

his usual ability and eloquence, on the blessed Sacrament. Having given his benediction to the congregation, he returned to town about 7 p.m., where he was busily engaged until long after midnight in the confessional.

I now give you an account of the opening of St. Mary's Church, which I take from the Napier 'Daily Telegraph' of the 11th, to which journal it was 'communicated.'

"The new Catholic Church, under the title of St. Mary, was opened yesterday for Divine service. At ten o'clock a procession was formed, comprising the Right Rev. Dr. Moran and the Rev. Fathers Forest, Reignier, and Goutenoire, attended by numerous acolytes; and leaving the Sanctuary, the circuit of the Church was made without and within, the customary prayers being intoned, and aspersions given. On returning to the Sanctuary, the Bishop solemnly completed the ceremony by blessing the building, and devoting it to the purposes of religious service. His Lordship then celebrated High Mass, the choir singing "Mozart's Twelfth Mass" in a very creditable manner. The Bishop gave a very effective discourse on the Epistle and Gospel of the day, explaining the essentials of prayer, and the special need of humility."

Reception of children of Mary at St. Joseph's Convent.—At 2 pm, his Lordship, assisted by the clergy, repaired to the convent grounds, where an altar had been erected to the Blessed Virgin. An address was there read by Miss Corry, President of the children of Mary, to which his Lordship replied in a most paternal and encouraging manner. Eight children of Mary and one postulant of the same congregation were then received by his Lordship, to whom he gave his Benediction.

A procession was then formed headed by the children of Mary, with their banner; after which came the several schools belonging to the Monastery; Ladies' school, parish school, Maori Providence, and members of the Living Rosary, singing hymns and litanies, the procession closed by His Lordship attended by the Rev. Father Regnier, proceeded round the hill to the new Church "At three o'clock," (to quote the words of the report, communicated to the Telegraph) the Bishop administered Confirmation to nearly a hundred candidates, having first carefully explained the nature of the ordinance and the conditions under which it could be given. After the confirmation, he preached on the value of Confirmation as a means left by Christ to his Church, by which Christians were strengthened in the faith, and enabled to fight valiantly against the frailties of human nature, and the other temptations by which they are surrounded. In the evening at seven, o'clock, Vespers were sung, after which the Bishop delivered a discourse on the institution and meaning of the devotion called the Rosary. He earnestly advocated its continual family use. The object of the sermon was to show that the "Hail Mary" so commonly used by Catholics, was a continual meditation on the doctrine of the Incarnation; that the Incarnation was the root of Christianity, and without it there could be none. That the division of the Rosary into mysteries gave opportunity for reflection on the principal events which occurred in the life and death of Christ and the institution of Christianity. That the "Hail Mary" was in words taken from the Holy Scriptures, and that the concluding portion containing a prayer to the Blessed Virgin was added by the church. His Lordship explained the doctrine of invocation of Saints as taught by the Catholic Church, and explained the meaning of prayers to them as distinguished from the prayers which were offered to Christ, whose name is the only one whereby men could be saved. The Bishop dwelt at length upon the dignity of the Blessed Virgin, and the honor which is given to her by the Catholics. Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament concluded the service. The church was filled to overflowing at all the services and the collections amounted to £34.

On Monday evening, at 7.30, his Lordship performed the ceremony of erecting the pictures of the Holy way of the Cross, after which he preached a most impressive sermon on the Passion of our Lord.

His Lordship's visit here has had the most beneficial effect on the congregation. The majority of them have not seen a Bishop for ten years and scarcely a member of the congregation who did not take advantage of this opportunity to receive the Holy Communion at his hands.

IRISH IMMIGRATION.

MR. O'RORKE TO DR. FEATHERSTON.

ON the 2nd August, Mr O'Rorke wrote to the Agent General on the subject of Irish Immigration. As showing up Dr Featherston's arts in how-not-to-do-it, the following extract from Mr O'Rorke's despatch is well worth reading:—"I have been shown a telegram by his Honor the Superintendent of Auckland, from Mr Farnall, informing him of your obstructing his efforts to induce a stream of immigration to Auckland, and of his removal from office by you. As Mr Farnall was engaged, with the sanction of both the General Government and the Provincial Government of Auckland, in endeavouring to promote the emigration of a large body of settlers, of the small farmer class, from Ireland to the Province of Auckland, I trust you will take the necessary steps for carrying out that scheme of emigration, notwithstanding Mr Farnall's dismissal from office.

In the despatch under reply you refer to my memorandum of 14th February last on the subject of the unequal distribution of sub-agents and advertisements throughout Ireland. I still observe that there is a great preponderance of both in the district you allotted to Mr Farnall. I have refrained from returning to the subject, expecting that as you had appointed Mr Mason of Dublin, as your chief Emigration Agent for Ireland, this matter would have been rectified. But since that gentleman's appointment by you in December last we have not heard of his proceedings. I had hoped that you would have required of him and forwarded to the colony quarterly reports similar to those obtained from Messrs Birch, Seaton, and Farnall, in order that the Government might be kept informed of the benefits accruing to emigration to the colony through his exertions. I observe in your letter of the 8th April last that you enter into statistics to prove that the number of emigrants you have despatched from Ireland is fairly

proportioned to the number from England and Scotland. I shall only make this remark on the subject, that considering the enormous number of Irish emigrants that annually leave that country I can hardly be expected to compliment your agents in having induced in a year and a half 900 souls to emigrate to New Zealand from that country, nor do I care to take advantage of pointing out that of these 900 more than one-third were nominated in the colony, and consequently reached this independent of the exertions of your officers. Your despatch, however, of 16th May, which is more directly under reply on the general question of emigration, concludes with the welcome assurance that you are more than ever persuaded of the ultimate success of the great scheme of emigration inaugurated by the Government. It is hardly necessary to add with what anxiety the colony awaits the realisation of the hopes you thus hold out.

