

son in Irish Political and Social Life may be gathered from official publications and from the works of Protestant writers of foremost note. It is unnecessary to fall back upon a solitary Catholic author for an overwhelming vindication of the first or for a deadly condemnation of the second. The facts that are before us, if brought home to those who (often, no doubt, in perfect good faith) feed upon the reckless calumnies of ill-conditioned writers like the soi-disant 'Catholic,' Michael McCarthy, would speedily convince them that it is very unsafe to provoke discussion upon such themes.

## DIOCESE OF DUNEDIN

His Lordship Bishop Verdon will administer the Sacrament of Confirmation in the Church of St. Virgilius, Balclutha, on Sunday.

There was Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at St. Joseph's Cathedral on Sunday from the last Mass until Vespers, after which there was the usual procession in which the children of the parish schools and the members of the Sacred Heart Society took part.

The St. Patrick's Literary and Social Club, South Dunedin, held their monthly musical evening on last Monday. There was a large attendance of members and friends, who were very pleased with the programme presented, which consisted of songs by Misses Heffernan, Hegarty, Carter, and Messrs. C. Fottrell, G. Andrews, P. Graham, J. Drumm, and A. Knox. Miss Heffernan and Mr. J. Drumm contributed a duet, Mr. Schacht played a violin solo, Master Mulrooney recited, and Mr. P. Graham played a mandoline solo. Misses Kerr and McTague and Mr. A. Knox supplied the accompaniments. The Rev. Father Corcoran thanked the performers who had supplied such an excellent evening's entertainment.

The run of the St. Joseph's Harrier Club on Saturday took the form of a combined run from St. Joseph's Hall. Representatives were present from the Dunedin, Civil Service, Caversham, Port Chalmers, South Dunedin Presbyterian, University, Y.M.C.A., Anglican, and St. Joseph's Clubs. The number who took part in the run was 85. Fast and slow packs were sent out, with an interval of ten minutes between them. The run proved most enjoyable, and a majority of the harriers present voted it the fastest that they had taken part in. The three hares took a course through Bishopscourt, Roslyn, along Waikari road to the Rosevoir, returning home by the way of the drive. After a shower bath the members gathered in the Concert Hall and partook of refreshments, which they thoroughly enjoyed, and after a few happy speeches and cheers for the ladies who had kindly waited on them, the runners took their departure to their homes.

## DIOCESE OF CHRISTCHURCH

(From our own correspondent.)

August 7.

There was Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in the Cathedral from High Mass until Vespers on Sunday. After the sermon, preached by the Rev. Father O'Connell, there was the usual procession, followed by Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. The congregation was exceedingly large.

Dr. Gribben, son of Mr. Gribben, late of Hokitika, who is an ex-pupil of St. Patrick's College, Wellington, and who subsequently went through a distinguished course at medical colleges in the old country, making mental diseases a specialty, has received the appointment of assistant medical attendant at Sunnyside asylum.

The Rev. Father O'Connell commences his mission of collecting for the Cathedral debt extension fund this week. He intends to thoroughly work the city at first, and reinstate the sixpence-a-week mode of contribution on a firm basis. Among the cheering and practical expressions of sympathy at the commencement of his crusade was a letter from a Christchurch boy, who is now earning his livelihood elsewhere, stating that having noticed he (Father O'Connell) was about to undertake the work of collecting, he enclosed £5 from scanty earnings, with best wishes for success. The Rev. Father O'Connell will subsequently visit the other parts of the diocese in the interests of his present mission.

## Lyttelton

(From our Christchurch correspondent.)

On Sunday last his Lordship the Right Rev. Dr. Grimes made a pastoral visitation of the Lyttelton parish. The Bishop celebrated the first Mass at eight o'clock, attended by the Rev. Father Cooney, and directly before the second Mass at 11 o'clock conducted the visitation ceremonies. A Missa Cantata was sung by the pastor of St. Joseph's, the Rev. Father Cooney, his Lordship being present on the throne. The Bishop preached at the first Mass on the day's Gospel, and at the second on the nature and purpose of an episcopal visitation. The music of the Mass was rendered exceedingly well by a full choir. In the evening there was Rosary, sermon by the Bishop, and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. The church was very tastefully decorated by the Sisters of Mercy, and there were crowded congregations at the Masses and the evening devotions. During the afternoon his Lordship visited the Sunday school, and had a few kind and encouraging words to say to the teachers and children of the Christian Doctrine classes. The Bishop also attended the usual meeting of the Children of Mary Confraternity. After the evening devotions his Lordship attended a meeting of St. Joseph's Conference of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, when he was presented with a report detailing the aims, objects, and results of the mission among seamen. Among those present were twenty-five men off various vessels in port. The Bishop expressed himself in encouraging terms of the Mission to Seamen, and in appreciation of the good work already accomplished.

Whilst at Lyttelton on Sunday I had the privilege of accompanying the brothers of St. Joseph's Conference of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul on their usual Sunday rounds of the various vessels lying at the wharves, in quest of members of the faith, and in execution of a phase of practical Christianity which is already fruitful in good results, and which might with advantage be extended to all our chief ports. On almost every ocean-going vessel a fair percentage of the ship's company are Catholics. Some of these need no stimulus to attend the Church services, and their religious duties; many others, however, through stress of circumstances, neglect of opportunities, and a multitude of causes, have allowed the lamp of faith to burn very low, although it is cheering to find that there are very few instances where it has been reduced to the point of extinction. Poor Jack has few friends and many enemies, but invariably possesses a goodness of heart which can only be fathomed by kindly and tactful treatment. The Vincentians' self-imposed task on Sunday morning, like all preceding ones, was, after attending early Mass, to go through the shipping, and so well have they mastered any apparent diffidence, pardonable no doubt at first in approaching a large party of men, that an air of confidence and success appears to accompany them. Some times with an introduction, often without, the question is asked that all may hear: 'How many Catholics are here?' 'I'm one,' comes the answer, almost instantly, 'I'm another,' and so the word goes round until perhaps twenty or more are enumerated. Then one is selected to give in the names, and all are requested respectfully to get ready and 'line up,' at a time which is fixed for attendance at Mass. Thus the work goes on until all the vessels are visited and the Catholics enrolled. At a later stage, either on the wharves or at the Church entrance, the men are met and their attendance recorded. A second visit is undertaken during the afternoon, when those who have not assisted at Mass are urged to attend the evening devotions, and each is given a Catholic paper or booklet. Strangers, or some of them, are at first puzzled at all the trouble taken in their regard. The number whose attendance was recorded at the eleven o'clock Mass on Sunday was twenty, this being a fair average for each Sunday. Among the vessels visited were the direct liners, 'Ionic,' 'Tongariro,' and 'Kaipara,' and the barque 'Dunblane.' On this latter vessel, which carries a crew of sixteen men, nine were found to be Catholics. Five of these were natives of Mauritius, the remainder Irish and French. Treasured among the possessions of the Mauritians were booklets given by the Catholic Seamen's Mission at Port Melbourne, and bearing the stamp of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, thus furnishing good proof of Father May's devoted services to seamen. In an interview with the energetic secretary of the Mission at Lyttelton, Mr. C. Delany, I learnt that up to the present this year 200 Catholic seafaring men have been met, 40 vessels have been visited, and over 450 papers, booklets, periodicals, etc., distributed. Several have

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