

gift of the bridegroom. The bride was attended by her sister, Miss L. Lynch, who was attired in a pretty dress of dove-colored Panama cloth, and wore a gold brooch, set with pearls, the gift of the bridegroom. Mr. J. Phelan, brother of the bridegroom, acted as best man. After the ceremony the guests drove to the residence of Mr. and Mrs. McChesney, Arthur's Point, where the wedding breakfast was partaken of by a large number of guests. The Rev. Father O'Donnell, who presided, in a felicitous speech proposed the health of the bride and bridegroom, both of whom he had known from childhood. Other toasts, including that of the host and hostess, were also duly honored. With many good wishes for their welfare the happy couple left Queenstown, en route for Christchurch, where the honeymoon was to be spent. Mr. and Mrs. Phelan were the recipients of many useful and valuable presents, among which were several cheques. In the afternoon Mr. and Mrs. McChesney entertained the guests, many of whom participated in a very pleasant drive to Arrowtown, and in the evening at a musical party. At the conclusion of the festivities the guests gave hearty cheers for Mr. and Mrs. McChesney, who had so generously entertained them.

The Little Sisters of the Poor, Auckland

(From our own correspondent.)

On Sunday afternoon, November 20, the new large brick building, erected for the Little Sisters of the Poor, was opened by his Lordship the Right Rev. Dr. Lenihan in the presence of a large and representative gathering of the clergy and laity. The new portion completed is three storeys high, and comprises the eastern wing and half the central portion of the present scheme. The women will be located in the portion just erected, and which cost £6000. When finally completed it will cost £15,000. Messrs. E. Mahoney and Son were the architects.

His Lordship the Right Rev. Dr. Lenihan addressed those present, and said that the foundation of the Little Sisters of the Poor was established in Auckland by the late Bishop Luck in 1888. These Little Sisters rented a house in Hepburn street, and had to encounter all the difficulties attendant upon the first starting of their institute. Through the good influence of Mr. P. Darby, they secured the site on which this new house has been built, and here they have worked quietly and unostentatiously, filled with zeal in attending to their poor old charges, comforting them in their last days and preparing them for their great journey to eternity. The wooden structure contented the Sisters for a time, but Auckland has increased in size, so also has distressing poverty shown itself, and they have found it necessary to rebuild their house to accommodate a greater number of applicants. Nine months ago we were assembled here to assist at the laying of the foundation stone, and now we are present at the blessing of this large building to assure the Little Sisters of our appreciation of their work, to congratulate them on their successful opening and to promise them that we shall do our utmost to aid them in relieving the penury of our poor and aged. What an admirable work is this of the Little Sisters?

Sixty Four Years Ago

three Sisters founded the institute at San Servan, in Brittany, their object being to provide homes for the aged poor of both sexes, to feed them, clothe them, and minister to all their wants. See how the blessing of God has attended this heroic charity, for in December 1903 we find that the Sisters number 5155 with 562 novices and postulants, waiting upon 43,000 aged inmates in 231 houses located in France, Belgium, England, Spain, Portugal, Italy, Switzerland, Turkey, and 65 houses in Asia, Africa, America and Australasia. The number of deceased who have had every care and attention shown to them in their last moments is 202,126. Can we realise this vast army? Oh, what an infinite amount of good has been done by these ladies who have left the comfort of their own homes, deprived themselves of all worldly pleasure to watch over and tend the stranger who, in his last days, seeks an asylum from the buffetings of a world which has no longer any joy for him. And how do they act with their charges? We see them going about day by day moving quickly and quietly, intent only on their work, appealing to all for their poor, grateful for any kindness, gracious in any refusal, hoping always for some comfort for their old people, trusting in the Providence of God and mindful of the words of Scripture, 'Behold the birds of the air, for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns, yet your Heavenly Father feedeth them. Are not you of much more value than they?' See them in their home in their quaint garb, always busy, bright and happy, giving the best of all to the inmates, and being content with the crumbs that are over. In the changes lately made in their dwelling, naturally, they had to put up with inconvenience, but

