

one of my oldest and best friends in Onehunga, the Rev. Father Paul. For five and forty years his friendship towards me has never once been broken, and in my long political career as member for Onehunga and member for Manukau there has been no wavering in his support. Reverting now to the matter of education, I agree with Mr. Tole in deploring the separation of religious and secular education throughout the Colony. I do not disparage the present system; I mark the contrast. Under the old system parents had to pay school fees; now it is free, but I miss the services of the clergy of all denominations in promoting education. The present system falls particularly hard on the Catholic community, for they, being unable to surrender the religious education of their youth, do not participate in the £400,000 or £500,000 that education costs the Colony annually. No one can fail to admire the courage with which the Catholic body maintain the schools, but it is fair to exclude their schools from participating in the educational grant because they combine religious education with general education? We must all admire the courage and consistency of the Catholic body in maintaining their schools, but it must be a great drain on their resources, and I often fear that their clergy are the sufferers. I am glad to see this noble building completed, and I fervently wish it a glorious and prosperous career. I am glad my old friend Mr. Coolahan's name is associated with it. It does not seem a very long time to me, though it is over 40 years ago, since I met him before the days of railways and busses walking out to Onehunga to record his vote for me on that my first election. A vote was valuable in those times, as my victory over my two opponents was only won by a majority of one. I hope that in this school the genuine system of temperance will be inculcated, and that the model that will be set for the youth will be that of the great apostle of temperance in Ireland, Father Mathew. He did not confine his mission to Ireland alone, but he preached temperance throughout England and Scotland and the great Republic of the West, which is such a place of refuge for the Irish race. I am wandering somewhat from my text, but if you will bear with me for one moment while I tell you of the great hope I have for our race from the legislation that is now being enacted in the Imperial Parliament. I rejoice to think that landlords and tenants have at last come to terms under which tenants will become the owners of their holdings and the landlords are to be bought out. Although the Home Rule for which Mr. Gladstone so nobly struggled is laid aside temporarily, the settlement of the land troubles of Ireland will be a glad blessing to the people. To think that the horrible system of evictions is at an end must cheer every lover of his country, and that England instead of having a palsied arm dangling at her side would feel the vigor of a limb restored to life.

#### Rev. Father Brodie's Address.

Rev. Father Brodie, Waihi, said: As an ex-pupil of the Marist Brothers, the recollections and benefits derived from their care and training urge me to express my anxious desire for the success of the institution being opened to-day. Personally I might say that I owe it to the Marist Brothers and to their careful guidance that I have now the great honor of being a priest, for at a time when the fascinations of other professions presented themselves to allure me from the path of religious vocation, then it was that the kindly monition of Brother Basil gave me courage to follow that call by which I felt I was drawn to the priesthood. Auckland, and especially the Catholics of Auckland, have reason to be proud of this new college, the latest acquisition to the educational establishments of the city. The Brothers have long since proved their ability in the great work of education. Take, for example, the record of St. Joseph's College, Sydney. Year after year has this college occupied a foremost rank in the number of successful candidates in the Sydney University Examinations, and to the success must be added the subsequent history of the students of the college. The boys of St. Joseph's College are now to be found throughout the length and breadth of the Australian Commonwealth, occupying prominent positions in the various States, reflecting by their ability and their conduct the highest credit on their devoted teachers and their Alma Mater. What is the secret of this success of the Marist Brothers? The life of the Brothers unfolds the secret. They are men whose life's work is the education of youth. They have sacrificed worldly prospects to devote their lives to this great work, and such earnestness and sincerity cannot but be crowned with the greatest results. In undertaking this work the Brothers rely on the Catholics of Auckland for help and encouragement, and the gathering here to-day is a pleasing augury that the anticipations of the Brothers will be realised. To stimulate us let us recall the great triumph achieved by the Catholics of New South Wales. When Sir Henry Parkes withdrew the Government grant from the Catholic schools he boasted that he dealt a death-blow to Catholicity and religious vocations in New South Wales. Vain boast! The tongue that uttered it is long since silent, but Catholicity has continued to progress, and at the present day we see magnificent colleges and schools throughout the State carrying on the great work of Catholic education. Looking around us we find that our fellow-colonists differing from us in faith are now coming to agree with us as to the necessity of combining religious knowledge with secular learning. Their efforts to secure Bible-reading in the school show that they now see the great want in the present school system. Perhaps the time may come when the public of New Zealand will assist the Catholics of the Colony

in their determination to maintain their schools, where the children will be well grounded in their faith, and also fully equipped in secular knowledge. But whether we receive this government aid or not it will always be found that our holy faith, which prompts men and women to sacrifice their lives in the great work of Catholic education, will prompt Catholics to appreciate such sacrifice by unwavering patronage and generous support. I offer the Brothers to-day my hearty congratulations on the fine building they have erected and earnestly pray for a successful future for the college, and that the efforts of the Brothers may meet with that appreciation and encouragement they so richly deserve.

#### The Prayer.

The Bishop explained to those present that the building had been blessed early that morning, and asked all present to stand while he read the following prayer: O Lord Jesus Christ, Who has said to His disciples, "In whatever house you enter say, 'Peace be to this house,'" may Thy peace, we beseech Thee, come upon this house destined for the instruction of youth and upon all those dwelling therein; deign to free it from all infirmity, fill those teaching in it with the spirit of wisdom and knowledge and those learning in it with Thy grace, that what they safely learn they may understand with their intellect, retain in their hearts and follow out in work and in all things give glory to Thy name. On our entering this school deign, O Lord, to bless and sanctify it, and may Thy angel of light dwell within the walls of this house and guard those dwelling in it through Christ our Lord.—Amen.

His Lordship the Bishop proposed and the Hon. J. A. Tole seconded a vote of thanks to the Mayor for presiding. Mr. James Gleeson, an ex-pupil of the Marist Brothers, and not long over from Hunter's Hill College, Sydney, supported the resolution and eulogised the Mayor, and also referred to the presence of Sir Maurice O'Rorke, of whom all his countrymen and colonists were justly proud. He referred to the great benefits conferred by the Marist Order upon the youth of the Colony.

The motion was carried with loud acclamation.

The Mayor in responding said it gave him genuine pleasure to be present that day amongst his Catholic fellow-citizens, amongst whom were friends of his youth like the Hon. J. A. Tole. He resumed his seat amidst loud applause.

The collection resulted in the raising of £260, and at the laying of the foundation stone last November another £100 was subscribed.

Thus terminated one of the heartiest and most important gatherings of the Catholic community in Auckland. The committee entrusted with the carrying out of the arrangements were Messrs. Brophy, Treiston, Taylor, and Gormley (St. Benedict's), Nerheny, Diffin, Carty, and Sheahan (St. Patrick's), Flynn, O'Brien, Bryant, and Darby (Sacred Heart), Gleeson (2) and O'Sullivan (St. John's).

Mr. J. J. O'Brien was chairman of committee and Mr. M. J. Sheahan hon. secretary. To Rev. Bro. Basil Superior, a word of praise is due, because ever since the foundation stone was laid to the present he has labored incessantly.

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