

At the close of the chairman's address, Mr. Ardagh presented Monsignor Mackay with a handsome purse containing 105 sovereigns. Miss Nellie Rowlands (on behalf of the Altar Society) and Miss Annie Corcoran (on behalf of the Children of Mary) then presented him with an address and purse of sovereigns. Monsignor Mackay's health was then enthusiastically toasted with musical honors.

Mr. John Cagney made a characteristically humorous speech, in the course of which he dwelt upon the long and arduous labors of the guest of the evening for the people of the Oamaru mission during the past 13 years, in the course of which he had worn out a great deal of shoe leather (applause). Oamaru had long been noted for its buildings, but the climax was never reached until the Catholics put their hands in their pockets to find money to erect their fine buildings. No man stood higher in the estimation of the people of Oamaru than did their pastor (applause). When Monsignor Mackay went Home he would have many warm friends, but their friendship would never be so warm as to replace the affections of the people of Oamaru, and when he returned he would be received in the same whole-hearted manner as that in which he was being sped on his journey (applause).

Mr. P. Corcoran, in a bright and happy speech, wished Monsignor Mackay a pleasant voyage and a safe return from his native land. He hoped that the day was not far distant when the guest of the evening would see the wish of his heart realised in seeing the magnificent basilica completed in every detail and opened free from debt (applause).

Father Cleary said that the evening's demonstration reflected credit on Monsignor Mackay for the splendid work he had achieved, and on the people for their generous aid and their recognition of the labors of their pastor. The noble piles of church buildings in Oamaru were a monument to Monsignor Mackay's ability and energy and to their piety and generosity (applause). Referring to their early impression as to their pastor's cautious slowness, the speaker quoted the Italian proverb: 'He that goes slowly goes safely, and he that goes safely goes far.' The Monsignor had the admirable quality of Scottish caution, and this, coupled with his knowledge of architecture and his great business capacity, enabled them to raise those splendid ecclesiastical buildings at the minimum of expense (applause). The speaker compared Monsignor Mackay to the great Irish legendary Mulder, the Goban Seor, who (as the popular myths said) erected the almost indestructible round towers—'those conquerors of time.' The results of Monsignor Mackay's labors were monuments that would tell of his zeal and their piety in generations to come (applause).

Very Rev. Father O'Neill, in the course of a humorous address, said he had expected a very hearty social, and had not been disappointed (applause). He had known Monsignor Mackay perhaps longer than anyone else in the hall, as he had for some time been helping the mission as curate under their worthy pastor. He had lately been visiting the country from which Monsignor Mackay came, and he knew that a hearty welcome would be accorded their pastor when he arrived there. He would find that the Catholics had increased in his old town of Aberdeen, and that a fine new college had taken the place of the old one in which he (Monsignor Mackay) had received a part of his training, and which must be associated in his mind with many tender recollections. He concluded by wishing Monsignor Mackay a pleasant voyage and a safe return to his people.

Father Aubry said they in Waimate were indebted to Monsignor Mackay for many acts of kindness. Whenever there was anything going on in the diocese of Christchurch they were happy and honored to have him amongst them. Although he was pleased to find that Monsignor Mackay was taking a well-earned holiday, he feared that their pastor would be greatly missed (applause). He looked forward to the time when Monsignor Mackay would be in Waimate again, when he would receive a right hearty welcome.

Monsignor Mackay received a great ovation on rising to reply. He deprecated the praises showered upon him as undeserved. The man who followed the plough did but a small portion of the work—his team did nearly all. Those who had done the work were those who had contributed. He could not find words to express how deeply he felt the new proof of their generosity that they had just given him. He had thought that the number of appeals made lately had drained their resources, but they again responded generously. He would apply the money as far as he could in seeing in other lands monuments and works of art, which might assist him in further adorning their own church (applause). He doubted not that the praises bestowed were given in all sincerity, but they were certainly against his own conscience. When he first came to Oamaru from Queenstown he conceived the idea of a new church. He was laughed at when he stated the amount that it would cost, and even when the building had been opened, it looked so unpromisingly that he had determined to put a proper face on it. For all these works the money had been liberally forthcoming, and now, when it had begun to show forth in its facade its original design, all had come to realise its beauty (applause). Imitation was the best form of flattery. Their church was the first in New Zealand that was erected in the basilica style. Others had followed. His Grace the Archbishop of Wellington had left here intending to build a church on similar lines, but he had to confess later that he had been eclipsed (applause). In concluding his reply, Monsignor Mackay said he valued not the gold half so much as the golden sentiments expressed by his people, which had so impressed him to

render him dumb. He resumed his seat amidst prolonged applause.

