

DEATH OF BISHOP GRIMES

END OF A ZEALOUS AND FRUITFUL LIFE

SINCERELY REGRETTED BY ALL CLASSES.

On Monday a cable message from Sydney brought the sad news of the death of the Right Rev. Dr. Grimes, S.M., first Bishop of Christchurch, who passed away in the 73rd year of his age. It is unnecessary to say that the news of the demise of the popular and zealous prelate was received with the most sincere sorrow, not alone by the clergy and laity of Christchurch, but also by the Catholics of the whole Dominion, and even by people of other denominations to whom he was personally known. The deceased prelate, who had been ill for some time, left for Sydney on the 4th inst., accompanied by the Very Rev. Chancellor Price, and a cable message was received on their arrival, stating that his Lordship had kept well during the voyage, and consequently hopes were entertained that the change would prove beneficial to him. It appears that on his arrival in Sydney he entered the Lewisham Hospital, conducted by the Nursing Sisters of the Little Company of Mary, to undergo an operation for appendicitis, where he passed away on Monday afternoon.

His Last Public Appearance.

The last public appearance of Bishop Grimes (says the Christchurch correspondent of the *Otago Daily Times*) was at the laying of the foundation stone of the additions to the Lewisham Hospital by the Governor, when, in spite of great weakness, he made a brave speech, commending the work of the Sisters, of whom he had just before been a patient, and making a strong appeal to the generosity of the public to help them to extend their work and build a free ward. He also preached at the Cathedral. A few days later he left for Sydney in the care of the Rev. Mother of Lewisham and a nursing Sister to become an inmate of the Lewisham Hospital there. It was hoped that rest, care, and nursing might prolong his life, though only a weak physical thread remained to hold the strong intellect, which was still quite unimpaired. Many of those who heard the Bishop at the Lewisham ceremony felt that they were hearing him for the last time, and this proved to be the case. The late Bishop's greatest individual work was the erection of the fine Catholic Cathedral here. This was the one object for which he spent himself without ceasing, and he personally collected many thousands of pounds for the building fund. He always identified himself with the interests of Christchurch, the whole of Canterbury and Westland, especially in educational, philanthropic, and patriotic matters, doing good work as a member of the University Senate and in such other capacities as his health would allow. He never refused to take a citizen's part in what appertained to the public welfare, and on several occasions, notably on the departure of the Third Contingent, he delivered patriotic speeches which rose to the standard of genuine oratory. He was universally esteemed, and his death is a matter for widespread regret.

His Life and Work.

Bishop Grimes was born in Bromley-by-Bow, in the archdiocese of Westminster, London, in 1842, ordained priest in Dublin by Archbishop Whelan of Bombay, and was for a time professor in the well-known Marist College, of Dundalk (Ireland). In 1874 he became professor in the Marist College of Jefferson (Louisiana, United States), and after seven years became rector of that institute of learning. While assist-

ing the over-wrought clergy of New Orleans during a fierce epidemic of the dreaded yellow fever, he contracted the deadly malady, but happily recovered. He was afterwards appointed by his superiors to the charge of the novitiate and pastorate of Paignton (South Devon, England), and erected there the first Catholic church that was built in the district since the Reformation. On the petition of the Bishops of the Sydney Plenary Synod of 1885 the diocese of Christchurch was erected by Papal Brief bearing date May 10, 1887. Dr. Grimes was appointed its first Bishop. He was the first Bishop consecrated by the late Cardinal (then Bishop) Vaughan. The ceremony took place in St. Anne's Church, Spitalfields, London, on July 26, 1887. On his arrival in Christchurch he was made the object of a remarkable demonstration of good-will by his people. Three years later broken health compelled a long voyage. During his absence he had the happiness of taking part in the celebrations connected with the beatification of that bright young star of the Marist Congregation, the Blessed Peter Chanel, the proto-martyr of Oceania. After his return he, in company with Archbishop Redwood, set out on a cruise of work through the principal Marist missions in the South Pacific. He also officiated in his episcopal capacity throughout the diocese of Dunedin during the interregnum that ensued between the death of the Right Rev. Dr. Moran in May, 1895, and the appointment of the deceased prelate's successor, the Right Rev. Dr. Verdon, in the following year. As a preacher he had the gifts of earnestness and verve, and in the arena of apologetics his discourses stamped him as an able controversialist and a gifted student and ready writer on theology and ecclesiastical and national history.

For years after his arrival in Christchurch his Lordship had kept steadily in view the building of a suitable cathedral. Owing, however, to many pressing needs in connection with church and school extension the matter had to be left in abeyance, even after the accommodation of the old wooden Pro-Cathedral had become totally inadequate for the congregation. When nearly every parish in the diocese had been provided with schools, his Lordship felt the time was ripe for the realisation of his long-deferred project. A substantial donation from the Very Rev. Dean Foley formed the nucleus of a Cathedral fund. In 1898, during his visit to the Eternal City, Pope Leo XIII. blessed and encouraged the work, and contributed towards it. Whilst on a tour of the Continent, the United Kingdom, and the United States, his Lordship collected for the building fund of the Cathedral the sum of £3000. To this he added, on his return, his own handsome gift of £1000. On Sunday, February 10, 1901, the foundation stone was laid by the Most Rev. Dr. Carr, Archbishop of Melbourne, in the presence of a vast concourse of prelates, clergy, and people. The ceremonies of blessing and dedication took place just four years later—on February 11, 1905.

An Appreciation.

In June, 1912, Bishop Grimes celebrated the silver jubilee of his consecration. The *Lyttelton Times*, a few months prior to that event, took the opportunity to congratulate his Lordship on the success of his efforts since he came to Christchurch. During that time