

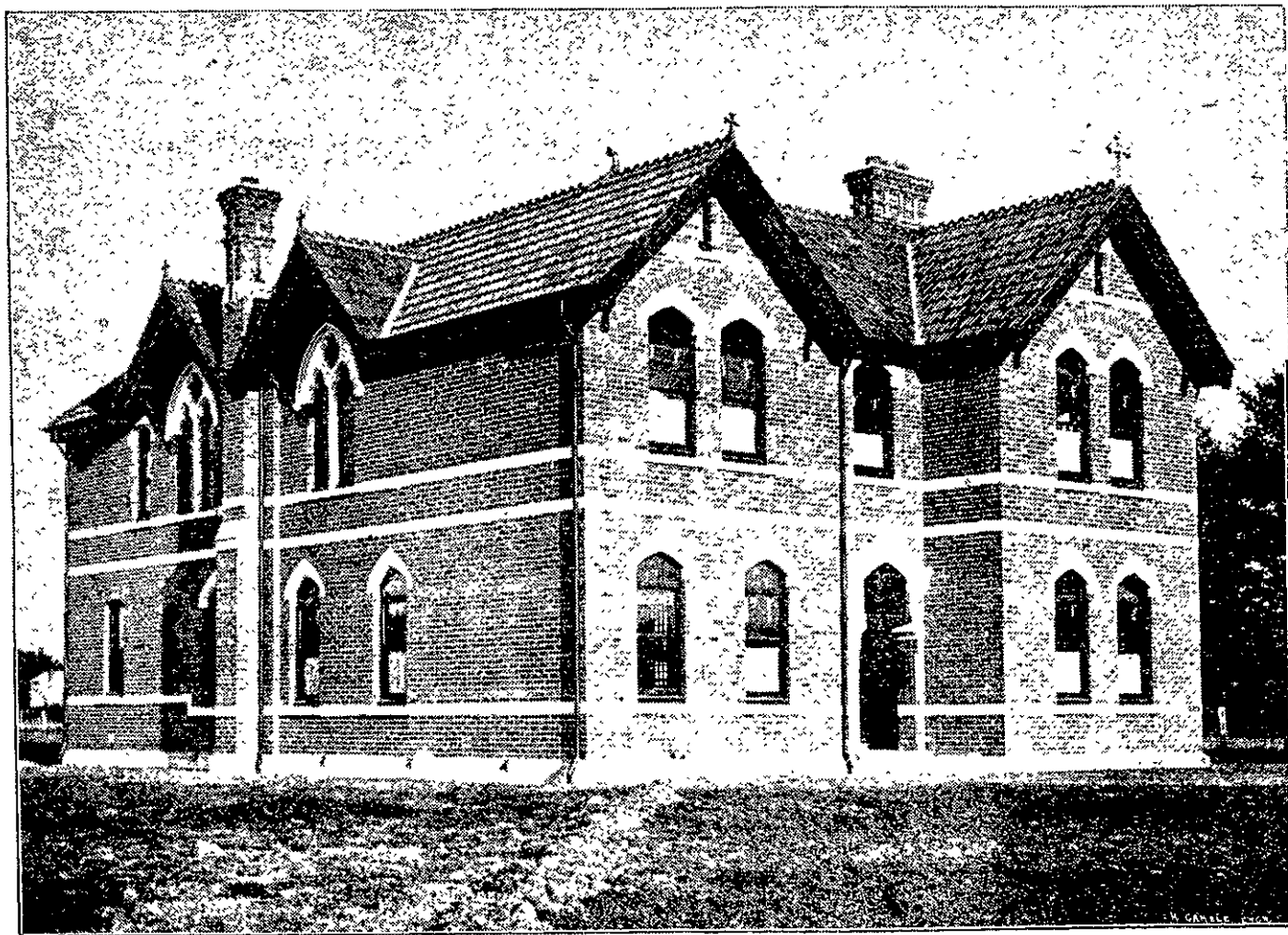
Opening of a New Convent at Rangiora

(From our Christchurch correspondent.)

