

JUBILEE OF THE BISHOP OF M A I T L A N D.

THE sacerdotal golden jubilee of the Right Rev. Dr. Murray, the venerable Bishop of Maitland, was celebrated with great rejoicings during the week commencing April 20. Bishop Murray's desire to emphasise the religious portion of the celebration was expressed in a circular some time back, in which he asked the priests and people to engage in a week of prayer on his behalf, first of reparation for any negligences of his as a priest, and next as a thanksgiving for the Divine protection which had been extended to him in the early days of his priesthood. Sunday, 20th April, was set apart as the opening of this week of devotion; and the crowds who attended all the Masses on that day, and the many who received Holy Communion, attested to the importance the people attached to their Bishop's request.

At the conclusion of the Mass his Lordship Bishop Murray addressed the congregation, treating in an especial manner of the duties of a priest. He was ordained, he said, on a Passion Sunday, but did not dare to go the altar till the following Friday. He was engaged in examination work, and had not the time to prepare, but acted on the advice of his director and refrained for a few days. It was very difficult for a priest to always find the proper dispositions to celebrate daily, and to do so in the state of mortal sin was a sin of such magnitude that it scarcely could be condoned. They would see, therefore, that he had great reasons for asking them to pray that God might pardon any sin he had ever committed in that respect. The second object was to join him in returning thanks to God for having protected him while a young and inexperienced priest from the dangers of the world. No one was exposed to so much danger as a young priest in the earliest years of his ministry. He was not a monk, nor was he shut up in a college. He personally, was in college for 10 years, but on returning from Rome to Dublin had to mix in all kinds of society. He was a young man of 21 years hitherto accustomed to a secluded life. He was exposed to terrible dangers, for a great many young priests succumbed to the danger during that time. He was thankful to God for his protection. He fell in with a very good priest who was a man of considerable experience much older than he, and who was kind enough to give him advice, for which he was ever grateful. He remained under that priest for two years and was then called upon to take up the duties of private secretary to Cardinal Cullen with whom he remained for 11 years. He was then called upon by the Pope to come out to Australia. It never occurred to him while studying in the great College of the Propaganda at Rome, with young men preparing for the foreign missions, to go to a distant one himself. It was an awful change to him, but he could not disobey the Pope. He left Ireland with very great regret. He was very ill on the voyage out, and he believed that illness arose from the fact that he had not accepted with proper dispositions the responsible position given him by the Pope. On his arrival in Maitland he got a warm reception from priests and people and his regret at leaving Ireland soon disappeared. There was plenty of work but not many priests, but they were good. There was Monsignor Phelan, who died last year in Ireland. He was a grand priest. There were the late Dean Kenny in Eglinton, the late Dean Leonard in Singleton; and Dean Healy, now of Sydney. In a few years the number of priests increased, and he was able to travel through various parts of his then extensive diocese. He thanked God that he was selected to found the diocese of Maitland. He appealed to them all to join him during the afternoon in large numbers in returning thanks to God for the many years He had given him, and in asking that he might be able to do something more for the glory of God and in the interests of the Church. He thanked priests and people for all they had done and were about to do for him.

On Tuesday, April 22, Solemn Pontifical High Mass was celebrated in the Cathedral, when there was a crowded congregation. No fewer than eleven prelates were present. His Grace the Archbishop of Melbourne, his Grace the Most Rev. Dr. Kelly, their Lordships the Right Rev. Dr. Murray, the Right Rev. Dr. Torreggiani, the Right Rev. Dr. Moore, the Right Rev. Dr. Corbett, the Right Rev. Dr. Doyle, the Right Rev. Dr. Gallagher, the Right Rev. Dr. Higgins, the Right Rev. Dr. Dwyer, the Right Rev. Dr. Murray, O.S.A., Bishop and Vicar-Apostolic of Cooktown. In addition there was present a very large number of priests from all parts of the Commonwealth.

