

ministers, and there is the great body of the people. To the former, in the persons of the Apostles, Our Lord Jesus Christ gave authority to teach and rule. "And Jesus coming spoke to them, saying: All power is given to Me in heaven and in earth; going therefore teach ye all nations; . . . teaching them to observe all things whatever I have commanded you." On the latter He placed the duties of obedience, docility, and submission: "He that heareth you heareth Me and he that heareth Me heareth Him that sent Me." Now the present is a time when such virtues as obedience, veneration, reverence, and respect are said to be declining among the younger people. Such decline we believe is most regrettable. A great Bishop, St. John Chrysostom, said, "Take away from an army its general and it becomes a mass of men destined for slaughter; take away the captain from the ship and it becomes the sport of wind and waves; take away the shepherd from his flock and it becomes scattered abroad. But of what use are general, captain, or shepherd unless their voice be heard and their guidance followed? Obedience and reverence for authority are obviously necessary for the stability and progress of Church and State. Hence we, the members of the Young Men's Literary Society, are pleased to have this opportunity to profess before our Bishop our deepest reverence for the authoritative teaching of the Church, our obedience to her precepts, our love of the Holy Mass and Sacraments, and our respect for the Church's ministers and for the great Catholic Episcopate worthily represented amongst us by your Lordship. This declaration of our thoughts and sentiments will, we know, be a consolation to Him Who "watches as being to render an account of our souls."

'Assuring you that you will always have the respect, obedience, and fidelity of the young men and of the rising generation of this parish, we beg to remain, your Lordship's most obedient servants,—L. W. J. Morton, president; T. Pound, vice-president; J. S. Shepherd, hon. sec.'

The address from the Children of Mary, which was as follows, was read by Miss Waterston:—

'May it please your Lordship,—We presume to address your Lordship, aware as we are that you are pleased to find the Society of the Children of Mary established and flourishing in this parish. Our society has existed here for the past twenty-seven years. Time, which tends to weaken and relax most organisations, has rather increased our numbers, and, we trust, our fervor. Many old members have, indeed, passed away, and many have been scattered up and down the country, still our society keeps up its numbers and its regular attendance at our devotional meetings. The Little Office, Rosary, hymns, spiritual readings and instruction, the frequentation of the Sacraments, and mutual encouragements maintain the devotional spirit of the members, elevate our ideals, and sustain, we would like to say, exemplary conduct. In our pious reunions we do not forget the Chief Pastor of the diocese. We know how onerous and full of cares and anxiety is your office. We know that on you rests the duty of watching over the whole flock, of selecting candidates for the altar and promoting their training, of appointing worthy priests to the parishes of the diocese, of establishing and cherishing religious communities for the great work of Christian education and Christian charity, and of organising religious confraternities for preserving and promoting the Christian virtues among the members and deeds of beneficence and kindness to those around them. We see it to be your duty to supervise all, to go about and visit every parish, encouraging what is praiseworthy and correcting abuses and faults—doing these things regardless of trouble or of disagreeableness. "The good shepherd giveth his life for his sheep." Whilst, then, welcoming you on this occasion and declaring our good will and hearty obedience to your fatherly rule, we wish particularly to declare that our prayers will follow you in all your ways, asking that heavenly guidance and success may attend them.'

An address from the pupils of the Dominican Convent School was read by Miss Mary Baldwin, and from the pupils of the Marist Brothers' School by Master A. Mayhew.

#### His Lordship's Reply.

Bishop Verdon then thanked the congregation for the grand welcome they had given him on the occasion of his first official visit to Invercargill since his return from Rome. The beautiful addresses that had been presented to him rang with the true Catholic spirit. Union, attachment to authority, and reverence for the chief pastor of the diocese were the leading ideas in each address. It was wonderful to see that union and charity and sympathy among Bishop, priests, and people, dwelt upon by St. Ignatius as an ideal in the earliest period of the Church's history, reproduced here in this remote diocese after 1800 years. What a continuity of likeness in the ways and spirit of the Catholic Church! Indeed, the union of Pope,

