

## DIOCESE OF CHRISTCHURCH

(From our own correspondent.)

June 1.

His Lordship the Bishop is not expected to return from South Canterbury for a few weeks.

On Sunday last the Very Rev. Father Price, Adm., celebrated Mass at Glentunnel and Darfield.

Arrangements are well advanced for the bazaar in connection with St. Mary's parish, Manchester street, which is to be opened on August 11. Mr. William Densem, who was most successful on a former occasion, has been entrusted, together with Mr. Wauchop, with the entertainment portion of the carnival, and there appears every indication of the undertaking being most successful.

After Mass in the Cathedral on the feast of the Ascension, the boarders at the convent of the Sisters of the Missions, Barbadoes street, to the number of sixty, were the guests for the day of Mr. and Mrs. P. Burke at their residence, Cashmere Hills, where a most enjoyable time was spent. The host and hostess provided most hospitably for the occasion, and their thoughtful action elicited the sincere appreciation of the Sisters and their charges.

## DIOCESE OF AUCKLAND

(By telegraph from our own correspondent.)

June 1.

Rev. Father Holbrook is recuperating in Waikato after his recent severe illness. He is expected to return to the city this week. His many friends will rejoice at his convalescence.

St. Benedict's was last night (Sunday) filled, when the parish was consecrated to our Blessed Lady. Father Brennan preached a fine sermon on devotion to the Blessed Virgin. Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament followed, and the service was most impressive. At the Cathedral a large congregation assembled in the evening. Father Farthing preached an instructive discourse on devotion to Mary, and exhorted all to practise it.

A most instructive and interesting lecture was given on last Monday evening by Father Edge. The subject was 'The Introduction of Christianity into Rome.' The lecture was under the auspices of the Marist Brothers' Old Boys' Club. The president (Brother George) presided, and the Hibernian Hall was well filled with ladies and gentlemen. The lecturer depicted Rome in all its mighty grandeur, its advancement in the arts of building and road-making, the oratory and brilliance of its leaders, their world-wide conquests, and the subjugation of every people upon whom they laid their hands. But behind all this paganism, debauchery, extravagance, and all unmentionable crimes ran rampant; millions were squandered to gratify the morbid tastes of the populace; human lives were of no value; the known world was Roman, and Rome defied the world. Their strength had been tested, and through many an ordeal it had triumphed. A lonely wanderer on the Appian Way had said: 'Rome shall be humbled, and shall follow in the league of the Cross.' He was laughed at, and considered mentally affected. Slowly but surely the seed of Christianity, watered in martyrs' blood, gathered and spread; it took many centuries to accomplish. In graphic and inspiring language the lecturer described Constantine's overwhelming victory, against four to one in numbers, over the Roman legions, the body of whose general floated dead in the Tiber when the battle of the Pons Milvius was over.

Amidst rounds of applause the lecturer resumed his seat. A vote of thanks was proposed and seconded by Messrs. Knight and Mulholland. Brother George, before putting the motion, agreed that all present had been afforded a rare treat, one which none of them would care to miss. Father Edge briefly returned thanks, and said if he had succeeded a little in interesting them in the story of the Church he was amply rewarded. Every page and place of her history were intensely interesting—none more so. He advised them to study it, and their reward would be great.

During the interval songs were rendered by Mr. Owen Pritchard, recitations by Mr. Harry Herbert and Mr. Alan Mollwain. Mr. Harry Hiscocks played the accompaniments.

During the current month Messrs. Brown, Ewing, and Co., Dunedin, are giving grand bargains in winter goods, such as mantles, jackets, costumes, blouses and skirts, ladies' and children's millinery, corsets, and baby linen, etc....

## How Some French Nuns Live

It was shown recently (says the New York 'Freeman's Journal') that many of the priests of France, when thrown upon their own resources, owing to the Law of Separation, more than contrived to make ends meet, some of them being able even to come to the aid of their less fortunate brethren in other parts of the country. It is interesting to note, too, that many of the dispossessed nuns who had not taken their vows, and whom it was found by the heads of various Orders impossible to house, owing to the restricted space at their disposal, consequent on the exodus of so many religious from France, are also doing much better than might have been expected under the untoward circumstances.

It is quite certain, says a writer in 'La Croix,' that the great majority of those who found it necessary to earn their livelihood have adopted such professions as were kindred to the vocations which they had originally wished to espouse. Many, for example, crossed the Channel and betook themselves to training establishments for nurses in England, where the profession of hospital nurse is not only held in high esteem, but is also fairly remunerative. Among the nurses of Great Britain may be found members of the nobility and considerably greater numbers of the daughters of the middle classes and the well-to-do, than there are in the Protestant convents, relatively to the small number of the latter. The French Catholic hospitals of London and the greater cities have given positions to many nuns who have been forced to leave their houses in France. Many have crossed the frontier into Belgium, where they have, however, met with a certain amount of persecution, which if not overt, has at least caused them many annoyances. The anti-Catholics of Ghent are clamoring for the visitation by municipal authorities of all the houses, and those scenes of anti-clericalism which we read of as being enacted at the present moment in the Eternal City, are frequently being repeated even among the people of this most Flemish and Catholic of Belgian cities.

Teaching has naturally claimed many of them. There are at present teaching in minor schools of Rhenish Germany, and also in England, lay Sisters who had taken advantage of their convent days to acquire a fuller knowledge of their own and other languages. China-painting seems to have been chosen by many of the dispossessed ladies as a means of enabling them to live. Many in Lyons and Paris have obtained positions as pattern-drawers, and not a few have been employed as embroiderers in many of the church-vestment houses of London, Brussels, Aix-la-Chapelle and Cologne. It is of interest to learn that the anti-clerical spirit stops where the possibility of gain enters into the calculations of proprietors of large business establishments; and employers of labor. The services of former lay Sisters are found by many of the houses to be thoroughly reliable, and where expert handiwork is available, it is found that their ability exceeds that of the ordinary young women, by many measures. Thus where gold-embroidery work is called for, the deft fingers of the former nun often, if not always, excels that of the professional expert.

And the wages? Naturally, advantage is taken of the lack of business experience of these poor ladies; and the salaries paid them for their labor rarely amounts to more than a living wage; in most cases, indeed, the figures do not allow the wage-earner to indulge in the luxury of a full meal more than twice or three times a week, after she has paid for the rent of her naturally humble lodging. Thus 15 francs a week, or 12s 6d, is considered an acceptable figure by these ladies who can only give as their experience that which was acquired inside the convent walls. In the majority of cases, however, 50 francs a month—or £2—is considered acceptable; so the existence of such laborers may be better imagined than described.

It cannot be said of any dispossessed nun, says our writer, that she has, even when the opportunity existed and the necessity arose, taken to a worldly life in which temptations exceeded the opportunity for exercises of piety. It is declared that several ex-seminary students have availed themselves of their vocal and histrionic talents, to adopt a stage or concert-hall career. But no nun has been known to adopt a career which did not coincide with her original aspirations for a life of calm and good works.

Highlander Condensed Milk has, among many good qualities, two main points to recommend it—it is a perfectly pure article, and it is a local product....