

TESTIMONIAL TO HIS LORDSHIP BISHOP GRIMES.

AT a representative meeting of the Catholics of Christchurch, it was unanimously resolved that a fitting reception be accorded his LORDSHIP BISHOP GRIMES on his return to the Diocese, and that he be presented with a Testimonial. The hearty co-operation of all sympathisers with the movement is respectfully requested.

..... CONTRIBUTIONS may be sent to the Very Rev. Vicar-General, the Cathedral, Christchurch; P. Burke, Esq., hon. treasurer; or E. O'Connor, Esq., J.P., hon. secretary.

..... Owing to the limited time intervening, the Executive Committee will feel grateful at an early response.

PRINCESS THEATRE.

Commencing MONDAY NEXT, Feb. 11th,
and TUESDAY, Feb 12th.

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EDITOR'S NOTICES.

Send news WHILE IT IS FRESH. Stale reports will not be inserted.

Communications should reach this Office BY TUESDAY MORNING. Only the briefest paragraphs have a chance of insertion if received by Tuesday night's mails.

ADDRESS matter intended for publication 'Editor, TABLET, Dunedin,' and not by name to any member of the Staff.

ANONYMOUS COMMUNICATIONS are thrown into the waste-paper basket.

Write legibly, ESPECIALLY NAMES of persons and places. Reports of MARRIAGES and DEATHS are not selected or compiled at this Office. To secure insertion they must be verified by our local agent or correspondent, or by the clergyman of the district, or by some subscriber whose handwriting is well known at this office. Such reports must in every case be accompanied by the customary death or marriage announcement, for which a charge of 2s. 6d. is made.

DEATHS

DONOVAN.—On January 28, at his late residence, Kakarama, John Donovan; aged 67 years.—R.I.P.

LENTHALL.—On Saturday, January 26, 1907, at Arrowtown, Mary, relict of the late Wm. Lenthall, fortified by the rites of Holy Church; aged 64 years. A native of County Clare, Ireland.—R.I.P.

COSGROVE.—At the residence of her son-in-law, Mr. P. Ryan, Winton, on January 28, Bridget, relict of the late John Cosgrove, County Tipperary, Ireland, and beloved mother of Michael, Matthew, and Timothy, and the late Mrs. E. Riley, Mrs. P. Ryan, and Mrs. J. McLaughlan; aged 95 years. Fortified by all the rites of Holy Church.—R.I.P.

HENRY HUGHES

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INTERNATIONAL PATENT AGENT. (Estab. 1882) —
Offices at Queen's Chambers, WELLINGTON; 103 Queen St.,
AUCKLAND; 183 Hereford Street, CHRISTCHURCH;
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PATENTS

MESSAGE OF POPE LEO XIII. TO THE N.Z. TABLET.

Pergant Directores et Scriptores New Zealand Tablet, Apostolica Benedictione confortati, Religionis et Justitiæ causam promoveré per vias Veritatis et Pacis.

Die 4 Aprilis, 1900.

LEO XIII., P.M.

TRANSLATION.—Fortified by the Apostolic Blessing, let the Directors and Writers of the New Zealand Tablet continue to promote the cause of Religion and Justice by the ways of Truth and Peace.

April 4, 1900.

LEO XIII., Pope.



THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 1907.

STATE DIVINITY DEGREES AGAIN



BOUGHT up in the atmosphere of an Irish religious ascendancy, it is perhaps scarcely to be wondered at that Sir Maurice O'Rorke should pine to have a State or official brand of divinity drawn up in New Zealand, and made the object of State rewards and (negatively) of State punishments. Two years ago his earnest and persuasive advocacy induced the Senate of the New Zealand University to pass the following curious resolution:—

(1) That, in the opinion of the Senate, the University of New Zealand should have the power of conferring degrees in divinity as well as in the numerous other subjects recently comprised in the Act of Parliament of last session; (2) that no assent to the peculiarities of any denomination of Christians shall be required, either of instructors or students, in preparing for degrees in divinity; (3) that immediate steps be taken for amending the New Zealand University Act and charter of the University so as to place the faculty of divinity on the same standing for obtaining degrees as law and medicine.

The grave and reverend seigniors who then constituted the University Senate approved of this strange project by twelve votes to nine. Last week the buoyantly hopeful Sir Maurice moved as follows at a meeting of the University Senate in Christchurch:—

'That the Senate of the New Zealand University respectfully requests the Hon. Minister of Education to bring in a Bill to give effect to the resolution passed by this Senate in 1905 for establishing divinity degrees in the University of New Zealand.'

This resolution got through with a squeeze, by a bare majority of one. And there, for the moment, the project of a State brand of theology stands.

The full inwardness of the proposal is revealed in part by the wording of the resolution of 1905, and more fully by the discussion that eddied around it and around last week's motion to bring it within the sphere of parliamentary debate and action. Sir Maurice proposes that the University be empowered by Parliament to lay down a theological course of divinity that would be acceptable to all Christian denominations! In other words (1) he proposes to exclude by Act of Parliament Jews, agnostics, non-Christians generally, and all Christian dissidents from the State creed, from any benefit under his April-day scheme—affording them no opportunity of taking out State degrees in the sort of theology that suits their tastes or convictions. (2) At the same time (as we naturally assume) he would compel them to pay their share of the cost of his State theology scheme—thereby affirming the undemocratic