

that time the noble institute of Mount Magdala had not begun their great work of an industrial school. The ladies of Nazareth were ladies who had practically ostracised themselves from the society to which their culture and refinement certainly gave them a right. They bade farewell to the family which was as dear to the heart of a Sister as to any other—they bade farewell to their country, and, in fact, they made slaves of themselves for Jesus Christ, and slaves to His poor. In the name of the devoted Sisters, in the name of the dear orphans, in the name of all present, in the name of suffering humanity, he begged to tender his Excellency the united expression of their gratitude and delight at the presence of his Excellency, and their gratitude was enhanced by the fact that his Excellency had encountered a rough passage with boisterous seas to be present with them that day. He was no prophet, but he might say that he foresaw and fearlessly predicted that the work which was being inaugurated by the laying of the foundation stone would have a long and glorious future in their midst. Hundreds and thousands would go through the institution, and would be lovingly cared for by the Sisters of Nazareth, and would thank God for what had been done on their behalf. In conclusion his Lordship expressed the hope that the Great Giver of all good things would bless the institution, and that the devoted Sisters would live there and continue to give practical proof of true charity—religion, pure and undefiled—by living among and attending to the most appalling kinds of suffering that humanity was heir to.

His Lordship then presented Lord Plunket with a handsome silver trowel bearing the following inscription: 'Presented to his Excellency Lord Plunket, K.C.M.G., on the occasion of the laying of the foundation stone of Nazareth House, January 17th, 1909. Collins and Harman, architects; J. Smith, builder.'

His Excellency Lord Plunket, after apologising for keeping the people waiting, referred facetiously to the fact that when he was on a fishing excursion or attending the races in Christchurch, the weather was invariably favorable, but on this, his first official function, the elements had been unkind. He supposed he must blame the Government for it. If the railways had gone wrong he could have attacked the right person (motioning to Sir Joseph Ward), but he supposed the Minister of Marine could not be called to task for the rough passage that he (his Excellency) had experienced. His Excellency assured those present that it was a special pleasure to him to accept their kind invitation to lay the foundation stone of Nazareth House. The function he was taking part in was particularly appropriate, for his office, as representative of his Majesty the King, gave much support to charitable institutions, especially those that helped to alleviate pain and sickness among the poorer of his Majesty's subjects. Everyone knew of that splendid fund—the Prince of Wales' Fund—in which his Majesty took such great interest, and which had collected many millions of pounds for the hospitals of London. He did not know if the House at Hammersmith benefited by the fund, but he knew that the work of the institution was as much admired by those who were outside of the creed of its founders as those within. They all had the greatest admiration for the Sisters, gentle, cultured ladies, to whom the hard task of nursing the little children and tending the sick was a happiness. There must be many unpleasant times in the course of their duties, which included even the collecting of scraps of food for those in their charge. In Wellington they had an institution of a similar kind to Nazareth House, and he might say that it was probably the most popular in that city. There were a certain number of people who thought that the State was doing so much work for the sick and afflicted that they considered it unnecessary to open their purse strings when an appeal was being made. But there were many whom the State could not touch, and it was hard to find places for the unfortunate cripples and many of the suffering, and it was in this respect that the ladies of Nazareth House were doing such great work. In conclusion, he congratulated the Bishop on the inauguration of the work, and expressed the hope that before he left New Zealand he would pay another visit to the institution—to find that it contained a population of afflicted humanity made happy and contented by the ministrations of the good Sisters.

At the conclusion of his Excellency's address, the stone was lowered into position, and declared by him to be well and truly laid. Under the stone was placed the following worded document, engrossed on parchment:—

'D.O.M.

