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Hibernian Australasian Catholic Benefit Society



2nd Biennial Meeting.

OF

DEPUTIES FROM STATES OF AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND

ST. BENEDICT'S HALL, SYDNEY,

27TH APRIL, 1903.

To the Deputies of the Hibernian Australasian Catholic Benefit Society from the States of the Commonwealth and New Zealand, in Biennial Meeting assembled.

GENTLEMEN AND BROTHERS,—

(1.) Two years ago in the City of Melbourne, amid the glamour of the festivities that ushered into being the First Parliament of the infant Commonwealth, you honoured us with your confidence and entrusted to us the management of the affairs of the Society, under a new Constitution that was framed at a time of emergency to preserve the unity of its members.

(2.) The day has now arrived for us to render an account of our stewardship. We believe we have carried out our duties to the satisfaction of the different Districts, and are pleased to be able to assure you that the relations between the various portions of the Society were never more harmonious than at the present time. The splendidly representative gathering of to-day, with every State of the Commonwealth and also New Zealand represented, not only affords full proof of that statement, but also demonstrates the pronounced success of the New Constitution.

(3.) Though we expected to meet with some difficulties at the inception and working of the new scheme, the hindrances to our operations which arose would scarcely have been anticipated by those who elected us, and were of such a nature as necessarily to have created inconvenience, if not anxiety, in certain Districts. However, the prompt recognition and unhesitating support accorded to your E. D. and the new order of things by the Districts and prominent Officers throughout the Society, showed that the members as a whole were determined that no obstacle, either of personal interest or predilection, would be permitted to thwart the proper working of a Constitution which secures for our Society the fullest and freest form of unity possible under the Friendly Societies' enactments of the different States, and which, even in its present form of mere outline, we do not hesitate in claiming to be more complete and effective than that of any similar organization in the Commonwealth.

HIS HOLINESS POPE LEO XIII.

(4.) By a coincidence, our meeting to-day marks the historic period when the Pontificate of our illustrious and venerated Holy Father Leo XIII. reaches "the days of Peter." We think a message might be sent to His Holiness from this meeting on behalf of the Hibernians of Australasia, expressing their loving regard and veneration and humbly felicitating him on this memorable day in his memorable life.

THE HIBERNIANS AND THE CHURCH.

(5.) It must be gratifying to every Hibernian to observe, as it now also is our duty to gratefully acknowledge, the beneficial effect of the continued and increasing interest which our beloved Hierarchy and Priests devote to the welfare of our Society. The unexampled honour conferred on the whole Society by His Eminence Cardinal Moran—a Prince of the Church, and the noblest Irishman of the time—in officially opening the last two District Meetings of the New South Wales portion of the Society, has had a wonderfully-inspiring effect on the Society in this State, and is perhaps the most noteworthy example of the high estimation in which our Society is regarded by our ecclesiastical superiors. That we may always merit such consideration from our spiritual heads is, we believe, the constant aim of the ruling bodies of the H. A. C. B. S. everywhere.

"CHERISHING THE MEMORY OF IRELAND."

(6.) A report such as ours would be incomplete without some reference to affairs in Ireland. The Land measure recently introduced in the British Parliament by a "Conservative" Government is such a startling advance on all previous legislation that even the enemies of Home Rule must admit that the complete success of the Irish cause, in the light of events, is inevitable at no distant day. To the tactful genius of the King has been attributed, and, we believe, not incorrectly, the recent kindlier, broader views of British statesmen. But Ireland's reliance to-day is in their once more happily united and patriotic Parliamentary Party, who, under John Redmond, are using with no less ability and zeal those powerful constitutional weapons which accomplished so much for Ireland in the time of Parnell.

CENTENARY OF ROBERT EMMET.

The present year marks the Centenary of the abortive "rising," tragic trial, and execution of perhaps the purest-souled of Irish patriots, Robert Emmet, whose brief career, epitomized in his well-remembered impassioned "Speech from the Dock," has won for him a high place in the affections of all lovers of justice and freedom. Every Branch of the Society, whether situated in the quiet bush hamlet or in the great city centres, should mark the occasion by some special celebration—by a lecture on the Life and Times of Emmet, by a strictly National Concert, or some event similarly appropriate.

THE SOCIETY'S POSITION AND PROGRESS.

