

The Late Father Bogue

A Hokitika correspondent furnishes us with the following additional particulars regarding the late Father Bogue, of Ross, the report of whose death, together with details of his missionary labors, etc., appeared in our last issue:—

Father Bogue was a native of Belfast, Ireland, where he received his early education under the Christian Brothers. He was afterwards sent to St. Macartan's College, Monaghan, to study classics. Here he showed great signs of a religious vocation, and with the intention of studying for the priesthood he proceeded to St. Patrick's College, Carlow, where he completed his theological studies. He was ordained by his Lordship Bishop Grimes in the Church of Our Lady of Refuge, Rathmines, Dublin. After spending some time with his friends he started for the diocese of Christchurch, which he had chosen as his missionary field.

About twelve months ago, whilst making his usual Easter visit to his parishioners in South Westland, he underwent most extraordinary hardships. Owing to the inclemency of the weather the rivers were in a state of high flood. Upon reaching one in a singularly lonely place, miles away from any human habitation, he was unable to ford it; here he had to remain for nearly three days without any food, his only shelter from wind and rain being a miserable shed. As may easily be supposed he caught a severe cold, and on his return home appeared greatly shaken in health. So great was his desire to offer up the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass daily that he could not be persuaded to remain in bed for a few days. His health continued to fail and more serious symptoms began to appear, and finally they ended in an attack of rheumatic fever. After a week's skilful treatment, however, his physician, Dr. Morkane, was able to declare him out of danger. Soon afterwards Father Bogue proceeded to Rotorua to recruit his health. On his return, after two months' holiday, these hopes were dashed to the ground, for it was then found that he was suffering from that treacherous disease, consumption. A short time afterwards the doctors held a consultation, and thinking the end not far off, told him his case was hopeless. When speaking of this to a friend he said: 'It is hard for one to hear his death sentence. I have heard mine, but welcome be the holy will of God!' The greatest praise is due to the Sisters of Mercy of the local convent, who were unremitting in their attention to the rev. patient during his long illness. They, indeed, have proved themselves Sisters of Charity as well as Sisters of Mercy, for from December until he breathed his last, their earnest, unwearying care never ceased, day nor night. The parishioners of the deceased priest owe a debt of gratitude to those good Sisters, a debt which can never be repaid, for, besides their services in nursing him, they had often at their own expense, unknown to him and unknown to all others procured whatever they thought would in any way afford him relief. During his last moments they, with Rev. Father O'Connor, were present at his bedside. A few days before his death he became unconscious, but soon after regained consciousness and remained so until a few moments before he died. Having been previously fortified by the rites of Mother Church, he met his death calmly and bravely, as became a valiant soldier of Jesus Christ. His unobtrusive piety, sound common-sense, and untiring zeal endeared him to all, and the prayers and tears of hundreds followed him to the grave. Immediately after Christmas his Lordship Dr. Grimes anxious to know and see for himself the real state of Father Bogue's health, as well as to afford him all the comfort and consolation in his power, came to Ross to visit him, at great personal inconvenience.

All through his weary illness Very Rev. Dean Martin, S.M., Hokitika, was kindness itself to the rev. patient, who regarded him as a veritable father, and Ross people highly appreciate the thoughtfulness of the Bishop in appointing the Dean to preside at the obsequies. It was Father Bogue's wish that he might be buried in Hokitika, so that his remains might one day be near the Dean's.

From Saturday till Monday his body lay in state in his own little church in Ross. The sanctuary was in deepest mourning, and his people, who appreciated him during life, showed how they valued his priestly virtues after his death. Night and day they watched beside his remains and thought themselves highly privileged to be allowed to do so. On Monday a Missa Cantata was sung by the Very Rev. Dean Martin, after which nearly every member of the congregation came to bid a tearful adieu to their beloved pastor.

At about 12.30 the funeral procession started from the church. It was one of the largest ever seen in the district. The coffin was carried by the young men of the congregation as far as the cemetery hill. The pedestrians in the procession proceeded for a considerable distance beyond this, while the whole of the equestrians, as well as those in vehicles, went right on to Hokitika. Many mourners joined the procession en route, which, by the time Hokitika was reached, was of great length. At Ruan the coffin was removed from the hearse and carried through the township to the church, where a short service was conducted by Father O'Connor. At its conclusion the remains were carried to the summit of Rimu Hill and then replaced in the hearse. Opposite the Bellevue Hotel the coffin was removed from the hearse and carried by the pall-bearers to St. Mary's Church where they were met by Rev. Father Mahony and nearly all the clergy on the Coast.

