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THE BENDIGO CATHEDRAL OPENING CEREMONIES

Large Gathering of Clergy

Address by Cardinal Moran by Our Special Reporter

BENDIGO, Sunday.

The opening of the new Roman Catholic Cathedral at Bendigo was an event that has been looked forward to locally with interest, for some months past. To record why Bendigo has not had a church comparable with other cathedral cities in Australia would be to write a church history of the city, covering the most stirring 30 years of its existence.

In other places, the practice has been to lay the foundation of the Church in the dawn of the city's life, and to watch its development side by side with that of the city. But in Bendigo, the rulers, or rather the ruler, of the Churches ordained otherwise. The Rev. Dr Backhaus, who for 29 years of Bendigo's early life was the directing head of Catholic Activity in the city, was content to work edifice which of itself did not lend much dignity to the labours on which he was engaged. The church buildings which were erected were the minimum of what was necessary for the wants of the people. The wealth which he had accumulated he invested in reproductive channels, and wealth begot wealth, and he found himself growing richer as the years went by.

When in 1882 he died he provided that the policy which he had set upon, through life should be followed for many years after his death. He left a vast property to the church, the value of which at the time has been estimated at from £20,000 upwards. He stipulated, however, in his will, that the money would not be used for the purpose for which it was intended until 20 years after his death.

Bendigo was created a diocese in 1874, but when Bishop Crane came here the struggle with the Education Act had commenced, and the work of providing school accommodation throughout the Diocese was deemed the most important consideration of the time. Thus, any action independent of Dr Backhaus's designs towards building a cathedral was rendered impossible, and the people made up their minds to wait until the maturity of the trust in which Dr Backhaus had placed his estate. About five years ago it was, however, decided to anticipate the receipt of the money and to start upon the erection of the cathedral. Accordingly, an advance from Mr George Lansell, the "Quartz King" of Bendigo was arranged and the foundation stone of the cathedral, which was opened yesterday, was laid in June 1897.

Whatever may have been the demerits of Dr Backhaus's policy, it was one against which the present generation of Catholics in Bendigo have no cause for complaint. They are in the position of absolute heirs to an estate with which their fathers who built it up, had no power to deal, and which during the intervening years has immensely increased in value. The new Cathedral stands upon a commanding site and is one of the first public buildings which strikes the eye of the visitor as he enters the city by train.

It was built of Moorabool and Waurn stone and externally and internally the predominant note of its colour is khaki. It is designed to accommodate 2000 people and in its present incomplete state it has sitting accommodation for about 1400 people.

The ceremonies in connection with the opening of the cathedral were commenced yesterday morning, when Bishop Reville assisted by the Rev. T.J. Rooney and the Rev. W.O' Byrnie O.S.A blessed the edifice. The ceremony was a brief one and there was not a large attendance of the public.

By the midday train from Melbourne, Cardinal Moran, Archbishop Carr, Bishop Gallagher (Goulburn), Dr O'Haran the secretary to Cardinal Moran, ... and a large body of clergy arrived in Bendigo. The party was accommodated in the commissioner's carriage "Victoria". On the platform to meet the train were Dr Reville, Coadjutor Bishop of Sandhurst; Bishop of Cooktown; Mr O'Neil M.L.A.; Councillors Ryan (Bendigo); Riley (Huntly) and Burke (Strathfieldsaye); and Mr A.M. Pool (President of the H.A.U.B.S).

When the train drew up to the platform, the members of the reception committee were brought into the carriage by Bishop Reville and presented to the Cardinal and other prelates. A procession was then formed, which marched to the Bishop's Palace St Kilian's Pro-Cathedral. The Cardinal's carriage was escorted by a large detachment of the local branch of the HAUBS consisting of mounted and moot men. The streets were lined with people and the demonstration was of their most cordial character.

On arrival at the palace, Mr O'Neill M.L.A., on behalf of the citizens extended to Cardinal Moran a hearty welcome to Bendigo and, in doing so, referred to the fact that, while the Catholic religion in that city had flourished ... since the days when its members worshipped in a canvas tent to the present day, when they were about to open an imposing cathedral, the progress had always been accompanied by the utmost amity and good feeling between the Catholics and the rest of the citizens.

