

them on their success in obtaining the title of the Champion Band of Australasia, and they well deserve the honor. The playing of the band was of a superior order. They won £200 prize money, 40 gold medals, and 3 silver medals, with a special badge for the conductor, Mr. Crichton. They arrived home on Tuesday by the 9 o'clock train, and were welcomed by the Mayor and Mr. J. T. Hogan, M.H.R., and taken to the city near the Drill Hall, escorted by the Volunteers, Fire Brigade, city and other bands. After the Mayor and Mr. Hogan, M.H.R., had congratulated the band, Conductor Crichton thanked all for the magnificent reception accorded to them, and said the contest had proved a very hard fight, and was fought in the most friendly spirit by the whole of the 29 bands. He paid a tribute to the bandsmen for the way they prepared for the contest.

DIocese OF CHRISTCHURCH

(From our own correspondent.)

February 25.

The Rev. Father Bnetto accompanied his Lordship the Bishop to the diocese from Italy.

Miss Bell, of Victoria, a distinguished educationalist, who is on a visit to Christchurch, has expressed great admiration of the Cathedral. Miss Bell returns shortly to Melbourne.

On Sunday last the Right Rev. Mgr. O'Reilly, of Thames, and Ven. Archpriest Walshe, of Westport, who, by a somewhat remarkable coincidence, are at present guests at the episcopal residence, celebrated the 41st anniversary of their ordination to the priesthood, and met for the first time since that eventful occasion.

His Lordship the Bishop visited Nazareth House on Sunday, where he was most joyfully received by the numerous children and by the Rev. Mother and Sisters and aged inmates. He also in the afternoon visited the Christian doctrine classes assembled at Sunday school in the Cathedral. After congratulating the teachers and pupils on their numbers, he gave a brief account of his visit to the Holy Land, which proved most interesting and instructive.

In one of his recent letters to Canadian newspapers (states the 'Lyttelton Times'), Mr. T. H. Race, the Canadian Commissioner at the International Exhibition, refers to Lord Plunket and Sir Joseph Ward. He describes his Excellency as 'a genial gentleman, the distinguished son-in-law of an illustrious sire, the late Lord Dufferin, whose memory we cherish with such affection in Canada.' Of Sir Joseph Ward, Mr. Race says:—'He is equally popular, and, following, as he does, a man of such strong personality as the late Richard Seddon, this is a good deal to say for him. Like our own matchless Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Sir Joseph is a Roman Catholic, but sectarianism does not seem to count here; at least, it is not a bar to political preference. I have met Sir Joseph several times, and, as a largely self-made man, I am so favorably impressed with him that I think he would measure up in favorable comparison with the best we have in America, always, of course, excepting the matchless Sir Wilfrid.'

At Vespers on Sunday there was a great congregation to hear his Lordship the Bishop preach for the first time since his return. He again expressed the assurance of his great satisfaction at the reception accorded him on his return—a wonderful manifestation of their loyalty to that grand, glorious Church. It occurred to him that probably they would expect him to speak of his recent visit to the Apostolic See and his journeyings in the Holy Land. Briefly in this regard, however, the day's Gospel as a subject was peculiarly applicable. He the Bishop had passed a night on Mount Thabor, and next morning had the great privilege of offering the Holy Sacrifice on the precise spot rendered for ever memorable by the Transfiguration of Our Divine Lord before the Apostles. Pontifical Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament was given by the Bishop, who was attended by the Very Rev. Father Le Menant des Chesnais, S.M., V.G., and Very Rev. Dean Binsfeld, S.M., Rev. Father O'Connell being master of ceremonies. Prior to Benediction his Lordship imparted the Papal Blessing. His Holiness, he said, spoke of you with deep feelings, expressed his delight at your fealty to the Church, and asked me to assure you that the blessing is the same as if it were given by himself personally. Among this vast audience, the Bishop continued, there were many undoubtedly not of the faith; those he was sure would not hesitate to receive, with bowed heads, the blessing of the venerable Pontiff and Supreme Head of the Christian world. After Vespers the Cathedral and grounds were again brilliantly illuminated, and presented a most pleasing spectacle.

