

light heart, would have led this country into a war more serious in its consequences, more certain to be fruitless of good results, than any war in which we have been engaged since we tried to compel the allegiance of the American colonies.

Diocesan News.

ARCHDIOCESE OF WELLINGTON.

(From our own correspondent.)

November 18.

The Rev. Father Delach, of Otaki, has been in Wellington this week.

The building of the convent at Newtown for the Sisters of Mercy is to be started during the Christmas holidays.

There are throughout the Colony 113 candidates for the Senior, and 491 for the Junior Civil Service Examinations to be held in January.

The Very Rev. Dr. Pestre, S.M., Provincial of the Marist Order, has gone to Meaneer for the midsummer examinations. He will be absent about two months.

The election of a member representing Parliament on the Victoria College Council, in place of the Very Rev. Dr. Watters, who lately resigned, resulted in the return of Dr. Prendergast Knight. He took his seat for the first time at Wednesday's meeting.

On Wednesday evening, at St. Paul's Schoolroom, a children's party was given by Mesdames Allan and McAlister to raise funds to furnish their stall at the Thorndon bazaar. The children's enjoyment was well catered for by the Misses Allan. Songs and dances were contributed by Misses Toohill and Gibbes.

Three Sisters of the Mission from various convents in New Zealand arrived here on Thursday from France via Australia. They have been away since April, and during their visit to Paris assisted at the recent election of the Mother General of the Order. While in Wellington they were the guests of Mrs. Devlin.

Though the Wellington High Levels Tramway Act, granting authority for the building of an under-ground tram line to Karori, passed Parliament during the session of 1898, compliance with its procedure clauses have up to the present prevented the commencement of the actual work. A contract was, however, let this week to Mr. Maurice O'Connor at £12,172. The contract time for the completing of the construction is twelve months, and the company expects to have the line open for traffic at Christmas next year.

St. Patrick's College annual harbour excursion, which was postponed from Tuesday on account of rain, was held on Thursday. Headed by the band, the students, under the drill-instructor, marched to the ferry wharf, where the 'Duchess,' dressed with the College colours, was waiting to receive them. The marches as played by the band and the manly and military bearing of the boys were the subject of appreciative remarks from the onlookers. The party was accompanied by the clergy and several friends. The outing at Day's Bay was most enjoyable.

The Catholics of the Lower Hutt have suffered a severe loss in the destruction of their Convent school by fire. When the Sisters left to return to town at a quarter to six on Tuesday everything seemed safe, but in less than half an hour the building was in flames. The insurance was £150, but as nothing was saved the loss is estimated at £250 in excess of that amount. Judging by the small insurance in this case and also that on St. Mary's Cathedral, which was burned twelve months ago, it seems that even allowing for the great care which is exercised the buildings belonging to the Catholic community in this district are not nearly sufficiently covered.

Interest in the General Election, which in all probability will take place on the second Friday in December, is just awakening in this city. For the three City seats seven candidates—Messrs. Fisher, Hutcheson, Hislop, Macdonald, Atkinson, Jellicoe, and Earnshaw—have offered themselves. The Government 'ticket' is not yet announced, but Messrs. Atkinson, Hislop, and Hutcheson stand in the Opposition interest. It will be noticed that the last named has gradually worked his way from a Ministerial follower to an Oppositionist. At the last General Election he topped the poll as a Government supporter. Messrs. Fisher, Macdonald, and Jellicoe are Government supporters, and Mr. Earnshaw poses as an Independent Liberal. With the exception of Messrs. Atkinson and Jellicoe all the candidates have had previous parliamentary experience. In the Suburbs electorate there are three candidates—Dr. Newman, an Oppositionist, and Messrs. Wilford and Kirk. The two last are Government supporters, but Mr. Wilford is the accredited Government candidate. The campaign begins in earnest next week.

St. Patrick's Hall was packed to overflowing on Thursday and Friday evenings with relatives and friends of the children attending the Te Aro Convent, when an entertainment was given in aid of the school requisites. The length of the programme was compensated for by the excellence of the rendering of each of the items. The cantata 'Red Riding Hood' calls for special mention; the acting and singing showed signs of very careful preparation. The first part comprised a piano duet, 'Qui Vive,' by Misses N. and L. Lavery; chorus, 'Happy hunter,' children; song, 'Sing sweet bird,' Miss A. Foster; Scotch reel, Misses Frost, Duff, Murphy, Foster, Flanagan, and Mason; solo and chorus, 'Children's voices,' Miss M. Mitten; song, 'The latest thing in dolls,' junior pupils; duet and chorus, 'Whispering hope,' Misses A. Segrief and A. Foster; recitation, 'Meddlesome Matty,' Miss V. Murphy; dance, Misses Foster, Coleman, Mason, and Flanagan; duet, Misses Doherty and Coleman; recitation, 'Only daisies,' Miss Weavers; piano solo, Miss B. Coleman; tableau, 'Our Fernery'; piano duet, Misses N. and L.

