

Proposed] by Mr. John P. Mullooney, seconded by Mr. James Power.

Resolved, That for the effectuation of this object, the officers of the Society do prepare an address expressive of the feelings of this body.

The Officers of the Society having prepared an Address, the Vice President reported the following diary which he submitted to the meeting,—

MY LORD,

The Benevolent Irish Society of St. John's contemplate with sincere regret even the temporary departure of your Lordship from a country upon which your zeal and energy, your spirit and intelligence have conferred so many benefits, amongst which may be enumerated as not the least distinguished, the diffusion of Clergymen for the instruction of the poor people of Newfoundland in localities where, before, the voice of a minister of Religion had never been heard—the dotting of our shores with beautiful buildings dedicated to the service of God, alike promotive of the spiritual and intellectual happiness of the people, and the improvement and adornment of a hitherto neglected country.

But another notice, my Lord, not less cogent to awaken our regret, on this occasion, is suggested by the affectionate relations that have subsisted between your Lordship and this Society during the entire period of your Lordship's administration of this Vicariate. Dedicated as this Body has been to the cause of universal Charity and Christian Benevolence, we have felt proud of our connexion with a Christian Prelate, the whole tenor of whose life has been marked by the deepest devotion to those high attributes: and therefore, do we the more deeply regret any interruption to those relations, however brief the time, or important the occasion.

Permit us, then, my Lord, to pay you this humble tribute of our affection and gratitude for the great and unremitting exertions you have made for the promotion of the interests of the country—to offer your Lordship the sincere expression of our regret that you should, under any circumstances, deem it necessary again to hazard a Winter's voyage across the Atlantic, and to pray ardently that the arm of Him who stills the storm may be extended over your Lordship in protection, and that your return to your people may be speedy and fortunate.

The Address having been read it was

Proposed by Mr. J. P. Mullooney, seconded by Mr. J. Devereux,

Resolved, That the Address of this Society be presented to the Right Rev. Dr. Fleming by the Officers and Members of the Society.

(Signed)

JOHN V. NUGENT, V. President.

JOHN KAVANAGH, Secretary.

REPLY OF MR. FLEMING TO THE ADDRESS OF THE BENEVOLENT IRISH SOCIETY.

Mr. V. President and Gentlemen,

I sincerely thank you for your kind address, because at a moment like this, when my spirit is bowed at the thought of even a momentary separation from my beloved Congregation, the expression of so much affection, of such flattering approval by a body constituted as your is, for the promotion of Christian Charity and benevolence, however unmerited, is soothing and cheering in the extreme.

Your adventence to the lapse of time during which I have had the honor and happiness to be connected with your society, as its Vice Patron, has awakened many pleasing and gratifying recollections.—All the miseries you have assuaged,—the tears you have dried,—the numbers you have sheltered from the piercing winds of our inclement winters whose hunger you have removed,—the little ones whose minds you have enlarged and fortified by the great blessing of a sound and useful education, turning thus upon the world good men and useful citizens those who otherwise might have proved a curse to society—and all this performed in the spirit of true Christianity, irrespective of clime, of colour or of creed—why should I not feel both honor and happiness at the recollection that I had been elevated to the dignity of Vice Patron of such a body.

Believe me, gentlemen, I regard the approval of such a society as high a distinction, though unmerited, that could be bestowed on me; and I almost feel that it is calculated to persuade my self-love that there must be some merit to awaken so flattering an eulogium.—And yet there is a merit, my strong claim to which I cannot resign, which is that there is no individual in existence whose pulse beats more warmly for the spiritual happiness of the people of Newfoundland than mine, or one who is more solicitous to promote them, if heaven bestowed upon me the means.

Accept, then, gentlemen, my heartfelt thanks