

In accepting the presentation Mr. Cotter said words failed to express to them his thanks and appreciation for the very kind remarks and handsome gift. In regard to the A. and P. Society he was a paid servant, and it was his duty to do the best he possibly could in the interests of that body. His connection with other institutions had been most pleasant. He had always endeavored to further the interests of the bodies to which he belonged, and hoped he had succeeded. In reference to the Mounted Rifles, he had been a member since the corps was first formed, and recently an honor had been conferred on him by being elected to a lieutenancy. He wished the corps every success. On behalf of Mrs. Cotter and himself he again desired to thank them for their many kind references. A most successful function was brought to a close by the singing of 'Auld Lang Syne,' and three hearty cheers for Mr. and Mrs. Cotter.

At St. Patrick's schoolroom, after Mass on Sunday, October 7, Mr. Cotter was farewelled in the presence of most of the congregation. The Rev. Father O'Donnell, after referring to Mr. Cotter's many excellent qualities, read the following address:—

'Dear Mr. Cotter,—We have heard with regret that you are about to leave the district and vacate your position as secretary of our church committee. We cannot allow you depart without testifying to the prompt and efficient manner in which you invariably carried to a successful issue everything undertaken for the advancement of St. Patrick's. We recognise we are losing one of our congregation who was always in his place at the church services, and who continually set us the best example possible. As an expression of our appreciation of your services, and to show our gratitude, we beg to present you this address and purse of sovereigns. We wish you every blessing in your new home and sphere of life, and we hope and pray that your future career may be long and successful.

Signed on behalf of the congregation, John F. O'Donnell, Rector; Thos. M'Donnell, Thos. M'Entyre.'

Mr. Cotter said he could not find words to express his gratitude. He extended a hearty invitation to friends to visit him in his new home.

Mr. Moran also made a few remarks. He had known Mr. Cotter's parents for over forty years. They always welcomed members of the congregation to their home, and were kindness itself.

The Rev. Father O'Donnell added that the clergy were always welcome at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Cotter, sen., and treated most kindly.

Diocesan News

ARCHDIOCESE OF WELLINGTON

(From our own correspondent.)

October 13.

The Rev. Father Holley, pastor of Blenheim, has been in town during the past week for the purpose of canvassing the Thorndon parish in aid of the Cathedral fund.

The mission for women, conducted by the Redemptorist Fathers at St. Joseph's during the past fortnight, is to be closed on Sunday afternoon. The attendances throughout have been exceedingly large, and in the evenings the church space was taxed to the utmost. The mission for men will be opened on Sunday night.

On Thursday evening the members of St. Peter's Anglican Young Men's Club were entertained at a games tournament in St. Patrick's Hall. At the conclusion of the evening honors rested with the Catholic Club. This is yet another of many similar social functions between these two clubs that have been arranged this year, and the feeling of good fellowship so manifested is a matter for congratulation.

The Sisters of Mercy celebrated on Tuesday last the silver jubilee of the Rev. Mother of their community. Early Mass was celebrated by his Grace the Archbishop, Mass at 8 o'clock by the Very Rev. Father Keogh, and solemn High Mass at 9 o'clock, of which Very Rev. Father Lewis, V.G., was celebrant, Rev. Father Kimbell deacon, and Rev. Father Moloney subdeacon. The Rev. Mother received from the Sisters and orphans a valuable gold chalice for the convent chapel. Other presents for the altar and table were given by the several schools and branch houses. In the evening a very entertaining concert was given in honor of the event, the items being contributed by the convent pupils.

The debating tournament, initiated some time ago under the auspices of the Wellington Literary and Debating Societies Union, was concluded on Friday evening in the concert chamber of the Town Hall, before a large audience. The two teams, who had been so far successful in all their contests, were those of the St. John's and the Catholic Young Men's Clubs, who accordingly had the honor of appearing in the final contest for supremacy. His Worship the Mayor, who takes a very keen and sympathetic interest in matters of this kind, occupied the chair. Mr. G. Hunt, an able and impartial judge recently arrived from Home, was arbiter. St. John's Club was represented by Messrs. Armit, Redgrave, and Murphy, the three gentlemen who had won honors for their club on the previous occasions. Messrs. Casey, Kane, and Moran upheld the honor of the Catholic Club. The subject of debate was 'That the trend of New Zealand legislation was not conducive to the growth of a strong nation.' The affirmative was led by Mr. Casey, the negative by Mr. Armit, Messrs. Kane, Redgrave, Moran, and Murphy then following in the order named. Our representatives endeavored to judge the effect of New Zealand legislation from the mental, material, and moral aspects, each speaker dealing with a distinct heading. They contended that the labor legislation of the past decade did not produce a real benefit; the rise in wages was only nominal, that as the cost of living was increased, the purchasing power of wages was not any higher. A very strong argument advanced on our side was that, with respect to the demoralising effect of the divorce laws, which tended to weaken and destroy the whole social fabric. The St. John's representatives failed to meet our case, they made the fatal mistake of ignoring altogether the arguments adduced by their opponents and setting up a case of their own. Our men persisted, however, in keeping them to the point, and claimed that, if their opponents were to succeed, they must first of all destroy the case as set up by the affirmative. There was no doubt that while fluency and eloquence were displayed to a greater extent on the side of our opponents, our men excelled in the matter of advancing argument and in real debating power. The judge, in a very able criticism of the methods employed, explained the lines on which he had proceeded, and amidst great applause announced that the verdict was in favor of the Catholic Club. The marks assigned to the several speakers were as follow:—St. John's—Mr. Armit 72, Mr. Redgrave 60, Mr. Murphy 86; general arrangement 12; total, 230. Catholic Young Men's Club—Mr. Casey 72, Mr. Kane 63, Mr. Moran 82; general arrangement 15; total, 232. It is hardly necessary to add that we are all very proud of the victory achieved, and Messrs. Fitzgerald, Casey, Kane, and Moran, who have represented the club in the several contests, deserve the heartiest congratulations on the success that has crowned their efforts. This is not, however, the only honor that has come our way. We can excel in the physical as well as in the mental aspect. On Saturday last the representatives of the club, Messrs. P. Fitzgerald, M. Mulcahy, and J. H. and M. Prendeville, succeeded in winning the harriers teams race. A social function in honor of these victories is to be held in the club rooms next week.

Wanganui

(From our own correspondent.)

October 12.

Rev. Father O'Connell, who is now in Wanganui and staying at the presbytery, officiated at the marriage of his brother, Mr. Peter O'Connell, to Miss Catherine Bourke, daughter of Sergeant Bourke. The ceremony took place at St. Mary's Church.

Large congregations attended St. Mary's Church on Sunday at both Masses and Vespers, when Rev. Father Graham, of St. Patrick's College, Wellington, preached an instructive sermon on the 'Forty Hours Adoration.' On Monday evening Rev. Father Molloy preached. The Adoration was brought to a close on Tuesday morning. A great number of the parishioners received Holy Communion on Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday mornings.

The St. Mary's Catholic Club having found their rooms too small for their large membership have rented rooms opposite the P.O. in Ridgway street, which are more suitable to their requirements. The debate, 'Is Home Rule desirable?' created an animated discussion and much interest among the members. The affirmative was taken by Mr. J. Murphy, and the negative side by Mr. T. O'Brien. The members present decided that Home Rule was desirable. The latest purchase of the club—a full size billiard table—is already proving a splendid asset.