

HIS GOLDEN JUBILEE.

Remarkable Tribute to Archbishop
Williams of Boston.

HONORED BY CLERGY AND PEOPLE.

On Friday May 17th the people of Boston, irrespective of creed, paid kindly tribute to Archbishop John J. Williams, who celebrated the golden jubilee of his ordination as a priest. The commemoration began on Thursday morning with pontifical Mass in the Cathedral of the Holy Cross, where was gathered a distinguished company of ecclesiastics. But it was at the banquet in Music Hall in the evening that the popular demonstration took place. Three thousand five hundred persons thronged the building from floor to ceiling. It was a fitting climax to a day of general rejoicing. The clergy and laity of the archdiocese presented to the Archbishop as their grand testimonial a check for \$50,000, or \$1,000 for each year of his priesthood.

Tender tributes of respect and love were paid Archbishop Williams by men representing not alone his own but other creeds, and the heartiest congratulations and kindest wishes for future years of happiness and usefulness in his chosen field came from those who were not of his own faith. Gov. Greenhalge shared with the honored guest of the occasion, and his distinguished brethren of the episcopacy, the honors of the assembly. From the moment he entered the hall it was easy to see that the vast gathering was eagerly anticipating his rising to speak on behalf of the commonwealth.

The Governor in a speech full of feeling and manly spirit, toned by a dignity in keeping with his high position, pointed to the influence of such lives as that of the honored guest of the evening, and said that Massachusetts had need of, and could appreciate, the work of all such men. He paid a tender tribute to the work of the Archbishop in behalf of good government, and closed by wishing him many more years of happiness, and fruitful work in his honored position. The Governor was loudly applauded at the close of his speech.

The address of the Archbishop himself, temperate, calm and dignified, was also a feature of the evening's enjoyment which pleased the audience and the greeting which he received when he rose to reply to the addresses presented by the clergy and laity left no room for doubt as to the place which the Archbishop holds in the affections of his people.

Archbishop Satolli, too, received a very warm welcome when he rose to read, in Latin, the letter from Pope Leo XIII. to Archbishop Williams, which arrived just before the commencement of the banquet. He was evidently much touched by the warmth of his welcome. His own address was read by his secretary, Rev. Dr. Rooker. Cardinal Gibbons also made a very neat address, and Alderman Allen, on behalf of the city, expressed the pleasure it gave him to join in the tribute to the Archbishop.

All classes of his fellow citizens united in doing honor to distinguished prelate. Sectarian barriers were broken down in the determination to pay a tribute to the renowned churchman who for half a century has wielded such a potent influence on the religious and social life of this portion of the country. From the chief executive of the State and the representative of the city down to the humblest citizen, all seemed to vie with one another in paying homage to the beloved Archbishop of Boston, whose ripening years have been more and more laden

with honors, up to the crowning glory of this week.

The decorations of the hall have probably never been surpassed. Wherever the eye turned banners, flags and bunting met the vision, until it seemed as if the entire hall was a mass of flags. The front of the stage was a bank of foliage, palms, potted plants, lilacs and flowers of every description, massed in sweet confusion, until the platform looked like a garden. Back of the stage, and framed as it were by the Stars and Stripes, was an immense portrait of the Archbishop. Overhead were the Latin words, "Ecce Sacerdos Magnus," and beneath in large golden figures the dates "1815-1895," on either side of a large gilt representation of the eagle.

At the rear of the hall was another large figure representing an eagle, surrounded by shields decorated with the Stars and Stripes. The legend "A hearty greeting," and the dates "1815-1895," commemorative of the Archbishop's ordination and the date of his golden jubilee, told of the meaning of the gathering. From the roof in the center of the hall to the balconies on either side, and in the rear, many colored streamers were strung, heightening, if that were possible, the already beautiful effect.

