

2144. It must be a consolation to the eight priests who minister to the faithful in this province to know that while Taranaki is remarkable for its beautiful scenery and for the quality of its butter, it is also remarkable for the practical faith and piety of its Catholic people.

Being as erratic in my manner of writing as in my journeyings to and fro, I have come to the end of my paper without having hinted at another matter which I had intended to descant upon, but I am in hopes you will allow me one other contribution in which I may complete the impressions of the past few days.

### Napier

(From our own correspondent.)

November 1.

The Catholic bazaar which was brought to a close on October 21 proved an unqualified success from a financial point of view. The gross takings were £916, after deducting expenses the net result is £835, upon which all concerned are to be heartily congratulated. This splendid result was achieved under the most adverse weather conditions. The Canadian stall was first in the matter of receipts, the Australian being next, a few shillings separating them. The proposed new church at Port Ahurere will receive £208, whilst the parish debt will be reduced by £627.

The following pupils of St. Joseph's Convent, who presented themselves for the recent practical musical examination held by Mr. Graham P. Moore under the auspices of the Royal Academy of Music and the Royal College of Music, were successful, the examiner expressing himself well pleased with the high standard of proficiency attained. School examination: Lower division, Genevieve Pope (distinction), pass, Lydia Allen and Mary Ruston.

At St. Patrick's Church on Sunday evening Miss M. Segret, of Wellington, sang Hoben's 'Ave Maria' in a finished and artistic manner.

### DIOCESE OF CHRISTCHURCH

(From our own correspondent.)

November 5.

Although not in possession of the actual results I am informed that the pupils, sent up for the Trinity College musical examinations on Friday by the Sisters of Our Lady of Missions, were very successful.

The Very Rev. Dean Foley is, I am pleased to learn, progressing favorably towards recovery. Although still weak and unable to walk, he is capable of sitting up with comparative ease.

Painters and plumbers are busily engaged in renovating and repairing the Marist Brothers' boys' school. The recent entertainment in aid of the work realised £52, and another is contemplated at an early date to complete the undertaking.

By the courtesy of the Very Rev. Vicar-General I am enabled to give a few extracts from a letter received by him from his Lordship the Bishop. The Catholic Congress at Melbourne (writes his Lordship) was a great success, and was attended much better than the former one at Sydney. The papers contributed from Christchurch on being read occasioned deep interest. He (the Bishop) was doing his best to prevail upon the prelates at the Congress to come over for the opening of the Cathedral. Owing to their present absence from their respective dioceses, in some cases of at least a month, a difficulty in getting away was advanced in several instances, and a desire expressed that the opening should be deferred to a later date. This, however, his Lordship could not consent to. He expresses a hope that we shall celebrate the Jubilee of the Immaculate Conception here with unusual splendor, and on that account he is getting the Redemptorist Fathers to come to Christchurch. As he is to conduct an Ordination at the Meanece Ecclesiastical Seminary about the 22nd and 23rd November, the Bishop does not expect to reach home earlier than the 27th inst.

The great dome of the Cathedral is now completed within and without. From the whispering gallery, 10 feet wide, a magnificent panoramic view is to be obtained, taking in an area of at least 15 miles all round. Even vessels at sea are clearly discernible. The interior of the Cathedral, with its embossed ceiling, etc., is a marvel of beauty. The concrete flooring is now being laid in the aisles, and in about three weeks the sanctuary is to be completed. The magnificent stone high altar, presented by the Children of Mary, is a rare work of art, and is shortly to be placed in position. In this the sculptor, Mr. Hunt, displays some of his best work from the designs furnished by the cathedral architect,

Mr. Petre. The mosaic tiles for the altar are expected to arrive soon, as also the bells, four in number, cast in Europe, the principal one of which weighs two tons, thus surpassing in weight the fine bell of the local Anglican Cathedral. On Sunday afternoon, from 2 to 5 o'clock, the building is to be thrown open to visitors, when no doubt many from other parts of the Colony, now in the city for Carnival Week, will avail themselves of such an admirable opportunity of making a personal inspection.

