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MESSAGE OF POPE LEO XIII. TO THE N.Z. TABLET

Pergant Directores et Scriptores New Zealand Tablet, Apostolica Benedictione confortati, Religionis et Justitiæ causam promovere per vias Veritatis et Pacis.
Die 4 Aprilis, 1900.

LEO XIII., P.M.

TRANSLATION.—Fortified by the Apostolic Blessing, let the Directors and Writers of the New Zealand Tablet continue to promote the cause of Religion and Justice by the ways of Truth and Peace.
April 4, 1900.

LEO XIII., Pope.

Current Topics

Greetings!

A New Year's greeting to all our readers! And blessing upon them while the

'Years roll through the palm of ages
As the dropping of the Rosary speeds
Through the cold and passive fingers
Of a hermit at his beads.'

The Cardinal's Jubilee

One of the wisest of women's heads was that which adorned the amiable and neglected Polish wife of Louis XV. of France. A dictum of hers was to this effect: that the people who are great should not be great except for the sake of the people who are little. The description seems to us to apply to the great Prince of the Church, the Cardinal-Archbishop of Sydney, who (as reported elsewhere in our columns) has recently been celebrating his sacerdotal golden jubilee. During the last nineteen years of his jubilee period he has been, perhaps, the most commanding personality in Australia, and his episcopate has been marked by great and devoted work for the children, the poor, the sick, the neglected, and, generally, 'for the sake of the people who are little.' A great churchman and a great patriot, Cardinal Moran sees a bright and glorious to-morrow for the adopted land which he loves so well. 'I am convinced,' said he in reply to a congratulatory address from his clergy, 'that a great future awaits Australia. It was not without a view to a special religious mission that Providence permitted this vast island continent, though on the direct highway of commerce, to remain unknown and hidden away from the civilised world till the close of the eighteenth century. She enters late in the field, but with her vast resources and giant energy she shall attain her destiny. We have had as pioneers in this fair land golden Bishops and golden priests, and long may their traditions and their example be the heritage of the Australian Church. But, furthermore, we have a golden laity, truly golden in their piety and in their desire to promote the interests of charity and religion and at all times ready to generously co-operate with their clergy in every good work.'

We cordially wish the eminent jubilarian life and strength 'ad multos annos' to work 'pro ecclesia Dei'—for the advancement of God's Church on earth.

Young Men's Society

On Christmas Day—auspicious date—the representatives of New Zealand's Catholic Young Men's Societies met in Dunedin. The associations are engaged in the noble work of leading others up the heights at that critical period of life when the budding life comes into contact with the thousand-and-one dangers arising from idleness, evil companions, drink, dissipation; when wrong turns are most readily taken; when pitfalls most abound; when faith is sometimes undermined or lost; when promising lives are often shaken out of their true centre of gravity. Our Young Men's Societies all run in practically the same groove. Mutual improvement is their chief aim; their means, debates, readings, music, drama, recitations, practice in public speaking, the whole seasoned with wholesome and elevating companionship and associations that make for the formation of true men as we need them.

It is the common experience that in such societies there will usually be a picked body of young Gideonites who hold fast with the grip of a steel trap to the principles which should guide them in toiling up the steep. Outside these there will ordinarily be a shifting and uncertain fringe of members who take a shy, dainty, spasmodic, half-hearted interest in the working of the association, but appear in full force and upholstered in their most expensive drapery when the circling months bring the annual social or picnic around. This is not as it should be. Voltaire threw himself wholly into his lying and profane buffoonery against the Church. One of the needs that cry aloud in societies of the kind under consideration is all-round earnestness in good. Enthusiasm is not necessary. It is often as short-lived, if as brilliant, as foam cut off from the water. The chief thing needful is merely cool-headed, solid, hard-faced earnestness: the kind that sets its teeth and buttons its coat and marches defiantly against the storm, and keeps on in rain and sleet and shine from New Year's Day to St. Sylvester's.

The trouble—where there is listlessness or trouble—lies not in the aim of our Catholic Young Men's Societies. Nor is it necessary, we believe, to seek it in the main lines of their management. It will probably be most frequently found in causes that lie outside both aim and management. Defective school training (we refer especially to State schools), undesirable home associations or companionships, and, to some extent, the character of favored pursuits or amusements frequently evolve, directly or indirectly, tastes and feelings that

For { COUGHS,
COLDS,
BRONCHITIS, Etc. }

Take!

BONNINGTON'S CARRAGEEN IRISH MOSS