

people. Both the interior and exterior of the sacred edifice are tastefully finished. The site on which it stands cost £280, and the church, with furnishing, about £570, making a total outlay of about £850. The united efforts of those interested have realised about £350. The collection amounted to £30. Father Walter McDonald's first appointment was at Russell, Bay of Islands. He was afterwards appointed private secretary to Bishop Pompallier. He subsequently visited Europe, and returned, shortly before his Lordship Bishop Croke, to Auckland, being accompanied by Rev. Father Golden, now of Kaikoura. During his connection with St. Patrick's Cathedral it was considerably enlarged, and the spire was built through his exertions. He was subsequently transferred to Panmure, where he died on December 31, 1899, at the age of 70. A good choir, principally from St. Patrick's Cathedral, rendered very efficiently the music.

Thames

On Christmas Day (says the 'Thames Star') the first Mass of the day was celebrated at 7.30 a.m. in St. Francis' Church, at which a large number received Holy Communion, including the members of the Hibernian Society. The second Mass was celebrated in St. Brigid's Church at 9 a.m., and again there was a crowded congregation. At 11 o'clock a Missa Cantata was celebrated in St. Francis' Church. This Mass, as also were the preceding ones, was celebrated by the Right Rev. Mgr. O'Reilly. During each of the masses the celebrant addressed the congregation in a few words, pointing out the full meaning of the day's celebrations. The music chosen for the Missa Cantata was Glover's Third Mass, which was rendered in a finished manner by the choir, under the able conductorship of Mr. Eliston. The following were the members of the choir: Misses V. Twohill, A. McEnteer, N. Gibson, A. Murphy, Foy, Mellett (2), Messrs. O'Connor, Blake, Twohill, R. Kenny, W. Meehan, McEnteer. The principal solos were taken by Misses Twohill and McEnteer (soprano), Gibson (alto), Messrs. Blake and O'Connor (bass), Twohill (tenor), Mr. Williams ('cello'). Miss Fortune presided at the organ. A very large congregation assembled at 7 o'clock in the evening to close the day's proceedings in a befitting manner, when the Right Rev. Mgr. O'Reilly preached a sermon appropriate to the occasion. The sermon was followed by Solemn Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, and here again very valuable assistance was rendered by the choir. The 'Tantum Ergo,' which was sung by Messrs. O'Connor and Twohill, was rendered in good style. At the conclusion of Benediction the 'Adeste Fideles' was sung.

Bazaar at Queenstown.

It is now some years since a bazaar on anything like an elaborate scale was attempted in Queenstown (says the 'Wakatip Mail'), and experience has proved that when an affair of an extensive nature has been held it has invariably been undertaken by members of the Catholic Church. Such was the case in the bazaar which was opened in the Garrison Hall on New Year's Eve and continued on Monday and Tuesday evenings, when a most successful result in every way was achieved, the attendance being all that could be desired. The Mayor (Mr. L. Hotop) opened the bazaar with a few remarks with reference to the objects of the sale, and the Rev. Father O'Donnell also spoke a few words after the Mayor had retired. He congratulated the numerous workers and helpers on the magnificent results before them of their efforts, which had principally been directed at their own firesides during the past winter months. It must be to them all a matter of gratification when they reflected that it was for such a laudable object as the reduction of the debt on their church.

There were four stalls altogether besides the various side shows that have by no means a small attraction to young and old alike. Three of these stalls, which were most artistically draped, were devoted to works of art and useful everyday articles of sewing, etc. A bangle of buried surprises and a fishing pond of deep sea treasures also commanded an immense amount of attention and created the usual merriment as their hidden mysteries were revealed. Quite an array of assistants worked hard each night getting off the raffles, which were the order of the evening, and they were remarkably successful through their irresistible persuasiveness.

We understand that over £150 was taken for the three nights, and this sum will doubtless be considerably augmented on Wednesday and Thursday evenings, when the bazaar will be continued.

