

## THE SISTERS OF THE SACRED HEART

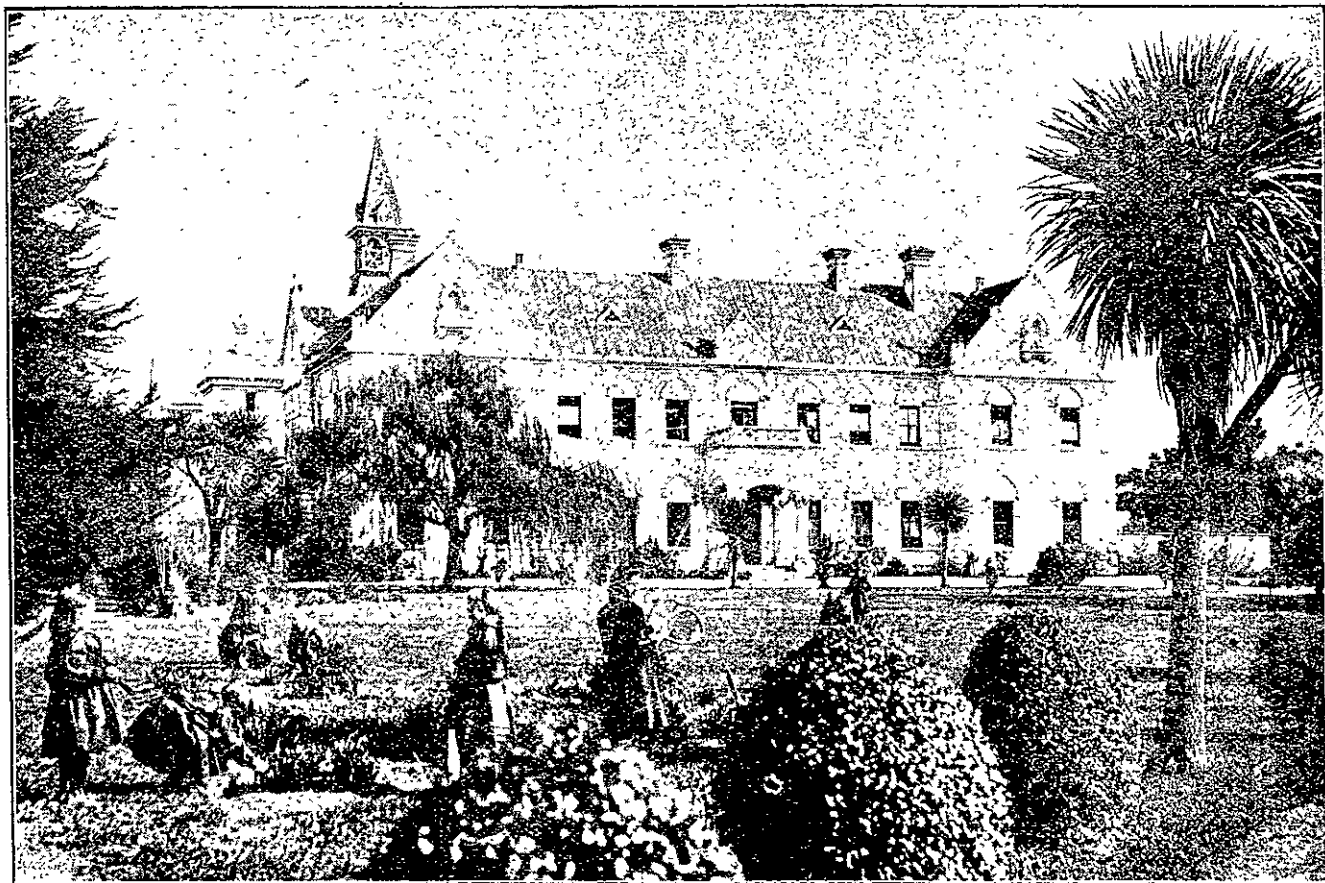
### BEATIFICATION OF THE FOUNDESS

#### CELEBRATIONS AT TIMARU

(By telegraph from our Special Reporter.)

On Sunday last the solemn ceremonies in connection with the beatification of the venerable servant of God, Madeleine Sophie Barat, foundress of the Society of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, took place at St. Peter's, Rome. The centenary of the Order was celebrated on November 21, 190, by the various houses of the Society scattered throughout the world. The celebration on that occasion was a thanksgiving for the prosperous course of a great institute which at that time numbered 147 houses, with an army of over 6000 members devoted to the sacred cause of forming the minds of youth in learning and piety. But the centenary had a further significance, as it was associated with the pro-

Father de Tournely, Superior of the Fathers of the Faith, felt that pious women working in conjunction with them would help them greatly in their labors of winning souls to the love of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, and God showed him in prayer that his Society was to be the means of organising 'A Society of the Sacred Heart,' a society of religious women to whose hands God meant to entrust not the mere duty of Christian education, although that would be much, but the very censer with the sacred fire of His love for men to cast it upon the earth; a Society with a two-fold spirit of prayer and sacrifice, to bear that name, to dwell in that sanctuary, to go forth conquering and to conquer—humble and hidden and lowly, sharing all the hatred that the world heaps on the Society of Jesus, and so strong in the charity of the Sacred Heart that the gates of hell should not prevail against it—a little nothing, a mustard seed, but with a mission that should be a regeneration for thousands of souls. Such was God's idea of the Society of the Sacred Heart, and Father de Tournely's successor, Father Varin, discovered a foundation stone for this Society in Sophie Barat. On November 21, 1800, she and three others pronounced their consecra-



Convent of the Sacred Heart, Timaru.

cess of beatification of the saintly foundress of the Order, the final stage of which was reached on Sunday last, when the gifted religious, whose broad culture, ripe judgment, and extraordinary piety laid the foundation of the congregation, was numbered among the saints of the Catholic Church.

As was only natural, the event was one of great joy and consolation to the members of the Order throughout the world, and nowhere was it celebrated with greater solemnity and rejoicing than at the Convent of the Sacred Heart, Timaru, on Tuesday last. Before giving an account of the impressive ceremonies at Timaru we place before our readers a sketch of the life of Mother Barat.

#### Blessed Madeleine Sophie Barat: A Sketch.

At the time when the Revolution had devastated the Church in France, and when millions believed that the religion of Christ was to be blotted from the earth, a poor girl, Sophie Madeleine Barat, the daughter of an artisan in Burgundy, was led under the guidance of a holy priest to establish the Society of the Sacred Heart. She had been educated by her brother, a priest also, who had given her a thorough religious training and a good knowledge of the classics.

tion to the Sacred Heart in the little chapel of Madame Duval's house in Paris; but it was not until the next year that the first school of the Society was opened at Amiens, which has always been regarded as the cradle of the Society. Sophie was then appointed Superior of the little community. She was only twenty-three, and her whole fortune when she came to Amiens was one crown piece. Dry bread was often their only meal after a day of toil and difficulty, but Sophie found her Paradise on earth in making the Sacred Heart known and loved, in wearing herself out for its glory. Her constant teaching to her companions was complete forgetfulness of self for this end. 'A wise man,' she used to say, 'needs but little, and a saint still less,' and all she seemed to feel the need of was to love Our Lord, and follow after Him in the service of the little ones of whom He said 'of such is the Kingdom of Heaven.' The many supernatural favors she received were skilfully concealed; but none could fail to see the spirit of God in her patient humility in the face of every trial, and in the hidden strength which brought the members of her little barque safe and united through the tempests which assailed its launching forth. One of her novices said in recording her first impressions of her: 'I felt I was in the

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