

diction. If any evidence of this spirit of faith and generosity were needed, it would be found in the institutions of religion, education, and charity, which abound throughout this young land. We are confident that his Holiness will be consoled and gratified when your Excellency, after having acquired a full knowledge of the condition of the Church in Australasia, will be able to assure him that "the Lord hath done great things for us," and that if the pioneer priests and people "sowed in tears, now we reap in joy."

"The majestic temple in which we are assembled—the Mother Church of Australasia—although still unfinished, is in itself an epitome of the history of the Church in this country. Undertaken by the first Archbishop of Sydney; greatly advanced by his scholarly successor; and brought to its present stage by the illustrious Prince of the Church whose remains it enshrines: we trust that its completion will be one of the memorable events in the celebration of which your Excellency will have the pleasure of participating. We need scarcely assure your Excellency that the Catholic people confided to our care are devoted to the Crown and Constitution under which they enjoy so large a measure of liberty and prosperity, and that generally harmonious relations exist between Church and State."

"In conclusion, we beg to congratulate your Excellency on your advancement to your present high and responsible position. The experience gained in other lands, and the marked appreciation of your lofty character and ability entertained by the Bishops of America as well as by the Holy See, strengthen our confidence that, with God's blessing, your sojourn among us will be crowned with the happiest results."

ADDRESS FROM THE CLERGY AND LAITY.

The following address from the clergy and laity of the archdiocese of Sydney was read by the Right Rev. Monsignor P. L. Coonan, P.P., V.G.:

"May it please your Excellency. The privilege of first approach to your presence falls to the lot of this diocese—the mother diocese of your jurisdiction—through the fortunate circumstances of your arrival in this southern land through our port. Now, in your official presence as Delegate of the Sovereign Pontiff, we experience a sense of religious reverence, combined with loving devotion, which are inspired by the "Faith of our Fathers" in Christ and His Vicar, an inheritance from the old lands, which is dearer to us than life itself. The charge "feed My lambs, feed My sheep," was confided to Peter by Him, to Whom, even as man, all power in heaven and on earth was given. From Peter this commission passed, according to the manifest intention of our Divine Lord, to Peter's successors throughout all generations, to Linus, Cletus, and Clement of the first century, and through the unbroken line of Popes down to the reigning Pontiff, Benedict XV. By Pius X. of holy memory this portion of the Catholic fold was erected into an Apostolic Delegation, and by him your Excellency was appointed as its first incumbent. Yours, therefore, it will be to safeguard among us the bonds of unity, both in faith and discipline. Yours it is to invest Australasia with that *etate* which emanates from the actual exercise of supreme ecclesiastical jurisdiction."

"A century ago the Catholic Church in Australasia consisted of a few thousand afflicted souls, without a single priest. Eighty years ago the first Bishop arrived in Sydney. His clergy were few, and his flock scattered. Churches and schools had to be built. There were no nuns. But now in the episcopate of the fourth Archbishop of Sydney, the faithful number over 205,000; the churches count 194; secular and regular clergy amount to 229; there are 218 religious Brothers, 1496 nuns, 3 seminaries, 33 colleges, 53 superior day schools, 209 primary schools, and 33 charitable institutions. These figures stand to the credit of the archdiocese of Sydney only, over and above which your Excellency's jurisdiction comprehends several Archbishopsrics, numerous Bishopsrics, over 1100 priests, 5500 nuns, 360 religious Brothers, and 863,000 Catholics."

"Finally, your Excellency will permit us to congratulate you upon having been chosen and sent by

the Chair of Peter as our first Apostolic Delegate. 'Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord, to direct our feet in the way of peace.' We pray that your term of office may be fruitful for religion and enjoyable to yourself. The choice of a residence is, of course, reserved to the Holy See; but wherever in the future your official residence may be located, we, your devoted children, the clergy and laity of Sydney, shall rejoice in having had the providential privilege of being the first diocese within your jurisdiction to lay our greetings at your feet."

HIS EXCELLENCY REPLIES.

His Excellency, in replying to the address, said: Allow me, in the first place, to congratulate you on the recognition and high honor which you have received from the Holy See, through the erection of the Apostolic Delegation for Australasia. The fact that you have now a personal representative of the Holy Father among you is at once a great dignity and a recognition of the marvellous work accomplished by you under the Southern Cross.

When the great Pontiff Leo XIII., nearly twenty years ago, established the Apostolic Delegation for the United States of America, he said: "I am going to treat America as the greatest monarchies and empires have been treated; I am going to send there a permanent Apostolic Delegate; the wonderful development of the Catholic Church there requires it; the episcopate, clergy, and people deserve it." The saintly Pontiff Pius X. used nearly the same words when he issued a decree last year by which the Apostolic Delegation was erected for Australia, New Zealand, and Tasmania. You know better than I how much he loved this distant portion of his flock. When I had the consolation of kneeling at his feet—just a month before he departed this life—I heard from his lips most affectionate words in your regard: "My dear children of Australasia," he said, "are furthest from Rome, but nearest to my heart." You have now a lasting pledge of his affection in the erection of the Apostolic Delegation."

Benedict XV., gloriously reigning, succeeded Pope Pius X. on the Throne of Peter, and I can assure you that his interest in and his affection for you are not less than that of his predecessors. At his feet I learned how much he has at heart this new foundation, and what great fruit he expects from it. If, however, I must congratulate you on the great honor you have received from the Holy See, I cannot congratulate you on this election of the first occupant of the Apostolic Delegation. I can assure you sincerely, that anybody else who would have been selected for this high office would have been better qualified than your humble servant. However, I had to obey, when I was sent to be your first Apostolic Delegate."

The cordial welcome I received on my arrival, and the magnificent reception to-day, have banished all feelings of fear and anxiety, and have made me feel quite at home. I have been present at many receptions of the kind in various countries, but I can state with truth that none has surpassed this one.

Appreciation of Welcome.

It is to me a great consolation and a great honor to be surrounded on my arrival by so many of the Archbishops and Bishops of Australasia, and in addition by so many of the distinguished clergy and laity of this fair land. It is impossible for me to express as I would wish my sentiments of gratitude to his Grace the Archbishop of Sydney, and to the venerable Archbishop of Melbourne, and to all the other Archbishops and Bishops. Nor can I fully express my deep appreciation of the welcome extended to me by the civil authorities. I could not have expected from them a treatment more gracious or more expressive of the good feelings which I trust will always characterise our relationships. I wish to thank in particular the hierarchy for the kindly and inspiring sentiments expressed in their address. For long years, my Lord Archbishops and Bishops, I have known of your labors and of the qualities of mind and heart that you brought to your work, as well as of your loyalty and devotion to the