bishops, priests, and people was more marked now than ever before; time and new conditions were drawing the bonds closer. During his travels last year he had opportunities of noticing this union, so wonderful not only in faith but in love and reverence for the ruling authorities in the Church. To cite a few examples: The Pope celebrated his Jubilee last year, and during the year thousands of congratulatory messages and precious gifts came from the bishops, priests, and people of the whole earth; and on the day appointed to celebrate the Jubilee 400 bishops, thousands of priests, and an immense multitude of people surrounded the Holy Father in Rome. Then, again, there was the great Eucharistic Congress at London. Eighty-six bishops, a great number of priests, and 200,000 people assembled to honor our Blessed Lord in the great Mystery of His love. A Papal Legate came to represent the Pope there—the first seen in England for 300 years; and that great multitude received him enthusiastically, because he had come in the name of the Pope. Take another example: An infidel Government was, as they all knew, trying to crush the Catholic Church in France. Some time ago a law was passed which confiscated the whole of the Church property of the nation. The French Government offered a compromise whereby the use of the churches, presbyteries, and Church property might be retained. This compromise appeared injurious to Catholic interests. The bishops and clergy asked the advice of the Holy Father, who bade them reject it. They submitted to his decision; the bishops left their palaces and the clergy their presbyteries and went forth homeless, sacrificing millions of pounds' worth of property rather than do anything opposed to the desires of the Pope and prejudicial to the interests of Catholic faith and unity. Those were a few instances of the strong union and sympathy existing between the Holy Father, the Supreme Head of the Church on the one hand, and the bishops, clergy, and laity on the other. And that same bond is found in the several dioceses among bishop, priest, and people. Take this diocese of Dunedin; the most perfect spirit of unity prevailed in it, and that was why they were able to do so much work for religion. Churches had been built, schools had been established, religious communities had been introduced, fully equal to the wants of the place, and all was the result of the grand spirit of unity, harmony, and community of action for the general good that prevailed in the diocese. And the common spirit was seen reflected between pastor and people in their several parishes. Let them take their own parish of Invercargill. The people loved their pastor, and they respected him for his prudence and ability; they listened to his advice and were always ready to follow him. The consequences to be expected followed. Invercargill had advanced very much for the past twelve years; but the various Catholic institutions had kept well up with the progress of the city. There was their grand church, towering above all the other churches and edifices of the city. A magnificent building it will be when fully decorated and completed. There were their schools, thoroughly well equipped and having grand attendances of children. He had visited these schools that day—the good Brothers' school and the convent schools—and he was delighted with the number of bright, well-clad, happy, intelligent children he found in them. These schools and these children were the crown and glory of the prospering condition of this parish. Invercargill had a good name for Sunday observance, attendance at the Masses, and the reception of the Sacraments. Every time he came here he was struck by the numbers approaching Holy Communion—numbers which kept up steadily Sunday after Sunday throughout the year. That being so, it was not surprising that the different societies of the parish flourished. It gave him much pleasure to receive the Young Men's Society's address, and to hear the sentiments expressed in it. He was glad the society was in a sound state, that it did much good work, and that its spirit was so loyal and Catholic. He exhorted the members to use their opportunities to go on fitting themselves for the battle of life, always improving themselves and doing so under the guidance of their scholarly director, the Dean. It was unnecessary for him to say that he was pleased to find the Hibernians flourishing here. His thorough approval was bestowed on the Hibernians. Benefit societies were needed. He knew the Hibernians well; probably the largest branch in the Dominion was the Dunedin branch. He knew their spirit—that they helped one another and also the parish priest in every parish undertaking. The Hibernians in looking back at the past should feel proud of the faith and patriotism of their fathers in the Old Country, and the example of their ancestors should stimulate them to copy those virtues and reproduce them and show them to be a vital power in the upbuilding of this new country. All that he expected from the numbers of young Hibernians who were wearing the honored badge of the society throughout this

**LANGFORD and RHIND**

... (Late W. and H. Langford), ... Funeral Furnishers P.O. BOX 523  
18 LONDON ST. Phone 330 and Embalmers

**Christchurch**

Address—HERBERT LANGFORD, 18 London St., Richmond. Phone, 889. Town Office—227 CASHEL ST.