

There is scarcely anything new under the sun, even in the vagaries of religious fanaticism. The 'Penitentes' of New Mexico are simply the modern counterpart of the Flagellants of the fourteenth century. These self-sufficient enthusiasts, like their modern Mexican imitators, placed themselves in open defiant opposition to the Church. They merited the terms of reproach flung at them by the University of Paris, 'A sect that is the enemy of God, of good report, and of salvation.'

Caution to Our Northern Subscribers

We beg to notify our North Island subscribers that our only authorised traveller and collector for that Island is Mr. J. Coughlan; that he is not at present in the North Island, having just completed his tour there; and that due notice of his next visit will be given to our subscribers. We issue this caution to our Northern friends as we have been informed that an individual in Auckland, having no connection with this office, has represented himself as our traveller to collect certain accounts, of the amounts of which he had very hazy notions. Our collector has our written authorisation, under the 'Tablet' Company's seal.

DIOCESE OF DUNEDIN

The Rev. Father McDermott, C.S.S.R., who had been conducting a retreat at the Dominican Priory, Dunedin, left for Wellington on Tuesday.

A well-attended euchre party was held in St. Joseph's Hall on Tuesday evening in aid of the funds of the Christian Brothers' Cadet Corps.

The elocution class in connection with St. Joseph's Ladies' Club is making most satisfactory progress. In a few weeks' time the members hope to be able to show the good result of their work by the production of a play which they are at present rehearsing.

The St. Joseph's Harriers held their run on Saturday from Woodhaugh. Owing to a misunderstanding as to whether the run was to take place, only eleven members started. They dispensed with paper, and took a run for about an hour and a-half round Flagstaff and back by way of the Reservoir.

At the meeting of the St. Joseph's Men's Club on Friday evening the programme consisted of readings from the club's periodical, 'The Spectator,' edited by Mr T. Hussey. Among the contents were several interesting articles on current topics, such as State fire insurance, the 'Yellow peril,' the Chinese people, etc., all of which were later on keenly, but favorably criticised by the members. Mr Hussey read the selections, and Mr T. Deehan (vice-president) occupied the chair.

On Thursday night of last week Mr. Foley, clerk of court in Gore, who has been promoted to Stratford, was entertained at a banquet by members of the legal profession and local justices and presented with a silver soup tureen, entree dish, etc. The speeches were highly eulogistic of Mr. Foley's work during seven years in Gore.

A serious railway fatality occurred to the midday train from Christchurch to Kaiapoi on Saturday, whereby R. J. Alexander, schoolmaster, Kaiapoi, and John Richards, a farmer of the same place, lost their lives, and George Clothier, farmer, Kaiapoi, had both legs broken. The accident occurred about three-quarters of a mile from Chaney's station, before reaching Kaiapoi. The country was flooded in the locality. The train had previously gone over a place where there was a little water on the rails, and the driver was advancing very carefully. The track ahead appeared safe; but suddenly the engine plunged into water, and sank half-way up to the boiler, the flood waters having loosened the soft sandy soil. The brake and feeder next the engine were turned on their ends, and the first passenger carriage ran into them. Alexander and Richards were standing on the rear platform of this carriage, and Clothier on front of the next carriage. The first two mentioned were jammed between the two carriages and killed, and Clothier was caught in the wreck, and had both legs smashed. No one was injured, though the passengers received a severe shock when the engine plunged into the water, and a second shock when the carriages struck the vans, which was sufficient to throw people off their seats and cause great consternation.

Silver Jubilee of Very Rev. Father O'Donnell, Ashburton

Saturday, June 24, the feast of St. John the Baptist, was the twenty-fifth anniversary of the ordination to the priesthood of the Very Rev. Father J. J. O'Donnell, the popular and highly esteemed rector of Ashburton. The parishioners and friends outside the district deemed the occasion a suitable one for showing in a tangible form their appreciation for his long and valued services to the Church in New Zealand. Their mark of esteem took the form of a presentation of a motor car, which was made at a public meeting at Ashburton on Tuesday evening. Among those present on the occasion was the worthy jubilarian's brother, the Rev. J. F. O'Donnell, of Queenstown. Owing to the fact that the Ashburton telegraph office is not open on Tuesday nights for the transmission of press messages, we are unable to give a report of the proceedings in this issue.



Very Rev. Father O'Donnell

The Very Rev. Father O'Donnell was born in the County of Limerick in 1856, being now in his 49th year. He received his early education at the Christian Brothers' School, Mitchelstown, and pursued his higher studies at the well-known Monastery of Mellis from 1872-6. In the last-mentioned year he entered the great missionary college of All Hallows, Dublin, where his brilliant abilities found a wide scope, and where he won the admiration of his fellow-students and professors by his commanding talent, and the esteem and affection of all by the amiable qualities of heart with which he was gifted. He was raised to the priesthood on June 24, 1880, and soon afterwards came out to New Zealand. He has served in the following parishes in this Colony: Wellington, Christchurch, Ahaura, Darfield, and Ashburton. Owing to half of his missionary life has been spent in Ashburton. The Very Rev. jubilarian is one of the most popular priests in New Zealand, and a wide circle of lay and clerical friends will echo our wish that he may be spared 'ad multos annos' to work 'pro Ecclesia Dei.'

The monument to be erected at Pahiataua cemetery in memory of the late Mr. John O'Meara, a former parliamentary member for the district, is at present at Naier, where the inscription is being cut.

Mrs. A. C. MacDonald, certificated masseuse, notifies the public that she has opened rooms for the practice of massage in George street, Dunedin.