The church had been prepared by the members of the Altar Society. The sanctuary was draped in black,

and the remains were laid in state before the high altar. During the evening large numbers visited the church, including many from the south, Ross, Rimu, and also a great number of Hokitika residents.

At 10 a.m. on Tuesday a Solemn Requiem Mass was celebrated, Very Rev. Dean Martin being celebrant, Rev. Fathers Leen and O'Connor deacon and sub-deacon respectively, and Rev. Father Herbert master of ceremonies, the remainder of the priests joining in the solemn chanting in the most impressive manner. At the conclusion of the Mass the Dead March in 'Saul' was played by Mr. Clarke. At 12 o'clock the funeral left for the cemetery, and, despite the extremely inclement weather, there was a large attendance, including many persons of all denominations, thus showing the great respect in which the Rev. Father Bogue was held throughout the district. The burial service at the grave was conducted by the Very Rev. Dean Martin. The priests present at the obsequies were: Very Rev. Dean Carew (Greymouth), Very Rev. Dean Lighthart (Maori mission, N.I.), Rev. Fathers O'Hallohan (Kumara), Leen and McDonnell (Ahaura), O'Connor (Ross), and Mahony (Hokitika).—R.L.P.

WEDDING BELLS

ORGAN—WARREN.

A quiet but pretty wedding (writes a Westport correspondent) took place at St. Patrick's Church, Kumara, on May 18, the contracting parties being Miss E. A. Warren, of Dillmanston, and Mr. Gerald A. Organ, of Westport. The Rev. Father O'Hallohan performed the ceremony and also celebrated a Nuptial Mass. The bride, who was given away by her father, looked charming in a lovely dress of white transparent muslin, trimmed with Maltese lace and insertion and silk sash. She also wore a veil and wreath of orange blossoms. She was attended by Miss Stewart, of Rimu, as bridesmaid, who was attired in a cream floral muslin, with black picture hat. Mr. J. Gallagher, of Westport, was best man. After the ceremony the bridal party drove to the residence of the bride's parents, where the wedding breakfast was partaken of and various toasts honored. Among those present were the Rev. Father O'Hallohan and Very Rev. Dean Lighthart, of Auckland. The presents were very numerous and costly, and were evidence of the esteem in which the couple are held. The bridegroom's present to the bride was a lovely gold watch and chain, and to the bridesmaid a beautiful gold brooch. The happy couple left for Auckland, where they intend to spend their honeymoon. They intend making their home in Westport, where Mr. Organ is engaged in business. He is also a member of the Westport Borough Council.

DOODY—MELVILLE.

(From an Oxford Correspondent.)

A wedding, in which considerable interest was shown, took place at Oxford on Tuesday, May 26, when Miss Mary Melville, eldest daughter of Mr. Martin Melville of Temuka, was married to Mr. Michael Doody, second son of Mr. Michael Doody, Oxford. The ceremony took place at the Church of the Sacred Heart, where the Rev. Father Hyland officiated and also celebrated a Nuptial Mass. A very large number of the friends of the bride and bridegroom were in attendance, the church being filled. The bride was attired in a cream costume, and wore a beautiful veil and orange blossoms, and carried a pretty bouquet. She was attended by her sister, Miss Winifred Melville, and Miss Annie Doody. The bride was given away by her father and the bridegroom was attended by his brother, Mr. Daniel Doody. The Wedding March was played by Miss Driscoll as the bridal party left the church. The wedding breakfast was held in a large marquee on the lawn at the bridegroom's parents' home, and was attended by about 60 guests. The health of the newly-married couple was proposed in very delicious terms by the Rev. Father Hyland, and that of the bridesmaids by Mr. McCormack. The wedding presents were very numerous and costly, and evidenced the esteem in which the young couple were held. Later in the day the happy pair left by train for Christchurch on their wedding trip, and were seen off by many friends. In the evening a grand social was held in the Oxford Town Hall, which was attended by a large number of guests.

A little wonder is the Broadcast Patent Seed-sower, sold by Morrow, Bassett, and Co. For sowing turnip, rape, grass, and clover seed it has no equal, while for oats, wheat, and barley you have only to see it to know its value. A boy can work it. Sow four acres per hour, and any quantity up to six bushels per acre. Price only 20s.—***

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