

NOVEMBER 22, 1947

OF FATHER

NEW

Apostle's Visit

Limerick

INES OF PUBLIC

AS

rtaxed and huge numbers had remain in the open all night. Food, too, was getting scarce and a tiny loaf rose to 3d.

As early as 6 o'clock on the Friday morning, after a fitful sleep, Father Mathew again appeared in front of Mr. Dunbar's house to resume his wonderful work, which he kept up until he reached Cork at 5 o'clock that afternoon. It appears that during this visit to Limerick he pledged 30,000 men and women, many thousands of whom had come from neighbouring counties.

In a subsequent visit to Limerick he enrolled 30,000. On this occasion

he was entertained to a banquet at which nearly 200 persons sat down,

including William Smith O'Brien,

the speech of the night, after that

the Apostle, we are told, "was

surrounded by the learned and eloquent

Rev. Canon Coll, Parish Priest of Newcastle West, a staunch supporter of

the cause and a warm friend of

Father Mathew."

PATHETIC CHAPTER.

A singularly interesting if somewhat pathetic chapter of Father Augustine's great book is that which tells how Father Mathew was nominated Bishop of Cork but failed to secure the mitre. Most

Rev. Dr. Murphy, Bishop of Cork, died on April 1st, 1847. The parish

priests of the diocese met on the

1st for the purpose of nominating

his successor. Proceeding according to the custom of the time and

which lasted up to some years ago

they elected three persons as

dignus (worthy) dignior (more

worthy) and dignissimus (most

worthy). Father Mathew was

named dignissimus, and as a

general rule the one so placed was

chosen by the Pope. The election

was presided over by his Grace the

Archbishop of Cashel. Most Rev.

Slattery, "and the report that

he and his suffragans sent to Rome

as to the merits of the candidates

naturally influenced the decision."

The fact that he was the choice of

the prominent ecclesiastics of his

own diocese gave Father Mathew

great satisfaction, not in any per-

sonal sense but because "he

believed that the cause which he

had so deeply at heart would be

served by his elevation to the

mitre."

Meanwhile, Father Mathew had

heard something that had dis-

quieted him, "not so much on his

own account as because of the work

he had at heart." In a letter on the

subject to the Rector of the Irish

College in Rome he mentioned that

a prelate who was my warmest

patron has, from an infirmity of

temper, become prejudiced against

me." In any case, he was passed

over by the Pope, who appointed

instead the candidate placed

before him. His disappointment was

not due to any personal ambition

or the high office but for fear it

would cause "a reaction in the

public mind by producing an im-

pression amongst the people that

the Holy See disapproved of the

emancipation movement."

Father Mathew, of course, took

this reverse in the spirit of humility

one would expect from him. Nor

had he any jealous feelings

towards his rival who was chosen

in his stead. He invited the bishop

elect to a "family dinner," where,

it is stressed, Father Mathew ap-

peared "in the bright light of one

who is more anxious to secure the

safety of a cause than to attain the

honour of a See."

A GREAT BOOK.

In every chapter and almost in

every page of Father Augustine's

book, "Footprints of Father

Mathew," there is something one

would like to quote if space per-

mitted. This is truly a great work

that deserves to be very widely

read. Its chief value, as Rev.

Father James, O.F.M.Cap., says in

his foreword, "lies precisely in the

fact that it is no mere mechanical

record of successive and unrelated

events but a genuine interpretation

therein, without obtruding himself,

Father Augustine allows his subject

to express himself not only in action

but in words, and not only in words

of public utterance but in words of

intimate correspondence."

Suffered from Rheumatism for some years

True experience is well worth

passing on, and we are obliged to Mr.

L. J. B. for the following extracts from

an interesting letter: "I have been

a sufferer from rheumatism for some

years, but I have had it really badly

during the recent autumn and on-

wards and could only walk slowly as

the right leg was almost crippled... in desperation I turned to Fynnon Salt, and I am now on the second tin. The

remedy has had a definite effect.

I can walk normally, and free

of pain. It has cheered me too

and I now whistle at my

work."

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