

Rev. Father Le Floch celebrated Mass at St. Andrews on Sunday and Christmas Day. The church has been further beautified by the erection of two beautiful statues of the Blessed Virgin and St. Joseph, which just came to hand in time for the festival. Both are the generous gifts of Mrs. J. O'Leary.

St. John's Tennis Club tried conclusions with the Victoria Park Club on the latter's ground at Temuka on Monday last. In the doubles, mixed doubles, and men's singles the local team was decidedly the stronger, but in the ladies' singles St. John's more than held their own.

The church looked more than usually bright this year for the Christmas festival, willing hands having culled for its decoration the choicest offerings of the fernery and garden, and further enhanced their efforts by skilful drapings. The Masses were well attended, large numbers approaching the Holy Table. The choir sang with devotion and expression the 'Kyrie,' 'Sanctus,' 'Benedictus,' and 'Agnus Dei' of the Mass of the Sacred Heart, and the 'Gloria' and 'Credo' of E. Silas. In the evening the boys' choir assisted the adults, both choirs doing full justice to Rev. Father Finnerty's tuition in the mysteries of plain chant. The evening service concluded with Benediction. Miss E. McGuinness presided at the organ throughout, and played some appropriate voluntaries.

Greymouth

(From our own correspondent.)

December 23.

The bazaar, organised for the purpose of raising funds for the completion of the tower of St. Patrick's Church, and for which preparations had been going on for a considerable time, was opened in the Town Hall on Friday evening, December 22, in the presence of a very large assemblage of people. The body of willing and energetic workers who had charge of the arrangements deserve the greatest credit for the admirable manner in which they carried out the work. The limited time at their disposal to create order and beauty out of something like chaos was utilised to the utmost, and the result was that the hall presented a very artistic appearance. The stalls, of which there were four—'Erin Go Bragh,' 'Bonnie Scotland,' 'England,' and 'New Zealand'—were laden with articles useful and ornamental. Off the main hall was the tea kiosk, where refreshments were obtainable. The opening ceremony, performed by the Mayor (Mr. J. A. Petrie), was brief, and was followed by the first part of Signor Borzoni's great spectacular production, 'The Birth of the Empire,' the graceful dances eliciting continued rounds of applause. After an interval to allow buying and selling to proceed the remainder of the spectacle was given, and like the first part it created the greatest enthusiasm.

The Very Rev. Dean Carew and the Mayor were greeted with applause on appearing on the stage. The Mayor said that for many years the Catholics of Greymouth had striven to raise a building wherein to celebrate public worship that would be a credit to the town. Most of them would remember the old building in Arney street which, in addition to being subject to be flooded, had many disadvantages. Some years ago they had decided on erecting a more suitable building, and the result of their energy, perseverance, and patience was the fine building they now possessed. The festival was organised to put the finishing touches to that building in the form of a tower which would be a mark to all who arrived in the town either by land or sea. They had taken full advantage of the romantic site they possessed, and when the tower was completed it would signify to all that the spiritual wants of the town had not been neglected. He congratulated the members of the congregation on the zeal and enthusiasm shown in pursuing such a worthy object and said that he understood that to the ladies would be due, in no small measure, the success which he was sure, from present indications, would attend the festival. He had much pleasure in declaring the bazaar open. He was quite sure they would not regret the assistance they gave, and he was also sure that the result of the festival would be that the spire would be finished.

Without doubt (says the 'Grey River Argus') the series of spectacular displays entitled 'The Birth of the Empire' differentiates the festival from anything of its class ever previously held here. The idea running through the displays is to mark the characteristics, chiefly in dress and dances, of the British Empire. Some additional features, not quite relevant to the main theme, are introduced, and heighten and accentuate the purely British portion. Only a faint idea of the scope of the displays can be given here; no description could convey the graceful manner in which the different

dances were performed, or the beauty of the dresses, or the artistic ensembles, all of which make the performance a unique one.

The ladies who presided at the different stalls were: 'England': Mesdames Hannan, Noonan, and H. Doogan. 'Ireland': Mrs. J. Doogan, Misses Roche, Fogarty and M. Barry. 'Scotland': Mesdames McDonnell, Heaphy, and Miss Hudd. 'New Zealand': Mesdames Foot, Sheedy and Mahoney. 'Refreshments': Mrs. Wilson and Miss Phillips. They were each assisted by a number of able assistants, who also took part in the spectacular displays. Each and all worked with a will, and did all in their power to make the festival a great success.

Nelson

(From our own correspondent.)

December 27.

Large congregations attended St. Mary's on Christmas Day, the Rev. Father Clancy being the celebrant of the Masses, which were at 7, 8, and 10 o'clock. The junior choir sang the music of the children's Mass very well, showing that they had made considerable improvement under Miss Duff's tuition. The senior choir rendered Farmer's Mass at 10 o'clock, assisted by an orchestra under the baton of Mr. W. H. Redwood, Miss Duff presiding at the organ. After Mass the choir was entertained at the presbytery by the Rev. Father Clancy.

Wanganui

A very large congregation (says the 'Wanganui Herald') assisted at Midnight Mass at St. Mary's Church on Christmas Eve, when the Very Rev. Dean Grogan was the celebrant. The 'Kyrie,' the 'Gloria,' and the 'Benedictus' were taken from Mozart's 'First Mass,' while the 'Credo' and the 'Agnus Dei' were taken from Mozart's 'Twelfth Mass.' Mrs. Lloyd presided at the organ, and Mr. W. Holden conducted. At the conclusion of the Mass the choir and orchestra were entertained at the Presbytery.

In acknowledging the receipt of Christmas gifts, Sister Bridget, in charge of the Jerusalem Home, writes as follows to Mrs. R. W. Comyns:—'Your welcome letter came to hand this evening, so with my heart full of gratitude I hasten to thank you for all the trouble and time you have taken and good things you have procured and given for our poor little foundlings. What a lovely Christmas they will have with so many beautiful toys. We have no children here over 11 years or under 5. When we ask them how they will thank the kind friends who have sent them so many nice things they will answer that they will pray every day for all who are kind to them.'

Why Nations Revolt

The terrible massacres that have lately taken place in the dominions of the Czar, and the brutal manner in which those who have petitioned for greater freedom and a redress of their wrongs have been treated, lend a peculiar interest to a brief account of the past century's revolutions.

Sweden was the first country to break into the nineteenth century with a revolution. In 1809 it began with the dethroning of Gustavus IV. and the assumption of the government by his uncle, who reigned thereafter as Charles XIII., and ended three months later by the establishment of a representative Constitution.

Four years later Holland was in revolt, and again in 1830, when Belgium was separated from it and declared to be independent; while the same year witnessed the revolution which brought about the downfall of the eccentric Charles Frederick William, who was stated by the German Diet to be incapable of reigning.

In that year, too, an insurrection broke out in Poland. The Grand Duke was obliged to quit the city, and General Chlopicki was appointed Dictator. A few months later a large Russian army entered the country, and for nine months a series of sanguinary battles took place, in which the Poles were at first successful. By the capture of Warsaw, however, the insurrection came to an end, and with it Poland lost her independence, for in the following year she was declared an integral part of the Russian Empire.

Next came, in 1848, the mighty revolution which shook the very foundations of Austria and Hungary for the two years following. It began with the rebellion of the Hungarian people, who had long been dis-

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