

The Late Rev. John Ryan

The obsequies of the late Rev. John Ryan took place at Queenstown (Lake Wakatipu) on last Friday. The esteem in which the deceased was held by his fellow-priests was evidenced by the large number of the clergy that assembled, at great personal inconvenience, to pay him the last tribute of affection and respect. Despite the remoteness of Queenstown, and the special difficulties that many experienced in returning to their missions for Sunday, fourteen priests were present at the obsequies. One of them (Monsignor Mackay) had to travel a single-journey distance of 345 miles in order to reach Queenstown; and another (Father O'Dea) had an all-night drive over the wild and dangerous road between Omakau and the Lake, arriving just in time for the Requiem.

At the solemn Requiem Mass the Right Rev. Mgr. Mackay was celebrant; Very Rev. Mgr. O'Leary deacon; Very Rev. Dean Burke subdeacon; Very Rev. P. O'Donnell master of ceremonies; and Very Rev. J. O'Neill and Rev. H. W. Cleary cantors. There were also present: Rev. P. Murphy (Riverton), Rev. P. O'Neill (Winton), Rev. M. Keenan (Riversdale), Rev. G. M. Hunt (Cromwell), Rev. P. O'Dea (Omakau), Rev. J. J. Lynch (Palmerston), Rev. J. F. O'Donnell (Queenstown), and Rev. M. Ryan (Mosgiel). After the Gospel the Rev. P. Murphy (who, with the Rev. J. F. O'Donnell, had been in constant and affectionate attendance on the deceased priest during the last three days of his life) preached from the text: Ecclesiasticus xlv., 5. The preacher saw in the text a picture of the life of the deceased priest—his simplicity, his sanctity, his exalted sacerdotal dignity. Christ had chosen him, placed him as a guardian over a part of His flock, given him charge over His own Body and Blood—made him a priest of God. The vocation to the priesthood was of divine origin. In the Old Law God selected Levi. In the New Law St. Paul declared that even the Savior of the World did not enter into the ministry until called by His eternal Father; nobody (the apostle declared) should assume to himself that honor unless called thereto, as Aaron was. Christ entered the Holy of Holies because the Father had said to him: 'Thou art a priest for ever, according to the order of Melchisedech.' The Savior provided for the perpetuating of His work on earth. He called to Himself helpers, the Apostles, raised them to the sacerdotal dignity, and the priesthood was the same to-day as when our Lord walked upon the earth. The calling was the same; the mode of calling differs at different times, in different persons, and in various ways. It changed St. Paul from an enemy into an apostle of Christ; for many (as for St. Ignatius Loyola) it came by the way of affliction; but, generally speaking, it came in a low and gentle voice speaking to the mind and heart. This was the case with him whose death they deplored that day. The preacher then briefly traced the life of the late Rev. Father Ryan; his birth at Roscrea (County Tipperary) 37 years ago; his almost daily visits as a boy to the adjoining monastery of Mount St. Joseph; the manner in which he was attracted to those holy monks; their warm affection for him, whom they recognised as a child of election; his successful studies in the great monastery of Mount Melleray and in Carlow College, in both of which places his bright intellect and his genial spirit made him a first favorite among his fellow students; the high esteem in which he was held by his professors (two of them now bishops, one of Carlow, the other of Kilmaloe); and his ordination at the age of 23 years. The late Father Ryan's career in the diocese of Dunedin was next briefly sketched: his work in Milton (where the news of his removal came as a thunder-clap on the congregation); in the Cathedral, where his sanctity and eloquence made many converts; in Holy Cross College; his failing health; his journey to his native land; his return voyage, during which his long vigils by day and night by the bedside of a dying fellow-priest led to the contracting of the malady that ended in his (Father Ryan's) lamented death. He might (said the preacher) be described as a martyr of charity. Father Ryan's work in Cromwell was next referred to, and the preacher, who spoke throughout with much emotion, concluded with a touching appeal for prayers for his deceased friend and brother-priest. Many in the congregation were deeply affected during the discourse.

The music of the Mass was rendered by the choir, assisted by the cantors.

