

Diocesan News.

ARCHDIOCESE OF WELLINGTON.

(From our own correspondent.)

December 2.

The Very Rev. Dr. Kennedy, of Meane, arrived on Thursday. He is to spend his holidays in Canterbury.

The Revs. Kerley and M. Guineari are to be ordained sub-deacons on the 8th inst., and deacons on the 10th at St. Joseph's Church.

His Grace the Archbishop is due in Wellington on the 6th inst. and a Confirmation service will be held in St. Joseph's Church on the 17th.

On the 21st and 22nd inst. the Fabian Dramatic Club will produce the comedy, 'Caste,' at the Opera House. The proceeds are to be devoted towards furnishing the Basilica of the Sacred Heart.

The Rev. Father Sheehy, who has been visiting his relatives in the Old Country and Australia, is returning to the Argentine Republic. He is waiting here for the Gothic, and is the guest of Archdeacon Devoy.

This year the Te Aro and Thorndon parishes will combine and hold a monster picnic in Very Rev. Father Lane's grounds at the Hutt on Boxing Day. At a meeting held last Sunday Mr. J. Hyland was elected secretary.

The Rev. Father Tynons, parish priest at Palmerston North, came to Wellington on Thursday to be present at the distribution of prizes at his *Alma Mater*. He was fairly rushed by his friends, who were profuse in their congratulations on his appointment to so important a parish as Palmerston North.

Last Sunday at St. Mary of the Angels, Mozart's 'Twelfth Mass' was sung by the choir under the conductorship of Mr. Oakes, and in the evening Mr. Nicholas Lenihan, late solo tenor of St. Patrick's Cathedral, Melbourne, assisted. This gentleman was associated with Mr. T. G. Law in Rossi's 'Tantum Ergo.'

On Sunday last Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament was held at St. Joseph's Church. The Rev. Father Herbert sang a *Missa Cantata*. The choir, under Mr. Rowe, sang Farmer's Mass in B flat. An 'O Salutaris' was rendered in a highly creditable manner by the conductor. In the evening the Ven. Archdeacon Devoy preached on the Gospel of the day, and concluded by exhorting everyone to spend the season of Advent in a true Christian manner.

The Ven. Archdeacon Devoy occupied the chair at the presentation of prizes won at the Marist Brothers' Old Boys' Association sports, which were held on November 9th. In the course of a few remarks he referred to the meagre support which the sports receive from the members of the Association, and said that the general public could hardly be expected to make a success of the Association's future gatherings unless a greater interest was taken in them by the members themselves.

On Sunday St. Patrick's College Band made its final public appearance for this year in the college grounds before a fairly large audience. Though not at its full strength the band gave a most creditable exhibition, proving the excellence of the work done by the conductor and members during the year. After the performance the boys and a number of friends adjourned to the study hall, where Dr. Martin, in the unavoidable absence of Dr. Cahill, presented the prizes won at the sports a fortnight ago. Dr. Martin, who was received with applause, offered his congratulations to the winners and expressed the hope that the losers would be spurred to greater efforts in future competitions. There was no need, he said, to remind the boys of the benefits to be derived from athletics. Unless the health of the body was well cared for, the mental work must be far below that standard of which the brain was capable. At the same time they must not forget the primary reason for their being at college. There should be moderation in all things, and a man with a strong body and moderate education would in the race of life rise infinitely higher than he with the body of a Sallow and the brain of an idiot. Dr. Martin concluded a happy little speech by advising the boys to work hard in the school and play hard in the recreation ground. Before the prizes were presented the Rev. Father Mahony, on behalf of the staff and the boys, thanked the Ven. Archdeacon Devoy, the Very Rev. Father Lewis, and Rev. Fathers O'Shea and Holley, Drs. Cahill, Martin, and Mackin, Messrs. Kennedy, Gasquoine, O'Connor, McCardell and many others for their liberality in providing prizes. Each winner was greeted with a round of applause as he received his trophy, special attention being paid to M. Mahoney, first in the Grand Handicap, and J. O'Kane, the winner of the 150yds championship. The college orchestra played two selections during the distribution. Cheers for the Rector and Dr. Martin concluded the proceedings.

DIOCESE OF CHRISTCHURCH.

(From our own correspondent.)

December 4.

The Very Rev. Dr. Kennedy, of the Meane Seminary, and Rev. Father Moloney, of St. Patrick's College, came South last week for the Christmas vacation. A number of the students whose homes are here returned also.

His Lordship the Bishop made an episcopal visitation to Rangiora on Tuesday last, and, during the week, assisted by the Very Rev. Dean Foley, conducted mission services. With the exception of the Hawarden district, which is at present being supplied by Rangiora, and the Chathams, this is the last parish to be visited.

