

hear a voice; out of all this awful and aching battle of blinding lights, without one shadow to give shape to them, it must manage somehow to trace and to track a star.'

(To be continued.)

THE IRISH ENVOYS

AN ENTHUSIASTIC SEND-OFF IN WELLINGTON

(From our Wellington correspondent.)

The Irish envoys—Messrs. Donovan, Hazleton, and Redmond—who have been touring New Zealand on behalf of the Home Rule campaign fund, were farewelled last night by the Wellington branches of the Hibernian Society. The proceedings took the form of a dinner at the municipal Concert Chamber, which was attended by about four hundred male and female members, together with his Grace Archbishop Redwood, the Acting-Prime Minister (Sir James Carroll), Sir Arthur Guinness (Speaker of the House of Representatives), Dr. Cahill (chairman of the reception committee), Mr. Martin Kennedy, K.S.G. (treasurer of the fund), Very Rev. Dean Regnault, S.M. (Provincial), Very Rev. Father O'Shea (Vicar-General), Very Rev. Dr. Kennedy, S.M. (Rector of St. Patrick's College), Rev. Fathers Hickson, Venning, and O'Reilly, Councillors Fletcher and Hindmarsh, Dr. Izard, and Dr. McEvedy.

Bro. J. W. Callaghan (District Deputy) presided, and proposed the toast of 'The Pope and the King.'

Bro. H. McKeown proposed the toast of 'Ireland a Nation.'

Replying to the toast, Mr. J. T. Donovan, who was most cordially received, said he and his colleagues would not forget the kindly, warm, and generous hearts of the people of New Zealand, who were sending them back with the magnificent tribute of close on £10,000 to enable them to carry on the Home Rule campaign. At last they had touched the heart and the conscience of the British democracy, and they believed that at least 90 per cent. of the people in the British Empire were favorable to the demand of the Irish for a measure of national autonomy. The envoys, he added, had spoken at 73 meetings in New Zealand, attended by not merely Irish men and women, but by all creeds and all classes. They had succeeded in breaking down prejudices, in removing doubts, in elucidating the question as he believed it had never yet been put before the public of New Zealand. We thank you in New Zealand for all you have done to enable a poor struggling people to obtain their national rights. In conclusion, he made special reference to the valuable services rendered by Mr. Martin Kennedy, the organiser of the tour and treasurer of the fund.

Mr. J. E. Fitzgerald proposed the toast of 'The Parliament of New Zealand,' coupled with the name of Sir James Carroll.

Sir James Carroll acknowledged first of all his cordial reception, and excused himself from speaking on such a dry subject as Parliament. There were weak parts of the British Constitution, he said. The edifice had stood too long, and its pillars were decaying here and there. In our small way we must try to think out the method of renovation of that national edifice, and the strengthening of its pillars. And where were the pillars? The outer ramparts had been fortified, but not sufficient consideration had been paid to the inner building. Not only did this affect England, but it affected Ireland and the dependencies of the United Kingdom. He firmly believed that unless there was reconstruction at the seat of Empire disasters would follow. There would be disruption, not through granting Ireland Home Rule, but through failing to grant it. The greatest struggle that had occurred in Great Britain since the days of Cromwell was the fight for liberty, expressed by the democratic forces of the people knocking at the doors of Parliament and asking for freedom to exercise their national rights. Other nations would follow, but Ireland was first by seniority. Scotland must come in her turn. It was impossible, from a purely business point of view, to carry on the Empire's work any longer by the present me-

thod. Just imagine 650 members in the House of Commons. Why, they hadn't even sitting room; they hadn't speaking room. The spirit of democracy was growing, and would grow in this federal age, and if we were to preserve our Constitution in most of its excellent parts, we must strengthen the weak parts to make them strong, solid, and lasting. The envoys could tell their kinsmen that they had found the people of New Zealand true to the sentiment of freedom—true to Ireland's cause. For Ireland's day was coming, in the near future, he hoped, and the Empire would be strengthened by Ireland getting Home Rule.

Dr. Cahill proposed the toast of the 'Irish National Party,' making reference to the wrongs the nation had suffered and the gallant fight put up by the Nationalist Party—a fight without parallel in history.

The chairman then presented the envoys with a beautifully framed and illuminated address as a token of esteem from the Wellington branches of the Hibernian Society. The illumination and engrossing was kindly done for the Society by Rev. Mother Smith and Rev. Mother Dillon, of the Convent of the Sacred Heart, Island Bay. At the top of the address was painted the Society's emblem, and to the left a figure of St. Patrick driving out the snakes from Ireland, a scene of Killarney, Mt Egmont, Mitre Peak (Milford Sound), with figures of the New Zealand native bird (the kiwi); all these pictures being entwined with the shamrock and New Zealand native ferns and flowers. The following is the text of

The Address.

'Dear Friends,—We the members of the Hibernian Australasian Catholic Benefit Society of Wellington, New Zealand, desire to extend to you a very hearty welcome. We welcome you as fellow-Irishmen—as envoys of the Irish Nationalist Party under the leadership of Mr. John E. Redmond. We desire to express our deep appreciation of, and gratitude for, the splendid and whole-souled work of the party which you so worthily represent. We trust that your mission in Australia will be a complete success and that as a result the party will be better enabled to fight on until that goal has been reached—when Ireland will have her own Parliament, when she will enjoy what her descendants are enjoying in New Zealand—self-government. We sincerely hope that the time of announcing this happy order of things will not be far distant, that we shall soon have occasion to rejoice in Ireland's prosperity and happiness, to see the tide of emigration stemmed, and Ireland a nation once again. As members of a Society that will ever cherish the memory of Ireland, the Land of Saints and Scholars, you can always rely on us to do our very utmost to aid and assist you to attain the end for which you are now and have been for years consistently and nobly striving. We trust that the material help and encouragement given in the United States of America to the cause, and also the success that has attended your efforts here, and what we confidently expect for you in Australia, will spur on and give a fresh impetus to the party to make further efforts to fight for the liberty of our people. Remember, you not only have the people of Ireland to support you, but Irishmen all the world over—Irishmen who have been compelled to leave the land of their birth through the present conditions of Ireland under English rule. Therefore, be courageous, persevere in the fight, right and justice will in the end conquer, and the millions of Ireland's sons scattered all over the world will rejoice and ever cherish the memory of her noble and self-sacrificing patriots. As it is the eve of your departure from New Zealand, we desire to wish you an affectionate farewell and God speed.

'Signed on behalf of the members—

J. W. CALLAGHAN (District Deputy).

J. J. L. BURKE (President Newtown Branch).

C. J. McERLEAN (President Newtown Branch).

C. A. SEYMOUR (President Hutt Branch).

L. SWAN (President Thorndon Branch).

F. MCCARTHY (President Petone Branch).

F. O'FLAHERTY (President Ladies' Branch).

P. D. HOSKINS (Secretary Wellington Branch).

The chairman also read a farewell message sent through the Very Rev. Dean Regnault, S.M. from