

## Diocese of Dunedin.

### BISHOP VERDON AT RIVERSDALE.

#### OPENING OF NEW CHURCH.

(From the *Mataura Ensign*, November 29.)

THE ceremony of opening and solemnly blessing the new Catholic Church was performed on Sunday by his Lordship Bishop Verdon.

The festal proceedings of the day commenced with a service at 8 a.m. The ceremony proper was performed at 11 o'clock. Mass was chanted by the Rev. Father O'Donnell (Gore), after which the Bishop, according to the impressive and beautiful formula provided, dedicated and solemnly blessed the edifice for its sacred purpose. Dr. Verdon thereafter preached a scholarly sermon on "The General Judgment." During the progress of the dedication service the choir (under Mr. Fendall), assisted by members of the Gore Catholic choir and friends, rendered the "Kyrie," "Credo" and "Sanctus" from Concone's Mass; the "Gloria," from Farmer's Mass; and the "Agnus Dei," from Weber's Mass, the soloists being Miss Matheson (soprano), Miss Black (contralto), Mr. Cookson (tenor), and Mr. Fendall (bass). All these items were splendidly given. Miss Matheson also sang "Ave Maria" (Gounod) in a highly artistic manner. Miss Hoffman supplied the organ music.

During the afternoon the Bishop administered the rite of Confirmation to over 60 candidates, and gave an address specially applicable to the young people. At the evening service the Bishop preached another eloquent sermon on "The Love of God."

The congregations throughout the day were very large, visitors attending from Balfour, Waikaia, Chatton, Gore and Mataura. Over £100 was collected during the day, towards wiping off the debt on the new building. Those of the Roman Catholic communion are to be congratulated upon having erected such a handsome edifice. The church is a most commodious one, costing £340 to build, and is a decided ornament to the district.

### WYNDHAM.

#### HIS LORDSHIP'S FIRST VISIT.

(From the *Wyndham Farmer*, November 19.)

Wednesday last was an important day to the members of the Wyndham Catholic congregation, it being the occasion of the first visit to this part of his diocese by Most Rev. Michael Verdon, D.D., Bishop of Otago and Southland. His Lordship arrived in Wyndham by the morning train from Gore, where he had conducted service on the Sunday, and proceeded shortly afterwards to the local chapel, where a large congregation awaited him. Service began at ten o'clock, when Rev. Father O'Donnell, senior parish priest, celebrated Mass, and about eleven o'clock his Lordship entered the chapel.

Dr. Verdon is essentially a man of dignified appearance. Tall, of fine physical proportions, with clearly-cut intellectual forehead, finely-chiselled mouth and expressive eye, he stood at the altar before the faithful every inch a prelate. A feature of his preaching was his particularly clear enunciation and easy delivery. He gave his message on spiritual things in language so plain that not even a child could have doubts as to its import and reality.

On Dr. Verdon ascending to the altar, Father O'Donnell presented to him seventeen young persons—nine males and eight females—as candidates for the rite of confirmation. The candidates were presented in pairs, and solemnly blessed by his Lordship, by the imposing of hands.

Dr. Verdon then proceeded to address the congregation, his remarks more particularly being addressed to the young communicants. After explaining the nature of the different sacraments, and especially of that which they had just received, his Lordship charged them to avoid scandal, bad company, and impure reading. If they did all these things well, God would always watch over and bless them, and give them an abundance of grace; they would then advance easily in virtue, and after death God would receive them into His kingdom.

### HERIOT.

(From the *Tapanui Courier*, November 24.)

Friday was an eventful day for the Catholics of Heriot and district, the occasion being the first visit of Bishop Verdon to this part of the diocese to hold a Confirmation service. The church was comfortably filled to witness the sacrament being administered to about fifty children and adults. Mass was celebrated at 9 a.m., after which the Bishop preached on "Man's love to God and his neighbour, which is necessary if he wished to attain to everlasting happiness." After the Confirmation and after a few words of advice from the Bishop to those who were confirmed, Mr. C. Cassidy read an illuminated address, to which Bishop Verdon replied that it gave him much pleasure to meet his people that day, and congratulated them on their neat church, and especially on the fact of the building being free from debt. The following is the address:—

"To his Lordship the Most Rev. Dr. Verdon, Bishop of Dunedin.—We, your faithful children of the district of Heriot, express our heartfelt delight at seeing you in our midst. We have heard of your many excellent qualities—of your paternal solicitude everywhere throughout your diocese; of how you have endeared yourself to the hearts of all those with whom you came in personal contact; and therefore we anxiously looked forward to the time when you would pay our district an episcopal visitation. Owing to ill health we were precluded that privilege from your ever beloved predecessor, Dr. Moran, whose memory we ever cherish and hold dear. It was during his lamented illness that our church was erected, and thank God we can now announce to your Lordship that your visit finds us entirely free of debt, brought

about by the zeal of our priests, and the loyal co-operation of their devoted flock. Expressing our grateful thanks for your first visit, and wishing your Lordship may be spared many years to carry on the work of the diocese, and especially the glorious work of erecting the Catholic Orphanage which you have now in hand, and which, under God's blessing, will be a secure shelter and home for the fatherless of your flock.—We remain, your loyal and obedient children, (Signed) Timothy Wilkins, Thomas J. Collins, Charles Todd, Charles Cassidy, on behalf of the Catholics of Heriot, November, 1897."

