

more bitter, more prolonged than in any other country, yet she was not overcome. For three centuries she endured her sufferings with all the calmness and fortitude of the early martyrs; and by those sufferings not only was the triumph of the Cross proclaimed to distant lands, but she achieved for herself and for countless others the victory of religious freedom. Religion to-day lights up her hills with heaven's light, and in the assertion of their just rights imparts to her people a vigor and strength that are invincible.

My Mission Field in Sydney.

From Ireland I was translated to Australia, and for the 19 closing years of my jubilee period my mission-field has been here in Sydney among yourselves. I found here in our faithful people the same distinctive features that have made Ireland singularly attractive among missionary countries—fervent piety, abounding charity, great zeal for religion. As regards our religious life we may justly be styled a greater Ireland beyond the seas, and may we not hope that like that dear island of the west, it may be Australia's mission to lead many nations to know our Saviour and to love Him. Why should we not hope for these grandest results. The love of the Redeemer for His Church is not less strong now than hitherto; His power is not lessened. The Holy Spirit continues to be the abiding guardian and ruler of the Church, and His Divine gifts flow forth as ceaselessly and as abundantly as from the beginning.

I am convinced 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 lady 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.

And here may I not refer to the grand result just achieved in regard to this beautiful Cathedral of St. Mary's in which we are assembled. The Cathedral Fair which has just been brought to a close, has been attended with complete success. Thanks to the boundless generosity of both clergy and people, and the singular enthusiasm which pervaded all classes in promoting this great cause, St. Mary's has been freed from every fraction of debt, and may now be solemnly consecrated to God. It has not been found possible to bring the art union to a close, but its success is assured, and its proceeds shall be applied to the renewal of the Organ Fund. The whole proceedings of the Fair have been a genuine triumph of Australian democracy. Very few large sums have been subscribed. The grand result of almost £16,000 is due to small contributions, many of them from generous friends in the remote back-blocks, and not a few also from non-Catholics.

Our Non-Catholic Friends.

Referring to our non-Catholic friends, may I not say that looking to the future of the Australian Church, we cannot but rejoice at the excellent spirit that animates very many among them. We see on every side a weariness of their present state of isolation and a desire that some fashion at least of union should prevail amongst them. The broken cisterns besides which they have so long been seated can no longer satisfy their souls athirst for the life-giving waters of Redemption. We must pray that every heavenly grace may abound with them, that coming to the feet of the Good Shepherd they may find the reality of the Redeemer's prayer that there be one fold and one shepherd. We cannot of course close our eyes to the fact that there are some among them who, endeavoring to keep alive the prejudices of the home countries, unceasingly assail the Catholic Church with demoniac hatred and leave nothing undone to stir up strife against her. For this end they pour out their venom in lies and calumnies against her heavenly teaching. They preach the gospel of hate and discord, not the gospel of peace and love. Any system that is in need of such aid betrays its origin and stands before the whole Christian community as self-condemned. We must, however, pray for those who thus assail us. They know not what they do. By fervent prayer we may hope that they too shall obtain the grace to know our Saviour and to love Him. Their assaults are the fulfilment of the Redeemer's words: 'If the world hath hated Me, so shall it hate you also.' Their enmity is an invincible proof that Holy Church, faithful to her Divine mission, is walking in the paths of the saints and leading many souls to heaven, and

they cannot but bring home to every thinking mind the cheering reflection that at no distant day the love of truth and devotedness to Christ, and earnestness in charity are destined to rule supreme throughout our Australian Continent.

A Parting Request.

When one enters on his 75th year, his closing days cannot be far distant. I have on that account a parting request to make. When the great patron of Gaul, St. Martin of Tours, was about to pass to his reward, surrounded by his disciples, he offered up the prayer: 'Domine si adhuc populi tuo sum necessarius, non recuso laborem.' I would not presume to ask you to join with me in such a prayer, for no one realises better than myself, that when I shall have passed away the work of religion will be carried on with far greater success than hitherto, and with greater glory to the Most High. But I will rather ask you to offer for me a fervent prayer to the effect that so long as life remains I may be a faithful follower of the Divine Master, associated with you in loving Him and serving Him, and that being truly devout to our Immaculate Lady I may have the fervent aspiration of St. Augustine that has long been dear to me, ever present to my mind and ever resounding in my heart. 'Da quod jubes, Domine, et jube quod vis.'

The Cardinal afterwards entertained the clergy at Manly.

Opening of a New Church at Whakarewarewa.

(From an occasional correspondent.)

It is with pleasure I have to report another addition to the numerous churches that have been built by the Mill Hill Fathers for the Maoris of the Auckland diocese, the latest being that erected at Whakarewarewa, near Rotorua. The plans were designed by Father Kreymborg, of Rotorua, whose abilities as a builder are well known in the district; and for the past four months he and his confrere, Father Langerwerf, had devoted all their spare time to the erection of a pretty little church. At the very outset great difficulty was experienced in preparing the site, as the ground is very sulphurous and full of steam holes and mud pools, which necessitated the use of brick piles instead of wood blocks. These difficulties, however, were overcome, and where before the steam used to rise out of the ground there now stands a neat church (40ft x 18ft), built in basilica style. The six windows are glazed with pink cathedral glass, diffusing a pleasant soft light. The gable end is supported by four white columns, forming a pleasing contrast to the pale blue color of the body of the church. The diagonal lining is of the choicest rimu, which has been tastefully decorated with Maori designs painted by Father Kreymborg. The carvings, including a beautiful tabernacle, are valuable relics of the oldest Maori Church south of Auckland.

The new church is dedicated to the Immaculate Conception, and the blessing took place on the Sunday within the octave of the feast. Weeks beforehand invitations had been sent out to the native settlements of the whole district, and on the eve of the great day large crowds of Maoris arrived in the settlement and were heartily welcomed by their friends with the well-known 'Hāremat!' and the flying of banners and flags—among the latter being the Papal and Irish flags and the Union Jack—from the church.

The ceremony of blessing was performed by Father Langerwerf at 10 o'clock on Sunday morning. During Mass Father Kreymborg addressed the Maoris in their own tongue, congratulating them on the erection of their new church and dwelling on the many characteristics of the Catholic Church, whose greatest treasure is the Blessed Sacrament, whose greatest ornament is a pious and devout congregation, and whose greatest glory is the Cross, which, like another fingerpost, points out to men the way of salvation. He also addressed a few words to the Europeans, of whom a good number were present, including the Hon. John Meagher, M.L.C., of New South Wales. Several of the Natives approached the Holy Table during Mass, and a collection was taken up which well nigh liquidated the debt on the new church. After Mass the visitors, both Maori and European, were entertained at a generous repast in the native meeting house. After Vespers, which were sung by the Maoris at 3 p.m., in their own language, Father Kreymborg once more addressed the congregation on the close relations existing between the Catholic and his Church. The enthusiasm of the Maoris reached a climax during Benediction (given by Father Schönbach, of Matata) when they heard their own children sing in a creditable manner the 'O Salutaris,' 'O Sanctissima,'