Seated at the tables on the platform were more than 100 representative citizens of the archdiocese. Protestant as well as Catholic. Archbishop Williams occupied the seat of honor. Besides Cardinal Gibbons and Archbishop Satolli, other Archbishops and Bishops were seated at the tables on the platform. They were Archbishops Corrigan, Ryan, Fabre, Elder, Riordan, Ireland, Chappelle and Hennessy, and Bishops De Goesbriand, Brady, Bradley, Michaud, Harkins, Tierney, Beaven and Gabriels.

A thousand people, priests and laymen, were seated at the ten tables on the floor, and there must have been more than twice as many women in the galleries.

When Archbishop Williams arrived a spontaneous roar of applause burst from the audience which lasted fully three minutes. It had scarcely subsided when it broke forth anew as Mgr. Satolli and Cardinal Gibbons appeared. Governor Greenhalge was also heartily greeted.

In response to addresses presented in behalf of the clergy and the laity of the archdiocese, Archbishop Williams made a speech in which he said:

"I must say that this is the noisiest time I have had in 50 years. (Laughter.) As the addresses presented to me come from the clergy and the laity, in the first place I have to say to my clergy what I have always said to them, and as the speaker has so well expressed it, that I always had confidence in them and relied upon them, and they, I believe, had confidence in me and could rely upon me. (Applause.)

They knew that my companions were amongst the clergy. I had no time to make other acquaintances except very seldom, but my usual company was with my clergy, and there I found my happiness. (Applause.) On the different occasions when they found an opportunity to give expressions to their feelings these same thoughts have been expressed, and I always have expressed the same feelings as I do now. But still these expressions may be made stronger as the years go by, and my feelings of sympathy and union with the clergy are stronger as I grow older, and if I am left a few years longer I think I shall be able to say them with full confidence and support. (Applause.)

Without the clergy what could the bishop do? Without officers what can a general do? He has to work through them, and unless they have his confidence and unless they know that he relies upon them, what work can be done? But where the head man has got men under him, and they

can trust to his fairness and justice, and assistance, it is needless to say what the result will be, for you know it yourselves very well.

And the laity, seeing the work going on well between the head and the clergy, and finding that nothing is asked of them but what is fair and just, they work likewise in union and harmony with the clergy, as the clergy with the bishop, and this has been the way in this diocese in my time. (Applause.) And I say it without flattery, honestly, that I have worked well with the clergy and laity, and all three together have worked with union in the work that has been done these last 29 years. (Applause.)

We have asked nothing of the laity to which they did not respond, we have asked nothing of the clergy to which they did not give their zeal and energy, and the greatest trouble was to hold them back to prevent them from going too fast, and as it is easier to steer in swift water with a good wind than when the wind is sluggish and the water dull also, so it is in the diocese, if you have men who are sluggish and without energy, and are not desirous to work, it is hard to have work well done. But when you have officers who are simply looking for the opportunity to do good work, and the men under them ready to help them, then it is not hard to carry our work successfully, if you have only a cool head to direct. (Applause.)

To both the clergy and laity I can give the full meed of praise without flattery, and I thank both of them for the offering which they have made to me at the time of this celebration, and of which they have said nothing in their modesty, but, which I shall treasure, and consider it a trust to be disposed of, as I know both the clergy and laity would have been well pleased with its disposal."

At the close of the archbishop's address the gathering sang "Viva Leone," and Father Ronan presented the Apostolic Delegate. Archbishop Satolli presented to the venerable prelate the magnificent present which Pope Leo had sent, reading the letter from the pontiff signed by his own hand, in which he congratulated Archbishop Williams on his long and faithful service and on the flourishing condition of the Church under his charge.

The present is a large gold medal, one of the lot struck in 1893 to commemorate the golden jubilee of the Pope's own consecration as a bishop. On one side is a medallion of the Pope bearing about the inscription "Leo XIII. Pont. Max. an. XVI." On the other side is the representation of an episcopal consecration. Hovering above the head of the candidate is a dove, the symbol of the Holy Ghost, and encircling the whole is the inscription "Quinquagennalibus Episcopalis Consecrationis. XIX. Feb. MDCCCXIII."

