

Votes of Thanks.

Mr. John Cobbe had the pleasure of moving a very hearty vote of thanks to the delegates, and he expressed the fact that it was no formal motion. The delegates had come to tell them that the dark cloud which had hung over Ireland for more than two and a half centuries and, like some deadly miasma, had brought with it ruin, despair, and poverty, was at last breaking. Even now there might be discerned signs of that coming sunburst which meant political freedom, which Irishmen fondly hoped would lead to a new era during which peace, prosperity, and education shall flourish, political hatred and sectarian animosity shall disappear, and in which the country would take the honored place she occupied in poetry, art, and education in an age when ignorance and paganism were rampant in other lands. He was particularly pleased at the optimistic tone of the speeches of the delegates, who had told them that the new Ireland, chastened by oppression and refined by sorrow, should once more be 'Great, glorious and free, first flower of the ocean, first gem of the sea.'

Mr. W. J. B. Trewin seconded the motion of thanks in a brief but eloquent speech. The motion was enthusiastically carried.

In acknowledging the vote of thanks, Mr. Redmond mentioned the fact that the delegates had received a contribution of £80 from this district, which he considered a magnificent response.

Mr. E. Short very kindly placed his motor-car at the service of the envoys, and in this they were conveyed to Wanganni the following afternoon.

Dunedin

In addition to the centres already mentioned in our columns, meetings will be addressed by the Irish envoys at Ranfurly and Omakau, and probably at Waikaia.

SUBSCRIPTIONS.

We have received the sum of £2 from 'Four daughters of Erin,' Pelorus Sound, for the Irish Home Rule Fund.

SOCIETY OF THE SACRED HEART

DEATH OF THE SUPERIOR-GENERAL

(From our Wellington correspondent.)

News was received here by cable during the week of the death of Rev. Mother Digby, Superior-General of the Sisters of the Society of the Sacred Heart, which occurred at the mother-house, Ixel, Belgium, which has been the headquarters of the Order since the law banishing the religious Orders from France came into operation. A Solemn Requiem Mass for the repose of the soul of the deceased religious was celebrated at the convent chapel, Island Bay, last Wednesday. The Ven. Archdeacon Devoy, S.M., was celebrant, Rev. Father Murray, C.S.S.R., deacon, Rev. Father A. Venning, S.M., subdeacon, and Rev. Father Hurley, S.M., master of ceremonies. There were also present Very Rev. Father O'Shea, S.M., V.G., Rev. Fathers Whelan, C.S.S.R., Ainsworth, S.M., Herring, Barra, C. Venning, and Geo. Mahoney, who formed the choir.

Rev. Mother Digby was born in England of an Irish family in 1835. Her parents were Protestant, and when her mother and younger sister were received into the Church, she resented very strongly the step they had taken, and declared she would remain of her father's religion. God, Who had His designs upon her, allowed that she should spend much of her youth in the South of France, and it was there that His grace awaited her. One day after assisting at Benediction she suddenly announced to her sister that she, too, would be a Catholic. Her vocation to the religious life soon developed, and in 1857 she was received into the Society of the Sacred Heart by the foundress, Blessed Mother Barat. She made her first vows in 1859, and was professed in 1864 in the presence of Blessed Mother Barat. Within the next ten years she was employed as Mistress-General of the School, then as Superior of the Convent of Marmontiers, near Tours.

During the Franco-Prussian war she was in charge of the ambulance opened at the convent, and the soldiers nursed there held her memory in grateful remembrance. In 1874 Rev. Mother Goetz, who had succeeded Mother Barat as Superior-General, sent Mother Digby to England, where she governed the house of Rochampton, near London, and also acted as Mother Vicar of the English and Irish houses until 1894, when she was called to the mother house in Paris as Assistant-General. About ten months later, on the death of the fourth Superior-General, she was herself elected to fill that office. The sixteen years of her government of the Society of the Sacred Heart have been years of difficulty and anxiety. God imposed on her the sad task of closing over forty houses of her Order in France, and providing homes and work for the expelled religious. Never did she show herself more admirable than during those years of trial. But her consolations were also great. She saw the Society spread to distant lands, new houses being founded in all the continents. In 1900 she had the joy of celebrating the centenary of the foundation of the Society of the Sacred Heart, and in 1908 the Beatification of its foundress, Blessed Madeline Sophie Barat. The news of her death has caused much sorrow to all who had been privileged to know her, and has called forth the sympathy of all the friends of the Society of the Sacred Heart.—R.I.P.

Palmerston North

(From our own correspondent.)

May 28.

A social, held in the Empire Hall on Wednesday last, by the stallholders of the forthcoming bazaar in aid of the parish debt, proved a great success from every point of view, and each stall will benefit considerably by it. The music was in the capable hands of Mr. A. McMinn, whilst the supper supplied by the ladies left nothing to be desired. The energetic secretary (Mr. C. McGrath) is to be congratulated on its success.

The Young Men's Club promises to have a very successful season, and is meeting with a much larger measure of support than it had hitherto received. The committee have arranged for separate nights for debates and games. The nucleus of a gymnasium, owing to the kindness of several gentlemen of the parish, has been started, and the art of boxing is also likely to find great favor with a certain section of the club.

The cadet corps in connection with St. Patrick's parish gives promise of being well supported.

A ladies' branch of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, in conjunction with the men's branch, which is doing such good work in the parish, will be founded on Wednesday next, and is likely to be a very strong society.

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