

Lodge Funds be invested on fixed deposit in the Bank. Several new members were proposed, and it must be very gratifying to the members to find that not an evening passes without augmenting their numbers. During the evening the President, Bro. Burke, presented Joseph Heffernan, the winner of the Boys' Race at the late fête, with a capital suit of clothes, the very handsome gift of Bro. J. Moylan. Abstract of receipts and expenditure of St. Joseph's Branch No. 73, for quarter ending December 14, 1874:—To balance last audit sick fund, £93 11s 6d; do do incidental fund, £39 8s 5d; contributions, £33 15s; goods, £3 6s; fines and quarterage, £2 14s; miscellaneous receipts, £1 4s 6d. Total, £173 19s 5d.—By funeral fund to E. D., £3 11s 6d; incidental fund do, £1 8s 7d; sick pay for quarter, £6; medical attendance, £15 16s 9d; salaries, £5; sundries, £2 12s 6d; balance to sick fund, £99 6s 6d; do do incidental do, £40 3s 7d. Total, £173 19s 5d. Total amount of money to credit of Branch, £163 11s 7d. Number of full benefit members initiated this quarter, 4; do now financial, including new, 50; do now unfinancial, 4. Total, 58. Benefit, 55; honorary, 3. Total, 58. JOHN CANTWELL, Secretary.

THROUGH some unexplained reason our Tuapeka exchange did not come to hand with its accustomed punctuality, and consequently the following notice of a concert given on St. Stephen's night, which we extract from its columns, may appear somewhat out of date. It says:—A grand concert in aid of the Roman Catholic Church took place in the Assembly Rooms here (Teviot) on the evening of Boxing Day, and the attendance was the largest that ever met together on any similar occasion. Great credit is due to Messrs Cormack and Pitchers for the energetic manner in which they went about getting the room ready, and also to Mr Wood (the Roman Catholic Schoolmaster of Lawrence), who, along with Mrs Wood and a troupe of juveniles, came all the way from Lawrence to be present on the occasion. The youngsters acquitted themselves in a very creditable manner—a little boy (a son of Mr James Harris) more particularly so; and as for Mr Wood, he is almost a company in himself. Mrs Wood ably presided at the piano throughout the whole of the evening, with the exception of a few minutes, when Topsy Clarke sat down and gave a very brilliant display of her musical powers, showing what may be accomplished by a very juvenile performer, who has had skilful tuition. Mrs Wood had no easy task, as the room was densely packed and intensely hot. Mrs F. Woodhouse was the only local lady that we are aware of who was called upon to assist, which she most readily consented to do. She was hardly in as good voice as we have heard her, nevertheless her "Molly Asthore" was loudly applauded.

We are pleased to see that that gifted Irish poet, Mr Denis Florence McCarthy—a poem from whose pen we reproduce this week in our columns—has been appointed Professor of English Literature in the new Catholic University of Kensington. Mr McCarthy is the editor of Calderon's Spanish Dramas, &c.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

The Paris mint has just coined 100,000 francs' worth of centimes, which were immediately put into circulation. This is, perhaps the smallest coin in value used, being less than the tenth part of a penny.

The Parisians are very extravagant again, notwithstanding the lesson of war. The particular direction it takes is in the matter of antique furniture, to supply the demand for which eleven manufacturing houses have been established.

The Marquis of Ripon has given £5,000 towards the English Catholic University at Kensington.

It may not be generally known that Ireland's Liberator, Daniel O'Connell, was not only a Queen's Counsel, but had a patent of precedence over all Queen's Counsel, except the Attorney and Solicitor-Generals.

In Khiva when a woman goes out, she always wears a beggar's dress, in order to escape notice.

The debt of New York city amounts to £3,000,000.

Excluding Paris, France possesses 15,623 public libraries, furnishing 1,474,637 works.

In Strasburg every dog wears a collar with its owner's name and address, and all stray dogs not thus distinguished are destroyed by the police, unless they are claimed on the third day.

According to French law the property of a family should be nearly equally divided between all the children. One of the consequences of such a course is that it is possible in some parts of France to see small cultivated plots of ground, measuring not more than sixty feet square, which are in the hands of several owners.

The Government of Saxony has forbidden the practice of cremation.

The Russian Empire, according to a recent survey, includes 400,000 geographical square miles.

It is estimated that there are 57 lady editors in the United States.

Women, in San Francisco, are by law deprived of the right to stand up at a bar and drink like men. It would not be amiss were the sterner sex restricted in like manner.

The Catholic Union of England is, it is announced, about to publish a newspaper called the Catholic Journal.

The American Government pay \$5000 annually to Chinese interpreters.

Another telegraphic cable is to be laid across the Atlantic, which will make the sixth.

A policeman in San Francisco, who had been living at the rate of \$10,000 a-year, was found to be in receipt of \$400 per week, for winking at a Chinese gambling-house.

Mdlle. Gœrgery, daughter of the famous Austrian General of that name, has been received into the Catholic Church.

