Mr. A. J. Muller then read the address, which was artistically illuminated by the Sisters of the local convent. The lettering was in black and red on a green ground, and was mounted on white satin, ornamented with floral devices. It was enclosed in a frame, very tastefully carved, also the work of the Sisters. The following was

The Address :

'We, the undersigned members of the Ashburton Catholic parish, desire to tender you, on behalf of your parishioners, our heartiest congratulations on this occasion of your silver jubilee. The twenty-five years that you have spent in the ministry of God, have been to the advantage of the Church in general, and the Ashburton parish in particular. We hailed your advent to this parish, some thirteen years ago, because you were known to the clergy and laity of New Zealand, as a priest possessing in the highest degree qualities of mind and heart, which were a guarantee to us that our spiritual and temporal welfare would be assured under your able administration. Your zeal as a spiritual director, and your extensive learning, have always fitted you to be an able exponent of Catholic truth and doctrine. When you arrived here the immediate needs of the parish were the erection of a church at Rakaia, the enlargement of the church at Methven, and the removal of the convent to a more central site. These works you accomplished, and they are briefly mentioned to prove your worth as an administrator. When you assumed charge the financial position of the parish was in an embarrassing condition ; and it says much for your financial ability that the debt, which for a number of years had hindered the progress of the parish, is now extinguished. On this memorable anniversary, we desire to assure you of our deep sense of gratitude for the self-sacrificing manner in which you have carried out many important undertakings on our behalf. Your parishioners (assisted by your many non-Catholic friends, together with your brother diocesan priests), who desire to add to your personal comfort, have much pleasure on this memorable occasion in presenting you with an automobile. We trust that your acceptance of it will tend to strengthen the bond of sympathy that already unites you to us. Humbly praying God to grant you strength of mind and body to enable you to worthily continue to fulfil the sacred duties of your holy office, we beg to subscribe ourselves your devoted and loyal people.'

At the conclusion of the reading of the address Mr. Muller presented the Very Rev. Dean with a cheque for 300 guineas and two travelling rugs.

The Very Rev. Dean Bowers, speaking on behalf of the clergy of the diocese, said he had known Dean O'Donnell personally for the past twenty years At all times and in all places, whether he agreed or disagreed with the Dean, he had always found him to be a true man in the best sense of the word. He had always been able to make a successful appeal to Father O'Donnell's sympathies in cases of necessity or destitution. There was no priest in the Colony more highly valued and appreciated by the Catholic clergy of New Zealand than Father O'Donnell of Ashburton, and there was no parish in Australasia where Father O'Donnell would not be welcomed. He paid a high tribute to the exceptional business capacity of Father O'Donnell. He had met many business people, contractors, and others on the West Coast, who had assured him that their business dealings with the Dean had been among the most satisfactory of their experience He was present at Dean O'Donnell's ordination twenty-five years ago. Twenty-five years hence the Dean, if God spared him, would celebrate his golden jubilee, and if his parish then decided to give him a flying machine or such improved machine for locomotion as would then be in vogue, the speaker would, if he were still alive, come and attend that celebration.

The Mayor (Mr H. Davis) said that he was present on behalf of the non-Catholic members of the community, and as representative of the Borough of Ashburton, and it gave him much pleasure to add his quota to the recognition of Dean O'Donnell's services. The longer anyone knew Father O'Donnell, the better they liked him. He had never known a case where the Father had turned away any poor soul who came to him seeking assistance or advice He also hoped to be present at the Rev. Father's golden jubilee, and would travel fifty miles to see him made a bishop.

Messrs. D. Thomas, R Friedlander, W. H. Collins (ex-Mayors of the town), also bore testimony to Father O'Donnell's courtesy, unfailing tact, and business capacity, and his general popularity as a citizen of Ashburton.

Tributes to the Dean's zeal on behalf of religion were paid by Messrs. P. Hanrahan, J. P. McQuilkin, and L. Hanrahan, as representing his parishioners.

