

an offertory piece the 'Adeste Fideles' was rendered, the solo parts being taken by Misses Pounds and Drumm and Messrs. Smith and McGrath. Mr. A. Vallis presided at the organ and Mr. Feil conducted. The organist played as an outgoing voluntary 'Offertoire sur deux Noels.' The decorations were in excellent taste and effective, and were confined principally to the high altar, over which were the words, 'Gloria in Excelsis Deo.' To the right of the main entrance was the crib. After Mass the choir were entertained by his Lordship the Bishop, who complimented them on the manner in which the music was rendered, and on the progress made by them during the year. In the evening there was a very large congregation, when the Rev. Father Claffey, S.J., preached on the Nativity.

Diocesan News

ARCHDIOCESE OF WELLINGTON

(From our own correspondent.)

December 24.

His Grace Archbishop Redwood will leave Naples in February by the 'Orontes,' and is expected in Sydney about the second week in March.

Miss Teresa Fitzgibbon, who was injured on Tuesday by the explosion of a cartridge that had somehow found its way amongst the coal, is progressing splendidly. No serious consequences are expected.

On Thursday evening the Marist Brothers at the Boulcott street school were entertained by the members of the local Catholic Club. The chair was occupied by the Rev. Father Kimbell, who was supported on his right by Brother Paul and Rev. Fathers Holley and Moloney, and on his left by Messrs. Martin Kennedy and Devine. The following toasts were duly honored: 'The Pope and King,' proposed by the chairman; 'The Clergy,' proposed by Mr. F. McDonald and responded to by Rev. Father Holley; 'The Old School,' by Mr. Casey, and replied to by Brother Paul; 'Catholic Education,' by Mr. J. J. Devine, replied to by Mr. Martin Kennedy; 'The Catholic Club' by Brother Paul, and replied to by Mr. J. McGowan; 'The Federation,' by Mr. John Callaghan, replied to by Mr. E. Fitzgibbon; 'The Chairman,' by Mr. McKeown. Songs were contributed by Rev. Father Moloney, Messrs. Miller, Gamble, Healy, Lawless, and L. Dwan, a violin solo by Mr. M. Gleeson, and a flute solo by Mr. McDonald. Rev. Father Kimbell played the accompaniments. A very enjoyable evening was brought to a close by cheers for the Brothers, the vice-presidents, and the rev. chairman. Mr. Devine, in proposing the toast of 'Catholic Education,' briefly sketched the history of Catholic education in Wellington. He had witnessed its birth, and he had watched its growth. The framers of the Education Act had hoped to crush Catholicity by divorcing religion from education. Those who to-day were found foremost in the agitation for Bible-reading in schools were of the same belief and persuasion as those who first desired secular education. The sparseness of their congregations and the general falling off in the morals of the people as a consequence of the new education had taught them the folly of their actions. Our course in this matter, in which we had followed the lead and advice of our clergy, had been amply justified. The masses of our people made sacrifices to provide primary schools, they made sacrifices to provide secondary schools, and who would doubt that perhaps a Catholic university would be established in the future. The older people had done their duty. They had planted the standard. It was the work of the young men present that night to keep that flag flying.

Mr. Martin Kennedy, in reply, expressed the great pleasure it gave him to be present that evening with such companionable young men. He had listened with pleasure to the many interesting speeches given by the young men. He took the opportunity to tell them of the state of things in a land in which most of them were interested. During his recent visit to Ireland he found that a great improvement in the condition of the people had been effected. A small measure of local government had been secured, and the present prospects of securing a larger measure were very bright. He found that the zeal of the people in the matter of their religion was as great as ever. There was no falling off in this respect. Wherever he went in England or in Ireland he found that the Catholic faith was as strong and as victorious as ever. The Catholics were very determined on the education question. They had done much and were prepared to do more. He was deeply interested in the young men movement, and promised that if he had been at all remiss in the past he would

be more interested in this respect for the future. He thanked them all for the hearing they gave him and again expressed his pleasure to be with them.

