



LAKE NEMI.

Yesterday, with some other clergy from under the Southern Cross, I walked through the Coliseum, across the Forum, and over the Capitol. Classical students will not need reminding of all the history that is packed into that area. On the summit of the Capitol is the glorious equestrian figure of "the good Emperor," Marcus Aurelius. His position is symbolical, for he has his back to the ruins and his face towards modern Rome. Near him is Rienzi, the great Tribune, and if you turn to the right or left you will find in the galleries immortal statues and pictures that money could not purchase. Indeed, in every gallery in Rome there are several such treasures. And one can but go quietly and spend a short time studying a few of the works of the great masters. Some people make the mistake of trying to see too much, with the result that they remember nothing.

After the Epiphany I took my New Zealand friends to the Castelli Romani, as the towns in the Alban Hills are called. We went first to Gengano and saw Lake Nemi, returning to Albano, through Ariccia. At Albano we climbed the hill to the road by the Lago di Albano, and then walked round by Castel Gandolfo and Marino to Grotta Ferrata. It was a clear winter day, and only that the woods were sombre it was ideal for seeing the magnificent scenery all along that lonely road. Below was the Campagna. Beyond it lay Rome, while, farther out, was the blue of the Mediterranean. Our way lay through immemorial groves of olives, élexes, and elms, and at every step we got new views of the lakes and mountains, and of the quaint old towns perched on the summits.

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The Irish College flourishes under the paternal rule of my dear old friend, Monsignor Hagan. It is a home for all the exiles from Erin in Rome. They drop in for dinner or for afternoon tea, and they are always welcome. I have said Mass several times in the old church which I learned to love in my student years. I have walked among the corridors and seen again the portrait

galleries of the great Irish churchmen who graduated in my dear Alma Mater, since its foundation in 1628. It is all a *vita nuova*. The past is always present in Rome, and time is nothing. And everyday I repeat with Goethe:

Eine Welt gar bist du, O Rom!

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St. Brigid's Church, Feilding

LAYING OF FOUNDATION STONE BY
ARCHBISHOP REDWOOD.

His Grace Archbishop Redwood, S.M., head of the Catholic Church of New Zealand (says the *Feilding Star* of the 2nd inst.), yesterday laid the foundation stone of the new church, which is being built in Feilding. Father Cahill, parish priest, presided at the gathering, which, in spite of the threatening weather, was a large one.

The new church is being erected on a site at the corner of Derby and Monmouth Streets. It is of ferro-concrete, of orthodox style, and when finished will be the most imposing sacred edifice in Feilding.

Father Cahill, in his opening remarks, said his first duty was to thank Almighty God for having given them a fine afternoon. He then gave a financial statement covering the scheme for the erection of the new building, saying how necessary the finances were in such a proposal. About five years ago a resident died, after having made provision in his will for a sum of £800 to be given towards the cost of erecting a new church building. This gave the people a start, but evidently the architect had been misled regarding the financial ability of the people, for when he (the speaker) came here two years ago he found that the plans had been prepared for a building to cost £15,000 or £16,000. This was unreasonable, and the people were most discouraged. They had altogether £3400 in hand then, and he urged them to raise £1500 and a friend of the parish would give £500 if they did so. In a sustained effort they had raised £1503, so that now they had £5500. He had had plans prepared for a building within the means of the people and suitable for their require-

ments. The architects had prepared a beautiful plan, and the contractors were carrying out the work in a very capable way, putting much more into it than they were required by the terms of the contract. Father Cahill warmly praised the overseer, the foreman, and the workmen employed on the building. Thanks were due to his Grace the Archbishop for coming to Feilding to lay the foundation stone. In the Archbishop they had the oldest living consecrated Bishop in the whole Catholic world. Father Cahill also thanked the Mayor for attending and promising to speak at the gathering. Mr. Tingey's name appeared on the foundation stone as Mayor of Feilding, a compliment which the speaker desired to pay the Mayor.

His Grace Archbishop Redwood read the offices of the Church appointed for the ceremony and laid the foundation stone.

Speaking to the gathering he was (he said) proud to be present to lay the foundation stone of such a beautiful building, which was an ornament, yet solid and durable. It was a monument to the faith, devotedness, and generosity of the people. The Church was the great centre and source of true Christian life. She was to continue the work of Christ. Christ came as the Saviour of men to teach us our duty to our fellow-men, to ourselves, and to God. We were here to save our immortal souls. That was the main business of our life—not money-making and the pursuit of an easy way of living. Man was here to believe what Christ teaches and to obey His commandments. In the Church they would receive the means of grace to help them to carry out the commands of God—health for the mind and strength for the will. This Church was to continue the work of Christ. The world was forgetting the commands of God. It was drifting back to Neo-Paganism. It had recently been said of England by an observant man that not one person in five thought of God, and his Grace believed he might say the same of New Zealand. If the white people lost their knowledge of God, in what way were they superior to other races? They would lose their superiority. The Church was to carry on the work of Christ in teaching the people the truth of God. He was glad, then, to lay this foundation stone of a building which would be the centre of worship and teaching for them and their children's children.

Mr. J. S. Tingey (mayor) said he noted with pleasure the fact that Father Cahill was taking a personal part in philanthropic and public affairs in Feilding. To the Catholic community of Feilding it was a matter of congratulation that they were so near the realisation of their hopes in having this Church building erected, and on having his Grace Archbishop Redwood present to lay the foundation stone. It was to be a church of beauty and substance, a monument to the faith of the Catholics of Feilding. In New Zealand there were various religious faiths, but not a State Church. That was good. It meant that the adherents of each faith had themselves to find the means for raising their own buildings, they had to make the sacrifices necessary. This the Catholics in Feilding had done, and they were to have a beautiful church. He congratulated them. (Applause.)

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