The fine new convent at Rangiora, erected for the Sisters of the Missions at a cost of about £2000, was blessed and formally opened on Sunday last by his Lordship Bishop Grimes in the presence of a large gathering. Although many years have elapsed since a community of Sisters first settled in Rangiora to undertake the education of the Catholic children and help in the work of the parish adaptable to their sacred calling, they have resided in a small cottage opposite the church, making the best of the limited accommodation afforded. The presentation by Sir Westby Perceval of a convent site of three acres, close to the other church property, encouraged an effort being made to provide funds for the erection of a suitable building. A bazaar was organised, and the energetic pastor of the district, the Rev. Father Hyland, and the congregations in all parts of his wide district assisted him to such good purpose that the work was soon after started. Father Hyland and

parts. The roof is covered with French tiles. The building is plastered throughout, and the interior woodwork is of a substantial description, the floors being of 4in by 1in jarrah. Gothic windows provide an abundance of light, the chapel windows being colored leadlights. Hot and cold water is laid throughout the place, and the sanitary arrangements include an up-to-date septic tank. Messrs. Wadey and Efford, builders, of Rangiora, have carried out the contract for the building in a highly satisfactory manner.

At 11 o'clock Mass was celebrated in the Church of SS. Mary and Francis de Sales by the Rev. Father Hyland, at which his Lordship the Bishop and the Rev. Father O'Connell were present in the sanctuary. At the conclusion of Mass an address was read and presented to the Bishop. This was signed on behalf of the parishioners by Messrs. J. Hands and J. McAleer (Rangiora), James McCormack (Oxford), William Lynskey (Kalapoi), and E. O'Connor (Loburn). His Lordship appropriately replied, and preached from the text, Aggeus, chap. ii., verse x: 'Great shall be the glory of this last house more than of the first, saith the Lord, of hosts; and in this place I will give peace, saith the Lord of hosts. After



The New Convent, Rangiora

his parishioners have well merited the congratulations tendered them on the completion of their task, and the handsome and valuable addition made to their already extensive church property in the town, and the devoted Sisters on the acquisition of a residence affording facilities of which undoubtedly the best possible use will be made.

The building is a solid-looking but handsome two-storey structure of brick, with Oamaru stone facings, built from designs supplied by Messrs. Collins and Harman, of Christchurch. It has both a ground and upper floor space of 60ft by 38ft, with walls 23ft in height. On the ground floor there are visitors' rooms reached through a spacious hall with tiled floor, music-room, dining-room, parlor, kitchen, wash-house, pantry, and so on, and on the upper floor, reached by two staircases, there is a chapel 27ft by 12ft, with a sanctuary 12ft by 12ft, and sacristy 11ft by 7ft; also a community-room and several bedrooms. From one of the latter access is gained to a spacious balcony, with a re-enforced concrete floor and partly glassed in. One object of the balcony is to provide a health-recruiting place for sick and convalescent nuns from other

the sermon and the prescribed prayers, at the foot of the altar a procession was formed and proceeded to the new building, where the ceremonies of the day were completed.

A collection was taken up with the satisfactory result that about £270 was added to the building fund. Early in the afternoon the Bishop returned to the city in Mr. P. Henley's new motor car, Mr. P. Henley being chauffeur.

The 'W.A. Record' says that Monsignor Byrne, V.G., of Adelaide, is a contemporary of Monsignor Bourke, of West Perth, both having arrived at the same time in West Australia over 50 years ago.

The Catholic clergy of Dunedin some time ago having decided to erect a monument to the memory of the late Rev. Father Ryan, placed the work in the hands of H. Frapwell, monumental sculptor, Princes street, South. It is now finished, and reflects great credit on the firm. The design is a large Celtic Cross, richly carved. The cross is on view at the works, where Mr. Frapwell invites inspection...