(7.) Notwithstanding the depressed state of business arising from the drought which seems to have affected the whole Commonwealth more or less, but to a severer extent the more thickly populated areas on the East side of the Continent, we are fortunately able to chronicle a period of splendid progress.

The figures of the Society throughout Australasia up to the end of 1902 stand as follows:—No. of new branches opened during the two years, 58 male and 3 female; total membership, 21,185, with accumulated funds of £125,330 18s. 10d. (returns incomplete), showing an increase since the issue of last E.D. report—a year and a-half ago—of 2,551 members and £11,100 4s. 9d. funds.

The following is the position of each District —

DISTRICT.	MEMBERS.	FUNDS.
1. Victoria	7888	£38,446 14 11
3. New Zealand	1432	14,801 14 9
4. New South Wales	4655	20,983 3 3
5. Brisbane	2047	21,434 16 11
6. Rockhampton	704	5,607 13 3
*7. Adelaide	2365	13,056 7 2
8. West Australia	689	2,760 17 2
9. Tasmania	700	2,678 8 1
†10. North Queensland	705	5,577 18 5
Totals	21,185	£125,347 13 11

* Returns incomplete.

† Opened June, 1902; embraces Branches formerly included in Brisbane and Rockhampton Districts.

FINANCE

(8.) The position, in so far as relates to the E.D. investments in the Standard Bank is much the same as at last meeting. No further dividend has yet been paid. Some correspondence and other important particulars in connection with this matter will be placed before you, to enable the meeting to decide what action shall be taken to protect the Society's interests. The transfer of the Funeral Fund belonging to the then newly-formed Tasmanian District and the discharge of some of the existing liabilities, left us as a new body without funds. But the assets, in the shape of quarterage and goods account due to us, were promptly paid by almost all the Districts. In the case of those that were delayed reasonable explanations were offered by the Districts concerned. The Balance-sheet, showing the E.D. transactions for the past two years, discloses a much more flourishing condition of affairs with the greatly-reduced quarterage now payable than even the most sanguine could have anticipated.

CHIEF PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO BRISBANE D.M., 1902.

(9.) We felt it our duty to depute the Chief President to attend Brisbane District Meeting to remove some misapprehensions which appeared to exist as to the nature of the arrangements under the new Constitution. It is needless to say Bro. Toohey received very courteous treatment and that his mission was entirely successful in removing mistaken impressions.

FORMATION OF NORTH QUEENSLAND DISTRICT.

(10.) A movement which was brought to a successful and, we are pleased to say, an amicable issue last year was the formation of branches around Charters Towers and Townsville into a separate District, to be known in the future as North Queensland District (No. 10). There is no doubt, considering the enormous extent of Queensland, and the difficulty and great expense in securing representative meetings, the change will be of some advantage to the Society locally.

RELATIONS WITH HIBERNIANS OF AMERICA.

(11.) It will be remembered that at the last meeting of the Interstate Deputies a rule was passed to the effect that clearance cards presented by members of the Ancient Order of Hibernians of America would be accepted in the same way as if coming from one of our own branches, and it was also resolved to request the Ancient Order of Hibernians to concede to our members a similar privilege. The Biennial Convention of our illustrious American namesakes not only gracefully acceded to our request, but are desirous of entering into a closer relationship, with a view to making the Hibernians a worldwide and free federation to preserve and cultivate those ennobling sentiments of fidelity to our Faith and country which are the salvation of the Irish race. A material point involved in the matter is the request made by the Biennial Convention that we should change our name to that of the "ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS OF AUSTRALASIA." This is a question for the members as a whole, and one that merits their fullest consideration. Probably by the time of our next meeting two years hence the Deputies may be so instructed by their Districts as to be able to pronounce definitely.

ALBURY BRANCH.

(12.) A matter which cropped up at several previous meetings of Deputies was the position of Albury Branch. It will be remembered that owing to peculiar circumstances at the formation of the Society, that branch was permitted to retain all its funds, and, in short, to be a District in itself. As the Society grew in N. S. Wales the position of Albury became anomalous, as being

the only branch of the Society which remained unaffiliated with a large District. We are pleased to state that last year the N. S. Wales District and the Branch made mutually satisfactory arrangements in regard to the transfer of the Branch Funeral Fund and the liabilities thereon, and that the Branch is now working under the same rules as the rest of the Branches in N. S. Wales.