The Bible is now printed in no less than two hundred languages; in 1854 it was only printed in fifty.

PRESENTATION TO THE VERY REV. FATHER COLEMAN, VICAR-GENERAL.

A LARGE number of the Catholics of Dunedin assembled at St. Joseph's Church on Tuesday evening last, for the purpose of welcoming the venerated Vicar-General of the diocese on his return to the Colony. A purse of 210 sovereigns had been subscribed throughout the Province for presentation to the rev. gentleman, as a small token of their appreciation of his labours for their spiritual wants, and help to meet in some small degree the expenses entailed by his recent mission to Europe to supply the wants of the diocese. In addition to the purse of sovereigns, a beautifully-illuminated address was presented on behalf of the Catholic body, which was read by Mr Dungan, the hon. sec. His Lordship the most Rev. Dr. Moran occupied the chair.

The SECRETARY before reading the address, said:—

Very Reverend Sir.—The very pleasing task has been allotted to me by my fellow Catholics throughout the diocese of presenting to you on their behalf an address of hearty welcome and congratulation on your return among us. Were I, perhaps, to observe the custom usual upon such occasions, I should rest satisfied with carrying out the honorable and pleasing duty which has been entrusted to me; but I trust that I may be pardoned for making one or two observations before proceeding to do so. The signatures attached to the address which I shall presently read, are of those persons who from the initiation have taken a most active part in the movement for which we are assembled here to-night; but they are also appended as the representatives of the Catholics throughout the entire diocese, who have heartily responded to the appeal. Had this demonstration assumed a somewhat more extensive form, and had the co-operation of all classes of the community been sought, I have no hesitation in saying that the small offering which will be presented, could have been materially increased. As, however, the intention has been that the Catholic laity should testify their appreciation of your unwearied zeal and labors in the cause of our holy faith, it was not deemed advisable to seek assistance from other than its members. However, I am proud and happy to say that many, very many, while differing from us in matters of faith, are at one with us in the present demonstration, and not a few have testified their esteem and respect by a voluntary contribution to its fund. I will now proceed to read the address, and I am sure that every Catholic throughout the diocese will heartily endorse the wishes and sentiments therein contained. The address is as follows:—

TO THE VERY REV. FATHER COLEMAN, VICAR-GENERAL OF THE DIOCESE OF DUNEDIN.

VERY REV. SIR,—

We, the undersigned, on behalf of the Catholics of the diocese, beg to offer you our hearty congratulations and welcome on your safe return to Dunedin from your most successful mission to Europe. Aware that your great and unexpected success in procuring priests, nuns, and ecclesiastical students, for this diocese, has entailed a very large outlay, we avail ourselves of the opportunity to ask you to accept the accompanying purse of sovereigns to aid you in meeting the expenditure, and as an expression of our high appreciation of your unwearied zeal and indefatigable labor for our spiritual welfare. We thank God for all that he has enabled you to do for us, and pray most earnestly that you may be long spared to labor amongst us; and that, as heretofore, your efforts for the advancement of Faith and piety may be always crowned with success.

Jessie McKay	W. D. Woods
Ellen Cantwell	Jessie Bonney
Margaret Scanlan	Edward Downey
Ellen Carroll	Francis Meenan
Louisa Bonney	Michael Meenan
Mary Drumm	John Mulrooney
Margaret Martin	John Carroll
Ellen Fisher	Nicholas Smith
Margaret Court	E. Morton
Annie Donnelly	J. J. Connor
Juliana Reany	Charles Columb
Catherine Nelson	Robert A. Loughman
Justina Mary Connor	Thomas O'Donnell
Maria Smith	Edward Carroll
Johanna Fleming	F. J. Bunney
John Moylan	M. Connellan
E. Halley	L. Ryan
John McInerney	John Dungan

Mr DUNGAN then called upon the fair purse-bearer to present the purse of sovereigns.

Miss JESSIE MCKAY, to whom had been deputed the presentation of the testimonial, then came forward, and handing to the rev. gentleman a beautifully-beaded purse containing the money, said she had much pleasure in carrying out the task for which she had been chosen, and on the part of the Catholics of the diocese begged to present the Vicar-General with the small token of their esteem, love, and respect.

The Very Rev. Father COLEMAN, who appeared to be much affected, said he could hardly find words to express his feelings of gratitude for their kindness and thoughtfulness in showing him this mark of their esteem on his return. He thanked them most sincerely for himself and for their worthy Bishop. He thought that the people of this district of Dunedin knew very well how much he had their interests—especially their spiritual interests—at heart. It was nearly four years ago since his Lordship, himself, and the ten nuns landed here. He was hardly an hour in the place when he saw the state of affairs, and how great were the difficulties he had to contend with, that, when asked to speak, he was almost unable to do so—all he could say was that he had come here to labor with the Bishop. Since then, under the guidance of God, they had succeeded—had succeeded by the co-operation of the people with the Bishop. All had done as much as could be reasonably expected. Some had done more; and the great body of the Catholic people were very different in posi-