The following is a list of the stall-holders and their assistants:—Arthur's Point stall—Mesdames McChesney,

McMullan, Kelly, and Fitzpatrick; assistants: Misses Travers, Fitzpatrick, O'Neil (2), McMullan, and Ryan. Queenstown No. 1—Mesdames Lynett, Dungey, Bryant, J. C. McBride; assistants: Mrs. Proudfoot, Misses Duncan, Luckie, McNeil (2), Kelly. Queenstown No. 2—Mesdames F. McBride and Fleming; assistants: Misses Robertson (3), McBride, McNeil, M. Kelly, Franklin. Tea rooms and bran pie, fruit and plants, etc.—Mrs. Kelly and Miss Gudgeon. Fishing pond—Miss Powell.

THE SISTERS OF NAZARETH.

(From our Christchurch correspondent.)

The Sisters of Nazareth for Christchurch arrived at Wellington by the 'Ionic' from London on last Wednesday. They were met at the wharf in the Empire City by the Ven. Archdeacon Devoy, S.M. (Provincial), and Very Rev. Father Lewis, S.M., V.G., and driven to the convent, Hill street, where, during their brief stay, they were most hospitably entertained by the Sisters of Mercy. The Sisters reached Lyttelton on Thursday morning, where they were met by the Rev. Fathers Marnane, Cooney, Mahony, and O'Connell and most cordially welcomed. They were also met by the reception committee of laymen, including Messrs. E. O'Connor, P. Burke, J. Barrett, J. R. Hayward, G. R. Hart, and J. J. Wilson, and Press representatives. A special first-class railway carriage was reserved by courtesy of the railway officials, in which the whole party came on to the city. Owing to indifferent health his Lordship the Bishop did not feel equal to the task of going to the port, but in company with the Very Rev. Vicar-General met the Sisters on their arrival at the Christchurch Railway Station, and extended to them a hearty welcome. Mr. W. Hoban, chairman of the St. Patrick's Day celebration committee, also met them at the station. Carriages were here awaiting, and the party was driven first to the episcopal residence and then to the convent of the Sisters of the Missions, where the new arrivals received the kindest of greetings. They were finally escorted to the Nazareth House, where the ladies' committee engaged in the work of preparation were assembled to again welcome them.

His Lordship the Bishop, addressing the gathering, said: Our long cherished hopes are at length fulfilled. For more than a decade of years thousands in Canterbury and Westland have sent up fervent prayers that the Almighty, in His infinite goodness, would grant us the privilege of a foundation of the Sisters of Nazareth in our midst. To-day we have the consolation to know that our prayers have been answered. Hence our first and pleasing duty is one of heartfelt gratitude to the Giver of all good gifts for sending you amongst us. Our next is to thank your excellent Mother-General for so graciously acceding to our request to have a branch of your illustrious institute in Christchurch. To you, dear Sisters, we beg to tender a most cordial welcome. Welcome, a thousand times welcome, to our hospitable shores. Welcome, generous souls who, imitating the Divine Master, devote yourselves so ungrudgingly to the service of the Most High, and to the relief of the poorest and most suffering portion of humanity. In welcoming you, we beg you to accept our sincerest thanks for practical proof of the highest form of religion you give us is the great sacrifice you have made in bidding farewell to home and friends and country and so fearlessly encountering the perils of the deep to come to the very antipodes, at the sole call of charity which to you is no other than Love Divine. This charity alone has led you to come so far to soothe the sorrowful, comfort the distressed, and act as ministering angels to the aged and infirm, the orphan, the cripple, and the poor and abandoned incurables. Without presuming to prophesy, I may confidently assure you that the daily exercise of this your noble, divine mission, will win for you the sympathy, the help, and the affectionate esteem of all classes of society irrespective of race or religion. For I know well that in the fulfilling of your God-like mission, the sole claims upon your charity will be those of the greatest want and suffering. Well may I promise you the cordial co-operation of all members of the community, the clergy, the people, and the Press, which has already more than once spoken most sympathetically of you and your great work. Before concluding may I be allowed to add that when two years ago I spoke of your coming to Christchurch in the near future, a wealthy philanthropist said to me, 'Well I must say that the noble-hearted Sisters are the right ones to undertake and carry out any philanthropic works.' At your own request, my dear Sisters, your home in Christchurch has been furnished with what is only barely necessary. The ladies and gentlemen present looked upon it as a labor of love to prepare it as it is. Had general appeals been made we are sure that