

ample to the choir and congregation. The Rev. Father Lane endorsed the remarks of his Lordship, and referred to the pleasant associations that existed between Mr. Palaret and the choir. He hoped that for many years to come he would lead the choir. Mr. Palaret suitably responded, thanking his Lordship and the Rev. Father Lane for their kind remarks, and the choir for their handsome present, which he greatly appreciated.

On Monday evening a concert in honor of his Lordship the Bishop was given in His Majesty's Theatre. An orchestra played selections during the evening. Songs were contributed by Mrs. P. Barry, Mrs. Buckridge, Miss M. Knight, Miss McQuirk, and Messrs. D. Trent, H. De Costa, Mitchell; a vocal duet was given by Miss Knight and Mr. P. Barry, and a violin solo by Mr. Lichtwark. The accompaniments were played by Miss McIlhenn.

The ordinary interval was devoted to the presentation of the address of welcome to his Lordship Bishop Lenihan.

His Worship the Mayor said that his Lordship's diocese was so wide that his visits to this portion must necessarily be few, but they were always welcome. That concert had been got up for the purpose of extending a welcome, but the night had turned out so wet and cold that he was afraid the welcome would not be deemed a very hearty one. He had pleasure in handing to his Lordship an address, with an accompanying gift. The following was the address, which was signed, on behalf of the Gistborne congregation, by the Rev. Father T. Lane:—

'My Lord Bishop,—We, the clergy and people of Poverty Bay, rejoice in the opportunity your episcopal visitation to our district affords us, of extending to you a most cordial welcome, and of giving expression to our warm appreciation of the energetic and self-sacrificing labors for the furtherance of Christianity which have marked the course of your episcopate. Within the bounds of a formal address it would be impossible, my Lord, to give a complete review of the good works you have accomplished, but it is very pleasing to us to give, as we hope it will be a consolation to you to receive, our assurances that in the discharge of your responsible duties, you have always exhibited administrative ability, penetrating wisdom, and sound discretion. During the ten years of your episcopate, Catholic progress has extended to all parts of your diocese: schools, churches, and convents have been multiplied, and new institutions of beneficence have been erected to meet the ever-increasing demands of the people. It is no less a source of pleasure to us to know, that whilst never abating the claims of the Church you represent, and never failing to assert its dignity, you have managed to enlist the cordial sympathy and warm friendship of members of other denominations. May it please your Lordship to accept this small testimonial which we presume to offer. It is, such as it is, the measure of our present ability, but in no wise that which our affection and gratitude would desire it to be. Let us hope, in conclusion, that your visit has proved as enjoyable to you as it has been a source of pleasure to us; and that you may be spared for many years to rule your people and minister to their wants with the same prudence and discretion which have always characterised your dealings with them.'

His Lordship the Bishop, who was received with very hearty applause, tendered warm thanks for the hearty welcome he had received, and said that he felt satisfied while he knew that he had the hearts of the people with him. He had not expected to receive the flattering address and the gift accompanying it. He knew that it was intended to defray his personal expenses, and would have been glad to have contributed half to the local church fund, but knowing they were so prosperous at present, and having his Cathedral project in view, he would accept it as the first contribution he had received towards the Cathedral Fund. Referring to the address, he modestly disclaimed the attributes he was therein credited with. He most cordially thanked those who had assisted with the programme, and those who had attended for coming out on such a miserable night. He specially thanked the Mayor, who had, on each of his visits, taken the opportunity of showing him respected courtesy. His Lordship concluded by thanking the priests for their kindness and hospitality.

It is stated that Mr. Nelson Illingworth, the well-known Australian sculptor, who has been on a visit to New Zealand during the past three weeks, has been commissioned to make a bust of the late Premier (Mr. Seddon). The plaster cast of the bust is prepared for the Christchurch Exhibition.

The Monastery of New Norcia

The Rev. Father O'Connell, who, recently with the Very Rev. Dr. Barry, of Bendigo, paid a visit to West Australia, writes as follows to the Melbourne 'Advocate' regarding the work of the Benedictine monks at New Norcia:—

Among the very many places of interest seen by the Very Rev. Dr. Barry and myself in West Australia, we had the pleasure of paying a visit to the famous monastery of the Benedictines at New Norcia. It is distant about eighty miles from Perth, and fifteen from the nearest railway station. One of the Fathers kindly met us at the station, and, after driving through a country for the most part barren and uninteresting, we reached the monastery between four and five o'clock on a bright Saturday afternoon. We received a hearty welcome from the Lord Abbot, who treated us during our stay with the greatest hospitality. On approaching the monastery you commence to see signs of civilisation, and the howling wilderness transformed into a smiling garden. You find yourself, as if by some magic spell, gazing on green fields of excellent pasturage, stretching away in the far distance, while nearer home you see extensive vineyards in full bearing, and orchards producing fruit of every description, from the olive to the apple, and all, says the Lord Abbot, 'representing the work of sixty men for sixty years.' Truly, it is a most interesting place, and the monks have accomplished wonders in the way of reclaiming the soil. But all this is only a means to an end, namely, the civilising and converting of the aboriginals, the dusky children of the wilderness. For those sixty years the Benedictine Fathers have labored at their great work with an untiring patience and a zeal well deserving the great success which has crowned their efforts. The blacks who have come under their care have been fairly educated; they are trained in every kind of manual labor; they can even drive machinery; and, above all, they are well grounded in the principles of the Catholic faith.

Here I can only give the merest outline of what has been accomplished under the Benedictines at New Norcia, but even this brief sketch would be incomplete without mention of their latest work—the grand college which they have just built, capable of accommodating 200 boarders. As a building, there are not many equal to it in Australasia, and few, if indeed any, excel it. One portion of it is intended for the education of 100 girls, aboriginals, and the other portion for the daughters of the scattered farmers throughout that part of the country, all under the care of a community of Sisters. The Fathers have also determined to build, in the near future, another college, but less elaborate, for the native (black) boys. Our visit, all too short to allow us to take in more than a moiety of the good which the Fathers are accomplishing in educating and Christianising the dark children of the wilderness, came to a close on the Monday, when we had to say good-bye to the monastery and return to Perth.

I must add that if anyone is desirous of seeing what can be done for the black race, I would recommend him to visit New Norcia, for nowhere else in Australia have the same results been achieved.

The Lord Abbot, who goes to Rome next year, informed us that, on his return, he intends to establish a new mission for the wild and untamed blacks in the far-west of the State, and when that is done the best I can wish it is that it may, in some measure, equal the grand results already accomplished in New Norcia.

The Right Rev. Dr. Dunne, Bishop of Bathurst, leaves Ireland on his return journey, via America, this month.

The Rev. Father D. Griffin, who has been administrator at St. Patrick's, Albury, for the past ten years, has been appointed to the newly-created parish of Ganmain.

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