Lavery. In the cantata the cast of characters was as follows:—Red Riding Hood, Miss A. Segrief; mother, Miss Mitten; wolf, Master J. O'Connor; woodman, Master F. Murphy; Robin, Master J. Carmody; Buttercup, Miss R. Segrief; Bluebell, Miss Foster; Rose, Miss Black.

DIOCESE OF AUCKLAND.

(From our own correspondent.)

November 16.

A striking feature of the Devonport mission last week was the service held in the cemetery during last Sunday afternoon for the repose of the souls of those buried there.

The St. Patrick's Day Celebration Committee met in the Marist Brothers' School last Sunday afternoon. The celebration was decided upon, and also the desirability of calling together a large meeting by circular.

The streets round about Point Erin, in the Ponsonby Ward of the city, bear the names Sarsfield, Emmet, Grattan, Curran, all so familiar and so dear to the hearts of Irishmen. They were so named by Mr. John Campbell, an uncle of Mr. John Campbell who died this week. The site whereon the Marist Brothers' schools stand was the gift of Mr. Campbell, sen.

In the obituary notice, telegraphed this week, of the Very Rev. M. D. O'Hara, the name of the Rev. Father O'Hara was inadvertently omitted from the list of priests who attended the obsequies. It should also have been stated that the late Father O'Hara made a short stay in Sydney on his way from Ireland, and arrived in Auckland about Easter 1855, not 1865. He also conducted for some time the High School of St. Francis in Auckland.

The plans of the Convent school for Paeroa have been prepared by Messrs. E. Mahony and Son, and were submitted and approved by the committee at Paeroa last Sunday. The erection is to be undertaken at once. Four Sisters of St. Joseph are to come from Sydney early in the New Year to assume charge of the school. The Very Rev. Father Hackett, the energetic and popular pastor of Paeroa, and his devoted people deserve every encouragement and commendation in their laudable work.

While visiting the Bishop's palace last week, I was shown a fine photographic group taken recently in America of the Right Rev. Bishop Lenihan, of Dubuque, the Right Rev. Dr. Lenihan, Bishop of Auckland, Father Lenihan, brother of the first-named prelate, Mr. Lenihan, another brother, and Mr. and Mrs. Mold, the last being a sister of the Bishop of Dubuque. Mrs. Mold made a present to our Bishop of a beautiful set of solid gold teaspoons, with the initials G. M. L. engraved on them.

An entertainment was given in the Panmure Hall by the Parnell 'Serenaders' on the evening of November 9, and proved a decided success. The numbers, judiciously selected, were favourably received, and in many instances repeated. Monsignor McDonald at a suitable interval thanked most cordially his musical friends for the splendid entertainment given by them, and hoped at a later date it would be his good fortune, as well as his Panmure neighbours, to be favoured with another visit from the same source.

Last evening the Auckland branch of the H.A.C.B. Society concluded its ordinary business with expedition and devoted the remainder of the evening to harmony. There were present the Very Rev. Dean O'Reilly (chaplain), Rev. Fathers Golden and Purton, Dr. Darby, and Mr. W. J. Napier. Short addresses were given by the Dean, Father Golden, Dr. Darby, and by Messrs. Napier, Nerheny, and M. J. Sheahan. Songs were contributed by Bros. Bryant and Patterson, and Mr. White, and a recitation by Mr. Donovan. The accompaniments were played by Miss Beardon. Three new members were initiated. A most pleasant and profitable evening was spent by the members and their friends. Bro. Alex. Wright (president) was in the chair.

The mission which was conducted by the Rev. Fathers Gillan and Golden at the request of the Very Rev. Dean O'Reilly, at Devonport, concluded last Sunday evening at the Church of St. Francis. Both Masses on Sunday were celebrated by Father Golden. At the first Mass a very large number received Holy Communion, and Father Golden preached an excellent sermon upon Perseverance. At the 11 o'clock Mass and Vespers Father Gillan preached impressive sermons. The Very Rev. Dean O'Reilly gave Benediction, and before the congregation dispersed thanked them for their regular attendance during the mission, and expressed the greatest gratification at the success achieved, and fervently hoped that God would grant them the grace of perseverance that they may continue throughout the remainder of their lives the good work and good intentions formed during the mission. The Dean also thanked Father Gillan and his old friend Father Golden for their labours.

PAEROA.

A meeting of the newly-formed Catholic school committee was held on Sunday, November 12, at St. Mary's, Paeroa (says the *Hauraki Tribune*). The following members were present:—Rev. Father Hackett (chairman), Messrs. Poland, Crosby, Power, Beattie, Barrett, Goonan, McVeigh, O'Hara, Fitzpatrick, Trainor, and Wolff. The chairman submitted the plans and specifications for the new school building, which, with a few alterations, were unanimously approved, and it was decided to call immediately for tenders for erection. It is expected the school will be built within two months from date. The site chosen for the school is without exception, the finest in Paeroa, being part of the church property adjoining St. Mary's, which commands a fine view and affords the school children three acres for a playground. At the conclusion of the meeting Father Hackett thanked the committee for the assistance given and the enthusiastic manner in which they undertook the work of providing Paeroa with a school which in February next will be placed in charge of four nuns from Sydney.