Mr A.M. Pool, on behalf of the Hibernian Society, presented the Cardinal with a gold pen, which he said the members of the society regarded as an appropriate present to one who had so frequently used his pen in the support of the church.

Cardinal Moran, in reply, said that he was delighted to receive the manifestation of good feeling from an association whose object was to make good order in society and whose members were not banded together to offer offence to anybody. He was double pleased to be in Bendigo, because he had had the pleasure of meeting more than 27 years ago the Bishop Of Sandhurst Dr Crane whose affliction and ill health had prevented him from being at the demonstration that afternoon.

Every inch of space was occupied today when, a little before 11 o'clock, the acolytes, with two priests, followed the Bishops Gallagher (Goulburn); Murray (Cooktown), Moore (Ballarat); Reville (Sandhurst); Archbishop Carr and Cardinal Moran, entered the Church. Their entrance was signalled by the rendering of Perosi's "Ecce Sacredos Magnus" by the full choir and the procession filed into the sanctuary where the pontificate of the Mass, Dr Corbett, Bishop of Sale was waiting to receive them. Bishop Crane was also in the sanctuary and his large frame shrunken

with years and infirmity, presented a very pathetic sight, as he sat with bowed head unable to see what Cardinal Moran afterwards referred to as the abundant fruits of his episcopacy.

Cardinal Moran took his seat upon the throne, supported by Dean Phelan and Dr O'Haran on the other hand.

Among those who attended were Sir John Quick M.H.R; Mr Abbot MLC: Mr Lazarus, Mr Rails, Mr Sierry and Mr O'Niell M.L.As; Councillor Hoskings, the Mayor of Bendigo and Councillors Ryan, Marks, Curnow, Carolin and Dunstan; Councillors Riley (Huntly) Drechsler, Burke and Lowndes (Strathfieldsaye)

Cardinal Moran who preached from the text of "We are the children of saints, and look for that life which God will give to those who never change their faith from Him," took for his theme, "Some Primary tests of the True Church." Our Saviour saw that false teachers would arise whose aim would be to corrupt His doctrine and to lead men away from His saving fold. Hence, He was pleased to invest His church with manifold indubitable tests, so manifest and accessible to all that the least instructed might discriminate between truth and falsehood. It was not his (Cardinal Moran's) purpose to engage in controversy submitting those tests. The primary test was presented by the apostle in the golden words, "We preach Christ and Him crucified, to the Jews a scandal and a folly to the Gentiles, but to those who are called of God the power of God and the wisdom of God." Christianity was Christ, and the mystery of the incarnation embraced all the merciful dealings of God with man. Many of the early heretical communions had denied the human nature of Christ, while some modern sectaries rushed to the opposite extreme, they dwelt solely on the human perfection of the Redeemer, but would not admit His Divine nature. But the evangelist had proclaimed that the Word was God, and for the salvation of men that Word was made flesh, and dwelt among them. "It might be asked, could not the church allow certain latitude to her children regarding the doctrines of faith, and might she not herself be indifferent to Divine truth. A church indifferent to Divine truth was a counterfeit and could not be the genuine church. The church that appointed private judgement as the divinely appointed interpreter of sacred Scripture could not be but a counterfeit. If private judgement were the interpreter, the divinely appointed commission would be responsible for contradictory creeds and endless falsehoods.

The Catholic Church verified the test of perpetuity, not of name alone, but of missionary enterprise, of episcopal succession and of the title deeds of the Christian Church. A church that pretended to be invisible was not ordered in accordance with His divine command. It was the mission of the church to be persecuted by a sinful world. The fathers had attested that in every age the storms of persecution, under varying forms, had never ceased to rage around the church. But she was not overcome, and her constancy had been the means of leading many souls to Christ. The demoniac hatred with which the wicked portion of the community raged against the Catholic Church was a primary test that the mission entrusted to her was a divine one. The final test was the fact that the church always desired to be in harmony with those around her, She availed herself of the progress of the age as far as it was consistent with the advancement of religion, and the enlightenment of the Church's children; and the social order in which she moved was ever fruitful on the blessings which she conferred.

The musical service was worthy of the occasion.

In the afternoon, at the invitation of the Bishop of Sandhurst (the Right Rev. Dr Crane), the visiting prelates and about 200 prominent clergymen and laymen were entertained at a luncheon in St Kilian's Hall. The coadjutor Bishop, Dr Reville, occupied the chair.