A CANDID ADMISSION.

The Wellington 'Independent' says:—

It has been made the subject of considerable complaint amongst those of our fellow-colonists who hail from the Emerald Isle, that the Agent-General has systematically ignored Ireland as a field of emigration, although it is notorious that vast numbers of Irishmen, with their wives and children, leave Ireland for America every week. The Government, some time ago, gave positive instructions to the Agent-General to open emigration agencies in Ireland, and to use every effort to obtain a due proportion of emigrants from thence. Dr. Featherston made a little fuss about this business at first; he went over to Ireland, appointed local agents, advertised in the papers, and left Mr Farnall as principal emigration agent at Dublin. So far there was an appearance of activity, but ship after ship left England and no word was heard of the expected Irish immigrants. The 'Independent' then goes on to show that the only thing heard about Irish Immigration for months is Mr Farnall's scheme of bringing out a party of immigrants from Ulster for Auckland, and which Dr Featherston obstructed. After mentioning the fact that Dr. Featherston had been instructed to carry out the scheme, it remarks:—And so for the present the question of Irish Immigration rests, but it ought not to remain in this unsatisfactory position. Apart from all other considerations, the small-cotter class in Ireland are a very desirable field from which to procure immigrants. Industrious, sober, and thrifty, excellent dairy hands, and good farm laborers, they are just the class to put upon small farms in this colony, and it is a matter of the greatest surprise that the Agent-General should have not only neglected, but even exhibited a decided disposition to discourage immigration of this character. The dissatisfaction felt on this score by our Irish fellow-colonists is well founded, and the Government ought at once to insist upon fair-play being done in the matter.

MORE FOREIGNERS BUT NO IRISH.

The Napier 'Telegraph' remarks.—It has been said, and perhaps justly, that Dr. Featherston has sought in foreign countries for emigrants when they might have been found in Great Britain, and that Ireland has been altogether neglected. This is a serious charge, and if capable of being sustained should at once have been enquired into but more foreigners are on their way here, and, as far as we can learn, not a single Irish family has been induced to emigrate to New Zealand. It is true, an agent has been appointed at Dublin, but unless a somewhat similar system is adopted to that which Insurance Companies have found so efficacious in furthering their business, a mere agency maintained at an expenditure of several hundreds per annum will be found to be of very little use.

THE AUCKLAND 'STAR' ON DR FEATHERSTON.

THE Auckland 'Star,' on the Agent-General writes as follows:—"Perhaps in all the history of colonial officialism there would not be a parallel found to Dr Featherston in his conduct of the Immigration Agency of New Zealand. Nor do we know whether more to admire his infinite impudence, or the extreme coolness with which the Government tolerate his continuance in office, and his astounding effrontery. It is irritating in the extreme to glance back for a few months at this man's conduct. Everyone recollects how, when exorbitant charges were permitted to the friendly shippers for the conveyance of immigrants to New Zealand, on an outcry being raised tenders were called for, and only one was received by Featherston, and that one from his friends—Shaw Saville and Co., and even that was at a higher rate than the fares previously existing in their secret arrangements. And again, but recently, when the New Zealand Shipping Company offered and obtained an arrangement for carrying immigrants at a lower rate, suddenly the friends of Dr Featherston discovered that they could convey immigrants even lower still, or at a rate exactly twenty per cent. less than they and Dr Featherston had assured the colonists was the very lowest rate at which immigrants could be conveyed. That a man of complicity in such intrigue should be tolerated for one month in control of such a responsible position is one of those things the wherefore of which is past finding out on ordinary principles.

THE NEW ZEALAND UNIVERSITY.

IN view of the strong probability that the Otago "University," will be affiliated to the University of New Zealand, will accept a subsidy of £500 per annum and strive no more for the power of granting degrees, and taking into account that the 'Daily Times' has bowed its head to the inevitable, we present our readers with the following summary of a leader in the 'Lyttelton Times':—

It is satisfactory to find that the Colonial Government do not intend to re-open the New Zealand University question by proposing fresh legislation. What is, and where is, the New Zealand University? It seems necessary to ask and to answer the question, for the New Zealand University has been called a mere name, or, at best, a corporation, without professors, without students, without officers of any kind, and above all without a local habitation. The latter part of the description is quite true, and in its truth lies, to our thinking, one of the chief merits of the New Zealand University. It has no local habitation but is intended to embrace the whole Colony, and to unite, guide, stimulate, and govern its higher teaching power on a wide and liberal basis. If the opponents of the University had their way, the catho-