

Archdiocese of Wellington.

(From our own correspondent.)

November 13, 1897.

It was intended to hold the postponed items of the St. Patrick's sports on the Basin Reserve on Wednesday last, but the weather was so unpropitious that another adjournment was necessary.

The Very Rev. Dr. Watters continued his former lecture on his recent visit to the South Sea Islands. The lecture was profusely illustrated by maps and curios, and was most interesting, as it dealt with the habits and customs of a people of whom we know but little. The College Minstrels contributed a number of items which were much appreciated. Dr. Martin, who accompanied the Very Rev. Dr. Watters in his trip, was to have supplemented the Rector's lecture, but was unavoidably absent in Dunedin. Votes of thanks to the lecturer and to the students who had contributed the entertainment concluded a very enjoyable evening.

The Prince of Wales' Birthday was held here in true holiday fashion, the majority of city people taking the opportunity of going into the country. Perhaps one of the most enjoyable of the day's outings was that held by St. Mary's Band at Mrs. Ross' Gardens at the Lower Hutt. Active preparations for this picnic had been going on for a long time under the direction of a committee, of which the Rev. Father Ainsworth was chairman and Mr. H. Houldsworth, secretary. Happily the weather was on its best behaviour, which is an exception, not the rule, in Wellington, consequently the attendance was large, upwards of a thousand persons going out to the pretty suburb by rail. The gardens are now looking at their best, therefore those who did not care about sports and games could enjoy themselves in looking at the beautiful flowers and the many and varied kinds of trees and shrubs, which have been brought there from all parts of the globe. Young and old had sports suited to their years. A tug-of-war contest between married and single men resulted in favour of the former, whilst the race for members of the band fell to Mr. H. Holcroft, Mr. M. Hodern being second, and Mr. C. Holcroft third. Messrs. Hynes and Ward superintended the sports, and much satisfaction was expressed at the manner in which they discharged their duties. It is needless to say that Mrs. Ross and family helped in every way to make the picnic an enjoyable outing.

The Rev. Father Yardin, of Meance, is at present in Wellington, being the guest of the clergy at the presbytery, Boulcott street. He will remain in the Empire City for a couple of weeks.

The solemnity of the Forty Hours' Adoration was commenced at the cathedral on Sunday morning last, and during the time it lasted the attendance at the various services was very large.

Quarant Ore will commence at St. Joseph's Church, Buckle street, to-morrow, and will be conducted entirely by the Fathers of St. Patrick's College.

A cable message received from Father Devoy during the week intimates that he, accompanied by his Grace Archbishop Redwood, was about to pay a visit to Brisbane, and that he intended to leave for Wellington by the Waikare, sailing from Sydney on the 29th inst., so that he should reach here by the 24th or 25th inst.

The Very Rev. Father McKenna and the Rev. Father Lewis, of Timaru, who were present at the ceremonies in connection with St. Patrick's Cathedral, Melbourne, are returning by the Mouowai, which is due from Sydney on Wednesday next.

The Hibernian Society intend to celebrate St. Patrick's Day with a sports gathering, an art-union, and a national concert in the evening. A strong committee has been set up to make the necessary arrangements.

Parliament has spent the best part of the week in discussing—or rather wrangling over—the Estimates. It is evident from the discussion which took place that the old skinflint party is not dead, or if so that it has worthy heirs and successors. The expenses in connection with the Right Hon. J. J. Seddon's trip to the Premier's Conference was the subject of much adverse criticism, indeed one Member so far forgot him-self, and showed his want of good taste—that is if he ever had any—by saying that he thought the Premier's bank balance had been considerably increased by the amount set down for this visit. Such a charge if made outside the House would be the means of bringing the accuser before the Supreme Court. Unfortunately there is such a thing as Parliamentary privilege which permits a Member to make accusations that are often groundless. It is pleasing to note that when the member who made this charge had time to collect his ideas and look at matters in a more dispassionate manner, he apologised for the warmth of his language, and the apology being accepted the matter ended. When the item relating to the expenses incurred by the Premier during his visit to England to attend the jubilee celebrations was reached the new skinflint party were again to the fore. The amount was too large, and they wanted details. Had these been given at first we would probably have the spectacle of the committee of the whole House going over it item by item. Objection would probably have been taken to the Premier travelling saloon to England, when he would have got there just as soon if he took a second cabin passage. Then tipping the stewards would be protested against as demoralising, and have a tendency to cause these useful members of a ship's company to underrate the importance of Members of the House who, when travelling, are seized with conscientious scruples against giving gratuities. Then again the idea of the Premier of a truly democratic Colony putting up at first-class American hotels, frequented by millionaire pork packers, and laying himself open to the danger of being tempted to have a bottle of wine for dinner, just for appearance sake, whilst he could have stayed at a temperance boarding house, with texts on the walls and hash on the table, and have been edified and instructed by the conversation of his fellow-lodgers. The Premier should have had no expenses whilst in London; was he not maintained in a royal manner by the Imperial authorities at the Hotel Cecil? He ought to have got a