DIOCESE OF CHRISTCHURCH

(From our own correspondent.)

December 26.

A bazaar in aid of the local Catholic presbytery fund was opened at Lyttelton on Christmas Eve by Mr. George Laursen, M.H.R. It is to remain open for a week.

Much to the sorrow of the congregation his Lordship the Bishop, owing to indisposition which all trust is only temporary, was unable to take part in the ceremonies of Christmas Day in the Pro-Cathedral.

The Sisters of the Mission completed their annual retreat last week, which was conducted by the Rev. Father O'Donnell, C.S.S.R. The Sisters of Mercy go into retreat this week, which is to be conducted by the Rev. Father Pidgeon, C.S.S.R.

The Marist Brothers in the Colony have arranged for separate retreats this year. Those of the North Island are to assemble as usual at the Sacred Heart College, Auckland, and those of the South Island at Christchurch.

Christmas Day was the anniversary of the blessing and solemn opening of the Pro-Cathedral by the late Bishop Viard, S.M. The actual date was Christmas Day, 1864, but during the 40 years since then many additions and improvements have been effected on the original building. The church secretary (Mr. E. O'Connor) has been at his post all these years, and on Sunday he remarked in terms akin to sorrow that it would be the last great festival observed within those walls.

At the Pro-Cathedral on Christmas Day Masses were celebrated every half-hour until half-past nine. There was Solemn High Mass at 11 o'clock, the Rev. Father O'Connell being celebrant, the Very Rev. Father Le Menant des Chénais deacon, and Rev. Father Mahony subdeacon. The Very Rev. Vicar-General briefly addressed the congregation on the day's festival. The music was Birchell's Mass, the leading parts being taken by Miss F. Gardner, Mrs. Costello, Messrs. A. Medhurst and J. R. Hayward. Miss Katie Young was at the organ. Mr. E. J. Painter led an orchestra and Mr. H. Rossiter conducted. At the offertory Novello's 'Adeste Fideles' was sung. The nave, sanctuary, high and side altars were tastefully decorated under the supervision of the sacristan, Mr. F. Geoghegan, with the assistance of several willing workers. Miss White, with her usual kindness, furnished many beautiful palms, which very materially enhanced the general effect. At Vespers the Rev. Father Pidgeon, C.S.S.R., preached.

The solemn opening of the new Cathedral is definitely fixed for Sunday, February 12. The order of ceremonies is as follows:—Sunday, at 11 a.m., solemn blessing and dedication by his Grace the Archbishop of Melbourne, assisted by prelates from Australia and New Zealand. Pontifical High Mass will be sung by one of the visiting prelates, and special music will be rendered by a combined choir. The dedication sermon will be preached by his Grace the Coadjutor-Archbishop of Sydney. In the evening there will be Pontifical Vespers and a sermon by his Grace the Archbishop of Melbourne. On Monday and Tuesday there will be Masses from 6 to 8, Pontifical High Mass at 9 o'clock, and in the evenings a sermon by one of the visiting prelates. On Wednesday morning Masses 6 to 8, Pontifical High Mass at 9 o'clock, and sermon by one of the visiting prelates. On Thursday evening there will be a conversation by the Hibernian Society of Christchurch, assisted by diocesan branches, in honor of the prelates and clergy. Travelling arrangements at reduced rates have been made so as to enable visitors to attend the ceremonies.

DIOCESE OF AUCKLAND

(From our own correspondent.)

December 22.

Rev. Father Rogers, of Sydney, is at present on a visit here.

Rev. Fathers Grace and Bridge left for Sydney by the 'Oceanic' last Tuesday.

The interior of St. Patrick's has, during the last week, been thoroughly renovated.

The annual distribution of prizes and entertainments in connection with our schools have taken place within the last fortnight. The latter exhibited the latent talents of our boys and girls to a degree that cannot be otherwise than highly satisfactory to all concerned.

An innovation will this year be given a trial by the St. Patrick's Day celebration committee. Among all