The funeral took place at the local cemetery at three o'clock in the afternoon. The organist (Miss Gudgeon) played the 'Dead March' as the body was being borne from the church. There was a long cortege, in which the school children, the confraternity

(with their shields), the clergy, and a large body of the general public of various creeds took part. The burial service was conducted by the Right Rev. Mgr. Mackay, assisted by the Very Rev. Dean Burke (deacon), Rev. J. J. Lynch (subdeacon), Very Rev. P. O'Donnell (master of ceremonies), and the rest of the clergy whose names have been given.

A movement among the clergy to erect a monument over the grave of the late Father Ryan has already reached an advanced stage.—R.I.P.

OBITUARY

MR. WILLIAM HEFFERNAN, GREYMOUTH.

We record with sincere regret the death of Mr. William Heffernan, senr., Greymouth, which took place on September 26, at the age of 68 years. The deceased, who was greatly respected and esteemed by a large circle of friends, was one of the earliest residents of Greymouth. The late Mr. Heffernan was a native of Ireland, and came out to Victoria in 1862. After spending about seven years on the Victorian goldfields he came to New Zealand in 1869, and since then resided on the West Coast, experiencing all the vicissitudes of a gold miner's life. He was always noted for being a staunch and practical Catholic, and was ever to the fore in promoting the interests of the Church in Greymouth. He was one of the founders of the local branch of the Hibernian Society thirty-five years ago, and occupied the position of president for several terms, always taking an enthusiastic interest in the Society's progress. The funeral, which took place on September 28, was largely attended, mourners being present from nearly every centre on the West Coast. The Very Rev. Dean Carew officiated both at the church and the graveside, and the members of the Hibernian Society in regalia took part in the funeral procession. The deceased leaves a family of seven sons and three daughters to mourn the loss of a kind and affectionate father. Four of the sons are members of the St. Columba Catholic Club, and one of them is the secretary of that Society.—R.I.P.

MR. JAMES RYAN, SENR., WESTPORT.

It is with deep regret (writes our Westport correspondent) that I have to record the death of Mr. James Ryan, senr., which occurred at Westport on September 5, after a long illness, borne with true Christian fortitude. The late Mr. Ryan, who had reached the age of seventy-four years, was one of the few remaining pioneers of the Lyell district, having arrived from Australia in the early sixties. After spending some time at mining, Mr. Ryan commenced storekeeping, a business in which he was engaged for over forty years. A most charitable man, of the highest integrity, Mr. Ryan was much esteemed by all who came in contact with him in his private and business capacity. Besides being a director of the Alpine mine, the deceased gentleman was deputy-coroner for the Lyell district, and a Justice of the Peace. Always a most exemplary Catholic and a generous benefactor of the Church, his death is deeply deplored by his co-religionists. As he lived, so he died, for his death was truly a happy and a holy one. Fortified by the rites of Holy Church, and in the presence of his wife, and family (some of the members having come from Oamaru and Christchurch), he passed peacefully away to his reward. During the last illness he received all the consolations of religion from the Ven. Archpriest Walshe and the Rev. Father Bergin, the Sisters of Mercy also being in constant attendance. A widow and family of three sons and three daughters are left to mourn their loss, and the deepest sympathy has been extended to them in their sad bereavement. The Rev. Father Marnane, of Christchurch, is a nephew, and the Rev. Father Kerley, of Timaru, a grand-nephew of the late Mr. Ryan. The funeral took place on Saturday, September 8, and the large number of mourners testified to the high esteem in which the deceased was held. The Rev. Father Bergin officiated at the graveside.—R.I.P.

Messrs. Herbert, Haynes, and Co., Dunedin, are giving some striking value in boys' and men's suits. The materials, designs, and colorings of these suits are up-to-date in every respect; whilst the cut and finish are all that could be desired....

The well-known firm of agricultural implement makers, Messrs. Reid and Gray, are always noted for being up-to-date in every respect. They can supply patrons with any implement needed on a farm, and that is sure to be the best that can be produced both as regards material, workmanship, and design. They also stock oil engines, suction gas plants, town gas engines, etc....

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