

The Handsome new church in Invercargill is fast approaching completion. The dome is now being covered, and a good idea of the soaring height and fine proportions of the new building can now be obtained.

A bazaar was (says a local correspondent) held in the Athenaeum Hall, Cromwell, on December 26 and 29, and was a great success financially and otherwise. A splendid assortment of beautiful and useful articles was exposed on the various stalls, the ladies superintending them doing a brisk trade on both evenings. The following ladies were stall-holders:—Rising Sun stall: Mesdames Kerin and Thomas; Hartley and Riley stall: Mesdames Goodger and Shimbles; Rise and Shine stall: Mesdames Lister and Donnelly; Electric stall: Mrs. D. A. Jolly and Miss Mary Cahill. A bevy of fair damsels also assisted and were fitting about the hall raffling various articles and raking in the shakels. The refreshment stall was managed by Mesdames Chas. Mitchell, Jas. Richards, and Miss Shimbles. Some very beautiful pictures were exhibited, the one attracting most attention being a beautiful copy of Carlo Dolci's Madonna and Child. The sum of £171 was taken during the two days, which will enable the balance of the £700 the convent cost to be paid off, and leave a sum as a nucleus of a fund towards erecting a handsome stone church in the near future.

The annual distribution of prizes to the pupils of St. Joseph's School, Port Chalmers, took place recently, Rev. Father Howard presiding. There was present a large number of the parents of the children. Mr. Allen, M.H.R., presented the prizes to the boys, the Mayor to the girls, and the Mayoress decorated the winners of medals. After a short programme had been gone through, Rev. Father Howard thanked the Mayor and Mr. Allen for this, their third, visit to the school, congratulated the Sisters and pupils on the success of the last examination, and concluded by wishing all a happy Christmas and very pleasant holidays. Mr. Allen also spoke very encouragingly to the children, exhorted them to follow the advice their devoted pastor had given them, and to remember kindly wherever they went the Sisters, who were making so many sacrifices for them. Mr. De Maus, whose genial manner always brings a smile to the faces of the young people, said he was delighted to hear so good an account of the children, and called for three cheers for the Sisters and Rev. Father Howard, which were heartily given. A similar compliment to the Mayoress, the Mayor, and Mr. Allen brought the proceedings to a close.

DIocese OF CHRISTCHURCH

(From our own correspondent.)

January 2.

His Lordship the Bishop was, I am glad to state, sufficiently recovered from his recent illness to be able to celebrate Mass on Sunday.

The Very Rev. Father Keogh, S.M., Rector of St. Patrick's College, Wellington, passed through Christchurch last week to South Canterbury.

Two Sisters of the Missions leave Christchurch this week en route for Canada, to assist in founding a community in the town of Regina, the capital of the province of Assiniboia. Already a number of houses of the Order exist in the Dominion.

Preliminary arrangements are being effected for the celebration of next St. Patrick's Day by a national entertainment on an extensive scale, in aid of the Nazareth House for the aged needy and afflicted of any denomination.

The balance sheet of the memorial concert recently tendered to the relatives of the late Mr. E. T. McNamara showed a credit of £85 11s 5d. Messrs. J. Little and H. Schwartz were appointed trustees to administer a trust fund for the benefit of those interested.

A letter has been received by his Lordship Bishop Grimes from our late Governor, Lord Ranfurly, who after tendering hearty Christmas and New Year greetings, writes: 'I trust your Cathedral is now nearing completion. It will, I am sure, when finished, be one of the finest in the Southern Hemisphere.'

At the novitiate, Sacred Heart Convent, Barbadoes street, on Tuesday afternoon there was a reception and profession of Sisters in the Order of Our Lady of Missions. The Very Rev. Vicar-General presided. Nine received the holy habit and four Sisters were professed, the candidates being from various parts of the Colony.

In addition to Archbishop Carr of Melbourne and Archbishop Kelly of Sydney, the other prelates from Australia expected to be present at the dedication of the Cathedral in February are their Lordships Bishops

Corbett (Sale), Dunne (Wilcannia), Murray (Maitland), O'Connor (Armidale), and Reville (Sandhurst).