The Chairman proposed the toast of "His Eminence Cardinal Moran." He thought that the city of Bendigo had been paid a very great compliment seeing that the Cardinal had journeyed 1400 miles to present that day. In the course of his remarks Bishop Reville said that the Cardinal's thorough acquaintance with all up-to-date movements was indicated by the number of carping critics who were continually taking exception to his utterances.

Cardinal Moran, on rising to respond was received with prolonged cheering and waving of handkerchiefs. He was pleased, he said, to be with them at the opening of the new cathedral for many reasons. Firstly, because he met many old friends with whom he had been associated earlier in life. He was one of the few men who had known intimately the first priest who laboured in Bendigo, Dr Backhaus. He was first acquainted with him in 1846. (Cheers.) When as a young and energetic missionary he had entered on that work in Rome. The beautiful gem of art which had been erected was a fitting tribute to his memory.

The cathedral corresponded with the city of Bendigo, which had the name of being first among the beautiful cities of Australia. (Cheers.) He did not mean on that account it was going to be the capital, as New South Wales held that privilege. (Laughter.) He regretted the infirmity under which the bishop of the Diocese suffered, and he felt sure no one rejoiced more that day in the partial completion of the edifice, and he felt double pleased to be with him in sharing the joy. He rejoiced to see harmony and concord exist among citizens, a feeling calculated to promote the best interests of a federated Australia. (Cheers.) He expressed his satisfaction at the growing tendency among denominations to mingle together. People were accustomed to look on the church as having tendency to hinder the progress of social life. He felt it had an entirely opposite effect, since it guarded it. The Cardinal concluded with a stirring observation on the lasting benefits of Australian Federation.

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LARGE GATHERING OF CLERGY.

ADDRESS BY CARDINAL MORAN.

(BY OUR SPECIAL REPORTER.)

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Bendigo was created a diocese in 1874, but when Bishop Crane came here the struggle with the Education Act had recommenced, and the work of providing school accommodation throughout the diocese was deemed the most important consideration of the time. Thus any action independent of Dr. Backhaus's designs towards building a cathedral was rendered impossible, and the people made up their minds to wait until the maturity of the trust in which Dr. Backhaus had placed his estate. About five years ago it was, however, decided to anticipate the receipt of the money, and to start upon the erection of the cathedral. Accordingly an advance from Mr. George Leane, the "quartz king" of Bendigo, was arranged, and the foundation-stone of the cathedral, which was opened yesterday, was laid in June 1897.

Whatever may have been the demerits of Dr. Backhaus's policy, it was one against which the present generation of Catholics in Bendigo have no cause for complaint. They are in the position of absolute heirs to an estate with which their fathers, who built it up, had no power to deal, and which during the intervening years has immensely increased in value. The new Cathedral stands upon a commanding site, and is one of the best public buildings which strikes the eye of the vis-

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The ceremonies in connection with the opening of the cathedral were commenced yesterday morning, when Bishop Revillo, assisted by the Rev. T. J. Rooney and the Rev. W. O'Brien, M.A., blessed the edifice. The ceremony was a brief one, and there was not a large attendance of the public.

By the midday train from Melbourne Cardinal Moran, Archbishop Carr, Bishop Gallagher (Geelong), Dr. O'Haran, the secretary to Cardinal Moran, Dean Puelin (Melbourne), Mr. A. J. Kenny, M.B., and a large body of clergy arrived in Bendigo. The party were accommodated in the Commissioner's carriage "Victoria." On the platform to meet the train were Dr. Revillo, Coadjutor Bishop of Sandhurst, Dr. Corbett, Bishop of Sale, Dr. Murray, Bishop of Cooktown, Mr. O'Neill, M.C.A., Councillors Ryan (Bendigo), Riley (Huntly), and Burke (Strathfield), and Mr. A. M. Pool (president of the H.A.C.S.). When the train drew up to the platform the members of the reception committee were brought into the carriage by Bishop Revillo, and presented to the Cardinal and the other prelates. A procession was then formed, which marched to the Bishop's palace at St. Kilian's Pro-Cathedral. The Cardinal's carriage was escorted by a large detachment of the local branch of the H.A.C.S., consisting of mounted and foot men. The streets were lined with people and the demonstration was of the most cordial character.

