

The text of the illuminated address, which was read by Mr. F. Shaw, was as follows:—

'Rev. and Dear. Father,—We the undersigned, on behalf of the parishioners of St. Mary's, Blenheim and districts, desire to tender to you on the eve of your departure from New Zealand for a visit to other lands, our heartiest wishes for a pleasant trip, and our cordial desire that you may return safely to our midst. We cannot allow you to leave without conveying to you some slight token of the high esteem in which you are held, and the general appreciation of the excellent work you have done as a priest in this large and scattered district for the last nine years. During that time a period of much activity, stress and struggle—your fidelity to duty, your Christian spirit and your unremitting labors in the interests of the people among whom you have moved have won a warm place in their hearts, and left an indelible impression of gratitude and love. We ask you to accept the accompanying purse of sovereigns as evidence of the widespread goodwill of this scattered flock towards you, and their sincere desire that you may derive from your trip the largest possible measure of enjoyment and benefit, and come back to us renewed in health and strength to continue your devoted labors.' (Then followed the signatures of Mr. C. O'Sullivan, J.P., and a number of other parishioners).

Mr. O'Sullivan announced that the purse contained over £144, and that there would doubtless be an addition from the proceeds of the social.

The Rev. Father Fay, who was given a hearty reception, said he would be less than human if he did not feel a proud man after listening to what had just been said, all of which he did not think he deserved. The good wishes that had been extended to him had affected him very much, for he knew the sterling quality of those who had expressed them, and that they were sincere and heartfelt. The handsome purse they had so kindly subscribed would go a long way towards helping him to become acquainted with those lands and objects of historical interest that he looked forward to seeing. He had never left his own fair country, so that everything he was to see would be new and of deep interest. It was a trip to which he looked forward with much pleasure, and he trusted that it would eventually be of service to those among whom he would work in future years. He might spend many years in study at home without deriving the education that he now anticipated. He hoped to come back with broader ideas, broader views, and much better equipped for his work as a priest. Even though the separation was for only a year, he felt parting with them very keenly—so kind had they been to him. They may have heard that he was not coming back to this place, but he assured them, God willing, that he should return, the first place he would make for on landing in Wellington would be Blenheim. He was deeply grateful to those who had made this function such a success and such an encouragement to him. He had to express to his non-Catholic friends—one and all—his deep sense of gratitude for their kindness and courtesy. Ever since he had been in the parish he had received from them uniform friendliness. In conclusion he asked God to bless them all; he would always remember them in his prayers. He would not say goodbye, but au revoir; and he hoped that he would be spared to return a stronger, better, and more useful man to continue his work in their midst as a priest.

Prior to the presentation a short concert programme was rendered, the vocalists being Mesdames Nash and F. Hale, and the Rev. Father Holley, Messrs. Fama and James.

Colonel and Mrs. Freehill, of Sydney, have left on an extended trip to Europe.

Messrs. Louis Gille, of Sydney and Melbourne, publish a list of new books in this issue....

The Railway authorities notify that holiday excursion tickets in connection with the Easter Holidays will be issued from March 26 to April 1, inclusive....

Messrs. Duthie Bros., drapers, George street, Dunedin, have just opened out new autumn and winter goods in all the latest styles. These have been imported direct from English and Continental houses....

The merit of Lipton's renowned teas has been attested to in an unmistakable manner at the New Zealand Exhibition. Messrs. Harty and Co., Dunedin, distributing agents for Lipton's Teas, have received a telegram to the effect that at the Exhibition Lipton's secured a gold medal (being the highest award) for Ceylon teas, also a special gold medal (highest special award) for fancy Ceylon teas....

Diocesan News

ARCHDIOCESE OF WELLINGTON

(From our own correspondent.)

March 9.

Dr. and Mrs. Mackin are to visit the Old Country, and will leave here on the 22nd inst.

The local Hibernians will entertain the southern delegates by a drive to the Hutt to-morrow afternoon.

His Grace the Archbishop left for Wanganui this morning. He is to lay the foundation stone of a new church at Aramoho.

The Rev. Fathers Mainane, of Christchurch, and Tubman, of Timaru, returned to the Colony by the last San Francisco steamer. They arrived here yesterday morning, and are remaining for a few days at the Boulcott street presbytery.

On Monday, March 18, an Irish national concert is to be held in the Town Hall. Miss Amy Murphy is coming from Dunedin for the occasion, and the services of Misses Morrison and Van Staveren have also been engaged. Something worthy of the best traditions of Irish music is promised.

At the Amateur Athletic sports on Saturday last the boys from St. Patrick's College were very successful. In the 100 yards inter-college event the three placed men, Seymour, Cullen, and Stewart, were all from the college. The 440 yards inter-college event was also won by Seymour.

There was a large number of Catholics on the wharf yesterday to see the departure of the 'Riverina.' Among those on board bound for Home were Mr. and Mrs. Owen McArdle, Mr. Eugene McArdle, the Rev. Father Fay, and Mr. D. Fay. Mr. Eugene McArdle, who recently passed his final dentistry examination, is to continue the study of his profession in London.

The fourth annual general meeting of the St. Patrick's College Old Boys' Association will be held in the college on Sunday, March 24. The annual report and balance sheet are cheering in tone, and tell of a prosperous state of affairs. Seventy-six new members joined the association during the year, and the membership total now stands at 226. The social functions held under the auspices of the association proved both enjoyable and successful. The formation of a cricket club has been successfully undertaken, and the formation of a football club is hoped for during the coming season. The balance sheet speaks volumes for the energy of the hon. treasurer (Mr. Fred W. Crombie). A credit of £31 10s is shown, and back subscriptions to the sum of £19 15s have been collected. The Association is indebted to the Very Rev. Father Keogh, S.M., B.A., for many acts of kindness, and to Ven. Archdeacon Devoy, Rev. Father O'Reilly, and Messrs. M. J. Crombie, J. J. Bourke, F. J. Grace, M. S. Grace, and H. McSherry for donations to the funds. The officers of the Society are deserving of praise for the success that has been achieved.

A very pleasant evening was spent in St. Patrick's Hall on Thursday, the occasion of a social gathering given by the Young Men's Club. The president of the club (the Rev. Father O'Shea) took advantage of the opportunity to present the trophies won at the recent tennis tournament. In doing so he spoke of the good done by the tennis club in bringing our young people together, and in providing such a delightful form of recreation. He wished the club every success, and to encourage members he again donated another trophy. The successful competitors were as follows:—Ladies' singles, Miss E. Crombie; runner-up, Miss M. Davis; men's singles, Mr. F. Eller; ladies' doubles, Misses Sullivan and Halley; men's doubles, Messrs. P. J. Moran and F. Eller; combined doubles, Miss A. Williams and Mr. B. B. Devine. During the evening songs were contributed by Misses M. Segrief and L. Lawless, and Messrs. Twohill, Hobman and Hickmott. A pleasing recitation was given by Miss Butler, and an encore was demanded. A piano-forte solo by Miss Suisted, and a flute solo by Mr. Alf. McDonald added greatly to the evening's enjoyment. The thanks of the tennis club are due to Miss Segrief and Messrs. Leydon, Fay, and Searle, and to the Rev. Father O'Shea for trophies donated during the year.