

was a kinsman of the Commander-in-Chief of the British army. He had wished for the navy as a career, but a touch of asthma disqualified him, despite his tall figure and the habits of an athlete. He was educated at Fort Augustus, and—after trying his hand 'in the city,' where he began by graduating in finance at the office of Messrs. Leecher and Stevens, in Clement's-lane—he went out to South Africa. There a position in the mines left him more opportunities than he had at home for the exercise of his capacities as a capital horseman and a capital shot. When trouble came he was keen to take arms, and his enthusiasm did not fail him on the battlefield as one of the bravest of a band of brave volunteers under Colonel Chisholme—the Colonel and the trooper going together to that death which it is 'sweet and decorous to endure for the fatherland.

STONYHURST BOYS AT THE SEAT OF WAR.

Among the Stonyhurst boys ordered out to South Africa (says the *New Era*) are Colonel T. J. Gallwey, C.B., Royal Army Medical Corps, as principal medical officer of the Second Division of the First Army Corps; Captain P. A. Kenna, V.C., 21st Lancers, Assistant Provost Marshal of the staff of the Cavalry Division, graded as Deputy-Assistant Adjutant General. Captain Ellis and Lieutenant Creagh go out with their respective regiments. Captain E. S. Bullfin, Yorkshire Regiment, who was A.M.S. and A.D.C. to Sir William Butler at the Cape, will for the present remain in South Africa on special service. On his return home from Egypt Colonel Gallwey had been appointed principal medical officer for the Home District.

Diocesan News.

ARCHDIOCESE OF WELLINGTON.

(From our own correspondent.)

December 16.

The Rev. Father Ainsworth is for the present in Wellington enjoying a well-earned holiday.

Misses C. Kirkwood, B. Ryan, and Teresa Killeen, pupils of the Dixon street Convent School, passed the Technical School second grade drawing examination.

The Revs. M. Guinard and F. Keiley were ordained deacons on Sunday by his Grace Archbishop Redwood. The ceremony took place in St. Joseph's Church.

The Very Rev. Father Brown, S.J., who has been conducting missions in the South, is the guest of the Very Rev. Father Lewis. He leaves by the Monowai for Sydney to-day.

The 'Good Luck' stallholders at the Easter bazaar gave an 'At home' in the Sydney street schoolroom on Wednesday. During the evening songs were sung by Misses Pender, Maginnity, and Mr. Izett, Mrs. Izett and Mr. Keenan contributing recitations.

Scarcely has the General Election been over than, by the death of Mr. H. A. Field, the chosen for the Otaki seat, a bye-election has become necessary. Already the campaign has begun, and Mr. Morison, the defeated candidate at the recent election, announces himself in the Opposition interest. Mr. W. H. Field, a brother of the late member, is to contest the seat on behalf of the Government.

Sunday's sacred concert in aid of St. Joseph's Church organ fund was well up to the standard set by the choir on previous occasions. Special credit is due to Mr. Searle, whose singing was the feature of the concert. Mr. Pope did well in the solo part of the 'Laudate,' and Miss Sullivan and the choir gave an excellent rendering of Mendelssohn's 'Hymn of Praise,' solo and chorus. Mr. M. J. Ennis presided at the organ and Mr. Rowe conducted.

DIOCESE OF AUCKLAND.

(From our own correspondent.)

December 14.

The Rev. Father Gillan conducted a Triduum for the Confraternity of the Children of Mary at St. Benedict's, terminating on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception.

An entertainment was given last evening in aid of the school fund by the pupils of the Sacred Heart School, Ponsonby, in their own schoolroom. It was a most pronounced success.

St. Benedict's Christmas Fair promises to be a great success. Sir G. M. O'Rourke, M.H.R., has consented to open it, and most of the newly elected Parliamentary representatives for the city and suburbs are to be invited to attend.

The Auckland provincial district remains in relation to parties in the same position as it did in the last Parliament. Mr. W. J. Napier, who headed the poll in Auckland city with 6097 votes, polling 502 over the second candidate, is a Catholic, and at one time was Auckland correspondent for the *TABLET*.

The Rev. Father Gillan preached a retreat last week to the Little Sisters of the Poor, at their Home in Ponsonby. It was concluded by the Rev. Father Patterson. It goes without saying that the good Sisters and their charges greatly appreciated the untiring zeal and exhortations of the reverend Fathers.

Mr. Hogben, of the Education Department, Wellington, visited officially the Star of the Sea Orphanage (under the charge of Sister Mary Borgia) last Friday and expressed himself as well pleased with the arrangements. He also visited the boys' orphanage at Lake Takapuna, accompanied by Father Gillan and Mr. Parish, and was much struck with the excellent Home, and the well-kept estate

surrounding it. It is small wonder that high encomiums should be lavished upon this excellent place, and to those in charge, Sister Mary Alphonsus and Mr. Colgan, too much praise cannot be given.

