

I thank you from my heart for your cordial welcome and handsome present. —I shall never forget you in Auckland.

Short speeches were made by Mr. Hall and others eulogistic of the Emmet family, and expressing delight at meeting a representative of it. Irish songs were sung by Madame Casier, Messrs. Lonergan and Pritchard. The proceedings closed with the whole company rising and singing 'God save Ireland.' Ensign Emmet then left for the Connecticut, several of those present accompanying him to the ship's side in a steam launch.

Ensign Emmet is to be the guest of Cardinal Moran in Sydney, where a great reception will no doubt be given him. His father is Colonel Temple Emmet, of New York.

## WORK OF THE CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

### WELLINGTON EDUCATION BOARD'S REPORT FOR 1907

(Contributed.)

The following figures are extracted from the Wellington Education Board's Summary, showing for the public and also the Catholic schools of the above district the Sixth Standard examination results for the year 1907:—

| I  | II                 | III            | IV      | V                       | VI                          | VII                        | VIII  | IX   |
|--|--------------------|----------------|---------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|---|--|
|  | Average Attendance | No. of Schools | On Roll | Present at Examinations | Certificates of Proficiency | Certificates of Competency | No. on roll to every one Certif. of Proficiency | No. examined to every one Certif. of Proficiency |
| All the Public Schools                     | 1-930              | 159            | 16,936  | 15,466                  | 762                         | 353                        | 22.2  | 20.3   |
| All the Public Schools with average 61.280 | 61-280             | 32             | 4,014   | 4,356                   | 212                         | 91                         | 23.1  | 20.5   |
| All the Catholic State examined Schools    | 62-307             | 9              | 1,339   | 1,199                   | 63                          | 18                         | 21.2  | 19.0   |

Columns VIII. and IX. are not official, but are got by dividing columns IV. and V. respectively by columns VI. Thus, for example, column IX. shows that in all the State schools one proficiency certificate was awarded for every 20.3 children examined; whereas in the Catholic schools every 19 children

examined produced the same result. Again, lest it might be alleged unfair to compare Catholic schools at all with the large number of small back-block schools in the district, a comparison has been made between Catholic schools and all the public schools of practically the same size. Even here the results are still more in favor of Catholic education, the numbers being the same—19 and 20.5. Attention may also be called to the comparative preponderance of proficiency certificates over mere certificates of competency in the case of the Catholic schools.

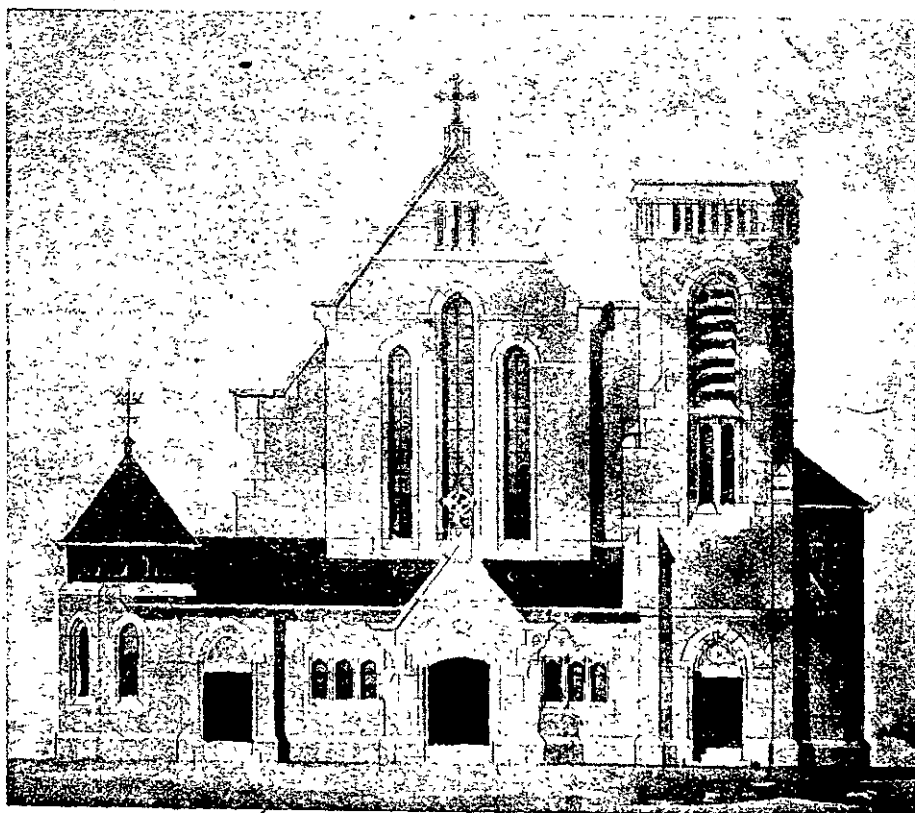
It is well known that many of the infants attending the Catholic schools are far too young to be received into the State schools, and so the rolls of the former are, in contrast with those of the latter, unduly loaded with the names of youngsters whose presence somewhat detracts from the genuine comparative value of the above figures.

On the basis of the numbers in attendance and the board's current yearly expenditure only, it is calculated that in providing for the proper education of their children the Catholic parents have incidentally saved the State no less a sum than £8000 for the year 1907 in the Wellington district alone.

Tables of Government statistics contain but little of romance, but even thoughtful non-Catholics cannot refrain from joining with us in giving a well-merited tribute of praise to our Catholic teachers, who have so completely sacrificed self upon the hard altar of duty. Unnoticed, unpraised, unrewarded; no more influenced by the coming and going of Governments and Ministers, than by the ebb and flow of the tide, year in and year out, they keep the even tenor of their way—models of earnestness of purpose, to be followed at a respectful distance by those who have not received the same sacred call.

### New Catholic Church at Kilbirnie

The Catholics of Kilbirnie (writes our Wellington correspondent) are to be commended for the zeal that has inspired them to set about erecting a church, a view of which appears on this page. It will be seen that the building is one of beautiful design, and so modelled as to meet in a fitting manner the requirements of this growing suburb. The church is the only one about here to bear the name of Ireland's patron saint. The nave will measure 77ft in length by 31ft in width, with two aisles, each 5ft wide. It is intended later to add two side chapels and other accommodation, which will make the edifice one of the most up to date and best appointed in the Dominion. Mr. Youelle is the architect. The Ven. Arch-deacon Devoy has already received a number of subscriptions from his friends throughout the Dominion to aid him in his latest laudable undertaking, and he will be pleased to acknowledge further donations.



NEW CHURCH AT KILBIRNIE