THE COMMONWEALTH AND FRIENDLY SOCIETIES.

(13.) A movement is in progress in some of the States to secure uniformity in Friendly Societies' legislation by the Commonwealth taking over the control of the subject from the various State Governments; in fact, the Tasmanian Government were to introduce the matter for the consideration of the conference of State Premiers held in Sydney last week, while in Victoria the associated societies have gone to the length of preparing a draft Bill to accomplish the transfer. When it is remembered that cognate subjects such as Life Insurance, Old Age Pensions, Banking, and Trading Corporations are within the powers conferred on the Commonwealth Parliament, it seems that Friendly Societies could only have been omitted by an oversight when the Federation Bill was being framed. Now that attention has been directed to the matter in influential quarters it would not be surprising to find that the various State Governments will be glad to be relieved of the duty of maintaining the expensive separate Registrars' and Actuaries' offices in each State, especially when those departments are not revenue-producing.

MATTERS OF GENERAL INTEREST.

(14.) As members of a powerful Irish Catholic Society it has been usual at these meetings to give pointed expression to the sentiments of our members on matters of general concern to our Catholic citizens. There are some important subjects of this nature on which we invite pronouncements by this representative meeting.

TEACHING OF IRISH HISTORY IN CATHOLIC SCHOOLS.

The first is the advisability of offering practical encouragement to the teaching of Irish History in our Catholic schools, in furtherance of the patriotic action in the matter of the Cardinal and the members of the Australian Hierarchy.

FEDERATION OF CATHOLIC SOCIETIES FOR SOCIAL OBJECTS.

The federation of our various important Catholic Societies for purely Catholic and social objects is another proposal meriting your attention.

THE STAGE IRISHMAN.

And we might also consider whether we could not do something to banish at least from our Catholic concerts and entertainments that monstrous travesty on our race known as the "Stage Irishman." We are glad that owing to the sturdy action of the American Hibernians such vulgar, insulting caricaturing of our countrymen is no longer tolerated on the American stage; and surely in Australia, where the Irish element of the population is proportionately more numerous, the same result could be accomplished.

CONCLUSION.

Hoping that when the next Biennial Meeting takes place your Officers will have an even more satisfactory report to make as to the condition and progress of our grand Order, which, by another coincidence, completes to-day its thirty-second year under its present name, and again thanking all the Officers of the Districts and Branches for the courtesy and consideration shown to us,

We remain,

Yours fraternally,

(Signed by the Executive Directory),

JOHN TOOHEY, Chief President.

W. M. FOX, Chief Treasurer.

JAS. L. SUTTON, Corresponding Secretary.

Sydney, 27th April, 1903.

BALANCE-SHEET OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTORY FOR TWO YEARS, BEGINNING 9TH MAY, 1901, AND
ENDING 20TH APRIL, 1903.

RECEIPTS.

	GOODS.	QUARTERAGE.	TOTAL.
Victoria District..	.. £83 16 6	* ..	£83 16 6
New Zealand ..	.. 17 14 9	19 7 8	37 2 5
New South Wales	.. 56 2 7	57 16 0	113 18 7
Brisbane ..	.. 7 8 1	51 5 2	68 13 3
Rockhampton ..	.. 7 11 8	24 6 11	31 18 7
Adelaide ..	.. 17 13 1	29 5 1	46 18 2
West Australia ..	.. 18 13 8	11 19 5	30 13 1
Tasmania ..	.. 21 3 7	5 13 8	26 17 3
Albury Branch ..	.. 0 5 0	8 9 0	8 14 0
Bro. Toomey's contributions	.. ..	3 16 8	3 16 8
	<u>£240 8 11</u>	<u>£211 19 7</u>	<u>£452 8 6</u>

* Quarterage of Victoria District received since audit.

Total £452 8 6

EXPENDITURE.

