

CHRISTIAN BROTHERS.

WORK IN QUEENSLAND EULOGISED.

GYMPLE, April 21.

The annual communion breakfast of St. Columba branch of the H.A.C.B. Society, was held in the Convent School this morning, the occasion fitting in with the final Sunday of the fortnight's mission conducted by the Revs. Fathers Collins and Walsh, of the Redemptorist Fathers, and the celebration of the Centenary of Catholic Emancipation and the Silver Jubilee of the Christian Brothers in Gympie. The breakfast was held after the 7 o'clock mass, when 70 men received Holy Communion. The chair was occupied by Brother Chas. Williams, president of St. Columba's branch. Dr. Duhig (Archbishop of Brisbane) when responding to the toast of the Archbishop and clergy, stated it had been intended that all the bishops of Australia should celebrate the centenary of Catholic emancipation in their cathedrals to-day, but as he had promised to come to Gympie, he had postponed the celebration until May.

In proposing the toast of "The Day We Celebrate, the Centenary of Catholic Emancipation," his Grace spoke of the penal laws imposed on the Catholics of Ireland during the 17th and 18th centuries. A measure of relief had been obtained at the beginning of the 19th century, but it was left to the great leader, Daniel O'Connell, who organised the Irish people, to bring about the passing of the Emancipation Act. The Irish people even at the time of St. Patrick were highly cultured, and held the esteem and respect of other peoples.

CHRISTIAN BROTHERS' WORK.

Mr. F. P. Power gave an interesting description of the history of the order of the Christian Brothers from its establishment in 1802, by Edmond Ignatious Rice, and its remarkable growth since that time in the Old Country, and in many other countries. The Christian Brothers had been a long time in Queensland, and for 25 years had carried on their school in Gympie. The teaching of the Christian Brothers' schools had made its mark in Queensland. The Archbishop himself was a product, and at the present time five out of seven judges in Queensland were Christian Brothers' pupils. He congratulated the Brothers on the completion of their silver jubilee. He then asked the Archbishop to make a presentation to the Brothers from members of the Hibernian Society in Gympie. His Grace received a wallet from Mr. Power, containing £25, which he presented to Brother Grace, principal of the Gympie school, with best wishes from the Hibernians of Gympie. Brother Grace responded, also Brothers Carroll (Ipswich), Mahoney (Toowoomba), and M'Tiernan (Maryborough). Other toasts were:

"Gympie and District," proposed by Mr. J. J. Carey, and responded to by Mr. T. Dunstan, M.L.A., and Alderman Mulcahy; "St. Colomb's Branch of the H.A.C.B.," was proposed by Rev. Father Walsh, and responded to by Bros. C. Williams, Gympie (president), and Brother E. Moloney (Brisbane). Brother Moloney stated that the quinquennial valuations were completed, and the Registrar informed the District Secretary that the Southern Queensland District of the Society was in a good financial position, and the Registrar was prepared to allow an increase in the sick pay and funeral grants, which no doubt will be brought about shortly.

WINDOWS BLESSED.

His Grace, after the 11 o'clock Mass, administered confirmation to about 300 candidates, boys, and girls, and a number of adults. This afternoon his Grace blessed the new windows in St. Patrick's Church, one erected by members of the men's branch of the Sacred Heart, the other by the ladies' branch, to commemorate the centenary of Catholic Emancipation. The recent improvements, his Grace stated, cost £1000, the windows costing £250 each. The windows, it is stated, will be the largest set of stained glass windows in the State. Two Brisbane artists, Messrs. C. H. Lancaster and W. Bustard, carried out the designs for Messrs. R. S. Exton and Co., Ltd. The windows are 24 feet 6 inches wide by 20 feet high. Rev. Father O'Flynn announced that the sum of £400 had been collected to defray the cost of the windows.