

(From an occasional correspondent.)

May 23.

It is with regret that I record the death of one of Wellington's pioneer citizens, Mrs. Charlotte Sievers, widow of the late Mr. August Sievers, who died on May 16 at the advanced age of 82 years. She arrived in Wellington in 1848, and had lived here up to the time of her death. She leaves five daughters, all married—Mrs. Ahearn, Mrs. Lambert, Mrs. Loomes, Mrs. Raymond, and Mrs. Thos. Shields, besides 41 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren. Her reminiscences of the history of early Wellington, especially of the stirring times of Maori wars, the great earthquakes, and of the struggles and trials of the pioneer settlers were always most interesting to listen to. She was always of a bright and cheerful disposition. She was a most respected member of the St. Mary of the Angels' Church. The remains were interred in the Mount-street Cemetery, the funeral cortege being followed by a large number of sorrowing friends.—R.I.P.

The Anglo-Welsh football team arrived by the 'Athenic' on Tuesday and were welcomed by the Premier, the Mayor, and officials of the Rugby Football Association. The vice-captain, Mr. P. F. McEvedy, was officially welcomed by Messrs. W. E. Butler and D. Fay as representatives of the St. Patrick's College Old Boys' Association. He was a student at the college from 1895 to 1898, being vice-captain of the football team during the latter year. While in England he acts as vice-captain of the Kent team. He came out to New Zealand with Sievwright's team in 1901. His parents live at Southbridge, Canterbury.

Kaikoura

(From an occasional correspondent.)

On Monday evening, May 11, his Grace Archbishop Redwood arrived by coach from Blenheim, and was met at the Cross Roads by Rev. Father Golden and Mr. W. Smith, who escorted him to the presbytery. His Grace was blessed with charming weather during the remainder of the week. The temperature on Saturday reached 70 degrees of heat, which was very unseasonable. A change of wind during Saturday night brought up a heavy storm of rain from the south-west, and this continued the whole forenoon of Sunday. Yet in spite of wind and driving rain there was a good attendance at the 7.30 Mass celebrated by the Archbishop, and also at the 10 o'clock Mass, whereof the local pastor was celebrant. The candidates for Confirmation and many others received Holy Communion at the early Mass, except the Maoris, who received at the last Mass. The Archbishop delivered an impressive discourse at the close of this Mass, and it was a matter of general regret that the tempestuous weather had kept a large number of the congregation from church. The elements could hardly be more unfavorable, yet many brave and sturdy spirits proved superior to them, and gave edifying proof of the religious fervor that was in them, among the rest a goodly number of Natives.

At the 3 p.m. service, the weather having become much more propitious, there was a large congregation. After the Rosary the Archbishop gave another sermon, dwelling chiefly on the nature and effects of the Sacrament of Confirmation about to be administered, and winding up with an earnest appeal to the whole congregation to be faithful soldiers of Christ Jesus. The holy Sacrament of Baptism had made them members of His household; Penance had forgiven them their actual sins; the Holy Eucharist had nourished their immortal souls; and Confirmation had made them soldiers of the cause of Jesus Christ, impressing on each soul an ineffaceable seal. Altogether there were 31 candidates for Confirmation—19 school children, four converts to the faith, and eight Natives from Mangamau and South Bay. A month ago Father Melu spent a few weeks in preparing the latter for the Sacrament, and as they know the English language well, the local priest was able to hear their confessions and render them all other necessary assistance. It is worthy of remark that their demeanor at Holy Communion and at Confirmation was very edifying, being the subject of most favorable comment by the whole congregation. His Grace was greatly pleased with them. He also expressed his pleasure at the bright and intelligent examination made by the children in their catechism on Saturday. As for the Natives, all adults, so much could not be expected, and it sufficed that Father Melu had offered them for Confirmation. Their disposition seemed excellent.

It was a most busy and active day for the Sisters of the Mission. They were engaged in attending to the wants of the children and the Natives most of

the day in the school, where breakfast and dinner were prepared for all. The tables were, figuratively speaking, groaning under the weight of the many and excellent things with which they were laden. And the rousing fire was both a comfort and a real necessity, as the garments of many were in a drenched condition. A rumor circulated round that a neighboring lady in her charity and deep commiseration lent her dresses, while the brave Sisters washed and dried and ironed the clothes of the poor Maori women. The whole Dominion may be challenged to equal this touching incident, so replete with charity and compassion of the highest excellence. The Maoris will not soon forget this and other practical proofs of the goodwill shown them on the trying occasion. His Grace visited the dining hall and spoke some kind and fatherly words to the guests, who were highly pleased and honored by the visit.

The Archbishop left by the 'Whakatu' for Christchurch on Monday, May 18, in excellent health and spirits, the weather having completely changed once more into bright and cheering sunshine.

The Premier and party paid Kaikoura an official visit on May 15, and drove round the settlement with an escort of the leading citizens. The worthy member for the district, Mr. A. W. Rutherford, accompanied by the Misses Rutherford (2) and Mr. Laurensen, M.P., were among the party. All visited the Church of the Sacred Heart, while the Archbishop described the leading features of the edifice, dwelling especially on the striking beauties of the High Altar, the gift of a generous Catholic, and pronounced by his Grace to be the most beautiful and effective altar in New Zealand. After a brief address to the children in the school by Sir Joseph Ward, Father Golden called for three cheers for the Premier and Lady Ward, three cheers also for the other lady visitors, and three cheers for Mr. Rutherford, who for two terms has served the Amuri electorate with great fidelity and disinterestedness, effecting as much good as his singular zeal, tact, and talent were enabled to compass. At a banquet given to the distinguished visitors in Mr. James Mullane's Club Hotel the Archbishop was assigned a leading place and the privilege of saying grace. Later on in the evening his Grace and Father Golden occupied seats on the platform during the interesting address by the Premier. The occasion was a red-letter day for Kaikoura, and the visitors were delighted with the reception accorded them, the striking beauties of the scenery and the cheering weather to boot. Ah, that weather! how easy it would be here to philosophise on its pranks and caprices, its proverbial uncertainty. At all events, the wild weather of Sunday served to exhibit in fine relief some of the noble traits of human nature. Untoward events, disagreeable in themselves, are often blessings in disguise.

Blenheim

(From our own correspondent.)

May 18.

It is with sincere regret I have to report the death of Mr. Owen McHale, who was seriously wounded by the accidental discharge of his brother's gun whilst out duck shooting, on Wednesday evening last. He died on Thursday morning, after suffering intense agony. He was conscious to the last, and received all the rites of the Church. Mr. McHale had only been married about eighteen months, and much sympathy is felt for the sorrowing relatives. The Borough Council at its last meeting passed a vote of condolence with Mr. F. McHale, sen., also with the wife of deceased in their sad bereavement.—R.I.P.

Westport

(From our own correspondent.)

May 11.

A largely attended meeting of parishioners was held in the Catholic School room on Sunday afternoon. The Rev. Father Bergin, who occupied the chair, explained that the meeting had been convened for the purpose of taking steps to raise funds for the enlarging of the school, the attendance at which had increased to such an extent, that in the interests of the health of Sisters and children, an addition to the present building was necessary. On the motion of Mr. P. J. McKenna, seconded by Mr. Doogan, it was decided to ask the adult members of the congregation to contribute 2s 6d per month, and that lady canvassers be appointed to carry out the work. As a further means of raising funds it was also decided to hold several social gatherings at intervals, the first of which will take place on Thursday, May 21.

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