Deputies Expenses—

Adelaide District Deputy Expenses, 1901	..	£4 0 0	
New Zealand .. " " 1900	..	17 18 3	
Rockhampton .. " " 1900 and 1901	25	14 0	
West Australia,, " " 1900 and 1901	38	6 4	
New South Wales .. " " 1901	..	6 1 6	
Tasmania .. " " 1901	..	4 0 0	
Albury Branch .. " " 1899 and 1900	8	14 0	
Chief President's .. " 1901	..	8 6 6	
" " Att. Brisbane D.M. 1902	..	9 0 0	—122 0 7

PRINTING—

F. W. White, Reports of Conference, 1900	..	1 0 0	
W. Brooks and Co., Galley proofs	..	1 0 0	
do do Reports	..	20 17 6	
do do Disp. and Constitution Books	9	18 6	
Websdale Shoesmith, Constitution Books	..	17 2 0	
W. Brooks and Co. .. ..	..	1 11 9	—51 9 9

GOODS—

Melbourne District, Laws supplied by Old E.D.	5	0 0	
N. S. Wales .. Constitution Books, etc.	3	2 0	
" " Rent of Meeting Room, 1900	0	10 0	
Framing and packing Address to A.O.H.	..	1 0 0	
Bank Charge Current account	..	0 15 0	
C. King, Emblem Cross, Adelaide District	..	2 15 0	—13 2 0
Sick Pay, Brother Toomey .. ..	..	..	19 12 6
Exchange .. ..	..	..	1 4 6
Salaries—C.S., £40; C.T., £2 2s .. ..	..	..	42 2 0
Petty Expenses—			
Stamps .. ..	..	4 9 9	
Carriage of Goods .. ..	..	2 12 0	
Telegrams .. ..	..	1 16 4	
Sundries .. ..	..	0 18 3	
Freight, etc., Goods from Melbourne ..	..	0 12 6	
Forwarding Reports of Meeting, 1901 ..	..	2 13 6	—13 2 4
			<u>262 13 8</u>

Union Bank, Cr. Current Account 189 14 10

Total £452 8 6

We hereby certify to having examined the accounts, Bank Pass Book, etc, and find the same to be correct.

J. DWYER }
E. MOORE } AUDITORS.

STATEMENT OF E.D. ASSETS AND LIABILITIES, APRIL, 1903.

ASSETS.		
Union Bank Current Account	£189 14 10	
Victorian Quarterage, 1901 and 1902 (say) ..	*56 0 0	
Adelaide Quarterage, 1902 (say)	5 4 0	
Owing by Districts for Goods	5 4 0	
Value of Goods in Stock (as per price list) ..	110 10 0	
	<u>£366 12 10</u>	

LIABILITIES.		
Bro, Toomey's Sick Pay to 30th April, 1903 ..	£5 0 0	
Fares of Delegates to Biennial Meeting, 1903, about ..	85 0 0	
Cost of Meeting, Reports, etc., about	40 0 0	
Balance Assets over Liabilities	236 12 10	
	<u>£366 12 10</u>	

*£50 received since audit.

STATEMENT OF E.D. FUNERAL FUND.

Funeral Fund Credit	£1627 14 4
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* NOTE.—First Dividend has been paid to old E.D. amounting to £34 15s 5d. Another dividend has been declared of 4d in the pound, payable on 28th May, 1903, amounting to £23 3s 8d. These deposits represent the only available asset of E D. Funeral Fund.

£1627 14 4

* Deposits—	
Standard Bank in Liquidation—	
Deposit slip, 883	£518 8 4
Deposit slip, 884	777 12 6
" "	11 0 1
	<u>£1307 0 11</u>
Accrued Interest	300 13 5
	<u>£1627 14 4</u>

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS AS FIXED FINALLY BY ADJUSTMENT COMMITTEE. (Appointed by A.M.M., 1901.)

DR.	
Deposit, Bank of Australasia	£150 0 0
Interest on Deposit	3 15 0
Cash	18 8 4
" " " "	90 6 1
" Current Account	0 4 0
" in hands of Brother O'Shea	106 0 0
" from Loan Redeemed	

£368 13 5

	CR.
C. R. Martin and Co. (Collars)	£7 15 0
Stokes and Son—Seal for Rockhampton	1 7 6
Subscription to ADVOCATE, FREEMAN'S JOURNAL, and SOUTHERN CROSS	6 16 0
C. S. O'Shea's salary	50 0 0
T. E. Verga—Letter Book, etc.	0 6 0
Hogan and Hogan, solicitors	10 10 0
Chief Treasurer's salary	1 1 0
D.C. P. Sullivan's fare and fees two days' sitting ..	5 10 0
Attendance at A.M.M.,—P,C,P., C. Treasurer, and C S., £1 10s each	4 10 0
Shorthand Reporters	5 5 0
Rent of Hibernian Hall	0 15 0
Meehan and Co.	5 3 0
Sick Pay, Brother Toomey	5 5 0
Auditors' Fees	2 2 0
Tasmanian District Funeral Fund	250 0 0
By Balance in Old E.D. account to be forwarded to New E.D.	12 7 11
	<u>£368 13 5</u>

A.O.H. PROCEEDINGS RELATING TO HIBERNIANS OF AUSTRALIA.

