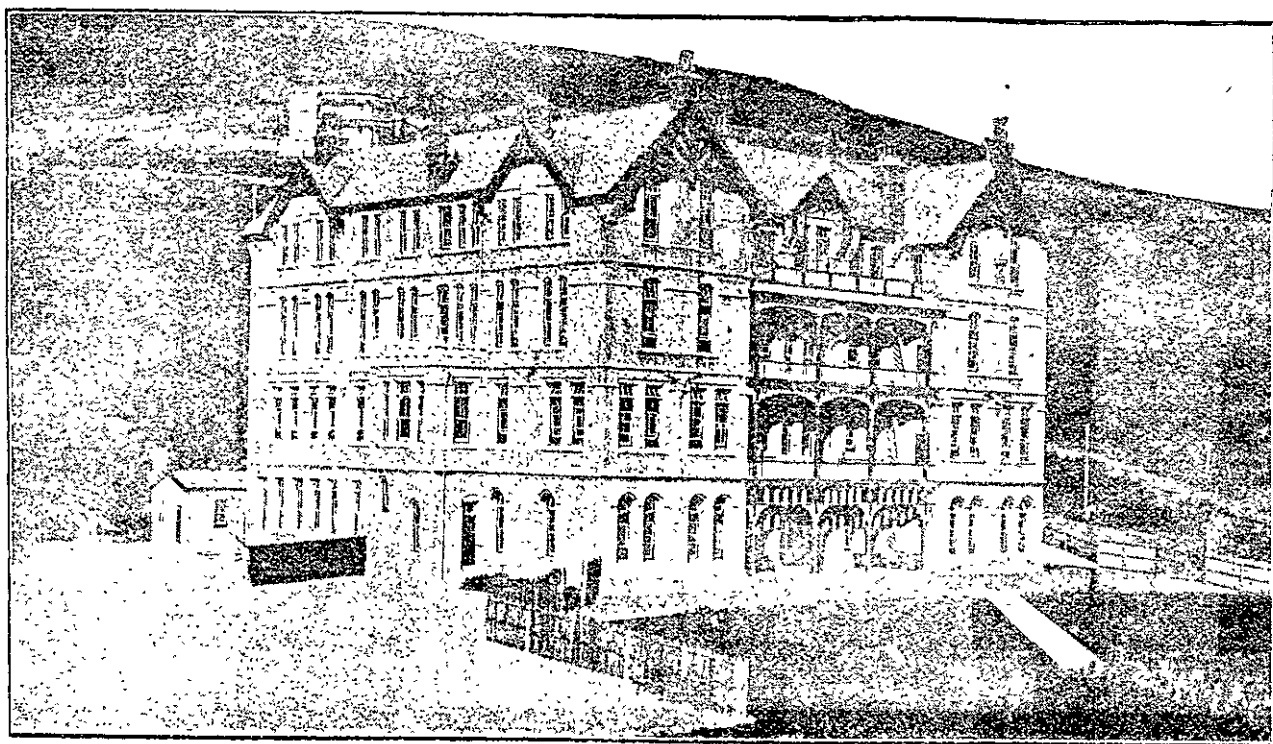


presence of 'one who was clothed with the Presence of God Himself.'

One of Sophie's greatest desires was to carry the love of the Sacred Heart to pagan-lands, and this was always the subject of her conversation when the day's work was over at Amiens, and the community sat round their one candle, doing the needlework which they took in to help towards their support. Her apostolic zeal was to be confined, however, to France, and it was in the person of one of her daughters, Philippine Duchesne, that she made the first foundation out of France. Mother Duchesne was sent to America in 1818, where she carried on the holy enterprise amid incredible privations and poverty; communicating to all her Sisters the spirit of fervor and self-sacrifice the work demanded. Madame Barat was now unable to comply with all the invitations addressed to her to establish houses of the Sacred Heart. Autun, Bordeaux, Chambery, Le Mans, Lyons, Metz, and Turin were fortunate in having their desires complied with. Houses were also founded at Charleville, Marseilles, and later in Austria, Belgium, England and Ireland, Germany, Holland, North and South America, Poland, Spain, Westphalia, and the West Indies. A large orphanage was established at Conflans, near Paris, and a novitiate was built which was intended to serve for the whole Society; but the mustard seed has grown so as to spread its branches over all the continents of the world. There are now ten novitiates, and about 6500 religious to celebrate their Mother's beatification. Out of the 46 houses there were in France, 43 have been closed by the Government during



Blessed Madeleine Sophie Barat,
Foundress of the Order of the Sisters of the Sacred Heart.



Convent of the Sacred Heart, Island Bay, Wellington

the last few years, but this has only caused wider expansion and new foundations in other parts of the world, making a total of 137 houses.

Madame Barat died on Ascension Day, May 25, 1865. Her death was as edifying as her life..

TIMARU.

The Convent of the Sacred Heart at Timaru was founded from the magnificent house of the Order at Maryville, near St. Louis, in the United States. On December 12, 1879—when the Society was celebrating the centenary of the birth of the Blessed Mother Barat—six religious of the Sacred Heart left San Francisco on their way to New Zealand. At Wellington they received a most fatherly welcome from his Grace Archbishop Redwood, who accompanied them to their destination in Timaru—then a part of the Wellington diocese. Father Chataignier, S.M., was then in charge of Timaru, and he and his people accorded a hearty welcome to the newly arrived religious. There was no convent at the time, and the little community partitioned off with canvas a portion of the school for their temporary abode. Some weeks later the presbytery was vacated by Fathers Chataignier and Goutenoire, and it was turned into a temporary convent. The greatest kindness was extended to the young

community by the Archbishop and the Marist Fathers. On February 1, 1880, the foundation stone of the magnificent new convent was laid by his Grace in the presence of a great gathering. Among those who took part in the solemn function was the late Bishop Moran, of Dunedin. Fifteen days later the first Superior, Rev. Mother Boudreau, was interred in the convent grounds, amidst the intense grief of the afflicted little community. She was succeeded by Mother Sullivan, who continued in office till her death in 1889. Under the care of the excellent and gifted religious of the Sacred Heart the numbers on the roll of the girls' parish school has steadily mounted up year by year. The community has, from time to time, been strengthened by reinforcements of religious from Europe. A great portion of the fine and beautifully situated new convent—of which we publish a view in this issue—was blessed and opened on October 3, 1880. The Right Rev. Dr. Grimes, the first Bishop of Christchurch, arrived in Canterbury in 1888, and since that time has taken a deep and practical interest in the progress of Catholic education in Timaru as in the rest of his extensive and well-equipped See.

(Continued on page 19.)

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