

KING EDWARD'S VISIT TO A DOMINICAN CONVENT.

In a recent issue of the 'N.Z. Tablet' we gave a short account of the visit of King Edward to a Dominican Convent during his stay in Lisbon. The following is a fuller account of the event by a correspondent of the 'Catholic Times'—

The King of England's visit to Lisbon may without fear of correction be said to have been a most brilliant success. Every circumstance contributed its share in bringing about this happy result. The weather was exceptionally fine, even for Lisbon weather, the people of all classes were most enthusiastic, the various items of the programme passed off without a hitch, and the King made a most pleasing impression on all, whilst he himself professed surprise and delight at the hearty tone of his reception. One of the items that attracted a great deal of attention was the King's visit to the Dominican Convent of Bom Successo. His Majesty had sent word before he left England that it was his intention to visit the Convent on his arrival. Accordingly the Sisters sent him through the British Minister a little note of greeting on his arrival. His Majesty sent to thank them, and said that if possible he would fulfil his promise of going to see them. On Saturday morning the Prior of the Irish Dominican College of Corpo Santo received a telegram from the Lord-in-waiting on his Majesty, Count Tarouca, saying that his Majesty would visit the convent on Monday morning at 10.30 o'clock. The message was a signal of great joy. The Irish Dominican Fathers and Sisters are

Old Friends of the King.

He visited the convent when he was in Lisbon as Prince of Wales 23 years ago, and carried away very pleasing recollections of it. No one can tax him with forgetfulness. From time to time he has sent messages during this interval to the nuns, and when the royal yacht passed the convent on its entrance to Lisbon it responded to the various signals made from the college. Sir Francis Laking, making some inquiries during the course of the visit as to the climate, the health of the children, etc., added: 'Of course I know something of the convent. His Majesty was speaking to me of you a day or two ago, and told me that he had seen all the building on his last visit.' Many little anecdotes are recounted of the former visit, among them the following. A British resident of that period says that his Royal Highness put the Sisters and children quite at their ease by his amiable manner. One little mite walked off with a glove, a second seized the Prince's walking-stick, whilst a third insisted on getting his hat. Two or three or four hung out of the fingers of his left hand. Long before the appointed hour on Monday morning friends gathered together in the courtyard of the convent. Guards and policemen were stationed at the entrance. Among those present were the Fathers of Corpo Santo, his Excellency Sir Martin Gosselin, the British Minister and family, Mr. George O'Neill (a lineal descendant of the O'Neills of the North), Colonel and Mrs. Campbell (the daughter of the Count of Tarouca), and others. Punctually at the hour appointed his Majesty arrived in a carriage drawn by four white Arabian horses richly caparisoned, and preceded by two outriders on steeds of the same breed. He was accompanied by the Hon. Mr. Ponsonby, Sir Francis Laking, and the Count of Tarouca. On alighting from his carriage the British Minister presented the Fathers of Corpo Santo. The Sisters and children were drawn up in two lines at the great door, and saluted the King with the National Anthem, rendered most beautifully. Accompanied by the Sisters and Fathers, and preceded by two pretty children scattering flowers before him, his Majesty expressed a wish to visit

The Choir and Church

He then, escorted by the large company, ascended to the community room, where again the children sang effectively some few selections whilst the guests were taking their places on either side of the long hall. As the music ceased a pretty child robed all in white passed from the lower end of the hall, between both lines of people. Arriving at the throne on which his Majesty was seated, she made a courtesy and presented the King with a bouquet of flowers, saying: 'Will your Gracious Majesty kindly accept this fragile token of the undying gratitude and ardent zeal of your faithful subjects of Bom Successo.' The Prior of the Irish Dominicans then read the following address: 'May it please your Majesty,—I, on the part of the Fathers of Corpo Santo and the Sisters of Bom Successo, do most heartily thank your Majesty for the great honor you do us to-day by this visit. It is one of the many acts of personal kindness shown us by your Majesty, all of which are deeply engraven on our hearts. We take this occasion likewise to express our gratitude for the many acts of kindness shown us by your Majesty's representatives in this city. They have always been our most kind friends. Your Majesty will be, doubtless, pleased to know that we, your affectionate and faithful subjects, have ever been treated with marked kindness and courtesy by our dear Portuguese friends, most notably the Royal Family—Your Majesty's loyal subjects, the Fathers of Corpo Santo and the Sisters of Bom Successo.'