A treat was afforded the inmates of the Star of the Sea Orphanage, Ponsonby, last Friday evening by the Auckland Liedertafel, under their conductor, Mr. A. Towsey. The Sisters and boarders from the adjacent convent attended in large numbers. Besides the items by the visitors songs were given by Messrs. Allen, A. Trenwith, J. Parish, and Arthur Towsey. Most acceptable items were contributed by the Very Rev. Dr. Egan and Rev. Father Patterson. The children gave their quota to the programme in a chorus 'Where is Happiness?' A hearty vote of thanks was given to the Liedertafel for their great kindness in affording amusement to the orphans.

The Very Rev. Dr. Egan, O.S.B., was presented with a beautifully framed shield containing the photos of the members of the Young Men's Club, in which that of their spiritual director occupied the central position. An address was also presented. The presentation was made by the esteemed president of the Club, Mr. J. J. O'Brien, who prefaced the reading of the address with a neat little speech, in which he eulogised the many good qualities of Dr. Egan. Dr. Egan replied and thanked the members most heartily, and hoped they would be many years associated in carrying out their mission of religious, secular, and social improvement. A generous spread, supplied by the president and Mrs. O'Brien, was then partaken of. The following ladies waited at the table:—Mrs. O'Brien, Misses Lynch, Flynn (2), McGuire, Nyson, and Simpson. A thoroughly enjoyable evening was spent.

His Lordship the Right Rev. Dr. Lenihan has written from his old college at Valladolid, Spain, under date October 30. His Lordship says: 'Such pleasant days I am having here thanks to the exceeding kindness of the rector and professors. The rector, Monsignor Allen, was in charge when I was a student here, and the professors and a priest assisting me in giving a retreat to the students, were class mates of mine, so that we pass many an hour recounting old times. The rector is quite spoiling me with all the kindness he bestows upon me. I am thoroughly enjoying this rest after so much wandering about. I can only spare a fortnight, much to the regret of the rector, who wanted me to stay with him three months. I feel after a week's sojourn here much rested and refreshed. While things do not seem to have progressed in Spain, at the college, under the rector's excellent administration, many improvements have been effected, and the students here have reason to be grateful for the care that is taken of them. On my way to Spain I branched off to Lourdes, and under the shadow of the statue of our Lady had the privilege of saying Mass, making a memento of all my friends in Auckland, especially my priests and religious, and of the laity who so willingly help us. In this way I did not forget those who join with you, Sunday after Sunday, in collecting at the church door. Convey my good wishes to each and all of the collectors.'

DIOCESE OF CHRISTCHURCH.

(From our own correspondent.)

December 18.

The Rev. Father Kimbell of St. Patrick's College arrived here during the week, and is at present the guest of the Rev. Father Marnane at St. Mary's.

His Lordship the Bishop made several brief visits to the city during the week. He presented the prizes at the convent schools on Thursday and Saturday, and presided at an important meeting of the Cathedral Committee on Friday.

The pupils of the Convent of Mercy, at Lyttelton, gave an entertainment on Tuesday last in the local Oddfellows' Hall in aid of their prize fund. A well-arranged programme of vocal and instrumental music, recitations, and two farces was submitted to an appreciative audience.

The mission services held at Oxford by his Lordship the Bishop and the Very Rev. Dean Foley were well attended. On Tuesday last a visitation was made to and a mission was commenced at Kaiapoi, which was continued throughout the week and terminated on Sunday last when the Sacrament of Confirmation was administered.

Mr. F. W. Petre, architect, of Dunedin, who was passing through to Wellington, was present at the meeting of the Cathedral Committee last week, and exhibited a plan of a Basilica, which if adopted as the proposed building would have capacity (to use the architect's own words) of containing within its walls any church at present existing in the Colony, and would prove by far the most imposing structure in the city. Provision is made for a crypt, and seating accommodation for 3000 persons. Massive Corinthian pillars adorn the front. The main entrance would be reached by means of nine steps, and from this floor further flights of steps would lead to a gallery almost encircling the interior. The materials used would be Oamaru stone faced with blue stone, with concrete foundations. So far, however, nothing definite has been arranged.

Mr. Davitt, who has resigned his seat in Parliament, is a constant contributor to American and colonial newspapers, and an occasional writer in English and Irish journals and reviews.

Monsignor Merry del Val, who was recently on a short visit to London, is the son of the Spanish Ambassador at the Vatican, a relative of Count de Torres-Diaz, a well-known Spanish Catholic in London. Mgr. Merry del Val spends much of his vacation in England, for which he entertains a sincere admiration, and in which he has many friends. He is young in years, but his experience in diplomatic matters is wide, and he has, in all probability, a brilliant career before him.

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