

Very Rev. Father Power, Hawera, paid a short visit to New Plymouth during the course of the mission.

I must confess (writes a correspondent of the 'Taranaki Herald') that it was with some little feeling of curiosity that I went to hear Father Clune handle the drink question. Not that I was afraid he would not be interesting after listening to him on Sunday night, but so much twaddle is poured on the devoted heads of us common folk who are not able to voice our sentiments from the platform that one often wonders if any new thing can be said on the subject. Judge of my delight then with Father Clune, in his indictment of the drink traffic and fierce denunciation of the destroyer of the sanctity of the home and soul of the drunkard—his invectives were so vigorous and the language so well chosen—that I felt a positive thrill of pleasure. In his handling of the subject the illustrations were drawn from Scripture, common-sense, the religious, social and political aspect of man as a citizen. In his pleadings with the victims of the drink curse he rose to the sublimest heights of eloquence, and it was impossible to resist the conviction that here at least was one man who was in earnest. The picture drawn of the drunkard's home was harrowing and quite true as I know from observation, and when at the conclusion he appealed to those present to do the will of their Father in Heaven, I must confess I felt quite soft about the eyes, and wondered if any of those present would take his lesson to heart.

DIocese OF CHRISTCHURCH

(From our own correspondent.)

March 25.

In the distribution of Exhibition awards for New Zealand wines the Meance Mission, Hawke's Bay, shows well to the fore, and has secured a gold medal for Burgundy (unfortified pure juice), gold medal for Marsala (liqueur wine), gold medal for altar wine, and for Burgundy of another class a silver medal.

Each Sunday at the Cathedral may be seen attending the eleven o'clock Mass a contingent of juvenile soldiers, representing the Catholic portion of the school cadets from various parts of the Colony, periodically in turn encamped in the grounds of the Exhibition.

Palm Sunday at the Cathedral was observed with the customary solemnity. Prior to the eleven o'clock Mass the palms were blessed and distributed by his Lordship the Bishop, attended by the Rev. Fathers O'Dwyer and Bonnetto. His Lordship, in touching and appropriate terms, referred to the first Palm Sunday and the lessons to be derived from the incidents connected with it, which Holy Church lovingly cherished, and throughout intervening centuries impressed upon her faithful adherents. The wonderful spirit of faith which prompted our forefathers to devote days and weeks to prayer and contemplation in observance of the most sadly mournful period of the world's history, which in our time was comparatively compressed into hours, was an object-lesson worthy of the emulation of all.

The record of attendance at the Exhibition is mounting steadily but surely to the limit of two millions, which the management fondly anticipate will be reached before the great show will pass into history. This week's chief attraction was the fire brigades' demonstration, which drew large crowds. The closing ceremonies on April 15 are intended to be very impressive, especially in view of the fact that the Australian Squadron will be in port probably at the time. If the Exhibition has served no other purpose, it has certainly proved the most effective advertisement the Colony has ever received. It is also fairly safe to conjecture that many years may elapse before there is another exhibition of like proportions in New Zealand, so that those who have not seen it should not lose the remaining opportunities of so doing. A visit will prove an experience they will not likely be sorry for.

Hokitika

(From our own correspondent.)

March 21.

A very successful mission, preached by the Rev. Fathers Bannon and Lowham, was brought to a close on Sunday night, when the church was crowded to the doors. As an outcome of the mission a Sacred Heart Sodality was formed in the parish.

Timaru

(From our own correspondent.)

March 25.

On Thursday evening a large gathering assembled in the St. Andrew's Public Hall to welcome Rev. Father Tubman (who has just returned from a trip to the Old Land) to that part of his extensive parish. Mr. D. O'Callaghan presided, and after a short musical programme had been gone through, called upon Mr. A. Wilson to read an address of welcome. Many of the leading Catholics supplemented the words of greeting contained in the address, and Father Tubman in returning thanks gave a short summary of his interesting holiday tour.

DIocese OF AUCKLAND

(From our own correspondent.)

The Very Rev. Father Clune, C.S.S.R., began a mission last Sunday morning in the Church of St. John the Baptist, Pa-nell, which was crowded. Throughout the week large numbers attend the morning and evening devotions. Rev. Father McDermott, C.S.S.R., is also laboring in the same parish.

On Monday last the visiting Hibernian delegates were entertained at luncheon at the Pacific Club by Bro. J. J. O'Brien, J.P., and the first district secretary of the H.A.C.B. Society in New Zealand. At the conclusion, on behalf of the visitors, Bro. Sellars, Dennehy, and Duggan thanked Bro. O'Brien, and Bro. Nerheny acted in like manner for the local members. Bro. O'Brien suitably replied.

A meeting was held in the Marist Brothers' School-room, Pitt street, last Tuesday evening, at which his Lordship the Bishop presided in the early portion of the evening. There were also present Rev. Father Holbrook, Rev. Father McManus (New Plymouth), Rev. Brother George, and a number of laymen from each parish gathered to hear the Hon. Mr. Heydon, M.L.C., of Sydney, explain the objects of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, in connection with which he was desirous of forming a male branch in Auckland. Mr. Heydon was briefly introduced by the Bishop, who spoke in laudatory terms of the good work and noble purpose of the Society, and of which in Australia the Hon. Mr. Heydon was so earnest a worker. Mr. Heydon was warmly received, and explained at some length the rules and working of the Society. In every country under the sun it had its branches, all of which owed allegiance to the head body in Paris. In a particular manner it worked amongst the sailors, to many of whom it had brought spiritual comfort and happiness. To the deserving poor it had proved of incalculable benefit. He urged all present to form themselves into a branch of the Society. Rev. Father Holbrook also urged all present to become members. A motion to that effect was unanimously carried. Mr. C. Little was elected president; Mr. R. Casey, and Mr. T. Holbrook, vice-presidents; Mr. L. Smith, hon. sec.; and Mr. M. J. Sheahan, hon. treasurer. A collection was taken up, and a sum of nearly £3 10s was handed to the treasurer. A hearty vote of thanks was accorded by acclamation to the Hon. Mr. Heydon for his efforts in promoting the branch. The Hon. gentleman in reply said the best way they could thank him was to make the branch here successful. It was decided to meet again next Sunday afternoon at three o'clock at St. Patrick's Hall.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY

Wellington

(From our own correspondent.)

March 23.

The weather on Saturday last proved disappointing, and the sports held under the auspices of the local Hibernians and members of the Catholic Young Men's Club were to some extent spoiled by the rain. It is estimated that about 2000 people were present on the Basin Reserve, where the gathering was held. The arrangements from the athletic standpoint left nothing to be desired, but there was a noticeable absence of many of the items of a national character. A feature of the programme was an exhibition of la crosse, which promises to gain a fair share of popularity. The game is both fast and attractive. On Monday evening the weather was again decidedly un-