The medal was enclosed in a plush case on which the Papal coat of arms is worked. Accompanying the medal was a letter from Cardinal Rampolla, the Papal secretary of state, dated May 4, in which he said: "I take great pleasure in transmitting the letter and gift of the holy father on the occasion of your sacerdotal jubilee, and at the same time I am pleased to avail myself of the opportunity of extending my own congratulations to you, and I hope that you will be long preserved to labor for the welfare of your diocese."

Among other things Archbishop Satolli said in his speech:

"I do not believe that I ever better fulfilled the intention and desire of the Holy Father, Leo XIII., than in participating in the joyous festivities attending the celebration of the jubilee of an American Archbishop; in representing by my presence the Supreme Pontiff, and in giving voice to the sentiments of loving congratulation with which he rejoices in the happy completion of so many useful years spent

in the service of God and His Church. For, if the Pope, in the fulness of his power and of his apostolic care, shares with every Bishop in union with the Holy See the joys, as well as the sorrows, of this life, he feels a special interest in the fortunes of the American Episcopate. This interest he has clearly and solemnly expressed in his last encyclical to this country, making his own the words of St. Gregory: 'My honor is the honor of the Universal Church. My honor is the unimpaired vigor of my brethren. Then am I truly honored when to each one due honor is not denied.'

"The deep and sincere affection of the Holy Father for the venerable Archbishop of Boston I myself can bear witness. Five years ago, when, for the first time, the Pope sent me to this country, after having charged me to bear his paternal salutations to the most eminent Cardinal Archbishop of Baltimore, and to all the Bishops who should be united in that city for the celebration of the centenary of the American hierarchy, he added that there also I should meet Archbishop Williams, and in words of love and deepest affection bade me express to him his highest regard and special esteem. This particular esteem and affection find new expression to-day in the letter and gift which the Holy Father has sent to the beloved Archbishop on this occasion of his golden sacerdotal jubilee.

"To me this special sympathy and love which the Pope feels for Archbishop Williams is most natural and reasonable when I consider in how many ways the work and life of Leo XIII., when he was Archbishop of Perugia, were similar to the life and work of the Archbishop of Boston.

"It is the opinion of the wise that one of the greatest blessings of God is the raising up of men specially fitted for urgent necessities when they present themselves, and there could be no more striking proof of the truth of this idea than that furnished by the life of Leo XIII. It would be difficult to say whether he had been prepared for the Church at this particular period, or whether the Church had been specially prepared for his wonderful activity.

"To me it is an honor and a pleasure—one to be remembered all my life—to offer, while offering my own sincerest and warmest congratulations, the loving and paternal salutations of Leo XIII. and his fervent good wishes that God may continue to bless and preserve to the Church of Boston her beloved Archbishop Williams."

One of the most curious collections in the world is one upon which the Queen of Italy has been engaged for years. It consists of old boots, shoes, and slippers, to many of which an historical interest attaches. Queen Margaret is the happy possessor, for instance, of a pair of coarse heavy shoes that are said to have belonged to Joan of Arc; she has also a dainty pair of boots supposed to have been worn by Marie Stuart at her execution, as well as some slippers of Queen Marie Antoinette.

Jocko, the faithful ass which the Queen used to drive herself when visiting the environs of Nice, has a history. She bought it in a most wretched condition from a peasant, who hesitated to part with it because it constituted his means of living. "How much did you give for it?" asked her Majesty. "A hundred lire," was the reply. "Well here are two hundred lire for it and you can buy another," said the Queen. The peasant was delighted to accept the offer, and after that whenever her Majesty went out she was usually offered a number of ill-fed asses, but all in vain. When the peasant, after the lapse of a year, saw his ass in splendid condition, he cried. "All I am sorry for is that I didn't sell myself with him!"