### DIOCESE OF AUCKLAND

(From our own correspondent.)

November 3.

A successor to the late Brother Mark has not yet been appointed.

Rev. Brother Stanislaus, Provincial of the Marist Brothers' Order, who has been in Auckland for the last fortnight, left for the south yesterday.

A bazaar will shortly be held at Devonport in aid of the parish debt. It has been announced that his Lordship the Bishop will open it soon after his return from Australia.

The Feast of All Saints was celebrated in the city churches by early Masses at 6.30 o'clock, at which those, whose employments necessitated their early attendance, mustered in large numbers. Other Masses followed at 7.30 and 10 o'clock. In the evening devotions, at which Benediction was given, were held, there being large congregations at all the churches.

At St. Patrick's Cathedral last Sunday evening several beautiful numbers from Haydn's 'Creation' were admirably and devotionally rendered. 'The heavens are telling,' received a fine interpretation, the chorus doing some splendid work. The beautiful soprano solo and chorus, 'The marvellous work,' was rendered by Madame Tree, who sustained it in a highly artistic and finished manner. In 'On 'Tee each living soul awaits' (trio), Madame Tree, Mr. Frank Graham, and Mr. Rupert Mantell did full justice to their parts. The duet and chorus, 'By thee with bliss,' was given in a devotional manner, as also was the trio 'Most beautiful appear,' the soloists again being heard to great advantage. 'The Lord is great' (trio and chorus) was given in good style. For the offertory Madame Tree sang 'The prayer,' from Tannhauser. This was given in an artistic and dignified manner, the singer's phrasing being perfect. Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament followed. Mr. P. F. Hiscocks conducted with his usual ability, while Mr. Harry Hiscocks played the difficult organ accompaniments in an artistic manner.

There was a good attendance in St. Leo's Academy, Devonport, on Wednesday evening of last week, when the pupils of the Sisters of Mercy gave an excellent entertainment, the pastor, Rev. Father Meagher, presiding. The following was the programme:—'Bewitching gavotte' (pianos and violins), Misses Boylan, McLean, Yoland, D. Boylan, march and drill, cantata, 'Gipsies' holiday,' Miss Rose Caffrey (Gipsy Queen), Miss Winifred Boylan, accompanist, tambourine dance, Miss Knight's class, pianoforte solo, 'Killarney,' Miss M. Farquharson, Irish jig, Miss Knight's class; duet, 'Fra Diavolo,' Misses M. Boylan, Boylan, Coyne, Nicol, Cleland, Yoland; Highland fling, Miss Knight's class; duet, 'The young volunteers,' Misses Smith and P. Smith; pianoforte solo, 'La Perle du Rivage,' Miss Dorothy Boylan; pianoforte solo, 'Faust,' Misses Hipkins and Boylan; Pierrot dance, Miss Knight's class; 'Bewitching gavotte,' Misses Blackburn and Waller, Quaker dance, Miss Knight's class; pianoforte duet, 'L'Elysée,' Misses Hipkins, Boylan, D. Boylan, Sykes.

President Loubet has been visiting his old home at Montelimar. He was received at the railway station (say the French newspapers) by several functionaries, and he subsequently took a drive in semi-state with one of his children. Much less ceremonious was the charming scene described by the Rev. A. N. Cooper, the 'walking parson.' Mr. Cooper, in one of his rambles, found himself at Montelimar, and, looking out of the window of his inn in the early morning, he saw the President escorting his old mother to the market-place, where she continued to sell farm produce, even though her son had become Chief Magistrate of the Republic. She drove up in a market cart, which was duly unloaded. Then the President gave her his arm, escorted her to her chair, and opened the great umbrella under which she sat. No functionaries were in attendance, and the rest of the market people showed no signs of regarding the incident as anything remarkable. At the end M. Loubet gravely saluted his mother, and went off to read State papers, while she remained to sell cabbages.