

Holy See. I have an eloquent testimony of these virtues in the hearty manifestation of sympathy and respect to-day. The Irish missionary spirit has been, in all countries speaking the English tongue, the great factor in building up and extending the Church of God. And that this country is no exception to the rule is proved by the many flourishing institutions of religion, education, and charity which abound throughout the land.

Loyalty of Catholics.

And among such institutions, this majestic temple well deserves the special mention you have made of it. It has grown out of the soil on which the first Catholic church in Australasia rested, and it will remain *monumentum aere perennius* of the faith and generosity of the Catholic people. It would be a great pleasure for me to participate in the celebrations which are to mark its final completion. I am not surprised to hear that the Catholics under your care are devoted to the Crown and Constitution. Catholics in every country have ever been loyal to lawfully-constituted authority, and when they enjoy so large a measure of liberty and prosperity as in this country, as mentioned by you, the State cannot but expect from them their cordial co-operation. Finally, I desire to thank you for the kind expressions directed to me personally, and which I feel deeply and appreciate fully. Permit me now to thank the clergy and laity of the archdiocese of Sydney for the words of welcome addressed to me by the Vicar-General, Monsignor Connan. I am very happy to be now one of your fellow-citizens, and I look forward to the enjoyment of the many charms of your city and surroundings. I am very pleased to hear of the great number of Catholic institutions in this archdiocese, the Mother Church of Australia. It speaks very highly of the zeal of the Archbishops and clergy, as well as of the generosity and piety of its people.

The Holy Father's Message.

This royal reception is directed, not to me personally, but to him whom I have the honor to represent among you, to our beloved Pontiff, Benedict XV. In his name I thank you all. When he learns that you have honored his representative so highly, he will rejoice in the midst of his many sorrows. My Lord Archbishops and Bishops, a new page begins to-day in the annals of the Church in Australasia. May it be but a continuation of the glorious pages already inscribed by you and your predecessors, and particularly by his Eminence the late Cardinal Moran. May God bless you all, this country, and its people. This is the message I bring to you from our Holy Father, Benedict XV.

After the conclusion of the ceremony the procession of prelates left the sanctuary, and passed down the aisle, his Excellency blessing the kneeling congregation, the choir singing the 'Hallelujah Chorus.'

CATHOLIC MEN'S CLUB, HOKITIKA

(From the club correspondent.)

February 23.

On Tuesday evening, February 16, the opening of St. Mary's Clubrooms took place. A very large number of people were present, and all congratulated the secretary (Mr. L. Dwan) and members of the club on the effective improvements that had been made. The entertainment opened with a euchre tournament, for which four valuable prizes were donated by Mrs. W. Jeffries. The winners of the ladies' prizes were Messdames W. Patrick and McCloud, and of the gentlemen's Messrs. Duncroft and Wild. Musical and elocutionary items were given by Mrs. Richardson, Misses Harvey, and Messrs. Stopforth and Dudderidge (of Christchurch). Donations to defray expenses incurred by the club in the improvements of the rooms were received from Messrs. J. Sullivan (£3 3s) and J. Downey (£1 1s), and were gratefully acknowledged.

CATHOLIC FEDERATION

REPORT OF THE DOMINION EXECUTIVE.

The half-yearly meeting of the Dominion Council of the N.Z. Catholic Federation took place at the Federation offices, Wellington, on Wednesday, February 24. The session was attended by representatives from each of the Diocesan Councils, and was continued until a late hour in the evening. A full report of the proceedings will appear in our next issue. The half-yearly report of the Dominion Executive, which was adopted by the Council, was as follows:—

During the past six months twelve meetings have been held and the operations of the Executive have been attended with considerable success. The Rev. Father O'Connell, having ascertained that the rules contained no provision for the appointment of a chaplain to the executive, could not see his way to accept the position which he was asked to fill, as mentioned in the last report. However, due notice of motion has been given for the amendment of the rules in this direction, and the executive trusts shortly to have the benefit of the services and advice of a Rev. Father in this capacity.

The success of the enormous meeting of protest against the proposals contained in the Bible in State Schools Referendum Bill, which was held in the great Town Hall on the evening prior to the council's last meeting, will long be remembered by all who were privileged to be present. The attendance was so great that long prior to the time for commencing every seat was occupied and hundreds were unable to gain admittance. The attendance included delegates from every parish in the Wellington archdiocese, and representatives from all parts of the Dominion from Auckland to Invercargill. The executive tenders its grateful thanks to all who assisted, especially to the speakers whose efforts aroused so great an enthusiasm, and to Mr. Isidor Mount, who played the grand organ during the waiting period.

During the period under review the most important work has necessarily been the provision of a properly organised opposition within Parliament, and throughout the Dominion to the proposals of the Bible-in-Schools League to force upon Parliament a Bill of a most unjust and iniquitous nature so far as the Catholic Church is concerned. Your executive was singularly fortunate in having at the head of this movement his Lordship Dr. Cleary, Bishop of Auckland, of whose literary and forensic efforts it would be difficult to speak in too high terms. Owing to his magnificent work as a writer your executive has been enabled to circulate very many thousands of pamphlets, leaflets, etc., which have been eagerly sought for, not only by Catholics, but by those outside our communion who are opposed to tyranny and injustice. The favorable results of the efforts of the Federation under its distinguished leader is a matter of universal knowledge, and Catholics throughout the Dominion are to be congratulated thereon.

As will be readily understood, this happy result was not achieved without a very large amount of work, the details of which are not apparent on the surface. As the Parliamentary reporter of the *N.Z. Tablet*, the organiser had the press privileges of the Houses of Parliament, and was thereby enabled to come into close personal contact with members of both branches of the Legislature, and to explain the position taken up by your Federation more fully than could have been done by lengthy correspondence. Such necessary operations required your Executive to postpone the further organising visits of the secretary to the districts of Canterbury, Westland, Nelson, Marlborough, and elsewhere until a later date. This is greatly regretted, but under the existing urgent circumstances it was unavoidable.

As showing the earnestness and vigor of the clergy and laity alike in this matter, it may be mentioned that it was decided to present a further local petition to the House praying that the alleged petition of the Bible-in-Schools League, said to have been signed by 140,000