

HIS GRACE ARCHBISHOP REDWOOD

EXPECTS TO ARRIVE IN NEW ZEALAND
NEXT MONTH.

THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA.

The following interesting letter, addressed to the editor of this paper by his Grace Archbishop Redwood, has just come to hand:—

Marist College, Washington, D.C.,

April 16, 1915.

To avoid the dangerous war zone, I came to New York, some days ago, direct from Genoa, *via* Naples, on board the fine Italian liner, *Duca d' Aosta*. I am on my way, by easy stages, to San Francisco, where I intend to embark on the *Willochra* for New Zealand on the 26th of May, and I shall arrive, please God, at Wellington on the 17th of June. I reached Washington the day before yesterday, and had the good fortune to drop into what interested me exceedingly—the solemn celebration of the 25th year after the foundation of the Catholic University of America. I feel sure that an early and brief account of the whole proceedings will interest your readers and all friends of Catholic education.

With the active participation of three American Cardinals, of Baltimore, New York, and Boston, and the large attendance of Catholic hierarchy, distinguished by a long, cordial letter from Pope Benedict XV., and encouraged by representatives of sixty of the leading universities and colleges of the United States, the Catholic University of America observed, on Thursday, 15th of April, the twenty-fifth anniversary of its opening. Twelve laymen, who have rendered distinguished services for the advancement of society and the benediction of their fellow men in various callings, received honorary degrees as follows:—The degree of Doctor of Laws was granted to nine gentlemen, and the doctorate in Letters to three others. The principal events of the day were Solemn Pontifical Mass of thanksgiving, in St. Patrick's Church at 9 a.m.; luncheon to invited guests at 1 p.m. in the New Willard Hotel, academic exercises at 3 p.m. in the New National Theatre, and the alumni banquet at night in the New Willard. The master of ceremonies for the entire celebration was Dr. Thomas Carrigan, of Worcester, Mass., dean of the University Law School.

Cardinal Gibbons of Baltimore, Cardinal Farley of New York, and Cardinal O'Connell of Boston, Most Rev. John Bouzano (the Papal Delegate) nine Archbishops, thirty Bishops, thirty-one Monsignors, eight heads of religious Orders, more than 300 priests, and hundreds of distinguished Catholic laymen and women from all over the United States, assisted at the service in St. Patrick's. The academic procession marched from Carroll Hall around the corner into St. Patrick's Church, marshalled by Very Rev. George A. Dougherty, vice-rector of the University, and Professor James A. Connor, of Northampton, Mass., instructor in mathematics. The sanctuary was tastefully and lavishly decorated, with the Papal colors and those of the University.

Cardinal Farley was celebrant. The singing of the choir was appropriate and excellent. After the Gospel Cardinal Gibbons spoke from the pulpit in part as follows:—

'For the growth of the University we are indebted above all to the God of Wisdom for Whose glory the work was begun. To the great Pontiffs, Leo XIII. and Pius X., and to their successor, Pope Benedict XV., we make public acknowledgment of our gratitude. To the Catholics of the United States we return our thanks for their generous support.

'The experience of these twenty-five years emphasises the needs which the University aims to supply—the need of Divine truth to complete our human knowledge, of Divine justice as the highest sanction of law, of the spirit of Christ in our ministrations of mercy and love. There is no real liberty without law, and there is no meaning of validity of law unless it be

observed. The growth of democracy does not imply that each man shall become a law unto himself, but that he shall feel in himself the obligation to obey. If the enacting power has been transferred from the will of the ruler to the will of the people the binding coercive power has been laid with greater stress of responsibility than ever before upon the individual conscience. Unless men be taught that obedience is right and honorable and necessary alike for private interest and public weal, legislation will avail but little, the law-making power will become a mockery and the people themselves will complain that legislation has been carried to excess. But conscience has need of a higher sanction than any merely human sense of justice. To meet the requirements of our religious, social, and political situation is a duty that we owe to the Church and to our country. To fulfil it, we must combine our efforts, and I rejoice that in the Catholic University a centre of thought and action has been provided.'

Following the luncheon, at which 641 guests were seated, the academic procession proceeded to the New National Theatre. The invocation or prayer was pronounced by Cardinal Gibbons, and Bishop Shahan, Rector of the Catholic University, made introductory remarks. A letter of benediction from Pope Benedict XV. was read. Then Cardinal O'Connell spoke on the office and responsibility of the University in American life, saying in part:—

'We stand to-day at the beginning of a new era in the history of higher Catholic education in America. We rejoice in the goodly heritage of these twenty-five years; but we also look with much solemn thought to the future.

'The University is, first of all, a home of culture. It trains men of learning, of noble ideals and high standards, and through them it determines the culture of the nation. But it also trains the leaders, explaining the functions of the State, the rights and duties of citizenship; the vital problems of society, its ills and their remedies. In the school of pedagogy it provides the future educators with ideals, with the principles and the methods to be applied to the nation's schools. In the classes of philosophy it imparts fundamental notions regarding the nature and the destiny of man and the relation of human institutions to both. The University must be practical. The worth of every university is measured by the closeness of its contact with the body politic and by the success with which it meets the nation's needs. It must be conservative, revering and transmitting the heritage of the past; but it must also be progressive, dealing prudently with new needs and problems. We Catholics are deeply interested in university education because, as loyal American citizens, we have at heart whatever is of vital concern to the Church and the nation. The existence of this Catholic University is an evidence quite as much of our interest in our country as of our interest in our Church. Both Catholic and American, the University will gain force through its service to the country, while its Catholicity will keep it in constant and unerring touch with that tremendous spiritual world power which has maintained the whole truth in all ages—the Chair of Blessed Peter.'

Mr. Stanley Hall, President of Clark University, Worcester, Mass., in speaking as representative of the Association of American Universities, gave high praise to the Catholic Church as being the faithful mother of universities. He said in part:—

'The medieval universities were not *fiat* institutions, created by Church, State, or millionaires, but they grew inevitably out of the inmost needs of the time, and the bulls and edicts usually confirmed a status already attained. Their close relations to the Church gave to learning a consecration that it never had in antiquity, and which it may never have again. The subject matter has, of course, changed much with the times, but nearly every feature of student life, method of teaching and learning, item of organisation, academic custom, and even costume, was already developed in the thirty-five universities established in Europe before the discovery of America. They and their work and it'