Mr. A. J. Muller said that the fact that the address to Father O'Donnell was signed by several of the leading members of the congregation spoke for itself. There was no doubt the address truly represented the feeling of the congregation taken as a whole, and of the Catholic community throughout Ashburton. He was pleased to be able to say that with the exception of one case he had not to ask any person, Catholic or non-Catholic, for a subscription towards the testimonial ; yet he had received £90. The success attending the committee's efforts was a striking testimony to Father O'Donnell's popularity among all classes. The second subscription of five guineas which the speaker received was given by a non-Catholic. It had been decided not to purchase for the Rev. Father an automobile, but to hand over the money to him and let him make his own selection. The speaker joined with previous speakers in trusting that the Dean would live to see his golden jubilee, and hoped that when the time came for the celebration of that event, it would find Father O'Donnell still amongst his Ashburton congregation.

His Lordship Bishop Grimes said he was present to show his appreciation of the act so well performed, not only by the Catholics, but by the citizens of Ashburton and the surrounding district. He at first intended to convey his sentiments by telegram or by letter, as it was not the custom for bishops to attend functions of this description. He might state that this was the first occasion on which he had been present at a presentation to any priest in his diocese. It had given him deep gratification to listen to the speeches made in honor of Dean O'Donnell. He had appointed Father O'Donnell one of the first Deans in Canterbury, and his position that evening was, therefore, a proud one. To find many leading citizens who were not Catholics present at a gathering held in honor of a Catholic priest was very gratifying to a Bishop. When the speaker came to Christchurch as the first Catholic Bishop of the diocese, Father O'Donnell had already done great work in the diocese of Wellington, to which the Christchurch diocese was then attached. He gave Father O'Donnell his first appointment in this diocese, having heard of his work on the West Coast. Since then he had seen, with his own eyes, what Father O'Donnell had done. He outlined the career of Father O'Donnell previous to coming to Ashburton. When the Dean first came to Ashburton there was a very large debt hanging over the parish. The speaker had been asked to take the responsibility for this debt on to his own shoulders and make it a diocesan liability, but although he was then a 'new chum,' he was hardly green enough to do that. Under Dean O'Donnell's able administration this debt had been wiped out, and the finances of the Church in Ashburton were now in an eminently satisfactory condition. He was pleased to hear a remark from Mr. Thomas which one would hardly have expected from anyone but a member of the Catholic Church. He referred to the suggestion that Ashburton needed a new Catholic church. He would be very pleased, if God spared him, to lay the foundation stone of a new Catholic church for Ashburton, and would also like to see Father O'Donnell installed in a new presbytery. Doubtless these improvements would be effected some time in the future. Should he be spared to live twenty-five years longer, even though he would then be a very old and worn-out kind of man, he would be glad to be present at Dean O'Donnell's golden jubilee.

Dean O'Donnell in Reply.

On rising to reply the Very Rev. Dean O'Donnell was received with long-continued applause. He said: I should be a great deal more than human if I were not deeply gratified to-night, and at the same time I should be a great deal less than a man if I were not highly pleased at the splendid demonstration got up by the members of my congregation, and the fine testimonial presented to me as a token of their regard. I have sometimes felt inclined to sneer when the recipient of some such testimonial as this has said that 'words failed him to express his feelings,' but I shall never sneer again, as I feel to-night that no words could adequately express my feelings. I thank you from the bottom of my heart. What more can I say ? I am deeply grateful to you for your kindness to me to-night There was hardly a priest ever ordained who, when the Bishop's hands were laid upon him and he was given his sacerdotal powers, did not make great plans and resolutions for the future work of his life for the glory of God and the furtherance of his religion. I was, perhaps, no exception to this rule, but no one knows better than myself how far the performance has lagged behind the intentions. I might be able very easily to discount the many complimentary things said about me this evening, but I find it impossible to discount the fact that a very handsome cheque has been presented to me,

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