### ST. VITUS' DANCE CURED BY DR. WILLIAMS' PINK PILLS FOR PALE PEOPLE.

#### A LADY WHOSE SUFFERINGS WERE TERRIBLE TO WITNESS.

#### IRREFUTABLE TESTIMONY OF A MISSIONARY'S WIFE.

"Lake Cordah,  
October 11, 1897.

"The Dr. Williams Medicine Co., Sydney.

SIRS,—

I have much pleasure in stating that Dr. Williams' Pink Pills have cured a bad case of St. Vitus' Dance on our station.

"Willie Lovett, a lad 17 years of age, was attacked with the disease in question about two and a-half years ago. He was prescribed for by several doctors, but grew steadily worse. The whole of the right side, from the head down to the feet, was affected. He could neither dress nor feed himself, and his limbs and face were constantly twitching in a manner distressing to see, both night and day. He could get no proper rest. The pockets of his suits were all torn down the right side, owing to the involuntary convulsive movements made by his hand when he put it into them. The last doctor who attended him told his friends they would have to be very careful that the lad should not get a fright, or be hastily spoken to, as if that happened he might fall down dead, his brain was in such a bad state. Seeing accounts of several cases of cure of St. Vitus' Dance in your little pamphlet which was sent to me, I wrote to Sydney for six boxes of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills, and the lad commenced taking them according to directions.

"By the time he had taken three boxes he was so much improved as to be able to feed himself, to wash and dress himself, and even to lace his own boots, a thing he had not done for a very long time before. When he finished the six boxes he was perfectly cured, and looked quite a different boy.

For over four months he has been out in all sorts of weather rabbit-trapping with his father, can use his pen, and chop wood, carry heavy buckets of water, and, in fact, do any kind of rough work. Just at present he is away from here working as a wool-picker in a large shed in the Western District, where his father is engaged as a shearer.

"I give you this unsolicited testimony, not for the purpose of extending the sale of Pink Pills, but in order that other sufferers from the same disease, of whom there are doubtless many in the colony, may, perhaps, try them, and receive similar benefit to what this lad has got through their use.

"I am quite willing to reply to any enquiries as to the genuineness of this case, and you are at liberty to make what use you please of my testimony.—I am, Sirs, yours truly,

M. STAHL.

"To the Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., Sydney—

SIRS,—I have asked Mrs. Stahl, our Missionary's wife, to inform you of the good Dr. Williams' Pink Pills have done our son, "Willie." Every word of what this lady has so kindly written is perfectly true, and I can assure you I am thankful to God for curing my boy through their means, for we were afraid he would never get better, as all other medicines seemed to give him no relief at all. He was suffering for over two years.—I am, Sirs, yours gratefully,

(Mrs.) HANNAH LOVETT."

Dr. Williams' Pink Pills have a remarkable efficacy in curing diseases arising from an impoverished condition of the blood or an impairment of the nervous system, such as rheumatism, neuralgia, partial paralysis, locomotor ataxia, nervous headache, nervous prostration and the tired feeling arising therefrom. They are genuine only with the full name name, Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People, and are sold in boxes encircling which is a blue warning label. The out-side wrapper is of white paper, and is printed in red ink. Our repeated warnings may seem a trifle superfluous in the eyes of the reading public, but they were never more needed than now, and the frequency with which they appear is attributable to our desire to afford our customers every protection. Imitators are in every corner of Australasia, and many vendors are endeavouring to pass off a hurtful substitute, as it means a larger profit to them, and the public would do well to avoid them, for they would just as readily dispense impure drugs. Dr. Williams' Pink Pills are obtainable from all leading chemists, or from the Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., Wellington, N.Z., who will forward, post paid, on receipt of stamps or post order, one box for 3s., or half a dozen for 15s 9d.

On Sunday, the 19th September, Mass was said at the top of the Zugspitze, the highest mountain of Germany (10,000 feet), by the parish priest of Garmisch, on the occasion of the opening of the new refuge-hut, or hospice, between the east and west peaks. About 200 members of the Alpine Club were present. The altar was beautifully decorated with Alpine roses and edelweiss, and the anthem "O Sanctissima Virgo" was sung. The seven o'clock Mass at the high altar of Garmisch Church was said during the curé's absence by his Grace Archbishop O'Callaghan.