

white ships, coming slowly round the head in single file, flashed in the sunlight like things of beauty. It was a majestic spectacle, and the firing of salutes—the fort salute and its acknowledgment, an exchange of salutes between the American fleet and the ships of the Australasian squadron lying in the harbor—was stirring to a degree. The monster guns rang out on the clear, crisp air with a mighty sound, and the sound echoed and re-vibrated in the hills. A great cheer broke from scores of thousands of throats, and as the bands, which had gone down in some of the steamers that met the battleships, struck up the people grew wild with enthusiasm, and cheer after cheer went up.

It was wonderful to see these ships—how they marched like soldiers of a well-trained army. Everything was done with clock-like precision. Their fame had spread before them in this connection, and it was known of them long before that they were a great piece of machinery, wherein everything is ordered well and everything does exactly what is required of it. But it was something to see it done—it was astonishing. As has been stated, the battleships came in single file in a long extended line, the one behind the other. The pace was dead slow, and each ship seemed to be separated from the other by exactly the same stretch of water, and as they slowly crept to their anchorage, each taking up its allotted place in the harbor, one could not fail to be struck with the marvellous handling of these great white beauties.

All the manoeuvres were carried out with mathematical accuracy. Here were the mighty, ponderous battleships of the American navy—16 majestic ships of war, costing 20 millions—being manipulated as if the work was a mere bagatelle.

At half-past 8 the Government steamer Tutanekai, with the Prime Minister, members of Parliament, and others on board, proceeded down the harbor, circled round the fleet, viewing all the warships at close quarters, pennants being dipped on both sides. In the afternoon Sir Joseph Ward, accompanied by the Hon. J. McGowan, J. A. Millar, and Dr. Findlay, made an official call on the Admiral. Immediately on the fleet being moored the Admiral proceeded to the British flagship to call upon the Vice-Admiral (Sir Richard Poore). Admiral Sperry then landed and called on his Excellency the Governor.

The following message was given by Admiral Sperry to the people of New Zealand:—‘I am very glad to have the pleasure of visiting New Zealand, and appreciate very much the enthusiastic and cordial reception given to the United States fleet. I regret very much that we have been unable to visit any other portion of your fine Dominion, and I send friendly greetings to the people of New Zealand.’

The official landing of Admiral Sperry and his officers took place on Monday morning. The Hon. E. Mitchelson, chairman of the Harbor Board, and several members of the same body met the Admiral at the landing stage under a beautifully-decorated canopy, and conducted them to the dais, where they were awaited by the Prime Minister and members of the Ministry, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Leader of the Opposition, and the principal military commanders of the Dominion, Lady Ward, and several other ladies.

When Admiral Sperry and four other Admirals had mounted the dais, Sir Joseph Ward read the address intended for President Roosevelt, and presented the handsome casket which contained it. The address eulogised President Roosevelt as one who represented the best traditions of common blood and civilisation, and was sincerely honored by all New Zealanders. ‘This casket,’ said Sir Joseph, in handing it to Admiral Sperry, ‘consists of our own gold, our own silver, our own wood, our own workmanship.’

Admiral Sperry, in reply, said: ‘No greeting could appeal more strongly to President Roosevelt than this from a people small in number but great in achievement. The beautiful present typifies everything that is good in national life.’

Then followed a speech of welcome by his Excellency the Governor at the Military Hall, after which came the citizens’ address, read by the Mayor, and then the Admiral’s reply. In the afternoon there was a volunteer review in the Domain.

The banquet, held in the Military Hall in the evening, was perhaps the most important public function in connection with the visit of the fleet. The large hall was beautifully decorated with flags and native plants. To the strains of the British National anthem, the Governor, the Prime Minister, Admiral Sperry, and the other American Admirals, and Admiral Poore and his officers entered the hall, and took their seats. The function was a brilliant success, undoubtedly the most brilliant and interesting of its kind ever held in New Zealand. The speeches were excellent, especially those of the Governor, the

Prime Minister, and Admiral Sperry. Each was cheered to the echo.

