nothing could take the place of that charity that proceeded from the heart, and it was that the Little Sisters strove to provide. Whether people were Catholic or non-Catholic, the object must appeal to all, and there was one common ground upon which all met, and that was the common ground of the betterment of humanity.

Hon. H. Gourley, in the course of a brief speech, said he was very pleased to have an opportunity of visiting the Home and of expressing his appreciation of the efforts made by Miss Mulholland in collecting funds sufficient to purchase such a splendid property. He could not help admiring the beautiful site selected, and could only repeat the remarks of his friends, Mr. Callan and Mr. Gallaway. He quite endorsed every word they had uttered, and was quite sure that, with the energy the Sisters would put into their work, the undertaking would prove a great success. He sincerely hoped the work would be carried out to a successful end.

At the conclusion of the speeches those present were hospitably entertained, Miss Mulholland and a number of her lady friends from town waiting on the many visitors.

The proceedings concluded with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament and the singing of the 'Te Deum.'