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PAPAL DELEGATE

Continued from page 1.

The church would not accommodate half those seeking admission, and when His Excellency took a seat in the sanctuary, the building was packed almost from floor to ceiling. The children were arranged in the middle aisles, and the girls opened the proceedings by singing a chorus of welcome. Following this came seven boys of St. Mary's school, who, bearing in their hands letters forming the word "Welcome," each stepped forward and recited some appropriate lines. The boys next sang a chorus, and then Master Marrin advanced to the front and read the following address:

To His Excellency
Mgr. Raphael Merry del Val:—
My Lord,—In seeing Your Excellency in our midst to-day, we recognize the kindheartedness of our Holy Father, the Pope, Leo XIII, and his paternal care in sending you to this part of his fold in the far Northwest of America, to look after its welfare. We cannot but be grateful for this mark of his paternal solicitude, and are only able to repay him by resolving always to remain devoted and docile followers of his wise teachings. May Your Excellency be the bearer of these resolutions to him on our behalf.

May your stay in this fair land of ours be replete with many blessings, not the least of which will be the obtaining of our schools, on the conditions we have had them of yore, and that our beloved and zealous Archbishop, who has so valiantly championed the cause of the lambs of his flock, may see the fulfillment of his most cherished hopes.

For, though young, we well understand the necessity of religious and moral training which is so faithfully bestowed upon us by the untiring zeal of our devoted teachers, the good Brothers and Sisters. Our prayers and good wishes accompany Your Excellency in your arduous undertakings, so that God's blessing may constantly be with you throughout the whole of your sacred mission. That Your Excellency may always retain a pleasant memory of this visit to our city is the ardent wish of Your Excellency's devoted children of the Catholic schools of Winnipeg.

Several girls from St Mary's academy, representing Holy Mother church and all the Virtues, then recited some lines, and were followed by two small boys from the Immaculate Conception school, who repeated in French a dialogue appropriate to His Excellency's visit, and concluding with a fervent invocation

to St. Domingo del Val, sweetly sung by all the children kneeling. "The Rainbow's Greeting" by seven girls of the Immaculate Conception Academy was very nicely rendered, as was "The Ferryman's Song" by the boys of St. Mary's school. The solemn hymn to the Pope was chanted by all the little ones in a most impressive manner, and the programme was fittingly terminated by the recitation of an address in French by Miss E. Lauzon and the presentation of a magnificent bouquet.

His Excellency listened to each item with the greatest attention, and was evidently impressed with the efficiency shown. He said:

"I beg you to believe that I am not using the conventional phrase when I say that it has afforded me immense pleasure to see you all here this afternoon, and I feel it so keenly that I desire to express my thanks to His Grace the Archbishop, and to all concerned, who have been good enough to arrange this meeting for me. You acknowledge yourselves as being a humble portion of the flock confided to Our Holy Father's care, but believe me, your being humble and being a small portion of that flock does not make you less dear to him. He watches over you tenderly, you are constantly in his thoughts and very often the object of his prayers. I should not be here to-day if that were not so. He is concerned in your welfare, he desires to see you well instructed, educated and trained, in order that you may grow up good Christians, good Catholics and, by the very fact, good, orderly, loyal subjects and citizens. It will rejoice his heart I know, when I tell him on my return to Rome of your devotion to his person and the Holy See. I will speak to Him with the greatest pleasure of all you have said to me and tell him of the efforts made by our good masters and mistresses to follow out his directions and desires. I beg you always to remember his presence amongst you. It is a living presence, and no distance of land or ocean can destroy that; he is always with you, and that thought ought to help you in your difficulties—when lessons are hard, when obedience is difficult, when it is hard to give up your own wills and to conform to rules in order to train yourselves for greater things, remember that your Holy Father thinks of you and expects great things of you. He expects you to do your duty. If for a moment put aside the official representation which it is my duty to fill and if I speak for myself personally, I should like here to deliver a message with which I have been intrusted for you from Rome. It will astonish you, perhaps, but I have a message to deliver to you personally. On the banks of the Tiber there are some two hundred and thirty boys in whom I am greatly interested, and before leaving the Eternal City, when I went to say goodbye to those boys who are very dear to me, they said:

"Tell the boys and girls of Manitoba that we are their friends, and we join hands with them across the ocean." I promised them I would do so, and I shall be glad when I go back to tell them that I am going to add to that two hundred and thirty—I don't know how many hundreds more, in whom I shall for the future be personally and very affectionately interested.