Writing on Monday night, the special correspondent of the ‘Otago Daily Times’ says:—‘The illuminations were extremely fine, and Queen street, looking back from the fine arch that spans the foot of the hill, was a brilliant avenue of colored lights, with delicate waving tracing of foliage. The most effective illuminations, among many beautiful designs, was that in front of Ehrenfried’s Buildings, “N.Z.” outlined in green, the cities marked with red light, and from each city lights running constantly to “Hail, Columbia,” at the top. From the hill near Admiralty House last night a wonderful sight spread itself out. The skeletons of the battleships outlined in fire lay on the dusky water, and a chain of golden sparks indicated the further shore. From each ship four searchlights played on the city, revealing the wall of watching faces up the hill with pitiless clearness, and playing quaint pranks with the heavy clouds across the ever-moving fans of light. From the railway wharf rose exquisite rockets, trails of fire ending in a cactus-like blossom of varied colored lights of emerald, sapphire, and ruby. There was not much variety about the fireworks, but the whole effect of the golden fleet, the curving rockets, and the moving searchlights was wonderful. There were many weary mothers and tired children among the crowd, who yet found spirit to admire the fine effects.’

CATHOLICS IN THE FLEET.

(By Telegraph from our own correspondent.)

August 10.

After the arrival of the American fleet in the harbor on Sunday Masses were celebrated on board the flagship Connecticut by Rev. Father Gleeson—one at half-past 8 o’clock and another at 11 o’clock. There are 4500 Catholics among the officers and men of the fleet; twenty-five per cent. of the officers are Catholics, whilst Rear-Admiral Emory is a most devout Catholic. While visiting South American ports, on both coasts, the Catholics of the fleet went ashore, and in a body received Holy Communion. There are in all five chaplains in the fleet of equal rank, one of whom is a Catholic. The other four say prayers every morning on the ships, at which all denominations attend. Father Gleeson says prayers every morning on the Connecticut, at which all denominations attend. At sea Father Gleeson celebrates Mass every morning on the flagship, but in port he visits all the remaining ships of the fleet, and celebrates Mass. In the American Navy are six Catholic chaplains, Father Gleeson being senior. He takes part in all functions, is a particular friend of Admiral Evans, who commenced this tour and insisted that Father Gleeson should be stationed on the flagship. The Presidents of the South American Republics paid special honor to Father Gleeson. On the flagship are 300 Catholics, of whom Father Gleeson speaks in the highest terms. They are, (he says) attentive to their religious duties, and thoroughly amenable to discipline.

Father Gleeson was born in New York of Irish parents, was educated at Mount Melleray, Waterford, and is now attached to the New York archdiocese. He speaks Gaelic fluently. He has been at sea for five years, and has spent seven years altogether in the navy. His parents have returned to Ireland, and are now residing at Waterford.

Father Gleeson attended the Cathedral on Sunday evening, gave Benediction, and at the conclusion addressed the congregation and said: ‘Ours is a Church that cannot be denied. Within a comparatively short space of time we have travelled over many seas and visited many countries, and have always found ourselves at home in God’s own Church, and with God’s own priests and people, whether in the north, south, east, or west. To-day when we entered your beautiful harbor and city I felt as much at home as if in my own dear New York. My position is an unique one in that my parish is a floating one, and the officers and men comprising it will rank amongst the best to be found anywhere. We comprise one-third of the whole, and between us and the majority the very best feeling exists. To our sailors I ask you, my Catholic people, to extend a hearty welcome, and in return they will show their gratitude by leaving you with sincere regret, and with reputations untarnished. Are we not of one common stock? Our visit to New Zealand has been eagerly looked forward to, and we trust it may lead to many other visits, and thereby unite the bonds of friendship between that great country to which I proudly proclaim my allegiance and this great Dominion. For the special privilege of addressing you, my dear friends, to-night I have to thank your Administrator, Rev. Father Meagher, who hails from the same town in dear old Ireland whence my ancestors came. In conclusion, I ask you to remember me in your prayers that God may grant me grace and strength to worthily fill my very onerous position.’