

the pier, while waiting for the tender, we met an old Spanish priest who told us that he was chaplain to the Convent of the Assumption.

One may pause here to say that many patient inquiries from various sources—from English Protestant residents in South America as well as from native Catholics—convinced us that Catholicism is flourishing in the great Latin Continent, and that its schools and churches are excellent in every way. Non-Catholic witnesses indignantly denied such stories as have been even within recent times circulated in Dunedin by meandering Protestant missionaries who are capable of any calumny likely to loose the purse-strings of their dupes.

Vivat Hispania!

Notwithstanding a certain hide-bound old Tory's reference some years ago to Spain being a "dead nation," Spain is by no means dead.

Spain has still great vitality, and she has still the faith that in the great days of the past scattered all over the map of the world those rich, musical names, that are like professions of undying belief in the One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church.

Santa Cruz—Holy Cross!

As I walked up and down the deck, looking at its towers, some sub-conscious wave of memory brought back to me the old Galway air, "On the Deck of Patrick Lynch's Boat." Then I remembered that I have in Dunedin, the original Gaelic words of the song, and that the exile who sings that sad melody mentions Santa Cruz in the last stanza. No doubt in the days when trade was brisk between Galway and Spain, our handy Connacht seamen drove their prows further south, and carried many a rich cargo of wine and lace from Las Palmas and Santa Cruz. And so the past lives in the present once more, and the memory of the Gael is green even here.

December 19 found Santa Cruz well astern, and our bows snoring through the swells that still rolled down before the N.E. Trades. To-morrow we shall be ploughing through the notorious Bay of Biscay. Next day we ought to be nearing Ushant. And the day after—Christmas Eve—ought to see us all on shore at Southampton, with our long, delightful voyage at an end.

Westport and Newtown people will be glad to know that their respective pastors are flourishing like green bay trees beside running waters.

There has been but little to write about these quiet days. Next time I shall write from Rome and there will be more news for all my *Tablet* friends.

To Our Subscribers

As the Company has been under heavy expense recently in erecting new premises and machinery, we would deem it a favor if subscribers would forward subscriptions as promptly as possible after receiving accounts.

JOHN P. WALLS,
Manager.

New Convent at Greymouth

FOUNDATION STONE CEREMONY.

The ceremony of laying and blessing the foundation stone of the new Convent of Mercy in Tainui Street by his Lordship Bishop Brodie, took place on Sunday, the 15th inst. (says the *Greymouth Star*). The weather was fine, and there was a large attendance of the public.

A procession, headed by the Grey Municipal Band, and composed of the Children of Mary, Hibernians, Marist Brothers, the local and visiting clergy and church members, moved from St. Patrick's Church, just at 3 o'clock, to the new convent.

The following occupied seats on a dais in front of the main entrance to the building:—Bishop Brodie, Rev. Dr. Kennedy (Hokitika), Fathers Fogarty (Ahaura), Roche (Christchurch), Long, McMonagle, Madden, Houlihan, and Finnerty (Kumara), Mr. W. H. Parfitt (Mayor), Mrs. Parfitt, Messrs. Jas. O'Brien, M.P., H. F. Doogan, J. Hart (contractor), and M. Moloney (Clerk of Works).

Immediately on arrival the ceremony of blessing and laying the foundation stone was performed by Bishop Brodie. Mr. John Hart, contractor for the building, presented Bishop Brodie with a silver trowel, suitably inscribed commemorative of the event.

Rev. Father Long, who was in charge of the proceedings, expressed his pleasure at the large attendance, which he interpreted as a lively interest in, and appreciation of the good work being done by the Sisters of Mercy in Greymouth. About 12 years ago when the old convent, which has done such valiant duty for forty years, was showing signs of age, it was decided to spend nothing more on it, but instead to establish a fund for a new building. The Sisters had worked steadily to achieve this object, and, with legacies, donations, and various functions, they had got £22,000 in hand. Recent efforts had brought in £922 11s 3d and the "advance guard" of the collection they intended to take before the assemblage broke up, amounted to £42 17s. The late revered Dean Carew had always worked to forward the projected new convent, and it was fitting that on the fifth anniversary of his death, they should be assembled for the laying of the foundation stone which represented the consummation of Dean Carew's great desire. The contract price for the new building was £25,601, but with furnishings and other necessities, at least £30,000 to £31,000 would be required. They were still £9000 off the required sum, but he hoped, when the convent was opened, at the end of the year, the Sisters would have the gratification of entering a debt free building. He had apologies for the unavoidable absence of Fathers Herring and Herbert (Reefton, and Riordan (Ross).

Mr. W. H. Parfitt said he was pleased to be associated with the afternoon's ceremony. He felt he was voicing the sentiment of every citizen in Greymouth when he said he was glad the Sisters of Mercy were to have a new home. Greymouth owed a debt to the Sisters of Mercy for their charitable work

done during the influenza epidemic, and for their noble contribution to the education of the rising generation. The erection of an important building in a town was a matter for the interest of the citizen. He was sure many friends of the Sisters other than their own co-religionists, would find a tangible means of expressing appreciation of the good services of the Sisters, by helping to find a proportion of the £9000 still required.

Mr. James O'Brien, M.P., said he felt sympathy with the Sisters, who made great sacrifices in giving up their lives to the cause of charity and education; they were at the beck and call of all who were in trouble. So far as general education and music were concerned they were a boon to the community. Surely as the Sisters freely gave their best in charitable work and education to the people, the people would rally round them and help to remove the debt still remaining on the new convent.

Rev. Dr. Kennedy said that two factors had made him want to be present—the first was that he had charge of the adjoining parish, and the other was that the St. Patrick's Convent of Mercy was the child of St. Columbkille's Convent at Hokitika, from whence it sprang just on forty years ago. He knew he was stating the truth, when he said that in the religious life of the people the Sisterhoods took the place next to the Church itself. He had the authority of the good old Book for saying, "Except the Lord build an house, they labor in vain who build it." This statement could be applied literally to the building of any house, but specially applied to buildings erected for church purposes. The Sisters gave up their all when they went in the cloister, but it was a strange fact that when they wanted money for work being done, in love, for the people, it was always forthcoming. While possessing not one penny piece of material wealth, the Sisters of Mercy were rich beyond the dreams of avarice, because they had the love and sympathy of everyone in the parish.

The Bishop, on rising to speak, was received with applause. He expressed his pleasure at the splendid attendance, being specially pleased to have associated with him on the platform, the mayor, mayoress, and member for the district. The reason for the gathering was notable to the church, the Sisters of Mercy, and the town. He was reminded that 70 years ago when those spared to come back to England after the Crimean War, arrived in London, the populace were filled with wonder when they saw that the procession was headed by a band of women all garbed in black. One of the generals introduced them as "heroines worthy to take the first place." These were Florence Nightingale and her Sisters of Mercy, who had shared the vicissitudes of the battlefield. Their names were written in history, and the episode was worth narrating, since the call of the sick, needy, or poor was just as eagerly obeyed now by the Sisters as it was in those dark days for England. Almighty

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