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## Knights of Columbus Memorial School.

CORNER STONE LAID BY HIS  
GRACE THE ARCHBISHOP.

The corner stone of the new school to be erected by Terra Nova Council Knights of Columbus as a memorial to the Brothers who died in the Great War, was well and truly laid at noon yesterday, Sunday, by His Grace Archbishop Roche. At the ceremony were Rev. H. T. Renouf, Bishop-elect of St. George's, Rt. Rev. Monsignor McDermott, Rev. Dr. Kitchen, Rev. Dr. Carter, Rev. Dr. Greene, Father Wilson, and Christian Brothers of St. Patrick's, St. Bonaventure's and Holy Cross Schools, Hon. J. D. Ryan, and the officers and members of Terra Nova Council, and the Columbus Ladies' Association. Brother Walsh, Chancellor of Dalton Council, Harbor Grace, was also present, coming as a delegate from that Council. Owing to the inclement weather the address was delivered in the Cathedral, His Grace speaking to the gathering from the High Altar, as follows:—

"The occasion which calls us together this morning is one of very great importance, and one that is destined to be memorable, not alone in the annals of the Order of Mercy, and of the Knights of Columbus, but also in the annals of our Church in Newfoundland. It is the historic occasion of the laying of the Corner Stone of the new Memorial School, the erection of which has been generously undertaken by the Knights of Columbus, Terra Nova Council. I say advisedly that it is an historic occasion, because the beginning of these new schools—the first schools for Catholic girls of any dimensions or magnitude to be erected for more than half a century—brings us back to the days of fifty, sixty and seventy years ago, when so many enduring educational structures were raised up by our forefathers.

On more than one occasion recently in speaking to different societies and Organizations, I have laid emphasis on the fact that all our educational endeavour for the past fifty years has been in the direction of providing adequate school accommodation for the boys of the city. Up to fifty years ago there was only one school for Catholic boys of any proportions in St. John's, and that was the old St. Bonaventure's. The coming, however, of that great teaching order, the Irish Christian Brothers, revolutionized education, as far as our boys were concerned. Within the past half century there have been built by our people as a recognition of the work of the Brothers, St. Patrick's Hall, Holy Cross Schools the O'Donnell Hall, the new St. Bonaventure's, and, I might add, the School of Industry at Mount Cashel. These buildings represent the contribution of our people for the past fifty years—that is to say, nearly two generations—to the cause of Catholic education. It will thus be seen that our boys at the present time are very well provided for, being taught in up-to-date spacious, well-equipped buildings, which are being improved all the time. During these fifty years, however, there has been nothing done to provide increased school accommoda-

tion for the girls of the city, with the exception of a few small class rooms, which was added to this Convent a few years ago, and the new school at St. Joseph's, recently completed. As a consequence, it may be said that all our girls are receiving their education in buildings erected sixty or seventy years ago. In the year 1850 the foundation stone of the Presentation Convent Schools was laid by Bishop Mullock, and the building was completed and occupied a few years later. Since that time, despite the increase in the population, and the constant increase in the number of pupils, there has been no additional school space added to that building, now seventy years old. It is true that the congestion of the girls' schools has been somewhat relieved from time to time by the opening of smaller schools in other parts of the city, but still the fact remains that the three principal girls' schools of the city, namely, the Presentation Convent, the Mercy Convent, and St. Patrick's, in which upwards of one thousand girls are being educated, have not been added to nor improved since the present Mercy Convent was built in the year 1856, or 64 years ago, for more than half a century. Then incidentally, I may mention, as a fact of some historical interest, that the Mercy Convent in St. John's was the first foundation of the Order of Mercy on this side of the Atlantic. At the time of its erection, school accommodation was provided for about one hundred pupils. To-day there are nearly four hundred pupils on the roll, and there has been practically no additional school space provided since; the inevitable consequence being that the conventional portion of the building, intended exclusively for the use of the Sisters, has had to be availed of for school purposes, for music and class rooms, to the very great inconvenience of the Community and the very great detriment of the pupils. These facts are mentioned to show the absolute necessity there is for these new schools, the Corner Stone of which is being laid to-day. It is neither just to the Sisters, who are devoting their lives to the noble avocation of teaching, nor to the public who are being taught, that their educational work should be carried out under such unfavourable conditions as at present exist.

