

Death of Archdeacon Slattery, Geelong

Many of our readers on the West Coast and other parts of the Colony, who spent some years on the gold fields of Victoria, will hear with keen regret of the death of the Ven. Archdeacon Slattery, D.D., who passed away suddenly at St. Mary's presbytery, Geelong, on Sunday, June 21. An old friend, Mr. Charlton, was reading to the venerable priest when he suddenly fell into a swoon and expired before medical assistance arrived. The death of the Ven. Archdeacon Slattery (says the 'Geelong Advertiser') removes a notable figure and famous controversialist from the Catholic Church in Victoria. Some years ago there was no more prominent clergyman in Catholic circles in Victoria, and his denunciatory sermons on the Education Bill for secular education in the State school, and his more recent controversy with Bishop Moorhouse, then Bishop of Melbourne, on the question of prayers for rain, made him famous throughout Australia. The deceased celebrated his 73rd birthday last St. Patrick's Day (March 17th). He was born in Nenagh, Tipperary, and had a brilliant course at Maynooth College, where he was ordained as a priest. For some time he was stationed in the Cashel diocese in Tipperary, and afterwards went to England, where he was attached to the Catholic mission in London. Later he became chaplain to the Catholic forces at Aldershot. The number of priests in Victoria at that time was too small for requirements, and deceased, with other clergymen, responded to the appeal of Bishop Goold, the then Catholic Bishop of Melbourne, and came out to Victoria. For a part of a year he was stationed at St. Francis', and was then appointed to the Daylesford mission, where he was a zealous worker for nine years. The last 32 years of his life he spent at Geelong, and he loved the town and people with all the fervor of a warm Celtic heart. There were many turbulent spirits in Daylesford when the deceased entered upon his labors there, and frequently he had to play the part of a peacemaker—a work attended with considerable difficulty amongst foreigners. In his young days he was possessed of great strength, and was a fearless horseman. Physical infirmities have since left their impress only too plainly, and the attenuated figure of the deceased clergyman now calmly resting in death can hardly bring to mind the deceased as he was in all the vigor of his young manhood and great strength.

A Brilliant Theologian,

a great public speaker and thinker, and, above all, an Irishman—the Archdeacon was a decided acquisition to the Catholic Church in Victoria, and it was not long before his many varied scholarly attainments marked him out for distinction. Perhaps he will be best remembered for his scathing criticism of the Education Bill, introduced by Wilberforce Stephen, the then Minister of Education. He denounced the Bill in no unmeasured terms, and it was during this time that he used the phrase 'Free and flashing sword,' which will keep his memory ever green. Owing to advancing years, Bishop Goold did not possess the vitality to actively engage in controversial matters, and Archdeacon Slattery practically became the mouthpiece of his Church in Victoria. He was a fluent speaker and wielded a facile pen, and proved an able controversialist. He represented Archbishop Goold at the first Plenary Council in Sydney in 1885. Soon after Archbishop Carr arrived in Melbourne he made Archdeacon Slattery Vicar-General of the archdiocese. About three years ago bodily infirmities compelled him to retire from the active discharge of his sacred duties, and the Ven. Archpriest McKenna was appointed to the position. The deceased clergyman was

A Generous Benefactor to the Poor,

and no deserving case brought before him was allowed to pass unnoticed. The extent to which he drew on his purse to help others will never be known, as he made it a rule to do acts of charity unostentatiously. At one time he donated £500 each to the funds of St. Vincent's Hospital and the Little Sisters of the Poor, and he gave £500 to the Cathedral Building Fund. He could not hold money, and he has died leaving behind him very little indeed of this world's goods. The children were the object of his special care, and the late Archdeacon saw to it that the Catholic schools wanted nothing to render them thoroughly efficient. To a heart so large and generous the interests of the orphan were necessarily of much concern. The local orphanages for boys and girls were regularly visited, and nothing was left undone to render the lot of the fatherless as happy as circumstances allowed. The godless education system of Victoria found in the venerable priest an unrelenting opponent, and the claims of the Catholic body to a fair quota of the educational grant were set forth with a master hand in the columns of the 'Advocate' and of the Melbourne and Geelong daily papers. On taking charge of the Geelong mission the archdiocese found St. Mary's Church in an unfinished state, and he set to work to raise funds to complete it. He expended £7500 on the church, the cost of which to date is about £22,000.

The Obsequies.

