

The Archbishop of Melbourne

Dr. Mannix's Reply to Tribute of Irish Hierarchy and Clergy

Before his departure for London, addresses on behalf of the Hierarchy and of the priests and people of Ireland were presented to Most Rev. Dr. Mannix.

They mentioned the pleasure with which the people of Ireland had watched his triumphant vindication of the rights of the citizens of his adopted country, and expressed Ireland's gratitude for his fearless and powerful championship of her natural God-given right to be free.

The proceedings commenced with a private farewell lunch to his Grace, at which the Most Rev. Dr. Harty, Archbishop of Cashel, presided.

There were also present Most Rev. Dr. Fogarty, Bishop of Killaloe; Right Rev. Dr. Cotter, Bishop of Portsmouth; Right Rev. Dr. Foley, Bishop of Ballarat; Right Rev. Dr. McSherry, Bishop of the Cape of Good Hope; Most Rev. Dr. O'Doherty, Bishop of Clonfert; Right Rev. Monsignor O'Grady, V.G.; Rev. Father Moylan; Rev. Father O'Meara, Very Rev. Canon Houlihan, Very Rev. Canon O'Reilly, Rev. Father Vaughan, Rev. Father Corcoran, Very Rev. Dean Keown, P.P., V.G., Clogher; Very Rev. Philip O'Doherty, P.P., V.G., Derry; Very Rev. P. Markey, P.P., Ardagh; Rev. M. Dolan, C.C., Kilmore; Very Rev. Canon Corbett, P.P., Cloyne; Rev. M. Browne, C.C., Cloyne; Rev. T. McGuckin, Cork; Very Rev. Dr. Kiely, P.P., Elphin; Rev. H. Brennan, Adm., Clonfert; Rev. Father Chrysostum, O.F.M.; Rev. T. O'Neill, C.M.; Rev. Dr. Beecher, M.A.; Rev. Dr. Browne, M.A.; Very Rev. Canon Lyons, P.P. (hon. treasurer); Rev. J. J. Russell, C.C. (hon. secretary).

In replying to the addresses, Dr. Mannix, who was received with most enthusiastic cheering, said: I can assure you that I was never prouder in the whole course of my life than I am this afternoon, for the privilege and honor of getting a hearty send-off to Australia from those whom I love best and revere most—the Bishops and priests, and, I may say, the people of Ireland. (Applause.)

The Bishops and priests represent, not merely the clergy in Ireland; they also represent the laity as well. (Applause.) Therefore, I should, indeed, be hard to please if I did not feel proud. Many of you have come across the water to look upon me for the last time, for a period—"No, no"—and to bid me God-speed in my long journey.

I accept your coming and greeting at their full value, because when you come to bid me farewell you come knowing who I am and what I am. (Applause.)

Open-Minded, Straightforward.

I am not one of those who conceal their views. I have not been one of those who have been standing upon any fence. (Applause.) Everybody knows who I am, what I am, and what I stand for—(applause)—and, therefore, when you come to greet me I accept that greeting in the spirit in which it is given; and I take back to Australia, my adopted home, the message of love and affection for myself, and also the message for the Australian people that what I have constantly preached to them, and what I have spoken since I left them, is endorsed by the Cardinal Primate, the Archbishops, Bishops, priests and people of Ireland. (Renewed applause.)

Insidious Efforts to Divide Clergy and People.

I have said that the priests and Bishops represent not merely the clergy of Ireland, but that they represent the people of Ireland also. That is a proud and happy thing to be able to say about Ireland, because never, perhaps, were more insidious efforts made than at the present moment to drive a wedge between the Bishops and priests in Ireland, on the one hand, and the people of Ireland on the other.

I have been watching some of these people as closely as they have been watching me—(laughter and applause)—and I have noticed this, that in every move that has been made since I came to these shores by the British Government—in every predicted peace and alleged negotiations—

there was always, as I thought and believe, the hope of manoeuvring the Bishops, or some of them, or the priests, or some of them, into an impossible position, and getting them to deny Ireland's full right to independence—putting the Bishops and the priests into one camp and the people into another.

Ireland's Right.

I am proud to say that I am leaving Great Britain with this conviction, that all their machinations have failed—(loud applause)—and that from the highest ecclesiastic in the land, down to the humblest of the laity, taking them as a body, they stand all square to Ireland's full right of complete independence. (Renewed applause.)

For another reason I am glad that I can say that you represent the laity of Ireland, because when I came here, or was forced to come here, I was made the recipient of the freedom of almost every city and town in Ireland that could confer the freedom of a municipality upon me.

Many times since, they have written to me expressing the hope that I could go over to Ireland to be the recipient of these honors; and if I could not go over they asked me to give them an opportunity of meeting me over here, and doing me the honor of presenting me with the freedom of those various towns and cities in Ireland.

Backed the Wrong Horse.

I have kept putting them off. I had very little hope of going to Ireland at any time, because I saw that the British Government would not allow me to go to Ireland unless I went over to do their work, and I knew in my own mind that they had backed the wrong horse. (Loud applause.)

Therefore, I had little hope that I could get to Ireland; and if I were to receive the freedom of these cities and towns it should be here on alien soil. Perhaps I was wrong; but I thought I should prefer to wait for a better and happier day, when I could go over to a free Ireland and receive the freedom of these towns and cities, and when there would be nobody to say me nay. (Applause.)

Therefore, I asked them to bide their time, and wait for happier days, and then it certainly would be my pleasure and privilege to receive in Ireland the freedom of the various towns and cities which they were anxious to bestow on me. (Applause.)

Returning as He Came.

From this gathering, therefore, I would like to convey to these various towns and cities my deep appreciation of the honor they conferred on me, and to tell them of my desire to return to them another time and do what I can to meet them in a free Ireland. (Applause.)

I feel, of course, as is only natural, the great privations of not being able to go to Ireland. I was anxious to see Ireland; but I was still more anxious not to sell Ireland. (Loud applause.) I begin my journey in a few days. I go back to Australia, over a great waste of water, disappointed that I have not been to Ireland, and disappointed that Ireland was not in a position to give me the reception she would like to give, but still proud of the fact that I go back as I came, unchanged and unchangeable. (Loud applause.)

People Not to Blame.

I go back with a message to the Australian people, and can say with confidence that if there are dreadful happenings in Ireland at the present moment, these crimes and outrages are not to be put to the discredit or to the shame of the Irish people. (Applause.)

I can tell them that in a day there could be peace in Ireland. We hear a great deal about peace at this side of the water, and I should say I am at close range with most of these peace talks and of these peace negotiations, whether they come from this side or from the other; but I know that in a day if England wants peace she can have peace, and the conditions are very simple. (Applause.)

The day that England ceases from British crime and British aggression in Ireland there can be peace that afternoon. (Applause.)

What Stands Between?

Nothing stands between England and peace with Ireland—nothing stands between the British Empire and peace with that little island but British pride and British