

'This Statute of William IV. applies to land in this Colony which has not been brought under "The Land Transfer Act, 1885," the 57th section of that Act being as follows: "After land has become subject to this Act, no title thereto, or to any right, privilege, or easements in, upon, or over the same, shall be acquired by possession or use adversely to, or in derogation of, the title of the registered proprietor."

The writer then draws a distinction between property directly used for church purposes (such as sites for churches, convents, and schools), and church property which is not so used, and from which a revenue is or may be derived.

According to telegraphic reports in last week's daily papers, Father Hays has announced his intention of remaining in New Zealand till next year.

Consecration of St. Mary's Cathedral, Sydney

Rarely, if ever, in the history of the Catholic Church in Australia has there been witnessed such impressive ceremonies as took place in Sydney in connection with the solemn consecration of St. Mary's Cathedral and the opening of the Third Plenary Council. With the exception of the venerable Archbishop of Hobart, all the prelates of the Australian Church were present.

The consecration of the altars and altar stones was performed on Friday, September 1, by his Lordship Dr. Dwyer, Coadjutor-Bishop of Maitland, assisted by the Rev. J. P. Moynagh, deacon; and Rev. J. Egan, subdeacon; the Rev. W. Barry and Rev. J. Sheehy were masters of ceremonies. Bishop Dwyer consecrated 153 altar-stones, which is, perhaps, the greatest number ever consecrated at one time in Australia, the next largest being at the Rockhampton Cathedral, where 150 were blessed. The most essential part of the rite consists of the anointing with chrism (to indicate the richness of grace) and the placing of relics in the sepulchre or repository made in the altar-stone, and afterwards sealed up.

The ceremony of the solemn consecration of the Cathedral took place on Saturday morning at seven o'clock. It was performed by his Grace Dr. Kelly (the Coadjutor-Archbishop of Sydney), assisted by the Rev. J. P. Moynagh as deacon, and the Rev. J. Egan as subdeacon. The ceremony comprised the procession of the relics, the chanting of the litanies and psalms, in which a large number of the clergy took part; and while the consecration rites were being carried out the edifice was closed to the public. The ceremonies extended over five hours. The edifice was consecrated to the Blessed Virgin, under the title of 'Our Lady Help of Christians.'

On Sunday, September 3, there were fully 5000 persons present at Pontifical High Mass at the Cathedral. Long before the appointed hour the sacred edifice was crowded in every part, and hundreds had to be denied admittance. The prelates who had stayed overnight at Manly College were brought by special steamer to Sydney, and arrived at the Cathedral grounds a little after 10 o'clock.

The following is a list of prelates who were present at the day's celebrations, and whose names are given in the order of seniority by consecration: His Eminence Patrick Francis Cardinal Moran, Archbishop of Sydney; his Grace Thomas Joseph Carr, Archbishop of Melbourne; Most Rev. Robert Dunne, Archbishop of Brisbane; Most Rev. John O'Reilly, Archbishop of Adelaide; Most Rev. Michael Kelly; Coadjutor-Archbishop of Sydney; Right Rev. James Murray, Bishop of Maitland; Right Rev. Stephen Reville, Bishop of Sandhurst (Vic.); Right Rev. Matthew Gibney, Bishop of Perth (W.A.); Right Rev. John Dunne, Bishop of Wilcannia; Right Rev. Francis Corbett, Bishop of Sale (Vic.); Right Rev. Jeremiah Doyle, Bishop of Lismore; Right Rev. Joseph Higgins, Bishop of Ballarat (Vic.); Right Rev. Patrick Delany, Coadjutor-Bishop of Hobart (Tas.); Right Rev. John Gallagher, Bishop of Goulburn; Right Rev. James Maher, Bishop of Port Augusta (S.A.); Right Rev. P. Dwyer, Coadjutor-Bishop of Maitland; Right Rev. J. D. Murray, Vicar-Apostolic of Cooktown (Queensland); Right Rev. William B. Kelly, Bishop of Geraldton (W.A.); Right Rev. John Dunne, Bishop of Bathurst; Right Rev. P. J. O'Connor, Bishop of Armidale; Very Rev. W. Walsh, Diocesan Administrator, Rockhampton (Queensland); Very Rev. Fulgentius Torres, O.S.B., Abbot Nullius, New Norcia (W.A.).