The Right Rev. Mgr. O'Reilly, of the Thames, is a visitor to Christchurch, and a guest at the episcopal residence. He celebrated the half-past nine o'clock Mass in the Cathedral on Sunday, and preached at the 11 o'clock Mass. Prefacing a forceful discourse, he congratulated his Lordship the Bishop, his zealous clergy, and faithful laity on the erection of the noble edifice. It was a pleasure indeed for him (the preacher) to be there that day to see the grand building the outcome of the zealous labors of their Bishop and clergy, and co-operation of the faithful, erected to the honor and glory of God—a work of art, a monument of unrelaxing zeal worthy not alone of the Catholics of this growing city, but of all its citizens. He was glad to be here on this auspicious occasion, to participate in the joyous home-coming of their revered Bishop after his visit to the Holy Father.

'During an audience with our Holy Father, Pope Pius X. I was questioned by the illustrious Pontiff,' said his Lordship Bishop Grimes at the welcome extended to him on his return from Europe, 'in regard to the Catholic press.' 'We have but one Catholic journal,' replied the Bishop, 'but that one is a host in itself. It is edited by an ecclesiastic (mentioning his name), who is a born journalist, not only naturally gifted, but a most able and painstaking worker.' His Holiness was greatly gratified at the good account given by the Bishop, stating how great is the power of the press for good or otherwise, and renewed the blessing already given to the directors and writers of the 'New Zealand Tablet.' Speaking to your correspondent of the great power and influence wielded by the 'Tablet' even beyond the confines of this Colony, the Bishop mentioned eminent prelates, whom he had met and conversed with during his journeyings, who stated that of all periodicals addressed to them they invariably selected the 'Tablet' to be first read, deriving an amount of pleasure and profitable general information unattainable from any other source.

DIocese OF AUCKLAND

(From our own correspondent.)

February 22.

Rev. Father Holierhoek, of Whakatane, has been granted leave of absence, and goes home on a visit to his native land, Holland.

Very Rev. Dean Hackett will re-deliver by request his lecture, 'Irish Wit and Humor,' on Friday, March 8, in the Leys Institute in aid of the Little Sisters of the Poor.

The rateable value of Auckland City has been 'assessed by Mr. Hickling for 1907 at £476,415. Last year they were £442,303, thus giving an increase of £34,112.

Sister Mary Veronica, of the Sisters of Mercy, will celebrate the diamond jubilee of her profession in the Order next Thursday, 28th inst. She arrived in Auckland in the year 1857, where she has labored ever since.

Last Sunday evening the Rev. Father Clune, C.P., of Adelaide, delivered a very fine sermon at St. Patrick's. The preacher is a younger brother of the eloquent, and deservedly respected Redemptorist, the Very Rev. Father Clune.

It is expected that the committee which managed Mr. Joseph Devlin's meeting in Auckland City will in a few days forward another instalment of £10, making £560 net, to Mr. Martin Kennedy, central treasurer, Wellington. The gross will total over £580, a result upon which all concerned have every reason to be gratified.

Several meetings of the local Hibernians have been held to make arrangements to receive and suitably entertain the visiting delegates from the southern branches, who are to take part in the triennial movable meeting to be held here next month. It has been determined to leave nothing undone to make their stay a profitable and enjoyable one.

The Right Rev. Dr. Lenihan, in a speech delivered here the other day to the assembled school children, said: 'At our public entertainments there is one thing I detest, that is to see the boys put their fingers into their mouths, and make hideous noises. But when you see any man come upon the stage with knee breeches, tattered clothes, crownless hat, and a profusion of red hair, and cut aimless pranks, and lay claim to portraying in this abominable fashion the typical Irishman, then, my boys, whistle and shout and stamp until you drive the fellow off the stage. Bear in mind always that the Irishman is quite a different man altogether to what is shown upon the stage, and I want you every time he appears to drive him behind the scenes.'