

purchase of several handsome volumes, which were presented to successful pupils at the annual break-up of the Marist Brothers' School.

Australian Catholic Federation

No greater proof of the popularity of the Catholic Federation movement could be supplied than by the monster gathering which assembled in the Cathedral Hall on Tuesday evening, December 12 at the inaugural meeting (says the *Melbourne Tribune*). The chair was occupied by Mr. J. E. Ferguson, District President of the H.A.C.B. Society. In his introductory remarks the chairman said the objects of the society, as set forth in the constitution, would prove to them that the originators of the movement were actuated by the highest ideals. If their organisation were to do nothing else but achieve one of its objects—the killing of bigotry—it would be accomplishing a work of the noblest character. Sectarianism or bigotry was the most pernicious influence of modern times, and there was no reason why religious animosity should be transplanted from the old world into their young and sunny land.

The following resolutions were unanimously adopted:—

'That this meeting of Catholic citizens heartily approves of the formation of an Australian Catholic Federation, on the lines of similar organisations which have been so successful in England, America, Germany, and other countries.'

'That the draft constitution and rules as submitted to this meeting be approved of, and that a provisional committee be appointed to carry on the work of the Federation pending the formation of the various councils.'

'That steps be taken to form Parish Councils throughout the State, and that the cordial co-operation of the clergy be heartily invited in the formation of these bodies in the general work of the Federation.'

Mr. W. P. McMahon in proposing the second resolution briefly outlined the objects of the Federation as laid down in the constitution, the speaker referring especially to the fact that party politics find no place in the constitution. Indeed, politics are en-

tirely eliminated, except where they touch religion. It matters not what brand of politics a Federationist advocated. He might be a Freetrader or a Protectionist, a Liberal, a Laborite, or a Conservative; the Federation asked him or her to be a Catholic all the time, to stand for the Christian life of the nation; for the proper observance of Sunday; for the Christian education of youth; for the repression of intemperance; for the sanctity and indissolubility of Christian marriage; for the safeguarding of the Christian home; for the spread of Catholic newspapers and literature; and for the suppression of indecent and infidel literature. Moreover, the Federation is prepared to co-operate with all citizens, and with all civil and social agencies, which work for truth and virtue. The Federation is open to all Catholics (male and female), and the subscription is fixed at 2s per year. The Federation will embrace a Central Council, Diocesan Councils, and Parish Councils. After explaining the work of these bodies, Mr. McMahon dwelt at some length on the importance of the Parish Councils, which were the foundations on which the organisation would be built.

From January 1 to the end of October, 1911, the number of Irish emigrants to the United States was 2862 less than during the corresponding ten months of 1910 (says the *Irish Weekly*). But, unhappily, the Irish emigrants to Canada for the same period exceeded the 1910 record by just 1068. Irish emigration to Australasia and South Africa is comparatively trivial of late years; but even in the small numbers decreases are shown. Emigrants to the United States leave the South and West mainly; evidently the young people of Munster, Leinster, and Connaught are making up their minds in favor of a patriotic 'stay-at-home' policy. Nine-tenths of the emigrants to Canada go from Ulster—mostly from the Belfast 'home counties' of Antrim and Down; and the same counties have supplied a large proportion of the emigrants to Great Britain this year. Antrim's and Down's contributions to the emigration roll have been exceptionally heavy within the past decade. The people are flying from the rural districts. Some of them increase the population of Belfast—and compete with the city workers. The majority fly from the country.

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