The French barque 'Boieldieu,' after a chequered career at sea and in port over a period of seven months, resumed her voyage (Sydney to Falmouth) with a cargo of wheat last week. Mr. W. S. Malaquin, who acted as interpreter during the vessel's stay in Port Lyttelton, and Mr. G. Humphreys, Consul, took final leave whilst the barque was in the stream, and were accorded cheers by the crew, at the call of Captain Bouisson.

His Lordship the Bishop announced on Sunday the receipt of a letter from his Holiness the Pope wherein the Holy Father conveys congratulation to the Bishop on the completion of what he describes as 'a magnificent Cathedral.' The Holy Father also conveys a special blessing to all those who have contributed and those who will contribute towards its erection. The noble pile has thus the unique distinction of having the benediction of two Sovereign Pontiffs.

Mass was celebrated on Christmas Day at the various suburban churches attached to the two city parishes. At St. Mary's, Manchester street, there was Solemn High Mass at 11 a.m. Rev. Father Marnane was celebrant, Rev. Father Graham deacon, and Rev. Father McDonald subdeacon. The music was selected from Masses by Gounod and Dumont, sung by a full choir. Mr. W. H. Corrigan conducted and Miss Cissie O'Brien was organist. At Vespers the Rev. Father Graham preached on the Nativity. The church, which has recently been renovated, was tastefully decorated. At St. Joseph's, Lyttelton, the Rev. Father Cooney celebrated Mass at 8 a.m. and Missa Cantata at 11 a.m. In the evening there was Rosary and Benediction. The Christmas festival and its lessons formed the subject of sermons by the pastor. Great artistic taste was exercised by the Sisters of Mercy in decorating the church.

At the invitation of his Lordship the Bishop a number of gentlemen met at the episcopal residence on Sunday afternoon to arrange a welcome and suitable reception to the Sisters of Nazareth on their arrival at Lyttelton. The 'Ionic,' on board of which the Sisters are passengers from London, is expected to arrive at Wellington on Wednesday afternoon. From that vessel they are to tranship to the first available steamer coming south. The Bishop, who presided, stated that originally it was his intention to meet the Sisters in Wellington, but unfortunately the present state of his health did not permit this. The courtesies therefore in this regard would be extended by friends there. At the suggestion of his Lordship those present—all of whom had from the first interested themselves in the introduction of the Sisters to Christchurch and the establishment of a Nazareth House here—were formed into a reception committee. The details of the welcome were then arranged.

OBITUARY

MISS K. O'SULLIVAN, RAKAIA.

It is with sincere regret (writes a correspondent) I have to record the death of Miss Katie O'Sullivan, which occurred early on Thursday morning, December 22, at the residence of her sister, Mrs. Craighead, Rakaia, at the early age of 27 years. The deceased was the fifth daughter of the late Mr. Eugene O'Sullivan, of Carrane, County Kerry, Ireland. She came to the Colony six years ago, and had resided with her sister in Rakaia ever since, where she was well known and highly respected by a very large circle of friends. When the sad intelligence became known it cast quite a gloom over the district. Mr. and Mrs. Craighead received a very large number of messages of sympathy from all parts of the Colony. A Requiem Mass was celebrated in St. Ita's Church, Rakaia, on Saturday morning by the Very Rev. Father O'Donnell, after which the remains were conveyed by first express to Waimate for interment, where Rev. Father O'Connor officiated at the graveside. A large number of friends, including many from Rakaia, attended the funeral, thus showing their respect for the deceased and her family, who have the heartfelt sympathy of a large circle of friends in their sad bereavement.—R.I.P.

The unseasonable weather militated somewhat against the attendance on the first day at the sports' gathering of the Caledonian Society of Otago, yet the splendid programme arranged attracted over 6000 persons to their grounds at Kensington. On Tuesday also the programme was admirably carried out, and the officials are to be complimented for bringing the gathering to a successful issue under any but favorable conditions.

Hancock's "BISMARCK LAGER" BEER.

NEW ZEALAND'S
NEW INDUSTRY