On arrival at the palace, Mr. O'Neill, M.C.A., on behalf of the citizens, extended to Cardinal Moran a hearty welcome to Bendigo, and in doing so referred to the fact that while the Catholic religion in that city had flourished constantly since the days when its members worshipped in a canvas tent, to the present day, when they were about to open an imposing cathedral, the progress had always been accompanied by the utmost amity and good feeling between the Catholics and the rest of the citizens.

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Cardinal Moran, in reply, said that he was delighted to receive the manifestation of good feeling from an association whose objects were to make for good order in society, and whose members were not banded together to offer offence to any body. He was doubly pleased to be in Bendigo, because he had had the pleasure of meeting more than 27 years ago the Bishop of Sandhurst (Dr. Crane), whose affliction and ill-health had prevented him from being at the demonstration that afternoon.

Every inch of space was occupied to-day when, a little before 11 o'clock, a line of acolytes, with 27 priests, followed by Bishops Gallagher (Geelong), Murray (Cooktown), Moran (Ballarat), Revillo (Sandhurst), Archbishop Carr, and Cardinal Moran, entered the church. Their entrance was signalled by the rendering of Beroni's "Kyrie Eleison Magnus" by the full choir, and the procession filed into the sanctuary, where the pontifical of the Mass, Dr. Corbett, Bishop of Sale, was waiting to receive them. Bishop Crane was also in the sanctuary, and his spare frame, shrunk with years and infirmity, presented a very pathetic sight, as he sat with

Cardinal Moran took his seat upon the throne, supported by Dean Phelan and Mr O'Hara on either hand. Directly opposite sat Archbishop Carr and the other prelates, while the remaining clergy ranged themselves round the sanctuary. The Mass was then offered up with all the impressive ceremonies which are characteristic of the Catholic Church.

Among those who attended were Mr John Quick, M.H.R., Mr. Abbott, M.L.A., Mr. Lamrus, Mr. Baker, Mr. Steery, and Mr. O'Neill, M.L.A., a Councillor Hopkins, the mayor of Bendigo, and Councillors Ryan, Marks, Carnow, Carlson, and Duncan; Councillors Riley (Hawth), Drenthler, Hurke, and Lowndes (Strathfield) were present.

Cardinal Moran, who preached from the text of "We are the children of saints, and look for that life which God will give to those that never change their faith from Him," took for his theme, "Some Primary Tests of the True Church." Our Saviour saw that false teachers would arise whose aim would be to corrupt His doctrine, and to lead men away from His saving fold. Hence he was pleased to invest His church with manifold indelible tests, so manifold and accessible to all that the least instructed might discriminate between truth and falsehood. It was not his (Cardinal Moran's) purpose to engage in controversy in submitting these tests. The primary test was presented by the apostle in the golden words, "We preach Christ and Him crucified; to the Jews a scandal and a folly to the Gentiles, but to those who are called of God the power of God and the wisdom of God." Christianity was Christ, and the mystery of the Incarnation embodied all the marvellous dealings of God with man. Many of the early heretical communions had denied the human nature of Christ, while some modern sectaries rushed to the opposite extreme. They dwelt solely on the human perfection of the Redeemer, but would not admit His Divine nature. But the evangelist had proclaimed that the Word was God, and for the salvation of men that Word was made flesh, and dwelt amongst them. It might be asked, could not the church allow certain latitude to her children regarding the doctrine of faith, and might she not herself be indifferent to Divine truth. A church indifferent to Divine truth was a

counterfeit, and could not be the genuine church. The church that appointed private judgment as the divinely appointed interpreter of sacred Scriptures could not be but a counterfeit. If private judgment were the interpreter, the divinely appointed commission would be responsible for contradictory creeds and endless falsehood. The Catholic Church verified the test of perpetuity, not of name alone, but of missionary enterprise, of episcopal succession, and of the true doctrine of the Christian Church. A church that pretended to be invisible was not ordered in accordance with His divine command. It was the mission of the church to be persecuted by a sinful world. The fathers had attested that in every age the storms of persecution, under varying forms, had never ceased to rage around the church. But she was not overcome, and her constancy had been the means of leading many souls to Christ. The demonic hatred with which the wicked portion of the community raged against the Catholic Church was a primary test that the mission entrusted to her was a divine one. The final test was the fact that the church always desired to be in harmony with those around her. She

availed herself of the progress of the age as far as it was consistent with the advancement of religion, and the enlightenment of the church's children, and the social order in which she moved was ever fruitful of the blessings which she conferred.