'Sub invocatione
'Hunc lapidem primarium benedixit et posuit Rev. mus Johannes Josephus Grimes, Episcopus Christopolitanus, die Januarii 17ma, 1909, felicitur regnante Pio Papa X.; Brittanniarum Rege et Indiarum Imperatore Eduardo VII.; vices regis gerente Domino Plunket.'
Also the latest copies of the *N.Z. Tablet*, the *Catholic Times*, the *Press*, and the *Lyttelton Times*; a photograph

of Christchurch Cathedral, a view of part of the Mother House, Hammersmith, London, and representative current coins of the realm.

Among those on the platform were the Right Hon. the Premier, Sir Joseph Ward, Lady Ward, Miss Eileen Ward, Captain Gathorne-Hardy (aide-de-camp to the Governor), the Hon. D. Buddo, the Hon. C. Louison, Sir George Clifford, Mr. G. W. Russell, M.P., Mr. H. G. Ell, M.P., Mr. T. H. Davey, M.P., and a large and representative gathering of specially invited guests, including Messrs. H. R. Smith (town clerk), G. Payling, J. L. Scott, W. Hayward, sen., R. D. Harman, W. W. Smith, Dr. Crooke, and the Rev. I. A. Bernstein. A pleasing feature of the gathering was the presence of a large number of the little orphans and some of the aged inmates of the present Nazareth House, in charge of several of the Sisters. Ample provision was made for the conveyance of distinguished visitors and the clergy by carriage and by tram for the general public.

The amount laid on the stone, collected in cash, totalled £500, which, with promises, will exceed £600. Several substantial amounts were contributed, but as the Sisters of Nazareth intend publishing the complete list the names will appear later.

On the termination of the ceremony his Excellency the Governor and the Premier drove away amid the loud cheers of the crowd. Bishop Grimes expressed his great gratification at the completeness of the arrangements made for the day's proceedings by the executive (his Lordship Bishop Grimes, Rev. Father Price, Messrs. J. J. Wilson, R. Hayward, G. R. Hart, and E. O'Connor, secretary).

The plans of the new building show that the front elevation depicts in course of erection a handsome brick and stone edifice. The building will not be completed at present, but the main portion of the work will be taken in hand. There is ample provision for refectories, lavatories, play, work, and store rooms, and a heating system by steam pipes will be installed. The Rev. Mother said that the principal decorations would be comfortable furniture and smiling faces. Everything was done to make the children and old people feel quite at home, and the new building was being erected in as simple and homelike a manner as possible. The building will be of two storeys, the ground floor being devoted to reception and work rooms, a pharmacy, school rooms, and general offices, and the upper portion to bedrooms, the administrative block being at the back. About twenty rooms will be built, and the plans show that they will be very capacious and airy.

Diocesan News

ARCHDIOCESE OF WELLINGTON

(From our own correspondent.)—

January 16.

His Grace the Archbishop is at present at Westport, where he will re-open the church, which has undergone several improvements recently.

Rev. Brother Henrique, of the Wellington Marist Brothers' School, has been transferred to Auckland, and Rev. Brother Irenaeus, of that city, will take his place.

The proceeds of the entertainment which little Miss Jean and Master Ian Gilruth gave for the benefit of the children at the Home of Compassion amounted to £7 12s 6d.

Mr. T. Shields has been appointed by the Wellington Centre of the N.Z. Amateur Swimming Association one of the supervisors for boys' proficiency certificates in swimming.

The Catholic authorities of the Thorndon parish have purchased half an acre of land in Wadestown, on the main road between Princes and Woodward streets, on which it is intended to erect a church.

On Sunday last the monthly meeting of the men's branch of the Sacred Heart Association (Te Aro parish) was held in St. Joseph's Church, there being about 100 members present. The Rev. Father Finnerty, S.M., delivered an instructive discourse on the Sacrifice of the Mass.

At the primary theory examination, conducted in November under the auspices of the Associated Board of the Royal Academy of Music and Royal College of Music, London, two pupils of St. Mary's Convent were successful—Lynne Edwards and Winifred Ryan, both of whom obtained 87 out of a possible 99 marks.

In response to a deputation of ladies in Wellington interested in the Irish cause, the secretary of the United