The body was removed to St. Mary's, where it remained until Tuesday. Some 2000 people visited the church as a last tribute of respect to one whom in life they so loved and revered. Solemn Office and Requiem Mass were celebrated in St. Mary's on Tuesday morning. There was an overflowing congregation, including members of all denominations. His Grace the Archbishop

presided. The funeral procession was a long and representative one, and included the St. Augustine Orphanage boys, the members of the Hibernian Society, the Confraternity of the Holy Family, and the Catholic Young Men's Society. The burial service was read by Dean Hegarty. The remains were temporarily laid in a vault beneath the present mortuary chapel.

A well-attended meeting, representative of all denominations, was held later on in St. Mary's schoolroom, Geelong, to consider what should be done to perpetuate the memory of the late Archdeacon Slattery. Letters of sympathy were read from several Protestant friends, including the Revs. Canon Goodman, Henry Kelly, and J. Hunter Potter. It was decided that the memorial should take the form of a mortuary chapel in the Eastern Cemetery, the cost being estimated at £500, and £300 was subscribed in the room. All the speeches were characterised by great admiration for the deceased clergyman.—R.I.P.

Diocesan News

ARCHDIOCESE OF WELLINGTON.

(From our own correspondent.)

July 4.

The social in aid of the Sisters of Compassion takes place in the Drillshed next Wednesday evening. Minifie's orchestra has kindly given its services for the occasion, and for the concert part the services of well-known singers have been secured. Judging from the sale of tickets a crowded house is assured.

A meeting of parishioners was held at St. Patrick's Hall on Sunday afternoon last to hear the report of the trustees of the Cathedral Fund. His Grace the Archbishop occupied the chair. The retiring trustees were Messrs M. Kennedy and J. J. Devine, who were unanimously re-elected. The sum of £923 was collected last year for the Cathedral fund. The collections average annually from £1000 to £1100.

The re-union of the Te Aro Christian Doctrine Society, which was held at Spiller's Hall on Wednesday evening, proved a most enjoyable affair. The Rev. Father O'Shea, president of the Society, and Rev. Father Moloney were among those present. Several vocal items were given during the evening. The dance music was provided by Miss Casey and Mr. Rubick acted as M.C. Miss E. Crombie made an efficient secretary.

The formal opening of the new branch of the Hibernian Society at Newtown took place on Sunday morning last. The members, intending members, with visitors from the Wellington city branch, attended the 7.30 a.m. Mass wearing their regalia, and received Holy Communion. After Mass the party adjourned to the new schoolroom, where breakfast was served. The members of the society were again present at the 10 o'clock Mass, which was celebrated by Rev. Father Ainsworth, who spoke in regard to the objects of the Hibernian Society. In the afternoon the new members were enrolled by Bro. M. Bohan, of the Wellington branch, and the following officers elected: President, Bro. E. J. Fitzgibbon; vice-president, Bro. P. J. Guthrie; secretary, Bro. P. J. Sullivan; treasurer, Bro. P. Barry; warden, Bro. E. Rubick; guardian, Bro. A. Rubick; auditors, Bros. M. H. Fitzgibbon and F. Green; trustees, Bros. T. S. Philpott, J. Pearcey, and P. J. Guthrie; sick visitors, Bros. D. O'Meara and T. S. Philpott.

Waipawa

What was undoubtedly one of the greatest musical treats offered to the Waipawa public for some years (says the local 'Mail') took place on Sunday night, June 28, when St. Patrick's Church was crowded to hear the sacred concert given by the members of the church choir. The programme submitted was judiciously chosen and included many musical gems, which, owing to circumstances, are seldom heard in a small town. The manner in which they were given demonstrated the fact that the choir has attained a high degree of proficiency, that it contains much musical ability, and that a great deal of time and attention had been bestowed upon rehearsals. The first selection was 'Gloria' (Farmer's Mass), which the choir rendered with much expression and a good, full volume of sound. Miss Curren then contributed 'Charity' (Glover) with pleasing effect and was followed by Mr. J. A. Cosgrove, whose selection, 'Dream of Paradise,' with 'cello obligato,' was greatly appreciated. The 'Laudate,' with tenor solo and chorus, was given with sweetness and precision and was a most meritorious item. Miss Dalziel, who was heard for the first time here, created a most favorable impression by the manner in which she interpreted 'Man of Sorrows,' the effect of which was enhanced by the 'cello obligato.' Miss Boyle was successful with her item, 'Saviour of all,' which was given with expression. In the 'Kyrie' and 'Gloria' (Mozart's Twelfth Mass) the choir exhibited a keen perception of the niceties of light and shade. The voices were well balanced and modulated and the selection deserved and received hearty recognition. Miss Curren and Mr. J. A. Cosgrove were heard to advantage in Rossi's 'Tantum Ergo.' Mr. F. J. Shanly sang with nice discrimination and with much delicacy of expression. His item, 'Galilee,' with violin obligato, was