

BISHOP BRINDLE, D.S.O.

It has been officially announced that the Right Rev. Dr. Robert Brindle, D.S.O., who has been Bishop of Nottingham since 1901, has taken steps to effect his resignation (says the *Universe*). Dr. Brindle is seventy-eight years of age, and his advanced years and dictates of health are the cause of his wish to be relieved of his responsibilities.

Since his ordination at the English College, Lisbon, in 1862, the aged prelate's experience in war service is unique in the annals of Army chaplains. After serving in the diocese of Plymouth, he commenced his military work in 1874, and from 1876 to 1881 was in Nova Scotia. A year later he accompanied Lord (then General) Kitchener's Sudan Expedition, and was present at the two engagements of Kasassin, at the battles of El-Teb and Tamai in 1884, and under fire during the campaigns of Suakin, the Nile, and Ginnéas. He marched with the Royal Irish Regiment across the Bayuda Desert to Metemneh, and was an eye-witness of the action of 1886, which for the time being broke the Dervish power in the neighborhood of Wady Halfa and drove them back to Dongola. During the Nile campaign Father Brindle, as he then was, pulled stroke in the boat of the Royal Irish that gained Lord Wolseley's award of £100 for the quickest time from Wady Halfa to Korti. At the conclusion of this campaign he was again in Aldershot and Colchester, where for many years he acted as spiritual director to the Catholic troops. In 1896 he again joined Lord Kitchener in the Sudan, and served through the Dongola Expedition. A terrible time was experienced during the long wait of that year at Sarras with cholera and the terrific heat, but Dr. Brindle kept up the spirits of the men with his inexhaustible energy and good humor, and was in fact the most popular man in the camp. During the campaign under notice the Sirdar gave Dr. Brindle the command of a gunboat carrying a detachment of the South Staffordshire Regiment.

His services in this expedition secured him the decoration of the Third Medjidie, and for his conduct on the field at Athara in 1898 he was made a Companion of the Distinguished Service Order, the first Army chaplain to obtain the distinction. Twice promoted for courage and coolness under fire, he is also the first Catholic chaplain to receive a pension for distinguished and meritorious service. For the 1882 campaign he also received the British war medal for Egypt with three clasps, and the Khedival Bronze Star, and for the later war was awarded the Egyptian war medal with three clasps, i.e., Halfa, Athara, and Khartoum.

He finally severed his connection with the Army in 1899, and on March 12 of that year was consecrated by Cardinal Satolli in Rome as Bishop of Hermopolis, and acted as an auxiliary Bishop to the late Cardinal Vaughan.

He was appointed to the See of Nottingham on the resignation of the late Archbishop Bagshawe on December 6, 1901, being solemnly enthroned in the Cathedral on January 2, 1902.

An interesting event took place in 1906, when he received Queen Victoria Eugenie of Spain into the fold, for which he was awarded the Order and Cross of Isabel the Catholic by the King of Spain. He received the congratulations of the late Pope on attaining the golden jubilee of his priesthood on December 27, 1912, and on January 15, 1913, was publicly presented with a series of addresses and a cheque for £1350 subscribed by the faithful of the diocese on the same happy event.

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Intercolonial

The total funds subscribed in Victoria for the war amount to £850,000. This is the estimate made by the Lord Mayor (Sir David Hennessy).

Mr. Denis Downes, who was farewelled the other day by the staff of Messrs. Beale and Co., at Newcastle, is one of a family of nine (says the *Freeman's Journal*) who have all joined the religious life. Mr. Downes is now following their glorious example.

The Very Rev. M. J. O'Reilly, late of St. Stanislaus' College, who recently left to take up the presidency of the Vincentian College, Dublin (says the *Freeman's Journal*), has cabled his acceptance of the position of Rector of St. John's College, within the Sydney University, rendered vacant by the death of Monsignor O'Brien.

On Sunday, May 30, the Right Rev. Mgr. Beechiner, of Launceston, celebrated the 52nd anniversary of his ordination as a priest, and received many tokens of the love and esteem of his own people and of the good wishes of all sections of the community. The golden jubilee of Ven. Archpriest Hennebry was celebrated in Hobart on June 16.

The Rev. Patrick White, P.S.M., who has been appointed rector of the Church of San Silvestro in Rome, was for many years well and favorably known in Western Australia as a member of the Pious Society of Missions, who devoted himself to missionary work among the aboriginals of the North-West, and was subsequently appointed pastor of the Bayswater-Maylands parish. He left Maylands nearly six years ago and proceeded to Rome.

When Rev. Father Wientjes arrived here some months ago (says the *Brisbane Age*) he was on his way to the land of his birth. Owing to the situation in Europe he postponed his trip, and acted as *locum tenens* for Father Breen, of Kangaroo Point, whose health had broken down. Whilst there, Father Wientjes had endeared himself to the parishioners, and had done much to help on the Hibernian Society. The members of the local branch recognised his efforts, and tendered him a farewell social, at which the district officers attended. Several speakers referred in very eulogistic terms to Father Wientjes' work in the district, and the branch members presented him with a gold cross. A few evenings later the parishioners farewelled Father Wientjes at a meeting which was presided over by his Grace Archbishop Duhig. Father Wientjes was highly praised for his zeal by many speakers, and especially by Archbishop Duhig, and wished a pleasant voyage to the Netherlands.

Speaking of those at the front who would be grateful for our prayers (writes the Sale correspondent of the *Melbourne Advertiser*), the Bishop on June 6 mentioned a letter he had received from a distinguished convert whom he had prepared for reception into the Church a few years ago. That convert, Colonel Legge, is now on his way to the Dardanelles to take supreme command of the Australian troops. The letter was in part as follows:—'I am to be food for powder again, after fearing I should be out of it, and so am just writing you a line because you were the cause of my being received into the Catholic Church, in which I hope to die. It is only through this that one really feels it does not matter when death comes. There are many Catholics on the ship, but no priest, so we had devotions together to-day (Sunday), read the Epistle and Gospel, and said the Rosary and Litany. I am going to get some hymns typed, so that we may have singing, too. My departure was very hurried—only 28 hours' notice—but I was only too glad to start at once. Lots of us must give our lives before the work is finished, and I know that you will spare a prayer for your devoted son in the Church.'

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