

women on an equal footing with men in all positions. Mr. J. McAuliffe vigorously opposed Mr. Beri's contentions, and his remarks were ably seconded by Mr. W. Clarke. Mr. J. Barry urged his hearers to adopt the same view of the question as that taken by Mr. Beri, which after an interesting, and, at times, amusing debate, they eventually decided to do by a substantial majority.

DIOCESE OF AUCKLAND

(From our own correspondent.)

July 13.

A Press Association telegram from Dargaville to the 'Star' says that a successful operation has been performed by Dr. Collins in the local hospital on Rev. Father Patterson.

The discussion on 'Warner's History' has advanced another stage, as the following extract from last Tuesday's 'Star' will show:—'A letter has been forwarded to Mr. Charles Watt from the Inspector-General of Schools (Mr. Hogben) by direction of the Minister for Education, acknowledging receipt of the resolutions passed at a meeting of Auckland citizens in regard to the use of Warner's "Brief Survey of British History" in the State schools. The letter states: "In reply I have to inform you that permission to use this book in the Auckland education district was granted in September, 1904. It is not proposed (nor has it been proposed) to withdraw that permission. The question of placing this book on the list of books authorised for use in all districts of the Colony will be considered." At yesterday's meeting of the Auckland Education Board the above letter was read, and its consideration was deferred until a full meeting of the members.

A meeting of the parishioners of the Church of the Assumption was held in St. Mary's Hall, Onehunga, on Sunday evening last to consider the question of erecting a new presbytery, when there was a large attendance. The Rev. Father Mahoney presided. He said he had called the meeting together to take into their consideration the erection of a new presbytery. As they were aware, the beautiful Church of the Assumption, which was completed last year, was free from debt. This great work had been brought to a successful issue by their beloved priest, Very Rev. Mgr. Paul; but he need hardly remind them that the object Monsignor Paul had in view—that of completing and leaving the church free of debt—was brought about by many sacrifices on his part—one of which was to dwell in that very old and worn-out presbytery. Well, he thought they were all agreed that the building erected in 1852, or 53 years ago, should now make way for a more modern building, and the only question was whether it should be wood or brick. Personally he favored a brick building. But perhaps his most important reason for having a strong desire for a brick building was that he felt sure that had the late Very Rev. Mgr. Paul undertaken the work, he would have carried it out in such a way that when the structure was completed it would be in keeping with their beautiful church, and an additional ornament to the town. Knowing their loyal feeling to their late beloved priest, he felt they would give effect to his desires, and he accordingly had had prepared by Mr. T. Mahoney (his brother, who designed the church) plans of the proposed new building. The estimated cost would be £900, and it might strike them as being too great an undertaking, but he had proposals to make which he felt sure would minimise the task of paying off the debt. In the first place, he would give a good subscription himself, and he would provide the interest on the money to be borrowed for the erection of the building. In addition, he would personally provide the furnishing of the house, so that all sums of money received from time to time would go immediately to reducing the debt. Taking into account the wonderful work the parishioners had done in providing the cost of their church, some £6000 in eighteen years, the £900 proposed to be provided would not long be a debt on the parish. It was unanimously agreed that the work be proceeded with in October, when the weather would be suitable for brick building. Strong committees of ladies and gentlemen were appointed to assist in the work. Father Mahoney was appointed treasurer, and Mr. J. Shaldrick general secretary.

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The Late Father Benedict, O.P.

(From our Auckland correspondent.)

After a long illness Father Benedict, of the Dominican Order, breathed his last on Tuesday, July 11, at St. Patrick's presbytery. Throughout the whole diocese his death will be mourned. By his missionary labors he had, during the last four years, endeared himself to all. To have known him either in his priestly or private capacity was to love him. His knowledge, experience, and travel were wide. To the diocese his demise is a severe loss. From all parts of the Colony the Bishop received messages of condolence.

The late Rev. Father Benedict, known in the world as Alfred Benedict Tickell, was born in England on November 11, 1841, and was professed at Woodchester in 1865 as a member of the Dominican Order. He was ordained in October 1871, and was Prior of Newcastle-on-Tyne from 1893 to 1896. He spent some time at the great priory of St. Dominic's, Haverstock Hill, London, was also at Hinckley, Woodchester, and Leicester, and labored on the mission in the East Indies. He arrived in Auckland in February, 1901, and came out to give a series of missions, being allowed by his Superior to serve in the Auckland diocese for a period of five years. He conducted a great number of missions in various parts of the diocese, and through his ministry, aided by the local clergy, about 2000 candidates were prepared for Confirmation.

On Wednesday morning a Solemn Requiem Mass was celebrated at St. Patrick's Cathedral by Father Holbrook. At this and at the earlier Masses large congregations attended. During the whole day numerous friends and sympathisers from all parts of the district visited the Cathedral, where the body lay in state. In the evening the solemn office for the dead was chanted, Bishop Lenihan presiding. There were also present in the sanctuary: Right Rev. Mgr. O'Reilly, Very Rev. Dean Hackett, Very Rev. Fathers Brodie, Gillan, Rev. Fathers B. Kehoe, T. Kehoe, Darby Corcoran, Holbrook, McMillan, Meagher, Zanna, Cahill, Dignan, and Edge, and also the Marist Brothers. At the conclusion of the office the Bishop addressed the congregation in most feeling terms. On Thursday at St. Patrick's a Pontifical Requiem Mass was celebrated by the Bishop, Very Rev. Dean Hackett being deacon, Very Rev. Father Brodie subdeacon, Right Rev. Mgr. O'Reilly assistant priest, and Very Rev. Father Gillan master of ceremonies. There were also present in the sanctuary Very Rev. Dr. Egan, O.S.B., Rev. Fathers Kehoe (2), Meagher, McMillan (2), Darby, Corcoran, Cahill, Edge, Mahoney, Zanna, Dignan, Buckley. Rev. Father Furlong arrived later on from Gisborne.

After Mass the ablution was given at the bier by the Bishop. The funeral procession moved out of the Cathedral to the strains of the Dead March from 'Saul,' played by the organist, Mr. H. Hiscocks. The cortege then moved off to Panmure, where the interment took place beside the remains of the late Very Rev. Mgr. McDonald. His Lordship the Bishop officiated at the graveside, the assembled clergy assisting. Although the grave has closed over all that was mortal of the late Father Benedict, his good works, his sterling merit and example, his great charity, his stirring exhortations will remain for a long time in the memory of those who knew him and profited by his spiritual ministrations.—R.I.P.

The candidates from Catholic colleges and schools have once again given a good account of themselves at the Victorian Matriculation (writes a Melbourne correspondent). No fewer than twenty Catholic educational centres were represented with a batch of matriculants. The coming December and May tests will finish the present standard, which, after May, 1906, will be required as a first step to degrees only.

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