

## Napier

(From our own correspondent.)

May 17.

A meeting of the men of the parish was held last Sunday night in reference to the paying off of the balance of the cost, over and above the amount already in hand, for the rebuilding of the Marist Brothers' School. Collectors were appointed for the various districts of the town. The foundation stone of the new school was laid yesterday morning, the members of the building committee being present. Rev. Father Goggan performed the ceremony of blessing the stone, under which were placed coins of the realm, and copies of the daily papers and 'N.Z. Tablet.' Mr. P. Gleeson placed a cheque for £50 on the stone for the building fund. The building is to be out of the contractors' hands by July 15.

Mr. and Mrs. Daniel O'Rourke, prior to leaving Napier for their new home in Pahiatua, were entertained at a social gathering by their numerous friends. Rev. Father O'Connor spoke of the great assistance Mr. and Mrs. O'Rourke had given to the Catholic Church during their residence here, and the regret felt at their departure. Rev. Father O'Connor, on behalf of those present, handed Mr. O'Rourke a handsome travelling rug, and Mrs. O'Rourke a silver cake basket and butter dish. Mr. O'Rourke thanked all for their great kindness. Mr. O'Rourke was also the recipient of a solid silver tea service from the members of the legal profession. Mr. F. Logan (President of the Hawke's Bay Law Society), in making the presentation, referred to the regret felt by the Bar at the departure of Mr. O'Rourke from Napier, but was pleased at his promotion to the position of Clerk of the Court at Pahiatua. The presentation was inscribed: 'Presented to D. O'Rourke, Esq. by the legal profession on his leaving Napier, May 13, 1908.'

In a detailed account of a successful meeting of Glasgow Nationalists, pleasing reference is made by a Belfast newspaper to a speech by Mr. James Gleeson, son of Mr. P. Gleeson, of this town, and late secretary of the Catholic Club, and who left Napier last year as financial manager of the New Zealand Professional Football Team to tour England. Mr. Gleeson was introduced to the Glasgow audience of 3000 by Mr. Joseph Devlin, M.P. The newspaper, after referring to the reception accorded the New Zealander, goes on to say:—The reason was pleasant and creditable to that bond of nationality which prompted the audience to accord the splendid type of manhood before them a reception of which any man might well feel proud. They welcomed Mr. Gleeson as a son of an exile of Erin, and they received him as a living proof of the pathos of the story which tells of the millions who have to fly to all corners of the earth from the cradleland of the race. Mr. Gleeson proved himself to be very much more than a visitor, for in a few minutes he had the ear of his audience and disclosed himself to be a ready platform speaker with a singularly pleasing style. To a delighted gathering the New Zealander told of the love for the Old Land in his antipodean country, and declared in passionate tones that, large as had been the response to the mission of Messrs. Devlin and Donovan, it would be extended should the necessity arise. In years to come Mr. Gleeson will make a big name for himself, but in the dizzy heights of that success he may well look back with pride and pleasure to the reception given him at that meeting on March 17, 1908. Writing on March 27, a London correspondent says:—Mr. Gleeson has been approached by several leading members of the Irish Party to stand for a seat in the House of Commons at the next election, or earlier if circumstances would permit. Mr. Gleeson will return to New Zealand in about two months, but will return to England in 1909.

## Reefton

(From our own correspondent.)

May 14.

Sir Joseph and Lady Ward arrived in Reefton on Saturday afternoon, May 9, and were met at the railway station by the reception committee and warmly welcomed.

On April 24 there was a very large attendance at the Convent School concert in the Theatre Royal. The concert opened with a well-played duet by Misses M. and R. McKittrick. The following item was a cantata entitled 'Scot and the Fairies,' in which the characters were taken by Misses M. Scarlett and S. Kirwin, Masters W. Dunphy, L. Horton, J. Muldoon, L. Dew, R. Kirwin, and J. Kirwin. The remainder of the pro-

gramme was as follows:—Song, the infant class; march and song, the junior boys; ring drill by the junior girls; vocal duet, Masters Knowsley and J. Minihan; 'The jesters' frolic,' boys; dance, junior girls; vocal duet, Misses Rivers and Malloy; descriptive song, girls; recitation, Master Leigh Dew; chorus, senior girls; pianoforte solo, Miss Malloy; vocal duet, Misses M. Osborne and D. Sunderland; violin solo, Miss Dorothy Sunderland; dance, 'Gavotte,' Misses Scarlett, Muldoon, Rodgers, Rivers, McMahon, Osborne, and Rodden. The concert closed with the farce, 'A Musical Surprise,' which was taken part in by Masters Dunphy, Horton, Knowsley, and Misses M. Malloy and G. Duncan. During the evening the Rev. Father Galerne thanked the audience for their patronage. Altogether a most pleasant evening was spent.

## Waihi

(From our own correspondent.)

May 16.

The Academy of Music was crowded last night with an audience delighted with the choice programme submitted by the Convent School pupils.

Each part of the programme was opened by pianoforte duets played with good expression and taste by Misses Garvey and McAnulty, while Misses Anderson and Olsen, junior pupils, gave the items 'Pax in terra' and 'Gathering flowers.' The girls sang the very tuneful chorus songs, 'Come o'er the moonlit sea' and 'Mill May' with great correctness and sweetness of tone, and in the action songs, 'The orange grove' and 'Japanese tea house,' the graceful movements and pretty costumes had a very picturesque effect. In the dances the girls were very successful. The boys contributed a chorus song with vigor and earnestness, while in the dumbbell exercises the boys went through the various movements with unity and precision. The programme concluded with the cantata 'The White Garland,' a very appropriate and instructive work. The melodies of the cantata were very tuneful and were well sung by about 40 children taking part. The concert was in every measure a great success, and the children are to be complimented on their performance, while the Sisters have reason to be pleased with such an exhibition as the result of their careful preparation and training.

At the conclusion the Very Rev. Father Brodie thanked the children and Sisters for their efforts to assist the work of St. Joseph's Church and school, and also thanked the audience for the generous patronage they had extended, and announced that the financial results of the concert were estimated to surpass all previous records.

## Death of a Marist Brother

By the last mail from Europe, news has come of the death of the Rev. Brother Climaque, third Assistant to the Superior-General of the Marist Brothers. His death took place towards the end of March, at Giugiasco, Italy, the present headquarters of the Brothers. Though he was ailing for some time, his illness was not deemed serious, and nobody anticipated that a career marked by strenuous labors, great ability, and dutiful devotedness, would end as soon and as suddenly as it did. Before the suppression of the Order in France, the Province of the North was committed to his charge. It numbered about 1000 Brothers, to whom he devoted himself without stint, and by whom he was greatly beloved in return. Their dispersion by the French Government tried him sorely and afflicted him much. In order to find a new field for them to labor in, he turned his eyes to distant lands, and found that Southern Brazil needed teaching Brothers. An opportune invitation from the ecclesiastical authorities there came to hand, which was gladly accepted, and within a short time over 100 members of his Province were imparting a Christian education to over 2000 children in that hitherto somewhat neglected region. At the beginning of last year he was delegated by the General of the Brothers to visit the newly-formed district. It proved a laborious task. In going from one establishment to another, he was forced to travel long distances on horseback over rough and roadless country, exposed to the tropical heat by day, and to the want of proper accommodation by night. Though a man of herculean build, his health suffered considerably from the hardships he endured, and when he returned to Italy he became seriously indisposed by an illness from which he never quite recovered, and from which he died, leaving in the ranks of the Brothers a void not easy to fill.