The painfully sudden death of Mr. J. Joyce, the late M.H.R. for Lyttelton and a candidate at the present election, created quite a sensation in the district. In alluding to the sad event in St. Joseph's Church on Sunday, the Rev. Father Salvador said that the death of Mr. Joyce was nothing less than a public calamity. It was not, he said, until after death that the good done by such men was really appreciated.

A visit to Mr. E. O'Connor's Catholic book depôt, Barbadoes street, forcibly reminds one of the near approach of the festive season, and the annually recurring school prize distribution. The visitor sees on all sides a truly amazing array of objects of art and devotion, and certainly one of the finest collections of Catholic literature to be found in New Zealand, all the big publishing houses, including Burns and Oates, James Duffy and Sons, Gill and Co., etc., being placed under tribute. Apart from the fact that Mr. O'Connor has placed within easy reach of all a complete and varied collection of necessary articles, he is deserving of support for the very good reason that he is foremost in every work in connection with the Church.

The Very Rev. Vicar-General, in addressing the Pro-Cathedral congregation on Sunday, stated that the Minister of Education had officially appointed Mr. Baldwin, head master of the Sydenham Public School, and at one time an Inspector under the Education Board, Inspector of Catholic schools for the diocese of Christchurch, and had also empowered him to issue pass certificates on behalf of the Department. The schools of the Sisters of the Mission, Barbadoes street, and Sisters of Mercy, Colombo street, have already been examined, but the Inspector's report (copies of which I have been promised) are not yet available. In regard to this new departure the Very Rev. Father Le Menant des Cheneais said one of their greatest difficulties had been so far removed, and urged parents to observe the utmost regularity in the attendance of their children at the Catholic schools, which now enjoyed privileges on equal terms with the Board schools.

DIOCESE OF AUCKLAND.

(From our own correspondent.)

November 30.

The contract for the erection of the convent school at Paeroa has been let, and the building is to be completed in January.

At the Sacred Heart Church, Ponsonby, last Sunday morning, the choir at the 10 o'clock Mass was augmented by a number of vocalists and instrumentalists, and rendered in fine style Weber's Mass in G.

Rev. Father Buckley left last Tuesday for Gisborne, where he is to make a stay of a fortnight for the benefit of his health. Rev. Father O'Connor, the new arrival from Ireland, takes Father Buckley's place at the Cathedral.

R.-v. Father Patterson, lately of Palmerston North, arrived here last week. He is staying with the Rev. Father Gillan at St. Benedict's. Father Patterson preached at St. Patrick's last Sunday morning and at St. Benedict's in the evening.

The Premier, at the Opera House, said: 'The school teacher is now looked upon, in some degree, more than the parents to form the character of the child.' A solid argument, surely, in favour of the stand taken by the Catholic Church upon education.

In the telegraphed obituary notice of the late Very Rev. Father O'Hara, which appeared in the TABLET, it was stated that Father O'Hara was ordained in 1863 and arrived in Auckland in 1865. It should have read, 'ordained in 1853 and arrived in Auckland in 1856.' The errors, no doubt, occurred in transmission.

Replying to a deputation from the Friendly Societies with reference to the stamp duty recently sought to be imposed on Friendly Societies' cheques and money receipts, the Premier said it was a revelation to him, and he would take steps to have the practice stopped. This should interest our Irishman branches.

A poll of the city ratepayers last Tuesday decided, by nearly twelve to one, in favour of borrowing £100,000 at a rate not exceeding four per cent.—£50,000 to be borrowed in 1900, the rest in sums of £10,000 as the money is required. The objects are reduction of present overdraft, thereby saving £300 per annum interest, an auxiliary water supply, and paving Queen street with wooden blocks.

A commencement has been made in the renovation of the cemetery in Symond street. A contract has been let for removing all the gorse. It is intended to fell all the trees. For this purpose a sum of £50 is required, and the committee solicit subscriptions, and if there be any of the TABLET readers throughout the Colony or elsewhere who have relatives or friends buried in the Symond street Catholic Cemetery, Auckland, it is obligatory upon them to assist in this good work by forwarding their subscriptions to the hon. secretary and treasurer of the committee, Mr. M. J. Sheahan, Auckland.

The Right Hon. the Premier addressed a very large meeting which, for size and enthusiasm, reminded one of the late Sir George Grey's meetings of long ago, in the Opera House last Tuesday evening. Speaking of education, he said: 'He respected that section of the community which sacrificed in the matter of education for conscience sake, but still, if the Act required amending, it should be done. While we maintained our present system of education, he was one of those who believed that wherever children were taught—no matter what school they were taught in—there should be State inspection.' Here certainly is a lead given to the Catholics of Auckland, and if they do not hammer away at our old hide-bound Education Board, and obtain this meagre instalment of their just claims, they deserve to remain in their present position.