The intervals between the various speeches were filled in by the various items of an interesting programme. A piano solo was played by Miss Hannon. Songs were contributed by Misses Falconer and K. Cagney, Fathers O'Neill and O'Reilly, and Mr. M. J. Hanning, and Miss Donovan gave a much-appreciated recitation. The accompaniments to the vocal items were played by Misses Hannon and Duggan. At an interval in the proceedings refreshments were handed round. A most enjoyable social evening was brought to a close by the singing of 'Auld Lang Syne' and three hearty cheers for Monsignor Mackay.

Monsignor Mackay reached Dunedin on Monday evening. He left on Wednesday afternoon by the Mararoa, on his way to Auckland, whence he proceeds by the Mohra to Suva, at which point he joins the Moana for Vancouver. Monsignor Mackay is accompanied to Europe by his sister, Miss Mackay. The Dunedin clergy and many lay friends assembled at their departure to wish them a pleasant voyage and a safe return.

Diocesan News

ARCHDIOCESE OF WELLINGTON.

(From our own correspondent.)

May 9.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament was held at St. Mary of the Angels' on Sunday last. Large numbers visited the church during the day.

His Grace the Archbishop and the Ven. Archdeacon Devoy returned from Nelson on Thursday morning. Rev. Father Clancy accompanied them and will be here for a few days.

The Month's Mind for the late Very Rev. Dean Mahoney will take place at Nelson on Wednesday. A number of priests from the archdiocese will be present on the occasion.

Mother Mary Joseph Aubert has been elected by the members of the St. John Ambulance Nursing Guild to the position of an honorary member.

WANGANUI.

(From our own correspondent.)

May 8.

At Mass on Sunday, May 3, the Very Rev. Dean Grogan, S.M., spoke feelingly on the death of the late Dr. Connolly. For nearly a quarter of a century (said the Dean) the citizens of Wanganui had in their midst a gentleman whom they learned to esteem and love, not only because of his acknowledged medical ability, but also for his large-hearted charity towards the poor, as well as his sympathy and kindness to the sick and suffering in his extensive medical practice. To do good and wish well to every person, the preacher said, was natural to Dr. Connolly; therefore no effort on his part was required in the practice of his numerous excellent qualities, and now that he was gone, the citizens of this town and district felt that the place Dr. Connolly held in their esteem and confidence was hard to fill.

Solemn Requiem Mass for the repose of his soul was celebrated on Wednesday morning, when a large congregation assembled to pay fitting tribute to the memory of the deceased gentleman. Several members of the medical profession and other prominent citizens were present during the Mass. The Very Rev. Dean Grogan was celebrant, and the music rendered by the choir was Dumont's Gregorian Requiem.

The Wanganui Hospital Board met on Wednesday, and several members paid a warm tribute to the memory of the late Dr. Connolly. The chairman expressed his sincere regret at the death of one who had done so much for the Hospital Board, and moved the following resolution: 'That this Board desires to place on record its sincere regret at the death of Dr. P. J. Connolly, and its high appreciation of his long and invaluable services rendered to the Wanganui Hospital; also that a letter conveying the Board's sympathy be forwarded to Mrs. Connolly.' In seconding the motion, Mr. E. Newman said that deceased had performed a lot of excellent work for the Hospital at a very small remuneration. He did not think any gentleman possessed the confidence of the Board, the nursing staff, and the patients more than Dr. Connolly. He was a skilful surgeon, a tender friend, a valuable colleague, and most unselfish in the carrying out of his duties.

DIOCESE OF CHRISTCHURCH.

(From our own correspondent.)

May 11.

His Lordship the Bishop preached at Vespers in the Pro-Cathedral on Sunday (Feast of the Patronage of St. Joseph) on the subject of the day's festival.

Rev. Father McDonnell has been assisting at Waimate in the Forty Hours' Adoration, and conducting a retreat for the children preparing for First Communion.

Rev. Father O'Connell was at Lincoln over Sunday, assisting the Rev. Father Richards in the Forty Hours' Adoration then being observed.

RIDE "ANGLO SPECIAL" CYCLES.