His Excellency then replied in French, making a touching allusion to the hymn which had been sung to Saint Domingo Del Val. He had naturally a great devotion to that saint, who years ago belonged to his own family, and whose history was well known in Mexico, but about whom he hardly expected to hear in Manitoba. He could only believe that the angels whispered it to them, and he assured them

the reference had touched him very much.

He then granted all the children a holiday for the next day, and the interesting proceedings were closed by a stirring rendition of "God Save the Queen,"

Address from the C.M.B.A.

In the evening the apostolic delegate sang vespers and gave benediction of the blessed sacrament at St. Mary's church which was crowded to the doors. His Grace the Archbishop and most of the clergy occupied the seats in the sanctuary. At the close of the service the presidents of the various Catholic societies advanced to the front, and Dr. J. K. Barrett read an eloquent address, expressing the devotion of the members to the Holy See, their veneration for the delegate, and praying for his blessing on the work of the societies. In reply his excellency said:

"I have listened with very great satisfaction to the address which has been presented to me on behalf of the Catholic societies of Winnipeg. I have learned from the lips of those well competent to judge in such matters that you are carrying on a work useful indeed for the well being of the community here in the city, and especially of the members of the Catholic Church. I need hardly remind you, for I think you must be well aware of the fact, that our Holy Father not only approves, but sanctions such societies, and that he has given the most explicit expression of his wish that they should be established in every Catholic centre; and in doing this I may say that His Holiness is only following the well established tradition of the Catholic Church, for such societies have always flourished under her protection, and we can look back many centuries to testify to the fact. It is natural that such societies should prosper under the Church's protection, for after all they insure order—that order which is the very nature and essence of society, and there cannot be any such order if society does not look to the source of all order, namely to God Himself, and for us Christians, to the God made man who was the truth, the way and the life. Hence if we place ourselves in opposition to God or lose sight of God, we place ourselves in a position antagonistic to real society, to real order. This is why the Catholic Church gives to Catholic societies a permanence and stability which must ensure their prosperity and they have an advantage over other societies which are not guided by the Church. I encourage you in the Holy Father's name to continue your work; always have God before you in all your actions, carry the banner of your faith always with you and never be ashamed to proclaim yourselves good Catholics. If you are good Catholics you will be good citizens. I call down the blessing of God on you and your families, and wish you many long years of existence as societies to continue your work for the good of the Church and the country."

His Grace the Archbishop addressing the Delegate spoke of the fidelity of the people of St. Mary's to their church and their bishop and begged him to give them, as a reward for their staunch Catholicity, the apostolic benediction.

His Excellency then complied with the Archbishop's request, the vast audience reverently kneeling whilst he invoked the blessing.

At the request of the Archbishop, His Excellency the Delegate went up on the stage and spoke first in the purest French substantially as follows:

Let me thank you for having afforded me an opportunity of witnessing to-night this sympathetic union, this unanimity in Catholic faith, this ardent desire to follow the Pope in all things,

and to acknowledge him as the true doctor, who teaches us the truth, as the Vicar of Jesus Christ.

The good Fathers had expressed their regret that their present students could not prepare an entertainment in which they would have wished to share. I must say I regretted it also, though the motive, namely, the arduous preparation of the University examinations, was a most praiseworthy one. But now I no longer regret the students' abstention: for behold in this entertainment prepared by the graduates a proof of that admirable solidarity which exists between them and the present students. This solidarity, when based on a truly Catholic spirit is an irresistible force. The Holy Father wants to see it in all Catholic societies. Bourdaloue has said: "Take away self-interest from the world and I answer for the charity of men." Well, here I see great disinterestedness, a real spirit of sacrifice. I desire to hold out encouragement for the future. Rest assured that the Holy Father watches over you and your interests in the most attentive, the most fatherly way. Fear nothing. Put your trust in him. I know you have suffered much; but remember the wise saying: "To suffer passes away; to have suffered remains eternally." Choose as your own that beautiful motto of Garcia Moreno: "Dios no muere—God dieth not." This we must always say to ourselves. And, as I see that this sentiment is common in Manitoba, I do not despair of the future.

