

The Apostolic Delegate's Reply

His Excellency said:—I wish to say that I am deeply touched with your expressions of love and loyalty. This beautiful Cathedral is a witness of your faith and loyalty and I would have to be the most eloquent speaker to express in words my sentiments of joy in being with you this evening. You will understand that I am unable to adequately express my feelings and the joy of my heart. I knew and was quite convinced of your sincerity by your enthusiastic welcome which you extended to me last evening, and again this morning when at the altar rails such a great number of you crowded to receive the Bread of Life.

The priests in their address say that they realise that the greatest portion of the merit of the work in the diocese and in the Cathedral here is due to the Brothers and nuns who are laboring in the schools, and I would not certainly be a man to diminish their merit. I have seen the great work that the Brothers and nuns are doing in the cause of Catholic education, but I think that they would agree with me that a great portion of the merit for this work is due to the clergy for their example, patience, zeal, and encouragement.

As to the sentiments which have been expressed by the representatives of the laity, well I was quite sure of the fidelity and love of the laity, but I now have proof from their presence in such large numbers and I will present to the Supreme Pontiff their expressions of loyalty. Before coming to New Zealand I knew of the difficulties which you encountered in your enterprises for your religion. I was present this afternoon and witnessed a demonstration of your active faith; it always gives me great pleasure to bless and open schools for the school is even more important than a Cathedral, for if we have no schools a Cathedral like this one of yours would be empty: your schools are the evidence of your faith and of your love of your religion. I would like to remain here longer so as to make a personal acquaintance with you and take part in your good works.

Your Bishop expressed plainly, in a few words, all about his diocese. This diocese is only thirty years old, but during that time you have done great work, and I think that if we compare the work that has been done in ten centuries in Europe with the work that you have done in thirty years in this diocese the proportion would be extraordinarily in your favor. You have done marvels, and I have travelled throughout all the dioceses of Australia.

You ask me to convey to his Holiness your sentiments. You perhaps know that I am visiting the Holy See at the beginning of next year. I hope to be there by Easter and certainly you may be sure that I will not forget to speak about you and your work: the great vision of this magnificent Cathedral full of a loyal and faithful people will never be effaced from my mind, and when kneeling at the feet of the Supreme Pontiff I will speak of the joy which has been mine to-day.

His Excellency afterwards officiated at Pontifical Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. The combined choirs and the pupils of the several schools provided the music for Sunday's ceremonies. Only three rehearsals had been held, but an excellent effect was achieved, especially in the "Te Deum," which was sung alternately by the adult choirs and the boys and girls. Miss M. O'Connor conducted the choir, and Miss K. O'Connor was organist. At the entry to the Cathedral "Ecce Sacerdos Magnus" (Stadler) was sung, and after Archbishop Cattaneo had replied on receiving the address of welcome, all voices joined in singing the "Hymn to the Pope" and the "Ave Verum" (Gounod).

Visit to Mount Magdala and St. Bede's College

His Excellency, Archbishop Cattaneo, the Apostolic Delegate, on Monday, the 14th inst., paid visits to Mount Magdala in the morning and in the afternoon to St. Bede's College, Papanui.

At seven o'clock he celebrated Holy Mass in the beautiful chapel of the Good Shepherd, and during the morning was welcomed at a very pleasant entertainment. An address of welcome was presented to him, and in reply his Excellency expressed his surprise at the completeness of the equipment of the convent of the Good Shepherd for the happiness of those entrusted to the care of the Sisters. He spoke words of encouragement and consolation that should prove a very great help to those who were privileged to be present. Later in the morning he visited the orphanage at Mount Magdala, where another pleasing programme was presented. The healthy appearance and the happiness of the little ones gave ample evidence of the kind care of the Sisters. The buildings and grounds at Mount Magdala were decorated for the occasion. The visit was a most pleasurable and interesting one.

The afternoon was devoted to St. Bede's College. His Excellency was welcomed with great enthusiasm by the Rector, Very Rev. Father Graham and the staff of the college, also by the students who showed their pleasure by hearty and enthusiastic cheers of greeting. The following address was presented to his Excellency:—

Address to his Excellency the Most Reverend Bartholomew Cattaneo, D.D., LL.D., Archbishop of Palmyra, Delegate Apostolic to Australasia, from the students of St. Bede's College, Christchurch.

May it please your Excellency,—Welcome! welcome, a thousand times! Vice-Gerent of the Vice-Gerent of Jesus Christ! We thank you for the honor you have paid to St. Bede's College, and pray you to accept this expression of our gratitude. We also ask, your Excellency, that you will accept the humble tribute of our loyalty to our Most Holy Lord Benedict XV. *Quem Deus incolumem præservet.*

We hail you to-day as the Viceroy of our spiritual overlord, and to you we pay the homage and fealty, for you speak in the name of the Holy Father, and the Holy Father speaks in the name of Christ.

St. Bede's is a young school in a young land—set in one of the furthest islets, "by the long wash of Australasian seas," it is perhaps, geographically speaking, further from the Eternal City, the centre of Christendom, than any other college in the world—but small, young, and lifting its voice from afar, our school vies with the greatest, oldest and nearest of the Catholic seats of learning in loyalty and attachment to the Holy See.

Not only as Catholic subjects do we render homage to the Vicar of Christ—as Catholic students we acclaim the representative of power that has ever been the world's greatest patron of learning. It was the encouragement and benison of the Holy See that studded Europe with Christian schools all through the centuries. Two hundred universities were endowed by the Popes from the 11th to the 14th century. Let the scoffing sciolist call those ages dark. In those ages there flourished a civilisation more scholarly, more refined than any the world has known. From the poorest hamlet of Europe, the poorest scholar could come, confident that in the reigning Pontiff, he could find a sure, generous patron. With the aristocracy of wealth there grew an aristocracy of intellect. In the Middle Ages, more than in any other age, was each succeeding generation led, not by the oligarchs of finance, but by the brilliant thinkers who came often from poverty and feudal serfdom through the Church-endowed schools. Let the ignorant then sneer at the Middle Ages—but he who reads history aright knows that the 13th ranks as the greatest of the centuries, and the measure of its greatness was the measure of the patronage of the Popes to learning.

These thoughts fill our hearts to-day. Our pulses quicken with pride as we welcome the representative of the Holy Father to our school. We lay at your feet the homage which we owe to Our Most Holy Lord the Pope—that homage we owe as Catholic subjects—but our welcome has the thrill that comes with gratitude, the gratitude we feel as Catholic students.