

PRESENTATIONS

RIGHT REV. MGR. WALSH, WESTPORT.

A great gathering of the parishioners of the district assembled a few evenings ago in the Victoria Theatre for the purpose of suitably expressing their pleasure at the honor lately conferred on the Right Rev. Mgr. Walsh, and of presenting him with robes as a token of their esteem (says the *Westport Times*).

Rev. Father Arkwright, who presided, briefly explained that the object of the great gathering was to honor one whom the authorities of the Church were proud to honor—their beloved rector, Monsignor Walsh. On behalf of Father Long and himself, he congratulated the Right Rev. Monsignor on the dignity bestowed on him. After having read the Brief conferring the dignity, Father Arkwright went on to refer to the many virtues of their beloved pastor. He (the rev. speaker) was quite sure the dignity was conferred on him, to use the words of the Brief, 'because of virtue, of his venerableness in age and merit' and of his 'advancing the cause of religion for nearly 50 years, with burning zeal and contempt for labor and hardship,' and that no priest had been more worthy of the honor than he. He had been most unselfish in his labors, being never known to refuse a request to advocate the cause of religion or charity, no matter how distant the place or how inconvenient the time.

Mr. J. J. Molony, in an earnest speech, congratulated the Right Rev. Monsignor on behalf of the congregation, and paid a tribute of praise to his work in Westport.

Mr. James Scanlon said that the example given by their beloved pastor was a perpetual sermon to all of his flock.

Rev. Father Long, on behalf of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, in offering congratulations, said it was gratifying to see that after a life of hard work the Monsignor was still bravely holding his own.

Other congratulatory speeches were made by Mr. Beirne (on behalf of the Catholic Federation), Mr. F. O'Gorman (Young Men's Club), Mr. J. Radford (Hibernian Society), Father Arkwright (Children of Mary), and Mr. Lempfert.

Mr. H. Pain then read the following address, after which he handed the robes to the Monsignor, amidst rounds of applause:

On behalf of the parishioners of Westport and surrounding districts, we, the undersigned members of your congregation, desire to express the sincere pleasure we feel at the honor recently conferred upon you by his Holiness the Pope. We rejoice at this signal appreciation of your long and faithful service to our Holy Church, and we join most heartily in our congratulations. We beg also to express to you on this happy occasion a deep sense of gratitude for the zeal and devotion which have ever characterised your very long association with this parish, and to assure you of the continued esteem and affection in which you are held throughout the district. As a souvenir of the bestowal of your present title, and as a small complimentary gift from your parishioners throughout the district, we ask you to accept from us the robes of your new office. We fervently pray and trust that this parish, with the history and growth of which your whole period of priesthood has been associated, will for many happy years to come have the pleasure and benefit of your direction, and that you will live long to enjoy the title and dignity with which you have been further honored, and in which your parishioners take a pardonable pride.

We assure you again of the continued dutiful affection and regard of every member of your extensive parish, and beg to subscribe ourselves—

H. Pain, C. Lempfert, J. J. Molony, J. Ahern,
J. P. O'Gorman, P. Nevin, P. Murphy,
J. P. Carmine, F. O'Gorman, G. Drew,
J. Power, H. Moran, P. Hansby, P. Hughes.

Monsignor Walsh, after a short retirement, returned to the hall wearing his robes, and received a great ovation. He expressed his thanks to the people

for presenting him with the robes and for coming in such great numbers to do him honor. He was proud to see his oldest friends represented on the platform in the person of Mr. Pain and Mr. Lempfert. Although times were hard in the early days, still it was a pleasure to work with such fine people as the pioneers of this district were. He modestly remarked that the speakers made too much of him, and were prompted by the goodness of their hearts rather than from any merit on his part. Not liking any display, he did not desire or deserve the dignity conferred on him, which had come as a great surprise. He referred to the introduction of the Sisters of Mercy as the most important work he had done in the parish. He then thanked Fathers Arkwright and Long and the various speakers on behalf of the different societies and traced the history and object of each. He also took the opportunity of thanking his Worship the Mayor for a very nice letter conveying congratulations of himself and the citizens of Westport. He always took a keen pride in his chosen district and the people, and he thanked them all from his heart for their kind congratulations. He resumed his seat amidst tremendous applause.

During the evening songs were contributed by Miss Moroney, Mr. R. Kieley, and a piano duet by Misses M. Parsons and B. Doyle.

RIGHT REV. MGR. HACKETT, PAEROA.

Last Sunday (says the *Ohiomuri Gazette*) a very large congregation was present at St. Mary's Church, when a beautiful illuminated address and purse of sovereigns were presented to Monsignor Hackett to commemorate his recent elevation to the rank of Domestic Prelate by the Pope. Mr. H. Poland, M.P., accompanied by the members of the presentation committee, read the following address, which he prefaced by a brief but touching speech:—

Very Rev. and Dear Father,—We, the parishioners of St. Mary's, Paeroa, desire to take this opportunity of expressing our hearty congratulations on the occasion of your being raised by our present Pontiff, Benedict XV., to the dignity of Domestic Prelate. We rejoice that the many years during which you have labored so zealously in the guidance of the flock committed to your care have not passed unrecognised by his Holiness, and we do not fail to recognise the honor conferred on ourselves in having our pastor raised to this dignity. We trust that by our fidelity to your spiritual guidance, and our co-operation in all works undertaken by you for the propagation of our holy faith, and the prosperity of this parish in particular, we may prove ourselves not altogether unworthy of this favor. In conclusion, we humbly pray that God may grant you a long continuance of fruitful labor in our midst.

Signed on behalf of the parishioners—Patrick Carthy (chairman), John Roach (secretary), Francis Tierney, Thomas Barrett, William Quinlivan, Francis Donnelly, John Lynch.

Monsignor Hackett returned thanks and stated that he felt utterly unworthy of the high honor conferred upon him by Pope Benedict XV. He begged them to accept his most grateful thanks, and to believe that his gratitude for the regard and affection in which they held him was far deeper than he could express.

During the week at St. Joseph's School another address and presentation were made by the pupils. The address was of artistic design, and was read by Miss Barbara Rochford as follows:—Very Dear Monsignor, It is with feelings of extreme pleasure that we, the pupils of St. Joseph's School, take this opportunity of offering you our heartiest congratulations on the occasion of your receiving the honored title of Domestic Prelate, and thus becoming a member of the Pope's own household. We appreciate also the honor done to ourselves and to this parish in having our pastor raised to this dignity. In conveying our congratulations we cannot but repeat the good wishes expressed to you on similar occasions during the many years you have spent in our midst, and we sincerely hope that God may spare you many more years to continue your zealous work