

drawing power than the Fabians can yet command. The Opera House was only fairly well filled at the two performances. The various parts received careful treatment from the performers.

The Rev. Brother Mark, M.A., and the Marist Brothers entertained the members of the Old Boys' Association in the schoolroom on Tuesday evening. Songs by Messrs. A. W. Smith, M. Eller, H. Gamble, C. Gamble, North, and J. O'Brien, and recitations by Messrs. J. Hyland, W. Naughton, and McDonald contributed to a most enjoyable evening. In the course of the proceedings the Ven. Archdeacon Devoy took the opportunity to congratulate the Brothers on the great progress the school was making as shown in the report of the Education Board's Inspector.

Another old colonist in the person of Mrs. Browne, the wife of ex-Police Inspector Browne, passed away at Kilbirnie on Thursday. The deceased lady was well-known throughout New Zealand, and in her last moments was attended by an old friend, the Ven. Archdeacon Devoy, who administered the last rites of the Church. A Requiem Mass was said by the Ven. Archdeacon Devoy in St. Joseph's Church this morning and the funeral services at Karori were conducted by Rev. Father Servajean.—R.I.P.

NAPIER.

(From our own correspondent.)

December 22.

St. Mary's Church was the scene of a pleasing ceremony on Sunday afternoon, when eight young ladies were admitted as aspirants, and 19 were received as Children of Mary by the Rev. Father Hickson.

A concert was held in the Theatre Royal last week, to provide funds for the school prizes. The items (vocal and instrumental) were provided by the pupils of the Catholic schools, and the handsome sum of £21 was netted. This result was largely due to the untiring efforts of the Rev. Father Hickson, who superintended the arrangements.

A Catholic bazaar was held at Clive from the 15th to 18th inst., for the purpose of raising funds to make alterations to the local church there. The bazaar was opened by Mr. W. Y. Dennet (Mayor of Hastings) and proved a financial success, over £100 resulting therefrom. At its close, the Very Rev. Father Smyth thanked his Worship the Mayor for his kind services, and in a few well-chosen remarks said the success was largely due to the efforts of the ladies who had charge of the stalls—viz., Mesdames Crowley, Burns, and Crombie, and their lady assistants.

DIOCESE OF AUCKLAND.

(From our own correspondent.)

Miss Clara Tole, of Ponsonby, a sister of the Hon. J. A. Tole, is, I regret to say, very dangerously ill at her residence, Ponsonby.

St. Benedict's Christmas Fair was opened in St. Benedict's Hall on the evening of December 22. The ceremony was performed by Sir G. M. O'Rorke, M.H.R. A full report will be sent for your next issue.

His Lordship Dr. Lenihan wrote from London on November 15, the anniversary of his consecration, and sent his blessing and good wishes to his faithful people. The Bishop expected to start for New Zealand in March.

St. Mary's Convent High School broke up on Monday evening, when the prizes were distributed by the Very Dr. Egan, O.S.B., and Mr. W. J. Napier, M.H.R. A fine concert brought the evening to a most successful close.

The boys of the Marist Brothers' High School held their annual sports at St. Helier's Bay last Wednesday. They were under the charge of the Superior (Brother Basil) and Brother Borgia.

[A full report of the sports has been received and will appear in our next issue.—Ed. N.Z.T.]

At Parnell, on Tuesday evening last, a most successful concert was given in St. Bonaventure's Hall, by the pupils of the Sisters of Mercy. The performers and their good teachers received high encomiums from all present. The exhibition of work was a brilliant feature. Indeed, it would be hard to equal anywhere for excellence the work shown in Parnell.

The Right Rev. Dr. Lenihan, says the *Catholic Press* (Sydney) of the 2nd inst., 'Bishop of Auckland, New Zealand, has been on a visit to Moate, having gone specially to call on Mrs. Hackett, mother of the Very Rev. Father Hackett, and was the guest of the Carmelite Fathers during his stay.' This paragraph has reference to the zealous and popular parish priest of Paeroa, the Very Rev. Father Hackett.

DIOCESE OF DUNEDIN.

The Rev. Father Colgan, S.J., of Melbourne, preached on Sunday night at St. Joseph Cathedral. He proceeded to Timaru on Tuesday to open a retreat at the local convent of the Sacred Heart.

Very Rev. Father Ryan, S.J., is conducting the annual retreat of the Dominican nuns who are temporarily occupying the new Provincial Seminary at Mosgiel.

Two more young priests who were recently secured by Bishop Verdon for the diocese of Dunedin are expected to reach the Colony by the next mail boat from Melbourne to the Bluff.

The Rev. Mother, Convent of Mercy, South Dunedin, desires to convey through our columns her deep sense of the kindness of the St. Vincent de Paul Society (Dunedin) and of the many other

friends who contributed towards the support of the Catholic Orphanage during the present year.