THE report of the proceedings of the Denver Convention of the Ancient Order of Hibernians of America, held last July, contains the following references to the Hibernians of Australasia:—

“The following address sent to us from Australia by the Executive Directory on behalf of the Hibernians in that portion of the world was read by the Hon. James P. Bree, National Secretary:—

“The Hibernian Australasian Catholic Benefit Society to the Ancient Order of Hibernians in America in Biennial Convention assembled, Denver, July, 1902.

FELLOW HIBERNIANS,—
20,000 members of our organization in Australia and New Zealand, by its Executive Directory, warmly greet you on the occasion of the Biennial Convention of your illustrious Order.

The blood of countless heroes and martyrs for Faith and Fatherland is our mutual heritage. May it quicken the ties of our universal fraternity, perpetuating and upholding the glorious traditions and aspirations of our Race.

Signed by the Executive Directory, Sydney, June, 1902.
[The address enclosed in a handsome frame was then placed on the platform. It was conveyed from Australia by Major Duhig, a member of one of the divisions of Illinois.]

NATIONAL PRESIDENT KEATING'S REPORT TO CONVENTION.

“In compliance with the instruction of the Boston Convention it was my pleasant duty to attempt to establish affiliation and reciprocal relations with the Hibernians of Australia and Ireland. I am pleased to be able to state that on May 7th, 1901, my correspondence with Australia bore good fruit, and the Convention of the Hibernian Australasian Society, held in the city of Melbourne on date named, adopted the following rule:—

“Any Branch of the Society may accept a Clearance of a Member of the Ancient Order of Hibernians in America provided he produces to the Branch a Medical Certificate that he is in good health and complies with the other provisions of the Society's Laws.

“The request is made that we adopt a similar resolution, and I respectfully invite your favourable consideration of the request.

“The arrangement for a similar understanding with the organization in Ireland, England, and Scotland is progressing favourably, and chiefly rests on matters subject to the consideration of your committee. I hope that my successor in office will be able to report to you in 1904 the accomplishment of a union of Hibernians in every land, and that, while our Society in this land or others may be known as the Hibernians of America or elsewhere, the title of the Association would be recognised as an association of Irish men and women the world over, separated, perhaps, by distance, but one in idea and one in purpose.”

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS.

“Your committee on foreign relations respectfully report that they have carefully examined letters and documents submitted to it, as received by the National President, John T. Keating.

“As it is desired by the Hibernian Australasian Catholic Benefit Society that an affiliation be effected, and as it is our wish that the Ancient Order of Hibernians should be invited the world over, we recommend that the National President of the Order be empowered to take such action as will bring together our Australian kindred and brothers of this country and Europe, and that the Australian Hibernian Catholic Benefit Society be requested to have their name changed to ‘ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS IN AUSTRALASIA,’ so that Hibernians will be ‘one in name, one in fame—the sea-divided Gael.’”

RICHARD MCGINN (New Jersey),
Chairman of Committee.

THE A.O.H. CONVENTION'S ACTION.

The Committee on Official Reports also reported on the matter as follows:—

“Under the head of the Committee on Foreign Relations, in which the Hibernian Australasian Society so generously and fraternally agree to accept cards from members of our organisation, we most respectfully urge that a similar resolution be passed by this Convention, that we extend the hand of fraternal greeting to our brethren in the Antipodes, and we further urge that the incoming National Officers will so further this work as to bring about a closer bond, which we hope will ultimately result in our being under one head and one grand organization the world over.

“The reports of both committees were unanimously adopted by the Convention.”

* * * * *

NATIONAL PRESIDENT DOLAN WRITES.