I need hardly add a word to the good Fathers of the Society on my attachment to their institute. To hemtI owe all that is good in me, if indeed there is anything good. From them I learned devotion to the Holy See and I wish to preserve that devotion till my death.

Then His Excellency proceeded in his faultless English:—

I should like to express in a language more familiar to some of my hearers how much I appreciate their presence here to-night as a manifestation of devotion to the Holy See through him who represents, however unworthily, the person of our Holy Father the Pope.

I wish I could tell the details of that wonderful life. It may be summed up in two words: prayer and work. It has been my privilege to be near him for the last five years, and I may truly say that there is not one moment in his life that does not bear traces of that same inspiration to seek always what is most advantageous to humanity and what tends most to the greater glory of God.

In that one of those excellent essays read this evening which treats of Leo XIII, the Doctor it was remarked that his intellectual activity was marvellous. And indeed it is. From morning to night He is constantly engaged in the greatest intellectual effort for the good of the Church, always for the Church. At night sometimes when He does not sleep—and I am afraid He is not a very good sleeper—He finds time to write those charming bits of poetry that we are accustomed to admire.

His life is one of complete self-sacrifice. His recreations are few and far between, and even those are generally filled up with some great thought in preparation for future pronouncements. You see the result in those wonderful documents which have astonished the nineteenth century.

They occupy his mind at all times; he is ever thinking of the very sentences he will use. You should read these documents carefully; you should ponder over them and make them the principles of your life. They contain food for all, for the cultured and the well educated and also for those who do not aspire so high but look for what is practical. I do not ask all of you to write thoughtful essays like

those we have heard this evening; but each one of you should read the Holy Father's encyclicals with care, and as each of them is published see what is applicable to your case. I do not think you can peruse them without advantage.

In this the last meeting in which I shall have occasion to speak publicly in Manitoba, I wish to assure you that I shall be your interpreter with the Holy Father. I may say I will stand in his presence almost as one of the Manitoba Catholics. I shall be glad to speak of the devotion and zeal of your good Archbishop and the clergy and religious here. I will tell him how you are really self-sacrificing and anxious to do all you can to save Catholics principles, how you do not want to give up any thing that can place those principles beyond the possibility of danger in the future.

Meanwhile, remain calm; act with prudence under the guidance of your Archbishop. Questions of this nature cannot be settled offhand, they require time; but the right must triumph in the end.

Allow me to conclude with expressions of hearty good-will, and to call down God's blessing on yourselves, your families and friends.

Other Receptions and Festivities

Reported for the NORTHWEST REVIEW.

On Monday afternoon of last week Mgr. Merry del Val visited the St. Boniface Indian Industrial school and expressed himself highly pleased with the interesting entertainment there offered to him. His Excellency afterward repaired to the Tache Academy, where a short but most touching series of dialogues and songs with an appropriate address moved him that he declared this was the most pleasing reception yet tendered to him. In the evening an elaborate programme of dramatic scenes and music presented to the Papal Delegate by the pupils of St. Mary's Academy, whom he afterwards addressed in French and English, complimenting them on their accomplishments and praising their devotion to the Holy See.

On Tuesday morning at 8 o'clock, His Excellency said mass at St. Boniface College, and after breakfasting with the Fathers, was greeted with an address in which the students announced that, owing to the arduous preparation for University examination, they had requested the former graduates of the college to provide the entertainment that would be offered him the next day. Mgr. Merry del Val replied with much feeling and granted the students two holidays, the date to be chosen by the Rector of the college. As he left the grounds he was lustily cheered by the students.

On the afternoon of the same day he visited Provencher Academy and there the schoolboys offered their services as Papal zouaves, adding that they were ready to start for Rome with His Excellency all which delighted their distinguished guest.

A little after six on the same evening Mgr. del Val was given a banquet at Tache Academy by the ladies of St. Boniface. Some forty guests sat down with His Excellency and were loud in their praises of the menu.

On Wednesday morning His Excellency, accompanied by the Archbishop of St. Boniface and several members of the clergy, droye to St. Norbert and visited all the Catholic schools of that parish.

The same evening Mgr. Merry del Val was presented with a literary soiree at St Boniface College by former students. Mr E. J. P. Buron read a very fine address and late on suggestive poem by himself. M. Aimie Cinq-Mars recited perfectly Coppée's "Naufragé." Miss Mollot played charmingly on the piano. The Baron de Galembert sang with