Masses were celebrated at St. Joseph's Cathedral on Christmas Day at 6, 7, 8, 9 and 11 o'clock, the latter being a Solemn High Mass. The Rev. Father Moloney of St. Patrick's College was celebrant, Rev. Father Murphy deacon, Rev. Father Cleary sub-deacon. Rev. Father Colgan preached an eloquent and impressive discourse. The choir, which was assisted by an efficient orchestra under the leadership of Mr. Naumann, gave a devotional rendering of Haydn's No. 2 Mass, the soloists being Miss Rose Blaney (soprano), Miss M. Drumm (alto), Mr. P. Carolin (tenor), and Mr. O. Feil (bass). Mr. Mr. W. T. Ward conducted. The 'Adeste Fideles' was sung as an offertory, the solo parts being taken by Miss Rose Blaney, Miss Bush, Mr. B. Stevens and Mr. W. Woods. There was a large congregation present at High Mass, and also in the evening, when the Rev. Father Murphy preached. The decorations were confined to the sanctuary, especially the high altar, which was tastefully adorned with flowers.

The unpropitious weather and the big patriotic meeting at the Agricultural Hall materially affected the attendance at Mr. Walter Kirby's song recital at the Choral Hall on Friday night. Those who were present enjoyed the fine programme presented. Mr. Kirby came to Dunedin with an excellent reputation as a vocalist, and his performance on Friday night confirmed the reports that had come from other centres. He was down for four items on the programme—'Alice, where art thou?' 'The star of Bethlehem,' 'Angels guard thee,' and 'An evening song.' Three of these were encored. Mr. Kirby's fine tenor voice did full justice to the numbers named, and the audience were very enthusiastic in their applause. Mr. Kirby also took part with Miss Rose Blaney and Mr. Jago in the trio 'Il Naviganti,' which was beautifully rendered. Miss Rose Blaney sang 'My dearest heart' and 'Robin Adair,' for both of which she was enthusiastically encored. Mr. James Jago contributed two vocal items—'Where willows whisper' and 'Love's proving'—in his usual finished manner. Two acceptable songs—'Sunshine and rain' and 'Two cities'—were very nicely sung by Mr. Wakefield Holmes. The balance of the programme consisted of a pianoforte solo by Mr. W. E. Taylor, and a violin solo by Mr. G. H. Schacht, played in these gentlemen's well-known artistic style. The accompaniments were admirably played by Miss K. Moloney and Mr. W. E. Taylor.

A enjoyable concert was given in the Volunteer Hall, Mosgiel, on Wednesday evening of last week, in aid of the local convent of the Sisters of Mercy. There was a good attendance despite the unseasonable weather, and nearly every item on the programme was redemanded. The entertainment opened with an artistically played overture by Miss K. Moloney. Miss Rose Blaney was down for two songs—'A Highland lad my love was born' and 'Close to the threshold,' the latter with violin obligato by Miss M. F. Blaney—which, it is needless to say, were imperatively encored, the accomplished vocalist complying with the request. Mr. Eagar contributed 'A man's a man for a' that,' and later on took part in a duet, 'Hunting Tower,' with Miss Morrison, encores being insisted on in both cases. Miss A. Marks sang with taste 'Sleep my pretty one,' and the same may be said of Miss Morrison's 'Robin Adair' and 'Bonnie sweet Bessie, the maid of Dundee,' both ladies being enthusiastically recalled. Mr. Jago's two fine numbers, 'A Highland man's toast' and 'Defence not defiance,' met with the warm appreciation of the audience. A very fine number was a violin solo by Miss M. F. Blaney, a repetition of which was insisted on. The second part of the programme consisted of a minstrel entertainment by the members of St. Joseph's Club. Those who took part in it were Messrs J. Black, J. Fottrell, F. Duval, W. Banks, F. J. Hussey, F. Heley, L. Pastorelli, M. Coughlan, and W. Clark. This part of the entertainment was productive of considerable amusement, the efforts of the club being marked by good taste. The local 'hits,' without being in any way personal, were very good, and thoroughly enjoyed by the audience. The club are to be congratulated on their very acceptable contribution to what was one of the best entertainments ever given in Mosgiel. Miss K. Moloney played the accompaniments in her usual finished manner.

On Friday last a mass meeting of the citizens of Dunedin was held in the Agricultural Hall for the purpose of raising funds for the relief of those who have been made widows and orphans by the present war in South Africa. The great hall was packed and the meeting was a very representative and enthusiastic one. The Catholic clergy of Dunedin attended and contributed generously to the fund, which reached the enormous total of £3,184. The speakers were nine in number and included the Anglican Bishop of Dunedin and representative clergy from each leading denomination in the city. The most taking speech of the evening was delivered by the Very Rev. Father O'Neill (Milton). On rising he received a perfect and prolonged ovation. No other of the nine speakers, with the exception of Mr. Scobie Mackenzie, was greeted with such an outburst of applause. Father O'Neill was the only speaker who really addressed himself to the subject for which the meeting was called—namely, the cause of charity. The others confined their efforts exclusively to attempts to justify the war itself. Our opinions on this subject have been repeatedly stated and are sufficiently well-known. Father O'Neill made happy references to the generosity and charity of the Irish and Catholic people. He concluded a telling speech amidst great applause with the following remarks:—'I have but one word to say. It is to remind you of a tribute of respect to the love and devotion of those who remained to nurse the sick in Ladysmith, Mafeking, and Kimberley. The Catholics nuns were there in possession of homes and teaching institutions, and were offered the alternative of leaving, but they bravely and unanimously decided that they would remain to nurse the sick (cheers). And now, ladies and gentlemen, I have just to give you a few lines of what our national poet says to some who have not read the history of the past, or who, reading it, did not read it aright. He said: