

friends on the occasion of her marriage. In conclusion the committee thanked his Lordship the Bishop and clergy for their interest in the club at all times, and also the Men's and Boy's clubs for very enjoyable social evenings. The total receipts, including a balance from last year of £3 8s 1d, amounted to £14 17s 6d, and the expenditure, including £7 6s paid to the executive committee, £11 6s 3d, leaving a credit balance of £3 11s 3d.

Rev. Father Coffey, speaking on the report, congratulated the members on their successful session, and hoped to see more good and useful work done during the coming season. He said that he would be pleased to see more evenings devoted to debates. He also spoke of Miss Staunton's generosity in devoting so much of her time to the club.

The following are the officers for the current year:—President, Miss Staunton (re-elected); secretary, Miss D. Purton (re-elected); committee, Misses O'Neill, Bryant, Hannagan, Johnson, and Clancy.

A vote of thanks to the Rev. Father Coffey for presiding concluded the business of the meeting.

New Catholic Presbytery, Ashburton

His Lordship Bishop Grimes visited Ashburton on Saturday and, prior to the eleven o'clock Mass on Sunday, blessed and opened the new handsome brick presbytery recently erected there by the Very Rev. Dean O'Donnell. The building (says the 'Press') is a commodious, handsomely-designed, and substantially-built two-storey structure in brick, with red-tiled roof, which has recently been erected on a pleasant site, close to the present church and the convent buildings. The members of the Society of the Children of Mary, with their banners, and the children of the Sacred Heart High School, with Sisters of the Convent, the church choir, with Bishop Grimes, the Very Rev. Dean O'Donnell, and the Rev. Father McDonald, formed in procession at the church and marched round to the new presbytery, the choir, under Mr. M. J. Burgess, leading the singing of the hymn, 'Faith of Our Fathers.' On arrival there his Lordship performed the ceremony of blessing and opening. The procession then returned to the church (the choir leading the singing of 'Hail, Queen of Heaven'), and Mass was celebrated. The Bishop preached a most eloquent sermon, taking for his text 1 Timothy, chapter 4, verses 4 and 5: 'For every creature of God is good, and nothing to be rejected that is received with thanksgiving; for it is sanctified by the Word of God and prayer.' He referred in very feeling terms to the beautiful prayers and rituals the Catholic Church had appointed for the blessing and consecration of her churches, homes, bishops, and priests, and to the devotion shown by her priests and to their high and exalted offices and to the good work they accomplished. Speaking more directly with reference to the presbytery just consecrated, he congratulated the priest who had conceived the idea and been the means of bringing about its erection, and the architect and builders who had each done their work faithfully and well. He paid a high tribute to the Very Rev. Dean O'Donnell for his self-denial in putting up with the discomforts of the old presbytery for so many years, and till the heavy debt on the church had been paid off. The Catholics had a great reverence for their priesthood, and it was but right that they should take a pride in seeing them comfortably housed. The Catholics of Ashburton had done their duty so far, and would, he felt sure, continue to do their duty. Personally he had many calls on his own slender means, but now that he had seen the handsome and convenient building erected, he had decided to double what he at first intended to give towards the cost of its erection, and he would ask all the other members of the Church to follow his example, and even to make their contributions guineas instead of pounds.

The Very Rev. Dean O'Donnell pointed out that one reason why they should be generous was that they badly needed a new church, and he hoped this would not be undertaken while there was any debt on the church property. He announced an unsolicited contribution of £20 from one who had already given £50 towards the new presbytery.

There was a very large congregation, and most liberal response was made to the appeal for help towards the building fund.

Bishop Grimes preached again in the evening.

Woods' Great Peppermint Cure for Coughs and Colds never fails. 1s 6d and 2s 6d...

Presentation to Rev. Father Hickson, S.M.

(From our Christchurch correspondent.)

There was a large gathering in the Art Gallery on last Thursday evening, representing the congregation of St. Mary's Church, Manchester street, and friends of the Rev. Father Hickson, S.M., on the occasion of a complimentary valedictory social and presentation to him prior to his departure for Europe as a delegate to the Chapter of the Marist Order, to be held in Belgium this year, and as a mark of esteem and appreciation of his devoted labors in the interests of the parish during the recent absence of the Very Rev. Father Marnane. Among the audience were the pastor of the district (the Very Rev. Father Marnane, S.M.), and his assistant, the Rev. Father Hoare, S.M.

An excellent musical programme was contributed to by Mesdames C. Kiver, and F. O'Brien, Misses Pender and O'Keefe, Messrs. C. Goggin, J. R. Hayward, and O'Keefe. Mr. W. Raymond was an efficient secretary, and several ladies acted as accompanists.

Mr. W. Hayward, jun., in asking Father Hickson's acceptance of a well-filled purse of sovereigns, expressed pleasure at the numerous attendance, and gave apologies for the absence of several prominent well-wishers. Referring to the events of a year ago, when the parish was left in the charge of two strangers, results proved the wisdom of the selection, and that the district could not have been placed in better keeping. He recounted the various important works undertaken and accomplished, and of others brought to a successful issue owing to the energy and business ability displayed. By his excellent management, their revered pastor had been enabled to enjoy a much needed rest. Father Hickson had well earned their enduring esteem and gratitude. On relinquishing his temporary charge their best wishes and prayers would follow him, and he could rest assured that wherever he might be the people of St. Mary's parish would ever cherish a warm regard for him.

The Rev. Father Hickson, who was very warmly received, said he was sure his hearers would pardon him for feeling somewhat embarrassed. There were two feelings uppermost in his mind—regret and pleasure, and it was difficult to say which held the higher place. In two things the people of St. Mary's excelled—to welcome the coming, and to speed the parting guest. When leaving a few weeks ago, he had not the remotest idea it would fall to his lot to be honored in being selected as a delegate to accompany two of the senior priests of the Order to Europe in connection with the Marist Chapter. Although it was twenty years since he left the Old Land, it was only natural to suppose he would derive a great deal of profit and enjoyment from a revisit, and renewal of old associations. Their kindly thoughtfulness rendered possible, therefore, a pleasurable and entertaining journey. Whilst regretting that his term at St. Mary's was brought to a close, his leaving did not necessarily mean a severing of all bonds of friendship. He was very grateful for this testimony of their esteem, accompanied, as it was, by the presence in such large numbers. In accepting this tangible mark of their esteem, it was a satisfaction to know that any efforts on his part had met with their appreciation. He had not been hampered in any way in the affairs of the parish, Father Marnane having given him a free hand from the outset to do whatever he thought best in the interests of the parish, expressing the conviction at the same time that all would go well. He had also received great support from the assistant—his superiors had luckily left him, and there was a no more loyal and painstaking assistant in any parish than Father Hoare. From the congregations of the various churches in the parish in all local undertakings he had received, loyal, generous, and practical co-operation. He would carry away tender memories of St. Mary's, which had great prospects in the City of the Plains, and had the makings of a great parish. In saying good-bye he would always remember them very kindly, and always in his prayers, and in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

The Very Rev. Father Marnane, in appropriate terms, added his tribute of thankfulness to the zeal and ability exercised by Father Hickson in the administration of the parish during his (Father Marnane's) absence. A resume of the good work done had already been well expressed. He congratulated Father Hickson on his well-deserved promotion, and, on behalf of himself and the people of St. Mary's, wished him an enjoyable time, a happy and pleasant journey, and a safe return.