The musical service was worthy of the occasion. Cherubini's Mass in A, a work specially composed for the coronation of Charles X. at Rheims, being rendered for the first time in Australia. Special numbers were also introduced.

In the afternoon, at the invitation of the Bishop of Sandhurst (The Right Rev. Dr. Crane), the visiting prelates and about 200 prominent clergymen and laymen were entertained at luncheon in St. Kilian's Hall. The Commandeur Bishop, Dr. Reville, occupied the chair.

The Chair was proposed the toast of "His Eminence Cardinal Moran." He thought that the city of Bendigo had been paid a very great compliment, seeing that the Cardinal had journeyed 1,400 miles to be present that day. In the course of his remarks Bishop Reville said that the Cardinal's thorough acquaintance with all up-to-date movements was indicated by the number of carrying critics who were continually taking exception to his utterances.

Cardinal Moran, on rising to respond, was received with prolonged cheering and waving of handkerchiefs. He was pleased, he said, to be with them at the opening of the new Cathedral for many reasons. Firstly, because he met many old friends with whom he had been associated earlier in life. He was one of the few men who had known intimately the first priest who laboured in Bendigo, viz., Dr. Backhaus. He was first acquainted with him in 1846—1848, when as a young and energetic missionary he had entered on that work in Rome. The beautiful gem of art which had been erected was a fitting tribute to his memory. The cathedral corresponded with the city of Bendigo, which had the name of being the most beautiful cities of Australia. (Cheers.) He did not mean on that account it was going to be the capital, as New South Wales held that privilege. (Laughter.) He regretted the infirmity under which the bishop of the diocese suffered, and he felt sure no one rejoiced more that day in the partial completion of the edifice, and he felt doubly pleased to be with him in sharing the joy. He rejoiced to see harmony and concord existing among citizens, a feeling calculated to promote the best interests of a federated Australia. (Cheers.) He expressed his satisfaction at the growing tendency among denominations to mingle together. People were accustomed to look on the church as having a tendency to hinder the progress of social life. He felt it had an entirely opposite effect, inasmuch as it guarded it. The Cardinal concluded with a stirring invocation on the lasting benefits of Australian federation.

Bishop Reville proposed the health of Archbishop Carr and the visiting prelates.

Archbishop Carr, in replying, said he had observed with pleasure that during the last week or so the Minister of Customs had carried out one of the most important measures ever performed by any Government. The department had seized a parcel of impure literature which had been landed on our shores. By this act the Government had refused to allow this literature to get into the hands of young boys and girls, whose very souls would be sullied by its perusal. He was glad to see that the Minister would not allow any firm to distribute such sordid and blasphemous books, which in a short time would do more harm than all the laws which the Commonwealth might make between this and Christ-tide would undo. He hoped the State authorities would act with similar discrimination and vigilance.

write authorities would act with similar determination, and prohibit the publication of these papers. Thank God there were not many which depended for their circulation upon privacy. (Cheers.) A vast amount of injury was being done to the young, not only in Melbourne, but throughout the State. His attention had been drawn to papers which not only were sent to modest women, but which would cause hardened men to blush, and he was informed one paper alone had a circulation of 17,000 copies in the State. A young man had come to him, and pointed out that in a shop in Melbourne these pictures were the daily attraction for a crowd of gawping boys and girls. The only way to overcome the evil, which was poisoning the minds of the people, was to stop the circulation and publication of such papers.

The Bishop of Goulburn also responded. Canon Mr. S. Ryan proposed "The Levy," and Canon Phelps, Dean Hovey, and Father Cotterill responded. "The City Council," suggested by Major F. W. Harris, was responded to by the mayor. Mr. A. M. Peck proposed "The Federal Parliament," and Sir John Quick replied. Other topics were "The State Parliament," "The Larty," and "The Press."

In the evening the Rev. J. Ryan, S.J., preached at the cathedral to a large audience.

The collections for the day amounted to over £100.