Ancient Order of Hibernians in America,
Syracuse, N.Y., February 27th, 1903.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—

Your communication of January 26th received, and contents carefully noted. I am delighted to receive assurances that our brethren of Australia desire affiliation with the organization of which I have the honour to be National President. It is the fond hope of your humble servant that during my administration, with the assistance of those in exalted positions, to see accomplished a lasting unity with all Hibernians the world over.

The Denver Convention placed the matter in my hands for adjustment. I had expected ere this to correspond with you but was waiting for the communication from you to Mr. Keating to be turned over to my office. Mr. Keating has been sick almost continuously since the Denver Convention, and only recently I received your address.

I send you under separate cover copy of proceedings of the Denver Convention, I refer you to page 126, part of the report of Committee on Foreign Relations. It would seem to me if this recommendation was agreeable to your association, and the name of your society changed to that of “The Ancient Order of Hibernians in Australia,” and the same pass words, signs, travelling and transfer cards, as well as the same form of initiation, it would be for the best interests of all concerned. Our pass word changes every three (3) months; it is issued by the National President of our society.

Our form of initiation is divided into four parts, and known as the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th degree. Wherever these degrees are successfully worked by competent degree teams, suggestive as they are of the past glories of our ancient Race and Faith, we find a wonderful increase in membership in consequence. They have a tendency to make meetings interesting and instructive, and create a desire on the part of our members to further post themselves on the glorious achievements of our Race.

I send you under separate cover one of our rituals for your consideration. You will notice a portion of the 4th degree is in cipher, this part is rather funny and completely fools the candidate. When the same is thoroughly explained to him it creates a desire on his part to bring in new members in order that he may witness the effect on others which was produced upon himself.

You will notice there are several songs used in our form of initiation, we have those songs set to music, and the same can be furnished you with little or no expense.

The exemplification of these degrees have been witnessed with great satisfaction by many of the clergy, who are members of our society, and they look upon them as being productive of great results.

We are now preparing a list of questions pertaining to our religion as well as to Irish history, which will be shortly used in connection with this form of initiation. These questions will be asked candidates during the progress of their initiation and will have a tendency to make them, as well as others, become better posted on all affairs pertaining to their religion as well as to the history of our Race.

It would seem to me that some arrangement could be entered into whereby your honourable Society would accept our quarterly communication which we call our "pass word," and use the same, also the same form of travelling and transfer card, which would be necessary for all members from one country to the other to have in their possession. This, together with change of name, as suggested above, would, I believe, be all that would be required, unless your honourable Society desired to receive all the official matter which is sent out to our members from our National Officers.

Proceedings of the Denver Convention will inform you as to the standing of our Society in this country. In addition, thereto, we have a Ladies' Auxiliary of 80,000 members. We are, at present, making most wonderful progress, the increase of our ranks averaging 1,000 per month.

The enclosed newspaper clipping will give you some idea of the various lines of work we have under consideration.

Please convey the best wishes of our members to our brethren of your society, and we earnestly pray the day may not be far distant when the fondest hopes of all Irishmen shall be realized; but until that time arrives let the "Ancient Order of Hibernians in Australia" and the "Ancient Order of Hibernians in America" continue their good work for the advancement and development of all that is noble, all that is grand, all that pertains to education and the elevation of the Irish race.

James L. Sutton, Australia.

Fraternally Yours,

J. E. DOLAN,
National President.

P.S.—Such an arrangement as I have described could be entered into with no expense to either society, and would give all concerned the satisfaction of knowing that a bond of unity and friendship existed between Irishmen of both countries.

Any proposition your honourable Society may see fit to advance will be cordially received by your humble servant.

J.E.D.



TO THE MOST EMINENT AND MOST REVEREND

PATRICK FRANCIS CARDINAL MORAN,

ARCHBISHOP OF SYDNEY,

Delegate Apostolic, Etc.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EMINENCE,—

THE Executive Directory Officers and Deputies of the Hibernian A.C.B. Society of Australia and New Zealand, assembled in the capital city of the Mother State for their Biennial Meeting, beg to offer your Eminence their warmest greetings on this the golden jubilee year of your priesthood.

We are privileged to speak in the name of the 22,000 members of our Society. In their behalf we assure your Eminence of our devoted loyalty and respect. The Archdiocese of Sydney has the first claim on your pastoral solicitude, but your Eminence does not belong to Sydney alone. The Catholics of Australia have all felt the benefit of your inspiring example; you have been for all of us a model of loyalty to the Church and of patriotism to the State.

