

ARCHDEACON BERESFORD CONGRATULATED

-At the commencement of the monthly meeting of the Northern Clerical Reading Union, held at- Holy Trinity, Launceston, on Tuesday, the chairman (Rev. E. G. Muschlamp) drew attention to the fact that one of the number present Ven. Archdeacon Beresford, had on May 1 attained the 80th anniversary of his birthday, and made reference to the Archdeacon's long and faithful ministry in the diocese.

Ven. Archdeacon Atkinson moved, and. Rev. G. Rowe seconded, "That this meeting of the N.C.R.U. warmly congratulates Archdeacon Beresford 'on the occasion, of his 80th birthday, and wishes him every happiness and peace in the years to come. –He also desires to place on record the value of his long and faithful ministry in the diocese of Tasmania." The motion was carried with acclamation.

In his reply Archdeacon Beresford sincerely thanked his brother clergy for their congratulations and kind wishes. I-He then gave a short resume of his life's work.

At the age of 19 he was a junior mathematical' master at his old school, the Hutchins, from which he matriculated and proceeded to the Melbourne University with the intention' of qualifying' himself for the medical profession. During a short vacation in Tasmania, he rested with the late Dean Bromby, who was then in charge of St. David's Cathedral at Hobart. Under the influence, and encouragement of the Dean; he was. led to consider the sacred ministry of the church as his true vocation. After successfully accomplishing the prescribed course of study for holy orders, he was ordained deacon in 1876, and priest in the following year. In 1884 he was appointed rector of Bothwell, where he was instrumental in the building of the fine church of St. Michael and All Angels. In 1893 he was made a canon of the cathedral and rector of Ulverstone. Here he spent four strenuous years in developing the work of a widely extended parish, and erecting several churches. In 1897 he was preferred to the rectorate of St. John's Launceston, where he remained for ten years, during which time. he was enabled to see the materialisation of the first part of the new St. John's in the erection of the imposing chancel and transepts, and also the enlargement of the parish hall.

In 1907 he was made Archdeacon of Launceston and rector of Hagley, in which position he continued until his retirement owing to ill-health in November, 1928. From 1890 to 1913 he was chaplain to the military forces, with the rank' of major. At present he holds the rank on the retired list.

During a ministry of 54 years the Archdeacon had been enabled to have a large share in the erection of fourteen churches in different parts of the diocese, the aggregate cost of which had amounted to several thousands of pounds. In addition to this he had laid upon him for several years the arduous task of collecting a large amount of money for the permanent augmentation of the general church fund of the diocese. It was difficult, almost impossible, to estimate the result of the chief and essential part of the office and work of a priest. He was fain to leave this to God, and to express the hope that in all he had attempted and accomplished he., had contributed something to the building up of the Body of Christ-the church, and to the glory of His Most Holy Name. The Archdeacon stressed the invariable kindness he had received from all classes of the community. This had been marked in the case of the six successive Bishops of Tasmania, under whom it had been his privilege to serve, and of all the clergy with whom he had been associated. He desired also to emphasise the universal courtesy he had at all times received from all ranks of the laity, which had not been confined solely to those of the Church of England. To him this was an indication proving the kind goodwill in which the great and far-reaching Anglican communion was held. It was with this note he desired under God's blessing to close his ministry.

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