

3/12

SUMMARY

CARDINAL NEWMAN MEMORIAL.

Our last summary contained a description of the memorial about to be presented by the Roman Catholics of this colony to the Rev. Dr. John Henry Newman, in congratulation of his being raised to the dignity of Cardinal. The memorial ~~is to be~~ forwarded to his Grace the Duke of Norfolk, for presentation to the Cardinal, as will be seen by the following letter to his Grace:—

has been /

"TO HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF NORFOLK, HEREDITARY
EARL MARSHAL OF ENGLAND, &c.

"My Lord Duke,—I have the honour to address your Grace under the following circumstances.

"When the news came to Australia, in the shape of a telegram, that the dignity of Cardinal had been offered to the Very Rev. Dr. John Henry Newman, there ran a thrill of joy through Catholic hearts. That dignity was recognised as a fitting reward for his life-long battle for Truth, and it was looked upon as an unmistakable testimony by the highest authority on earth to the genius, the learning, and the sanctity of the greatest of the sons of St. Philip.

"Soon, however, fears arose that the illustrious oratorian, in his sensitive humility, would succeed in his efforts to escape from the splendour and the burden of the purple; but when it was at last authoritatively made known that he had yielded in obedience and was indeed to be a Cardinal, there was not only hearty satisfaction, but a deep sense of relief.

"Concurrently with these tidings came an account of your Grace's efforts in the mother country to testify in some way to the general joy at this gracious elevation, and one amongst us, well aware that there are Catholics in Australia who in their affection and admiration for John Henry Newman cannot be surpassed, wrote to a few of them to the effect that some effort, however modest it might be, should be made to show that our hearts beat in unison with yours, and that our voices could harmoniously join in the general acclaim. This took place in May last, within the Octave of St. Philip Neri, and the result was a rapid and signal success.

"The first response received was from a gentleman who is Australian born, and is also one of the most eminent of our public men. He wrote thus:—'My feeling about John Henry Newman is of a devotional character. . . . No priest of the Catholic Church of whom I have ever read so affects me by his life and works. You will see from what I have said that I dread the presumption of taking a conspicuous part in attempting to honour him.' But happily he did take a part, and the most public part in the movement; and to the zealous and affectionate eloquence of the Honorable John Bede Dalley I hold our speedy success was chiefly due.

"From the enclosed printed papers, your Grace will see how a committee was formed, and honorary officers appointed, and what was said and done at its meetings. Of course Catholics only were present at our deliberations; but this did not prevent practical sympathy and support from being rendered by those who are not altogether of us. The public Press for example with generous alacrity stimulated the movement through its most conspicuous columns. There were also Anglicans of good-will who personally came forward to do reverence to the great Light and Doctor of the Church. Among those was one who is entitled to our grateful mention, I allude to the Rev. Dr. Charles Badham, of the University of Sydney, who in an exquisite Latin inscription, which appears on the centre of the salver, has recorded in felicitous terms the thoughts of the Catholic mind and the feelings of the Catholic heart. May it be truly said of him, and of every one like him, in the words that Dante makes his sometime master utter,

William

"Se tu segui tua stella
Non puoi fallire a glorioso porto."

"The movement was intended to be essentially a lay one, and so it was in the main, but in fact all sections of society, more or less, contributed. Among the subscribers were represented—the episcopate, the clergy, the judiciary, the legislature, and the learned and other professions. But it was carefully made known from the onset that no sum, however small, would be refused. The consequence was that shillings and even pence flowed in from all parts of the country. Many of these modest contributions came not only from poor people in scattered townships, but from struggling selectors, wood-splitters, fishermen; from folk that toil in the remote bush, in wild woods, and on lonely coasts remote from the capital. And thus it soon became plain that even the unlettered rejoiced to pay reverential tribute to one whom they recognized as a Confessor of the Faith.

"The universality of the offering was indeed so remarkable that his Grace the Archbishop of Sydney deemed it of significance enough to record in a pastoral. That venerated prelate, in speaking of what Providence had been leading the Catholic laity to do, said:—'Has not the venerable name of John Henry Newman acted as a spell upon them? and are they not doing for him what they have proposed to do for no other on his being made a Cardinal by the Holy Father? Without a word or sign from the Archbishop, of their own spontaneous impulse, they have united in an unanimity very unusual, from the highest leaders to the most unknown amongst them, to do him honour. Their love of him, their profound reverence and admiration will be recorded in the most lasting and most grateful form, loving words and golden plate engraved and embossed with many memories dear to him.'

"Somewhat more than a moiety of the amount subscribed was expended as soon as collected on a salver made of Australian gold. The as yet unused balance of the subscriptions will serve to render further honour to his Eminence later on. But there is a natural anxiety that no time be lost in forwarding the testimonial, just finished, to its destination; and I have been asked to solicit your Grace's kind offices so far as to present to Cardinal Newman both the salver and the illuminated address which accompanies it, in the name and on behalf of the subscribing Catholics in Australia.

"We look up to you, my lord Duke, as the legitimate representative of the Catholic laity of the British Empire, and therefore feel confident that your Grace will honour us by cordially acceding to our request. And further, we feel assured that your Grace will treat the task as a labour of love towards one who is so deservedly dear to you and yours.

"I have the honour to be, my Lord Duke,

"Yours ever respectfully and sincerely,

"W. H. ARCHER.

"Double Bay, Sydney.

"In Fest. Nat. B. M. V., 1879."
