



## **A PLEA FOR CULTIVATION OF AUSTRALIAN SENTIMENT.**

CHRISTIAN BROTHERS' OLD BOYS.

A plea for Australian sentiment was made by the Rev. Father Carlton, at the annual Communion breakfast of the Christian Brothers' Old Boys' Association held in the Cafe Majestic yesterday morning.

In proposing the toast of "Our Native Land," he voiced the opinion that such recognition to Australia should be given at every public gathering. Australians admired the love the people of Ireland had for their country—a love that years of injustice and persecution had helped to reanimate.

They also admired the love the Englishmen professed for their country, and applauded the Americans for clinging to America. But what of Australians? What had they done and what were they doing to encourage in this country a true national spirit.

### **MUST WAKE UP.**

"We have been told in the past that 'we are too young,' said Father Carlton, 'we have been told that we are still in our infancy, that our national hopes should be relegated to some kind of nursery for development—that we should consider ourselves part of another country and keep quiet about it.'

If such an attitude was ever pardonable it must now be wrong. We must wake up and realise we have a country we can be rightly proud of. 'We have a country where history goes back well over 100 years. Colonies have developed until to-day they form one great united Commonwealth, of which every native born is proud.

We need in this country a true national sentiment. We need to realise the 5,300,000 people who form the population of Australia 4,000,000 are native born. Well, where is our power?' Where is our sentiment, and our loyalty to the fairest, grandest, and most promising young country in the world? What is more, there are not even 60,000 people in our midst who claim the United Kingdom as their birth place, and yet we are swayed and ruled by outside influence.

We are deeply grateful for what has been done for us in the past, but it is high time that the people of Australia realised that after the love of God the highest, dearest, and most noblest sentiment that can animate the human heart is a true love of one's own country.

Australia has her literature, art, and history, of which she might be rightly proud, and I think it is only fitting that on an occasion like this we should thank the principal of Gregory-terrace (Bro. M'Ghee) for bringing this forward in the last annual report of Gregory-terrace School."

It was pointed out there by Bro. M'Ghee that the time had arisen when the universities of Australia should give place to the study of Australian literature and incorporate Australian art in their examinations.

Australia's destiny is ours to shape, and Australia is ours to hold. We want to bring into real life the aspirations of the late Cardinal Moran, who always advocated the fostering of true Australian sentiment.

We want high-minded men—men who are prepared to scorn the petty things of life—men who are prepared to meet on a common platform and promote the brotherhood of men—men who are prepared to do all they can to promote the interests of the land."

### **RELIGION AND EDUCATION.**

Rev. Father Lane, in proposing the toast of "The Christian Brothers' Old Boys' Association," told the past pupils of the

Brothers that they were lucky to have had the benefit of a good Christian education under the Christian Brothers. "We want more than mere mental equipment at present," said Father Lane. "We want thorough educational development on mental, physical and religious lines."

Father Lane added that if Christian principles were cut out of educational and mental development, the world would fall back on pagan civilisation and consequently to decadence and ruination. The salvation of the soul was paramount. The price of salvation must not be sacrificed in any religious influence.