

would strongly recommend any visitor to the Northern capital not to omit calling at the Sacred Heart College, as I am satisfied enlightenment on matters educational will result, and sincere satisfaction be felt at Catholic advancement and prospects, as affecting the rising generation more particularly, and the community as a whole.

Meaneë.

Having the good fortune, whilst passing through the beautiful town of Napier, to meet the kindly pastor of Meaneë, the Rev. Father McDonnell, at his invitation I spent a few very pleasant and profitable hours at this missionary centre. Under his guidance the scenes in and about the locality, so vividly impressed upon the memory of the many theological students now arduously engaged in the work of the priesthood in various parishes of the Archdiocese of Wellington and the diocese of Christchurch, were pointed out. Especially interesting was a view of the fine ecclesiastical seminary, with its prettily kept garden and picturesque surrounding landscape. Here, too, was seen the valuable meteorological instruments of the rector, the Very Rev. Dr. Kennedy, one of New Zealand's foremost experts in this branch of useful science. Close by also is the new site for the magnificent telescope he possesses, the largest in the Colony. On the lawn opposite the main entrance of the seminary there is situated a unique sundial, designed by the talented rector, which affords quite an interesting study in itself. Near to the seminary is the parish church, St. Mary's, which was founded at the end of 1850 as the centre of the mission in Hawke's Bay. The church has been raised and considerably improved since Father McDonnell assumed charge, and so far as material appearance is concerned will probably last for many years to come. The sanctuary of St. Mary's has hallowed associations, having been the scene of many memorable events in connection with the adjoining seminary—the starting point in the career of the Colony's contingent to re-inforce the world-wide Order of Marist missionaries. Situated in close proximity to the church are the convent and the parish schools in charge of the Sisters of St. Joseph of the Sacred Heart. The farming, gardening, and poultry raising operations of the Brothers, and the famous vineyards next claim attention, all of which reflect great credit on the industrious staff. Meaneë is a charming retreat reached through pretty lanes and country by-roads, and situated in the centre of beautiful rural scenery. It is perhaps the one place in New Zealand distinguished from another as being familiar to our Catholic people, since almost colonisation first began, and appears destined to continue for very many years in the van of apostolic learning, life, and labors.

Diocesan News

DIOCESE OF CHRISTCHURCH

(From our own correspondent.)

December 22.

Tenders are being invited for the erection of a new presbytery for the Rev. Father Richards, Lincoln. The fine new convent at Rangiora for the Sisters of the Missions is now nearing completion, and is to be solemnly blessed and opened by his Grace Archbishop Redwood in January.

The Sacred Heart Convent (Sisters of the Missions) and Mount Nagdala Asylum (Sisters of the Good Shepherd) were each awarded gold medals for excellence of exhibit in a particular section of the 'Home Industries' at the Exhibition. Pupils of the Sisters of the Mission who made individual exhibits were also successful in securing awards.

On Wednesday evening, December 12, the pupils of the Convent schools (Sisters of the Missions), Leeston, gave their annual concert in the local Town Hall in the presence of a good audience. The Rev. Father Mahony and a party of friends from Christchurch assisted in an excellent programme. Miss L. O'Boyle and Mr. R. A. Horne shared the duties of accompanists.

The Sisters of Nazareth desire to sincerely thank their numerous kind friends for generous contributions throughout the year, and the valued assistance and helpful encouragement extended to the collecting Sisters in their arduous duties incidental to the upkeep of Nazareth House. The Rev. Mother expresses deep gratitude for gifts thoughtfully sent in to cheer the old people and gladden the hearts of the orphan inmates during the festive Christmas season.

During a sermon in the Cathedral last week on the evils of indiscriminate reading the Very Rev. Father Clune said: 'We spend a penny a day on buying secular papers and think nothing of it, whilst the bare suggestion of spending a similar amount once a week on a good Catholic paper like the 'Tablet' will not apparently be seriously considered. Get the 'Tablet,' get it regularly, and read it and you will be all the better for it. In every way the 'Tablet' is a really good paper and supplies all that is needed for the family reading.'

DIOCESE OF AUCKLAND

(From our own correspondent.)

December 19.

Rev. Fathers O'Reilly, Lowe, and O'Brien, visitors from Australia, have been in Auckland during the last few days.

Next Friday evening a presentation will be made to the Very Rev. Father Gillan by the committee of St. Benedict's Church.

Quite a busy time has been experienced in the city and suburbs in the annual entertainments and presentation of prizes at our schools. The entertainments have been of a very excellent character indeed, reflecting the highest credit upon the teachers and affording genuine pleasure to the large audiences attending them.

The officers for the ensuing term were nominated for office at last night's meeting of the local branch of the H.A.C.B. Society, and the election was fixed for January 15. Bro. M. J. Sheahan alluded to the forthcoming visit of Mr. Joseph Devlin, M.P. for West Belfast. He urged every member to exert himself on behalf of Mr. Devlin's mission. Bros. Casey, D. Flynn, and Kane spoke in hearty support of the motion. It was resolved to present an address from the branch to Mr. Devlin.

Rev. Brothers John and Stratonique, of the Marist Brothers' Order, are at present in Auckland. Brother Victor, Provincial for Australasia and Oceania, is also here. Last evening a welcome was accorded them by the Marist Brothers' Old Boys' Association at their club room, Pitt street. His Lordship the Bishop, Rev. Fathers Holbrook, Molloy, Murphy, McMillan, and Farthing were present. His Lordship the Bishop heartily welcomed Brothers John, Stratonique and Victor. He felt sure the number of ex-pupils they saw together now must be very cheering and comforting to them. It was evidence of the lasting character of the work done by the good Brothers in Auckland and elsewhere. To their old teachers and their old school the young men were attached by ties of religion, and of gratitude. Mr. Furlong, an ex-pupil, welcomed the visiting Brothers on behalf of the club. They all freely admitted the great and many obligations they were under to the Marist Brothers. Their good teachings and example remained with them, and guided them throughout life. To his Lordship the Bishop and Brother George the club was indebted. In existence but over two years, they claimed to have accomplished much that was good in the community. Financially their position was improving, and ere long it would be sound. Rev. Brother John replied, and thanked the Bishop and the young men for their hearty and kindly welcome to them. It was thirty years ago since he first visited this Colony. He had visited many parts of the world since then. He had met and conversed with several of their former teachers in those parts, all of whom spoke affectionately of their old pupils in New Zealand. He then told them how persistently their late lamented and beloved Bishop, Dr. Luck, worked to secure the Marist Brothers for Auckland. He dwelt on the persecution in France, and the number of their schools which were closed, and the Brothers dispersed to every part of the world. In this connection the Bishop of one of the South American dioceses told him that he felt so thankful to the persecuting French Government for turning the Brothers out of France, because otherwise he would not have secured them for his diocese. The great battle of Christian education was going on. He witnessed the great Catholic demonstration in London recently in the great Albert Hall in favor of Catholic education. It was a great sight. He was glad at heart to witness that night the good and lasting effects of Catholic teaching. After all it was not in the school itself but out in the world afterwards that this good work was tested. He thanked the Bishop, priests, Brothers, and ex-students for their warm reception of Brothers Stratonique, Victor, and himself. Recitations were given by Messrs. McKenna and Herbert, a vocal item by Mr. Jas. Lonergan, and a fine chorus by members of the musical branch of the club. It was indeed a most enjoyable evening.

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