Punctually at half-past 10 the prelates, clergy, and other members of the Plenary Council assembled at the presbytery. They were marshalled in procession, proceeding to the Cathedral by the eastern steps, thence round the building, entering by the main door in College street. The order of the procession was—Catholic Knights, followed by the cross-bearer and priests, acolytes, Monsignori, Bishops, the Archbishops, and finally Cardinal Moran. The procession proceeded along the main aisle to the sanctuary, the choir, assisted by the orchestra, meanwhile singing 'Ecce Sacerdos Magnus.' It is said that a more notable ecclesiastical gathering has not been seen inside the halls of a Catholic church in the Commonwealth, as there were seated in the sanctuary the representatives of every diocese in Australia. Among the historical figures in the sanctuary there might be noted the Very 'Rev. Dr. Sheehy, who, as Vicar-General, blessed the corner-stone of the Cathedral in September, 1882, and Bishop Murray, of Maitland, who was present at the laying of the corner stone in 1868.

His Grace Most Rev. Dr. Kelly celebrated Pontifical High Mass, the Venerable Archpriest Sheehy being assistant priest. The Rev. Father J. O'Gorman was deacon, the Rev. J. M. Kelly, subdeacon. The Right Rev. Mgr. O'Haram (Adm. of the Cathedral) was master of ceremonies at the throne, the masters of ceremonies at the Mass being the Rev. Fathers W. Barry and P. Sheehy, assisted by the Rev. Mr. Stephens (St. Patrick's College, Manly). His Eminence the Cardinal presided, having as assistants at the throne the Right Rev. Mgr. Carroll, V.G., and the Right Rev. Monsignor Beechinor (Launceston). The occasional sermon was preached by the Very 'Rev. Father O'Farrell, C.S.S.R., Superior of the Redemptorist Order in Australia.

Among the laymen who occupied seats in the sanctuary were the Hon. John Hughes, M.L.C., K.C.S.G. (Vice-President of the Executive Council), Hon. John Meagher, M.L.C., K.C.S.G., Dr. Donovan, K.C.S.G., Mr. T. J. Dalton, K.C.S.G., Sir William P. Manning, Colonel Freehill, and Mr. J. Lane Mullins (Papal Chamberlains), Messrs. E. O'Farrell and Tighe Ryan (Order of the Cross of Leo XII.), Brigadier-General Gordon (State Commandant), and Baron Otto von Hoenning-O'Carroll (Consul-General for Austria-Hungary).

Immediately after Mass in the Cathedral the Third Plenary Council was formally opened by his Eminence Cardinal Moran, the remaining sessions being held during the week at St. Patrick's College, Manly.

Later in the afternoon the Cardinal, visiting prelates, and clergy, and others were entertained at luncheon at Baumann's Cafe, by the Catholic laity, Mr. Justice O'Connor presiding. Speeches were delivered by his Eminence the Cardinal, his Grace the Archbishop of Melbourne, the Archbishop of Brisbane, and others.

The present St. Mary's was begun in 1866. The cost, so far, has been £200,000, half of which has been expended since the advent of his Eminence Cardinal Moran. There is no debt on the Cathedral, which, however, is not by any means finished. The principal dimensions are:—Length outside when completed, 350ft.; length of part complete, 208ft.; general width, 80ft.; length of transepts, 124ft.; height of nave from ground, 98ft.; height of groined ceiling from floor, 74ft.; height of completed central tower, 127ft.; height of front towers and spires to be, 232ft.

Two venerable members of the Ursuline Order celebrated the 50th anniversary of their profession at the Armidale Convent recently. The jubilarians were Mothers M. Ignatius and M. Xavier. His Lordship the Bishop of Armidale presided over the religious ceremonies in connection with the occasion, and he was assisted by several of the local clergy.

All persons interested in the study of the Irish language will be pleased to know that Messrs. Louis Gille and Co., of Melbourne and Sydney, can supply them with the necessary books. Prices and other particulars will be found in our advertising columns.

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