commission from the manager of the establishment out of the princely sum received from the Imperial Government for lodging and feeding the New Zealand representative. Surely it seemed absurd to some Members that such a large tip should be given to the imposing flunkey who kept watch over our representative. Then why should a rupee be charged for taking the Premier to see the sights at Colombo, when he might have done the whole on foot and thus saved the pocket of the New Zealand taxpayer. However, through the obstancy of the Premier we were saved such a discussion, and the political economists of the New Zealand Parliament were denied the privilege of putting their ideas on the most economical method of travelling in the pages of *Hansard*. The next time we send a representative to foreign parts it will be necessary to arrange a programme beforehand, so that he shall know how much he can spend in tips, what class of boarding house he is to patronise, and whether he is to hire cabs or travel by omnibus or tram.

Diocese of Auckland.

(From our own correspondent.)

Thursday, November 11, 1897.

THE Very Rev. Dr. Egan, D.D., on Sunday, October 31, completed his one score and two years in the priesthood. He was ordained at Subiaco on the 31st October, 1875, by Cardinal Monaco. On the same day and place Father O'Gara, well known in Auckland but now on the mission at Teignmouth, Devonshire, was also ordained. Another remarkable fact is that on October 31 Dr. Egan completed his 29th year as a monk. In the year after his ordination, August, 1876, he obtained his degree of Doctor of Divinity, and in December of the same year he received the degree of Doctor of Music. He then proceeded to his home in Dublin and after a short stay there he was appointed to the charge of the Benedictine college at Ramsgate, staying there eight years. He was afterwards summoned to Rome to perform the high and important office in the Benedictine college of professor of theology. Very soon, however, the Italian Government seized the college amongst other disreputable acts of spoliation of Church property, about which period the late lamented Dr. Luck made application to the head of his Order and secured the services of Dr. Egan for the Auckland diocese, in which he has since laboured. It is interesting to state that his youngest brother, Thomas, in religion Rev. Father Erkenswald, at present occupies the position of rector at Ramsgate, a position previously held by his distinguished brother. This brother is also on the Central Board of Education in England, over which Cardinal Vaughan is the head. Dr. Egan's mother is still living at Ramsgate near to her youngest son. The members of St. Benedict's choir, after Vespers on Sunday evening, October 31, entertained Dr. Egan in a befitting manner in the presbytery.

The Very Rev. Father Ginaty is prosecuting his good and most arduous labour of the mission in the city. He gave a week to Ponsonby, and last Sunday evening he commenced at St. Benedict's. On Sunday next he commences in Parnell and the following Sunday he starts in the cathedral parish. The rev. manager of the Magdala possesses unbounded zeal and enthusiasm for his work.

At St. Patrick's on All Souls' Day the mortal remains of Mr. Michael Hughes, late of Reefron, were laid out in front of the altar rails. The presence of the dead on such a day could not but have brought home vividly to their minds, "into dust thou shalt return." This awful fact cannot be too often impressed upon us.

St. Patrick's Day Celebration Executive Committee met on Sunday afternoon last in the Marist Brothers' School and decided to at once take steps for the due honouring of the national festival of 1898. They again meet in St. Patrick's Hall to-morrow evening.

Rev. Father Croke and his assistant lay collectors are making remarkable and successful efforts in gathering money in St. Patrick's parish towards the presbytery debt fund.

The Sisters of Mercy on last Monday opened in the Catholic Institute a Kindergarten school, which is under the charge of Sister Columba. In this undertaking the good Sisters are deserving of the greatest assistance and commendation, because like institutions in other hands have been freely used amongst our children for proselytising purposes.

Last Monday and Tuesday evenings a bazaar in aid of the convent schools at Devonport took place at that Marine suburb, and last night a concert to conclude the round of amusement was held. The whole was a great success and reflected credit upon the ladies and gentlemen of the shore for their untiring exertions during the last five months. Good work has been accomplished by the Sisters, and assistance was well deserved.

Rev. Father Mulvihill, who has now recovered from his recent illness, is still at the Bishop's palace, but will, on his Lordship's return proceed to Gisborne, over which parish he is to preside. Very fortunate indeed are the Gisbornites in securing so worthy and exemplary a priest.

Hon. E. Blake, Q.C., M.P., writing from Toronto under date December 22 last to the Hon. J. A. Tole, President, and Mr. M. J. Sheehan, hon. sec. Irish National Federation, Auckland branch, said: "Dear sirs, I have to thank you for your letter of 7th August, conveying to me the resolution of the Auckland branch of the Irish National Federation passed on 22nd July. The great warmth and cordiality of my reception by the Federation at Auckland made on me a deep and lasting impression, and enhances the value to me of this resolution, for which I wish to convey to the branch my very hearty thanks. Allow me to thank you also, individually, for your kind words, and to assure you that my son and I often think and talk of the good friends we made in Auckland." The resolution referred to was passed and sent to the eminent member for Longford in recognition of the great effort made by him in the Imperial Parliament last March in stating Ireland's just claim for financial reform.