To remedy to some extent these conditions the erection of the present building has been undertaken. It has been planned on the most modern lines expert educational advice as to its construction has been taken, and nothing has been left undone to ensure that when finished it will be a thoroughly modern school. This building is being erected by the Knights of Columbus, Terra Nova Council, and is intended to be a Memorial to the members of the Council who fell in the great war. The work itself, and its object are in every way worthy of the best traditions of the Knights of Columbus. That magnificent organization, ever since its inception, has been putting forth its efforts wherever branches of it are to be found, in many ways, to help the Church in Her progressive work, but its best, its largest and most far-reaching efforts have been in the cause of Catholic education. Both as a unit and through its individual councils it has done giant

work in helping the church in her educational endeavors. It is also eminently in accordance with the spirit of the Order that this building should be a monument to the Council's heroic dead. Remembrance of the dead is a sacred Christian sentiment, which is beautifully enshrined in the Constitution of the Knights of Columbus. Every year there is a Solemn Memorial Service for the members of the Order who have died during the year, and surely those who have laid down their lives in a spirit of heroic sacrifice and devotion have special claims on the remembrance of their brethren. It would not be fitting that their names should be forgotten or that their glory should fade, and this stately structure, with its massive corner stone, on which stands out in bold relief the emblem of the Order, will serve to keep their names and their memories in sacred and lasting remembrance unto generations yet unborn.

I cordially congratulate this morning the Knights of Columbus on the enterprise they have undertaken. It is a huge task, but I have no doubt it will be nobly and faithfully accomplished by the members of Terra Nova Council, and if I might say one word to the Knights of Columbus, the youngest of our Catholic Associations, it is that they should seek and find inspiration in the oldest and most venerable of our Societies, the Benevolent Irish Society. Under the auspices of this splendid society which has done so much in the cause of Catholic education, St. Patrick's Hall and the O'Donnell Hall, in which six hundred or eight hundred of our boys are being educated, were erected, and just as the Benevolent Irish Society has placed us under obligation we can never repay, so also the Catholic people are now about to become debtors of the Knights of Columbus in a very large degree. Every parent whose boy is being educated in any of the institutions under the charge of the Brothers is under deep obligation, not alone to the Brothers, but to the Benevolent Irish Society, and every parent whose child will be educated in these new schools, will owe a debt of gratitude to the Knights of Columbus, as well as to the devoted Sisters who are their teachers. I wish this morning, on behalf of the Catholic people, on behalf of the Sisters of Mercy, and on behalf of the Church, to extend our gratitude to the Knights for this work they are about to undertake.

Nor can I omit a reference to an organization which has recently come into existence, namely, the Columbus Ladies' Association. I have already, at one of my meetings, formally welcomed them to the ranks of our Church workers, and I wish again this morning to assure them that the Church appreciates very much the efforts they have already made, and look forward to their being a valuable auxiliary to the Knights in the building of this school. We have already abundant proof of what can be done by organized efforts on the part of our Catholic ladies, in the splendid achievements of the St. Bonaventure's Ladies' Association, and the Presentation Convent Association, both of which bodies proved of invaluable assistance to the Church. I commend then this morning to the sympathy of our Catholic people the Knights of Columbus and the Columbus Ladies' Association, and I bespeak for them their generous assistance. After all, in the final analysis it is the Catholic people who must build these schools, and the Knights of Columbus are merely the medium through which their efforts will be made effective. I would impress upon our Catholic people the grave obligation that rests upon them in the matter of providing educational facilities for our children. We are pledged uncompromisingly to the principal of denominational education. Now, one of the necessary consequences of our adhesion to that principal is that we must build and maintain and equip our own schools, and if we would be just to our children and justify the system that we uphold, we must see to it that our school buildings are second to none in point of construction and equipment. That our people will recognize and realize their obligations

in this respect, I have no doubt whatever.

I trust that the example and achievements of our forefathers will be an inspiration to us of this generation. When we consider the magnificent group of ecclesiastical buildings, of which this is the centre, which crowns the hill-top of our city, the Mercy Convent, the Presentation Schools and Convent, the Cathedral, Palace, Library and the old St. Bonaventure's, and when we further consider that all these buildings were erected practically within the space of one or two decades in years gone by, we cannot but marvel at the powers of organization and the tireless energy of those great ecclesiastical buildings, Bishop Fleming and Bishop Mullock. They have handed down to us a magnificent, a glorious heritage of ecclesiastical and educational buildings, and it is for us to keep them up and hand them down to generations yet to come. This new building which we are beginning to-day, will be one at least of our contributions, one more link in that grand chain of buildings which stretches from St. Patrick's Hall on the left to St. Bonaventure's on the right, and I hope when it is finished it will be worthy in every respect, in grace, in symmetry and in architecture, of the noble and venerable structures among which it is destined to stand. It only remains for me to wish the undertaking every blessing and every success, and to declare that the Corner Stone of the Knights of Columbus Memorial School has been well and truly laid.

The formal opening of the new school will take place about August next at which it is hoped that supreme Grand Knight James A. Flaherty will be present. The school will be conducted by the Sisters of Mercy. When completed this building will stand out as a fitting memorial to those gallant Knights who "fought the good fight" in every sense of the word.

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