while the best places were given to the old folk, the Sisters themselves were satisfied with any place available, laughing merrily over their difficulties and making light of any trouble. Look at them superintending and assisting in the garden and out-door work, having a kind word for all, and helping and assisting the old people in every way. They act as their servants, as their nurses, comforting those who have been neglected by their own kith and kin, and making their last days full of happiness. And how do they manage to do this? By their trust in Providence. Our Lord said to His Apostles, 'When I sent you without purse and scrip did you want anything?' (Luke xxii., 35), and the Apostles answered 'Nothing,' so with the Sisters. They have embraced poverty in some of its most repugnant and humiliating aspects; their life is precarious, hampered, and austere, but Almighty God multiplies on their behalf the wonders of His grace and of His Fatherly love. Confidence in God is written largely over their entrance, for there is no charitable institution that seems to have grasped more thoroughly the sentiment of that touching phrase of the Psalms (lxx.), 'Cast me not off in the time of old age; when my strength shall fail, do thou not forsake me.' How cold and gloomy is the winter of human life. Sickness works its unaccountable and painful freaks on the feeble frame, gnawing muscle and bone, pinioning it down powerless and motionless, or again working the nerves with incessant trembling. If with all this, poverty and lack of shelter have to be endured, and abandonment by all one's relatives, what compassion does not the lot of such arouse in our hearts, and how gladly we should come to the aid of these Little Sisters and bless them for

Their Noble Work.

They discharge the humblest of duties with the smiles and forethought of filial piety and affection together with the generous enthusiasm and the sublime self-denial of a mother's heart. The Little Sisters never enter into religious discussions, they do not preach to their old people. They are content with loving them and caring for them, and thus it comes to pass that contact with such goodness causes even blighted hearts, and hearts well nigh dead to all affection, to be quickened again with love for God and their fellow-creatures. What shall we do to show our sympathy in this work? Remember the words in Ruth (ii., 15). Ruth the Moabitess used to go and glean the ears of corn that escaped the hands of the reapers in order to enable her to maintain her aged and ailing relative, Noemi, and Booz, the owner of the field, gave orders—'If she would even reap with you, hinder her not; and let fall some of your handfuls of purpose.' These Little Sisters are the gleaners in search of the spikes that have been overlooked. Nothing comes amiss to them, and readily they pick up anything and everything that comes to hand. I ask you to be generous in your offerings to-day and say in the words of Job (iv., 8-10), 'According to thy ability be merciful, if thou shalt have much, give abundantly, if thou shalt have little, take care even so to bestow willingly a little, for thus thou storest up to thyself a good reward for the day of necessity.' That day of necessity is the Day of Judgment, when Our Lord will say, 'When I was hungry you gave Me to eat, when I was thirsty you gave Me to drink,' and in our surprise we shall ask, 'When did we do these things?' and Our Lord will reply, 'As often as you did it to one of My little ones you did it to Me.' I cannot more fittingly conclude than in the words of Isaiah (lviii., 7-11), 'Deal thy bread to the hungry and bring the needy and the harborless into thy house, when thou shalt see one naked, cover him, and despise not thy own flesh. Then shalt thy light break forth in the morning, and thy health shall speedily arise, and thy justice shall go before thy face, and the glory of the Lord shall gather thee up. . . . And the Lord will give thee rest continually, and will fill thy soul with brightness and deliver thy bones from the dust of the grave, and thou shalt be like a watered garden and like a fountain of waters whose waters shall not fail.'

Mr. F. G. Ewington spoke from personal knowledge of the work done by the Sisters in Auckland, stating that it was not merely the physical comfort, but also the spiritual wants of the aged that they attended to. The Bishop said the Sisters did not preach, but his Lordship would pardon him when he said they did, for he contended the example they set the old people in their pious behaviour was a very much better sermon than words.

Mr. F. E. Baume, M.H.R., after extolling the Sisters for the benefits they were conferring on the community, said they should receive support from all.

Short addresses appreciative of the work of the Sisters were also delivered by Messrs. E. Mahoney, J. Court, G. J. Garland, and Hon. W. Beehan, M.L.C., after which the building was blessed by his Lordship the Bishop. All were loud in their praise of the fine structure, and the Sisters were heartily complimented on their good and great undertaking.

Hancock's "BISMARCK" LAGER BEER.

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