We cannot forget, too, that as a society we have special reason to greet your Eminence. One of your earliest addresses in Australia was an eloquent exposition of the principles on which the constitution of our Society is based. Our Society is one founded for purposes which were ever dear to the Church. In the olden days, before the hand of a spurious civilization sought to improve its work, the Church has left its mark upon the happiness, spiritual and temporal of the great working multitude of the world. It had its guilds and mutual aid societies where the spirit of religion was fostered, and where men, under the combined influence of humanity and religion, helped their brothers, who were afflicted or in distress. Our Society is actuated by the same ennobling motives of religion and benevolence. We are a distinctly Catholic society, and we strive in every way in our power to promote the work of the Church, whilst at the same time we seek under the Church's patronage and special blessing to do for one another what the members of the ancient Church Guilds did for those who had the happiness of belonging to them. We aid the sorrow stricken and afflicted, we relieve the widow and orphan, and we secure the last sad but consoling rites of the Church for our departed brothers. Though the name "Hibernian Australasian" points out the lands which most of us claim as our own, still Catholics of every clime and race are welcomed into our ranks. Our brotherhood like the Church's charity is universal.

Then there is the other ground, not less dear to your Eminence's Irish heart. We are banded together for the purpose of preserving in the hearts of Irish-Australians the holy fire of that twin love which ever bound your ancestors to Fatherland as well as to Faith. Next to God is country, and patriotism, or love of country, is the sacred birthright of our race. We recognize in your Eminence a son of Ireland who, though pre-eminent in his devoted loyalty to the land of his adoption, has never forgotten, in all life's relations and all duty's calls, the love that as a Gael he owes to his dear old Motherland. We recognize in your Eminence a son of Ireland who has from earliest youth given to the world a proud example of the old Apostolic missionary zeal of the Irish race. We honour in your person one of Ireland's sons whose culture sheds lustre on his country's name, and whose brave heart has inspired our people here as well as at home with some of its own fearless patriotic devotion.

You have been raised to a position of the highest dignity in the Church whose interests you have so long and faithfully guarded. Coming, as we do, from all parts of the Australian Commonwealth and New Zealand, and representing so many thousands of Australian workers, we can testify from our own experience that under the purple robe of the Cardinal beats a kind heart, full of sympathy for the poor and the oppressed, without distinction of creed or race.

On this day, therefore, which marks the passing of the "days of Peter" by that glorious successor of his who sent your Eminence to our shores, we pray God to give you, too, the crown of lengthened years amongst us.

Craving your Eminence's blessing on ourselves and on our Society,

We remain,

Your Eminence's devoted faithful servants,

Signed on behalf of the Hibernian A.C.B. Society,

EXECUTIVE DIRECTORY OFFICERS :		DEPUTIES :
.....	Chief President.	Victoria No. 1
.....	Chief Treasurer	N. Zealand, No. 3
.....	Corr. Secretary.	N. S. Wales, No. 4
.....	} Trustees	.....
.....	
.....		Brisbane, No. 5
.....		Rockhampton, No. 6
.....	} Auditors.	Adelaide, No. 7
.....		W. Australia, No. 8
.....		Tasmania. No. 9
.....		N. Queensland No. 10

DEATH OF SIR CHARLES GAVAN DUFFY.

The following letter was received by the E.D. in reply to a telegram of condolence sent to Mr. John Gavan Duffy, Melbourne, on the death of his father :—

Melbourne, 20th February, 1903.

DEAR SIR,—

Your telegram of condolence was very gratifying to me and to all the members of my father's family. It is a pleasant thing to know that you and the other official representatives of the great Irish-Australian Society, speaking for the Society, have not forgotten my father's labours for Ireland and for Australia—have not forgotten that he, like your Society, proved that a man may be a good Australian citizen and help to build up a great Commonwealth beneath the Southern Cross without forgetting the little green Island far away amid the wild Atlantic waves—might be loyal and true to this great young country without being false to the dear Old Land where he was born and for which he had laboured and suffered in his youth. Deeply grateful to you,

I remain, yours, etc.,

JOHN GAVAN DUFFY.