The occasional sermon was preached by his Grace Archbishop Kelly, who said, in the course of an eloquent discourse. In 1857, well prepared for the work by thirteen years' most intimate connection with the great churchman and sterling saint—Paul Cardinal Cullen—the Bishop-Elect of Maitland, in company with the Bishop-Elect of Bathurst, was consecrated in Dublin on the Feast of St. Laurence O'Toole. Since then 37 years have come and gone. Their record is the history of the Catholic Church in Australia, and I believe that in zealous labors and marvellous fruitfulness this record will ever be luminous in our annals. Having received from the Supreme Pontiff the pastoral charge of all that territory which was comprised in this parent diocese, Dr. Murray put his hand to the plough and sought for fellow-laborers—priests and religious—to work in his vineyard. See what increase God has given to his planting and watering. Maitland to-day, after repeated partition of her strength numbers 30,000 faithful souls organised in 17 districts, having nearly 100 churches and chapels, served by more than 40 priests with a band of sons of St. Alphonsus in reserve, and the education of the young is provided for by more than 200 religious teachers. While for the distressed and afflicted, the orphan and the speechless there is special and admirable care. During his day's labor happily not yet spent, the Bishop of Maitland has given us an example of that zeal which the Apostle of the Vatican com-

mands to Bishops in the person of Timothy: 'Continue then in the things which thou hast learned and which have been committed to thee. All Scripture Divinely inspired is profitable to teach, to reprove, to instruct in justice: That the man of God may be perfectly furnished unto every good work.'

Immediately after the Mass the priests of the diocese presented Bishop Murray with an address and a purse of 230 sovereigns. The laity also presented an address, that was accompanied by a money offering of £1300, which it was expected would reach £1500 when all the returns were in. The address from the Hibernian Society was accompanied by a cheque for £30. In replying to the addresses and thanking the donors for their presentations his Lordship said that not one penny of the money received would be spent on himself but would be devoted to the interests of religion and education.

In the evening a banquet was held in the Town Hall, at which 300 guests were present.

The celebrations were continued on the following day when the prelates, priests and laity proceeded to Waratah to witness an entertainment given by the deaf mutes in charge of the Dominican Nuns. Later on the visitors were entertained at luncheon at the Redemptorist Monastery.

An Imposing Ceremony.

IN view of the fact that the Coronation takes place towards the end of next month, the following account of a ceremony which took place in times when England was a Catholic country will be of interest:—

'Nowadays,' wrote Cardinal Manning some years ago, 'we hear of coronations, but we hear no more of the consecration of kings. But a coronation, even in the tradition of England, takes place in the old Abbey of Westminster, and with certain rites which remain, mutilated, indeed, but taken chiefly from the ancient Catholic ritual. I will shortly describe what the ancient ritual was. The prince who was to be consecrated for three days before fasted as a preparation. On the day of his consecration he came to the sanctuary of the church, where the Metropolitan and his Suffragans received him. He then, first upon his knees before the altar, made solemn oath to Almighty God to observe, and cause to be observed, according to his knowledge and his power, for the sake of the Church and his people, law, justice, and peace, according to the laws of the land and the canons of the Church. He then lay prostrate before the altar like a bishop when he is consecrated; the litanies were chanted, the same litanies which are sung in our solemn ordinations. Then, kneeling before the altar, he received the unction. He was anointed on the right arm, which is the arm of strength, and on the shoulder, typical of royal power; as in the prophecy, "The Government is upon his shoulder." He then received the sword with this admonition: "Remember that the saints conquered kingdoms, not by the sword but by faith." After this the crown was put upon his head, with the prayer that he might wear it in mercy and in justice; and the sceptre was then placed in his hands in token of the authority of law. After that, the Holy Mass was celebrated, and in that Mass he received the Holy Communion of the Precious Body and Blood of Jesus Christ, from the hands of the consecrating bishop. These solemn acts in themselves portrayed what were the relations of Christian law and fidelity between the chief rulers of nations and of kingdoms, and the sovereignty of Jesus Christ.'

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Messrs. Louis Gille and Co., Liverpool street, Sydney, publish in this issue a list of new books which they have just received...

The Westport Coal Company notify householders and others that they are now keeping in stock a large quantity of unscreened Coalbrookdale coal which can be obtained from all coal merchants at 3s 4 per ton delivered...

The well-known hotel, The Shades, Dowling street, Dunedin, has passed into the hands of Mr C. Tibbarn, whose experience and reputation as a host are a sufficient guarantee that it will be conducted on first-class lines...

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A notice with reference to the Coronation Carnival, which will be opened in the Coliseum, Christchurch, on the 15th inst., appears elsewhere in this issue. The Carnival is on behalf of the funds for the building of a presbytery for St. Mary's parish, a work which is absolutely necessary, and as the committee have been working with great energy for some months there is every reason to expect that the undertaking will, as it ought to, be a great success.