The King's Remarks

His Majesty rose from the throne and addressing the Prior, said: 'I thank you most warmly for the kind words you have just used. It is indeed a pleasure to me to come and see you, my subjects. I am delighted to

see that everything is in so flourishing a state.' His Majesty has been exceedingly kind to the Sisters and Fathers not only in Lisbon but also in Rome. He was a very kind friend to the Very Rev. Father Mullooly, O.P., who discovered the underground churches of St. Clement and had them excavated. His Majesty helped on the work with personal influence and aid. Later on, after the possession of Rome in 1870, when the Italian Government sought to seize the college and church, the Prince of Wales came to the rescue, and owing to his personal interference the college was exempted from seizure and treaty as British property. The British Ministers in Lisbon have always exerted themselves in defence of the two colleges in the many religious troubles that have taken place there these last fifty years. In the troubles of two years ago Sir Hugh MacDonell, then Minister in the Portuguese Court, staunchly defended the Fathers. Finally King Charles himself sent word that as long as he was on the throne the Fathers of Corpo Santo need entertain no fears. He will protect them. After the address had been presented the King partook of some light refreshment. A great friend of the Sisters, the Count of Bur-nay, very kindly offered them on the previous day a few bottles of port that, had it a tongue, might tell stories of the First Napoleon. His Majesty asked what wine that was, and was answered: 'Port, your Majesty, which was pressed when Wellington was at Busaco.' The King partook of some and remained chatting for a considerable time to those around him, all of whom were impressed by his affable manners. He made inquiries after the Sisters, told them of his voyage, how delighted he was with everything, and how well he felt in that glorious sunshine. And he took occasion to say to the Prioress how much he had wished to come, and that any doubt that was entertained was so because of the very many things he had to do and the short time at his disposal. Mr. Melville, the King's detective—a Kerry man, by the way—was asked by one of the Sisters to walk up to the reception room. 'Ah, no, Sister,' he answered; 'no necessity. No one will touch his Majesty here.' The Mother Prioress, on parting with the King, said: 'We are praying fervently for your Majesty.' 'Many, many thanks, Mother,' replied the King in a kindly tone. The visit was an affair of no slight practical importance. Scarcely a year has passed since strenuous measures were taken to suppress religious houses in Portugal and in Spain as well as in France. The British Government then, as may be remembered interested itself considerably for the welfare of both the Irish houses in Lisbon.

Many Comments

have been made on the King of England's action in visiting Bom Successo. 'A Protestant King has actually devoted a great part of a morning to visiting nuns and friars.' It's like the Emperor of Germany visiting and protecting the Benedictines.' Happily none but the best results may be expected. The comments made even by the most anti-clerical press have all been favorable. One of the leading Portuguese peers, speaking at the breakfast given by the King on board the royal yacht, to some of the English officers, said: 'That visit to the friars and nuns in Bom Successo has more importance than you think. It will have much to do in helping the good feeling now existing between the two countries, and will strengthen the alliance.' Noticing their look of surprise he added: 'What foreign education and influence have we in Lisbon? In great part it is French. Now, these two houses by their influence and education are the only ones that give us English education and exercise on us English influence. They do so much more than you think. It's your interest to protect them.'

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1st Bonus, £10, cash, goes to Convent of Mercy, Hokitika; 2nd, £5, Miss W. Simpson Jun., Arno; 3rd, £3, Miss Itzgerd, Waimihimi; 4th, £2, Mrs. W. Lockhart, Milton; 5th, £1, Miss A. Hewitson Jun., Milton; 6th, 10s, Miss McMurtrie, Milton; 7th, 10s, Miss G. Paulin, Orehio; 8th, 10s, Miss M. Hunter, Caversham; 9th, 10s, Mrs. Gunn, Chatto Creek; 10th, 5s, Miss Ida Mills, Dunback; 11th, 5s, Miss Myrtle Curtis, Westport; 12th, 5s, Miss M. Hay, Invercargill; 13th, 5s, Mr. A. Singer, Hokitika; 14th, 5s, Miss E. Shipman, Ralfour; 15th, 5s, Mr. Regie Harper, Poverty Bay; 16th, 5s, Mr. J. Feely, Timaru; 17th, 5s, Mrs. Johnstone, Nelson. The next distribution closes on the 30th November, and coupons must be sent in not later than 7th December. Remember the first three bonuses are £5 each, and the tea is the best and most economical in the world, retailed at 1s 6d, 1s 9d, and 2s per lb. Golden Tipped Kozie, a specially fine high grown tea, at 2s 6d, is superb. Notice change in the distribution of bonuses—So as to give all a good chance of securing a substantial cash bonus, we have decided to withdraw the first and second bonuses of £10 and £5 and to substitute three bonuses of £5 each to go to the consumers sending in coupons representing the three largest quantities of Kozie Tea. The other bonuses will remain unchanged. We have checked the coupons returned to Messrs W. Scouler and Co. for first Kozie Tea distribution of cash bonuses, and certify that the above is a correct list of the winners.—(Signed) Barr, Leary, and Co., Auditors, Dunedin, June 10th, 1903.—***