

His Grace then went on to say: 'I would indeed be a very unfeeling man if I were not moved by this great demonstration you have made in my honor. Of course, I am not, I trust, sufficiently presumptuous to think that all this is meant for me personally. I consider that it is rather the great office to which I have been raised in the Church, and your appreciation of the high honor done to New Zealand by the Holy See, that have called forth such a demonstration. The devotion of Catholics to their Church and her prelates and priests is not a new thing even in this country, and nowhere is it more in evidence than in this city of Wellington. I am, then, grateful in the first place to Almighty God for all that He has done for me during my life—especially my priestly life—for the many graces and blessings He has deigned to shower down upon me. And I would like to say here publicly that whatever success I may have had in the past, and whatever I may appear to have in the future, I must attribute to Him alone and to the powerful intercession with Him of our Lady, St. Joseph, and the saints. And now I must thank all who have honored me so greatly on this important event in my life. To their Lordships the Bishops I owe my sincere acknowledgments, especially to my own Archbishop, from whom almost ever since he came as Bishop to the archdiocese, I have received mark after mark of kindness and confidence, from the day, when as a little boy of five I received his first blessing on a country roadside in Taranaki, till yesterday, when at his Grace's hands I received the plenitude of the priesthood. Now that in the dispensations of Providence I have been given to him as his Coadjutor, I will endeavor, with God's help, to aid him in his arduous office, and to be a comfort to him in the down-hill of life, which I trust may not come to him for many long years. Then I have to thank also their Lordships of Dunedin and Auckland for doing me the honor of coming to be the assistants at my consecration. It has been the crowning act of many acts of kindness which I have received at their hands. The Bishop of Dunedin has always been most kind and considerate to me, especially on occasions when I stood in need of his help and advice, and the Bishop of Auckland has indeed been more than a kind friend. The example and encouragement of my own Archbishop, and of the Bishops of New Zealand, will be an incentive to me in the beginning of my career as Archbishop. I am, indeed, fortunate, and we all are, in having such zealous, able, learned, and distinguished prelates to look up to and to try and imitate. Then in the next place I must thank the eloquent son of an illustrious Order, the son of St. Ignatius, Very Rev. Father Ryan, who came all the way from Melbourne to preach that fine scholarly sermon that we all listened to with so much pleasure yesterday morning. Australia has given New Zealand of her best on this occasion, and I personally, and indeed all of us, feel more than grateful to Father Ryan, S.J., for coming to Wellington, and doing what he has done. May his kindness and our sincere, if feeble, appreciation of it, help to strengthen the bond that binds the Church of his land with ours, and the great Society to which he belongs with the Order of which I have the happiness of being a member. Let me thank, also, my dear friend, Father McCarthy, whom I have known since his childhood, and who was one of my altar boys in the days gone by, for the beautiful sermon he preached in St. Joseph's Church yesterday evening. I thank also all the clergy, both of the archdiocese and of the other dioceses, who have honored me by coming here on this occasion. I will not easily forget their affectionate congratulations, nor the consideration they have shown me during these days. And I think it only right on this occasion to refer to the debt we in New Zealand owe to the saintly priests who are gone, and to the present zealous priests who came from the older countries of Europe to lay the foundations of the Church here. By their wisdom, foresight, and zeal they have made it possible for the young men of this country to be received into the ranks of the priesthood, to aid them in doing the work of God, and by their unselfishness they have rendered it possible for us to reach the highest positions in the Church.

'And now I feel that I must say something in addition to the formal reply that I have made to the beautiful addresses presented to me by the clergy, the laity, and the Hibernian Society. What you say in these addresses has touched me very greatly indeed. You refer to my interest in Catholic education. Well, I do not deserve any credit for what has been done here in this respect. It is to the splendid harmony existing between clergy and laity in Wellington, and throughout the archdiocese, that the success is due. The great work—the all important and essential work of the Church in this country—is the work of Catholic education. I have been discharging only my plain and obvious duty in helping it on as much as I was able. Then comes the work of Catholic organisation, also very necessary, not for offensive but for defensive purposes. The Catholic Federation was started to bring about this organisation, and in this again I was merely seconding the efforts of the Bishops and of our devoted laity, who were so anxious for something of the kind to protect our interests as Catholics and as citizens. Here again it was the splendid spirit of unity between priests and people that has done everything. And now I must say a word about the address presented by the Hibernian Society. It is true that I take a great interest in this grand friendly society. I became an honorary member of it when I first took up work in this city, and I would like to see every one of our people belonging to it. There is one feature about it that deserves consideration. Not only does it give its members all the benefits of an excellent friendly society; not only is it thoroughly Catholic, but it also serves to remind us of a land to which we all owe so much. Whether we are Irishmen, or the sons of Irishmen—and I am one of these myself—or whether we are the children of other nations, there is no gainsaying the fact that the Church in New Zealand would not hold the strong position it holds to-day were it not for those exiles of Erin, both priests and people, who have been the backbone of the faith here. Therefore, I think that in addition to its usefulness as a friendly society, the H.A.C.B. Society deserves our gratitude for perpetuating in this far-off country the memory of holy Ireland, for which, thank God, after centuries of persecution and bad treatment, a brighter future seems now assured.'

His Grace then thanked the members of the committee, the Catholic societies, and all who had in any way assisted in making the function such a splendid success.

'And now,' said his Grace in concluding, 'I must again thank you with all my heart for this magnificent demonstration, which has touched me so deeply. May it forge yet another link in the chain of affection that binds together Bishops, priests, and people in this glorious young country.'

Appointment of Vicar-General.

His Grace Archbishop Redwood said he had an announcement to make which he felt sure would give all present very great satisfaction, and that was the appointment of the Very Rev. Dean McKenna, of Masterton, as Vicar-General of the archdiocese. He referred to the many excellent qualities of Dean McKenna, saying that he was now in the Old Country endeavoring to get priests for this country. Three cheers were here given for Dean McKenna.

Musical Programme.

An excellent musical programme was provided. The following contributed items:—'Ecce Sacerdos Magnus' (Stader), St. Mary of the Angels' Choir; vocal solo, 'The enchantress' (Hatton), Miss Morrison (encored); flute solo, 'Fantaisie' (A. Terschak), Signor Truda (encored); vocal duet, 'Venetian boat song' (Benedict), Misses Agnes Segrief and T. McEnroe. The last item was received with much applause, and the singers were called back twice before the audience were satisfied. Mr. C. Hickmott sang the 'Queen of Connemara,' and when encored sang 'A perfect day.' This concluded the musical programme.

The function terminated with the singing of 'Faith of Our Fathers' by the large audience, accompanied by Mr. W. McLaughlin on the large organ, and under the baton of the Rev. Father Ainsworth, of Nelson.