

knew that if the large sum of money required were to be obtained it must come through him and in answer to his direct and personal appeal. So he set to work to visit every part under his jurisdiction, even to have, if possible, a personal interview with every Catholic in the diocese and beg for the Cathedral. He wrote innumerable letters. The work of collecting money is, as everyone knows, a distasteful one. It brings plenty of mortifications and rebuffs, and God alone knows how many humiliations the late Bishop had to go through. But he had the courage of his cause, and he was determined that the erection of a Cathedral should be a public profession of faith on the part of his people. There are some people who would like to identify religion exclusively with the corporal works of mercy, and who think that money spent upon a magnificent Cathedral is a waste and would be far better spent upon charitable or educational institutions. With these up to a certain point the Bishop agreed, but there he parted company. By all means raise money for these other institutions, but do not neglect the House of God. The service of man is most necessary, but it must not be looked upon as an all-sufficient substitute for the service of God. His Cathedral was to be a centre of the public worship of God, and to his mind could in no way interfere with the progress of other necessary institutions of education and charity. As events have proved, it has not done so in the Christchurch diocese. Nowhere have you finer parochial churches, convent schools, and charitable institutions.

A Wonderful Achievement.

The work of collecting for the Cathedral occupied most of the middle period of his Lordship's episcopate, and he had the happiness of completing the beautiful building in which we are assembled, and seeing it solemnly opened for public worship just ten years ago. He was surrounded on that memorable occasion by distinguished prelates from Australia and New Zealand, and he received many well-deserved congratulations from all quarters, and the then Governor and Prime Minister of the Dominion were present in person at the opening. It is true a large debt still remained on the building, but the Bishop, with his usual energy and success, almost entirely wiped it out before his death, and now a sum of less than £5000 remains to be paid. From whatever way you look at it this was a wonderful achievement. For one Bishop to begin and complete such a magnificent Cathedral during his lifetime was indeed a great thing, but he had done more, he had during his episcopate practically raised all the money required for the building. No wonder, then, that this Cathedral will always be looked upon as the best monument to the first Bishop of this See.

Other Works.

I shall not detain you, but will merely enumerate the various other works that he was instrumental in establishing in the diocese during his episcopate of a little over a quarter of a century. Several new religious Orders were introduced; the number of priests and churches were greatly increased. Many of the older churches have been replaced by beautiful and substantial modern buildings. The Marist Brothers were introduced under his rule. A new college for boys (conducted by the Marist Fathers) was opened. The splendid Magdalene Asylum was greatly extended, and an orphanage built in connection with it, as well as a very fine chapel. The educational establishments of the Sisters of the Mission, Sisters of Mercy, Sisters of the Sacred Heart, and of St. Joseph were multiplied and improved. Then we had the establishment of the Sisters of Nazareth, which is doing such good work for the old people and for the orphans in Sydenham. Last, but not least, we have the Nursing Sisters of the Little Company of Mary, who began last year at the small hospital at Lewisham, for whom the late Bishop performed his last public function, and who nursed and cared for him so tenderly and devotedly during the last weeks of his life. To-day, my dear brethren, he leaves the diocese, that he saw grow from infancy, one of the best organised and equipped in Australasia.

Now, my brethren, the Bishop, who under God accomplished all this, must have been no ordinary man. I know that in all his undertakings he had the loyal co-operation of his priests and people, without which very little can be accomplished by any Bishop. But, as in an army, more depends upon the qualities and ability of the general than upon anything else, so it is in the great army of God, in which the bishops of His Church are the generals. And Dr. Grimes was no ordinary man. He was endowed with gifts of heart and head above his fellows. He had a charming manner and personality that made him friends everywhere, not only amongst his own people, but amongst people of all classes and creeds. He was a very able administrator. He was very thorough in all that he undertook, and, as he was a man of tireless energy, there was little that escaped his attention. He was a man of wide sympathies. He took an active, practical interest in everything that concerned the welfare of this young country, that he loved so well. He was especially proud of his own city of Christchurch, and was never tired of showing his visitors around it, and pointing out to them its many features of interest and beauty. Nothing that concerned his people's welfare was too trivial or beneath his attention. He was always thinking of them and working for them. Busy as he was and occupied with a multiplicity of duties, he always found time to devote to the duties of hospitality, and indeed he was an ideal host, as many visitors to this fair city can testify.

The Secret of His Success.

Now, what was it that rendered the late Bishop's career so remarkable and so successful? It was nothing else than his zeal for God's glory. Herein we have the reason why he worked so hard for the salvation of souls, and why he labored so strenuously to build this grand Cathedral, and to raise up all those institutions of education and charity for the benefit of his fellow-creatures. All these things contributed to God's glory. He saw in his fellow-men the image of the Creator, and in laboring for them he labored for God. No merely humanitarian motive can make men persistently work for their fellows. No, it must be supernatural. Poor human nature is so weak, it is often so repulsive and so ungrateful if left to itself that only there are higher motives, many a good man would soon be discouraged and give up working for his fellow-men. It was these higher motives that prompted Bishop Grimes in all that he did. Like the Apostles, he wished to make himself all to all, that he might gain all for Christ. It was his delight to have all the ceremonies of Holy Church carried out with as much splendor and magnificence as possible, not because he loved show, but because he rightly believed that nothing can be too grand in the public worship of the Creator. He was a man of prayer and union with God, and therein he found strength and consolation in all his difficulties. For, great and exalted as is the position of a bishop in the Church, great, also, are his responsibilities. He has so much to answer for, such difficult paths to tread, and often alone. Bishop Grimes cherished a tender devotion to our Blessed Lady. *Eccce Mater tua*, the words contained in the motto on his coat of arms, meant a reality for him, and in the constant devotion to Mary the Mother of the priest, he was a true son of the Order to which he belonged.

It has pleased God to call him out of this world at the moment when our Empire is passing through what is perhaps the great crisis in its history, when we need our best and strongest men. The loss of such a prelate in these circumstances is therefore the more deplorable. But welcome be the holy will of God. He has left a rich heritage behind him—a heritage of example that should inspire us all to work more strenuously for God and country and our fellow-men.

Our Consolation.

Though our hearts are sad to-day, we are not as people who have no hope. For it is our consolation as Christians to be able to look forward with confidence to that glorious immortality of which the Apostle