

*Pulchra quae videntur, pulchriora quae existimantur, longe pulcherrima quae ignorantur.* We have not come to the confines of knowledge as yet nor anywhere near them.

We cannot understand the flower from the crannied wall, nor even grasp the secrets of one of the many million cells of which it is built up, and it is improbable that future generations will succeed in clearing up all the mysteries which elude our grasp.

But till all these have been cleared up it is hard to say that any scientific hypothesis is irrefutably established.

Facts let us have in as great a measure as possible and theories, too, let us have, in any reasonable number: but let us be quite clear as to what are facts and what are theories, and quite definite in our ideas as to the relative value of the two categories.

## THE CHURCH IN NEW ZEALAND

### MEMOIRS OF THE EARLY DAYS

(Contributed.)  
WELLINGTON.

(Continued.)

In 1850, Bishop Viard erected a residence in Wellington, wherein the Fathers and Brothers also dwelt, and a convent for the Sisters intended to have charge of the girls' school. After waiting for many years, it was not until 1861 that he succeeded in obtaining from the Superior of the Convent of Mercy at Auckland three Sisters to found a community in Wellington. These arrived on June 14 of the same year. Writing to the mother house in the following month, they stated—'Our little convent is in an elevated position at a short distance from the base of high hills, which form a kind of amphitheatre, extending to the harbor which forms a front view. Attached to it is a Providence for the Native girls, which was built by the Government, who allowed £10 for the support of each Native girl instructed in it. The town principally extends along the beach.'

The convent, which was also to serve as a temporary school for girls, was formally opened and blessed on September 8, 1850. It was attended by children of all denominations, many of whom became converts to the faith. On the same day the good prelate had the consolation of blessing the first stone of the Wellington Cathedral. In a circular, issued by his Grace Archbishop Redwood on the destruction of this historic and beautifully designed edifice, appeared the following:—

'On the 28th of November, 1898, that venerable old landmark, that conspicuous and graceful edifice crowning Golder's Hill, Wellington, St. Mary's Cathedral, was accidentally set on fire by a workman engaged in painting the tower, and totally destroyed, with its fine organ and splendid marble altar, each worth £600. It would be impossible to adequately convey in words the feelings of amazement, of sorrow, of regret, we might say, of bereavement, which overwhelmed the thousands of devoted Catholics, while they saw the fierce and cruel flames devour an edifice which clung to their hearts by the holiest and most touching associations, or while they afterwards contemplated with tearful eyes the charred and unsightly ruins of their beautiful and beloved Cathedral. The citizens of every class and denomination in Wellington keenly shared the grief of Catholics, and gave repeated and emphatic expression of their deep sympathy. But the chief mourners, of course, were the older members of the congregation—persons who, from their earliest childhood, had been associated most affectionately, in all that was impressive, holy, and religious, with that venerated pile, where the very knowledge, substance, and framework of their religious convictions had been formed, fostered, and cherished. There they had been baptised, there confirmed, there admitted to First Communion, there married. They remembered the time when they were conducted again and again to the sacred structure, trotting alongside their parents' knees, and now, when their hair was whitened with years, when they looked back to a lifetime, and they saw that dear Cathedral gone, and gone for ever, could any outsider fully realise the keenness of their sorrow, the depth of their regret, and the anguish of their bereavement?

'Great honor, no doubt, and unqualified praise are due to all those who were associated with the erection of St. Mary's. How many good and worthy men and women, how many saintly pastors, such as Father Petit-Jean and Bishop Viard, had their noble share in

the undertaking! How Dr. Viard, the first Bishop of Wellington, had set his heart on it while he lived, and how he deserved and obtained that his revered ashes should rest in it after his death! He spoke and wrote about it with pride, as well he might, for, in his time, it was a really great achievement. It was an historic building. Begun in 1850, it was to a certain degree completed for use in 1851, and in that year blessed by Bishop Viard. Later on, in 1865, it was enlarged and again blessed most solemnly by Dr. Viard in 1866, and for upwards of thirty-three years stood much in the same condition as when it was destroyed—at least in regard to externals. Internally it had been completed by the present incumbent of the See, Archbishop, then Bishop, Redwood. Over £1200 were spent in its interior decorations and general improvements, irrespective of the altar and organ, which respectively cost £600 more. And for about forty years it was decidedly the finest Catholic Cathedral in all New Zealand. But despite its beautiful style of architecture and graceful elegance, it had become, by the progress of the city, too small for present, not to speak of future requirements, and, compared with cathedrals which had meantime risen in other parts of the Colony, it naturally appeared dwarfed, diminutive, and altogether behind the times. Nevertheless, so hallowed were its memories and associations, that one was afraid to touch it or hint at its removal. Yet, either it had to be removed, or another Cathedral had to be built somewhere else; and it was a very difficult and delicate question to know how to appeal to the Catholics of New Zealand and the Catholics of Wellington in regard to a new Cathedral. That was the position. Suddenly, in that mysterious and inscrutable manner peculiarly its own, Divine Providence stepped in, and, by an accident, that inadequate building disappeared, and, facing the position, it became our duty, as it will be our enduring honor, privilege, and glory, to erect a new Cathedral, up-to-date, and thoroughly in keeping with the requirements of the metropolis of New Zealand.'

(To be continued.)

## Diocesan News

### ARCHDIOCESE OF WELLINGTON

(From our own correspondent.)

May 23.

His Grace the Archbishop returned yesterday from a pastoral visit to Blenheim and Kaikoura. He leaves again on Tuesday for Reefton.

I understand that a very valuable piece of property near the Basin Reserve, within the city, has been acquired by the Church authorities for educational purposes.

The recent social, held in the Town Hall in aid of the Brooklyn church fund, was as successful as its predecessors. Over £70 were raised by means of this social.

The Rev. Fathers Lowham and Creagh, C.S.S.R., are at present conducting a successful mission in the parish of South Wellington. The mission is to continue for another week.

The Rev. Father Bowden is at present relieving the Very Rev. Dean McKenna at Masterton. The Very Rev. Dean is making good progress at Rotorua, and hopes to be home soon in much better health.

The latest gift of land for Church purposes is one of nearly an acre at Karori. The donor is the Hon. Charles Johnston. Karori is a growing suburb, and the gift in question is a very timely and appropriate one.

The recently elected committee of the new Catholic Club is taking active steps to realise the object of its existence. The committee has decided for the present to devote itself to the task of getting in the several sums promised. As soon as a satisfactory amount is in hand a start with the buildings will be made.

One of the most successful gatherings yet held under the auspices of the Catholic Club took place on Thursday evening in St. Patrick's Hall. The proceedings took the form of a euchre tournament, in which over eighty people were engaged. The gentleman's prize was won by Mr. Hickmott, and the lady's by Miss Davis. During the evening musical items were rendered by Misses Henderson and Davis and by Messrs. Eller and Schmidt. The several accompaniments were played by Miss O'Reilly.