

district. A beautiful triumphal arch, erected under the direction of Mr. James Poff, jun., was placed at the entrance to the church grounds. In the church the Bishop was welcomed by the pastor, and expressed his pleasure to be amongst the faithful people of Akaroa, the oldest parish in his diocese, and the spot where Holy Mass was first offered in the South Island. His Lordship assisted at the mission services on Friday evening. On Sunday last the visitation of the parish took place at 10 o'clock. In the afternoon at 3 o'clock a number of candidates received the Sacrament of Confirmation. The Rev. Father O'Connell, S.M., proceeded to Little River on Saturday morning, and in the afternoon and evening had special devotions. Mass was celebrated on Sunday, and preparations made for the reception of his Lordship the Bishop on Wednesday, the 26th, when several will be confirmed.

### Timaru

(From our own correspondent.)

August 24.

Mr. J. Fitzgerald, who has severed his connection with the Canterbury Farmers' Co-operative Association, to take up an important position in the North Island, was the recipient of a valuable gun and travelling bag. In making the presentation, Mr. J. O. Newman (manager) referred to Mr. Fitzgerald's efficient services and his attention and industry during the twelve years he had been in the firm's employment, and concluded with wishing him success in his new sphere. The heads of the various departments endorsed these remarks, and Mr. Fitzgerald suitably responded. On Tuesday night Mr. Fitzgerald was entertained by the Hibernian Society, he having been secretary of the branch for the last nine years. Mr. J. O'Leary, in proposing the toast of the guest of the evening, said that the present strong position of the branch, both in numbers and finance, was directly attributable to their departing secretary. Most of the members present spoke to the toast, and referred to Mr. Fitzgerald's geniality and good fellowship, and the readiness with which he always assisted every good work. Mr. Fitzgerald was then handed a purse of sovereigns as a token of the members' esteem and appreciation of his sterling services, and he made a feeling reply. Mr. Fitzgerald was educated at the local Catholic school, and has taken a prominent part in rowing and football circles. His departure will be keenly missed by a wide circle of friends.

The South Canterbury Schools finished their football season with the usual seven-aside tournament on Saturday last. The Brothers' boys competed in each of the four grades, and were successful in winning one and being runners-up in two. The following are the winning seven:—Hay, O'Meehan, L. and J. Kane, Murphy, McKenzie, and Feeley.

### Oamaru

(From our own correspondent.)

August 24.

The Rev. Father O'Brien left Oamaru for the north on Thursday last. Rev. Father O'Neill returned from Queenstown at the end of the week.

A mock banquet was held at the Catholic Club rooms on Friday last, when there was a good attendance of members. The president (Mr. T. O'Grady) occupied the chair, and at the close of the programme complimented the members on the progress they had made in public speaking. Many toasts were honored, that of 'The Chairman' being enthusiastically received. During the evening vocal and other items were contributed as follow:—Songs, Messrs. H. Diver, T. Ford, W. Griffiths; recitations, Messrs. E. Barry, Jno. Griffiths, and James Wallace. The usual compliment to the chair concluded a very pleasant evening.

### Valedictory to Father Peoples, S.M.

(From our Christchurch correspondent.)

The Hibernian Hall was crowded to excess on last Monday evening, on the occasion of a farewell complimentary social gathering tendered to the Rev. Father Peoples, S.M., who, as one of the assistant priests at the Cathedral during the past three years, by his assiduous attention to duty, had greatly endeared himself to the people, and who is now being transferred to the North Island. Among those present were his Lordship

Bishop Grimes, the Very Rev. Father Price, Adm., Rev. Dr. Kennedy, Rev. Fathers Cooney, Moloney, S.M., and Hoare, S.M. A choice musical programme was contributed to by Misses Moloney, M. O'Connor, and F. Gardiner, Rev. Father Moloney, and Messrs. A. Young, W. Schwartz, Hollow, and Hawke (songs), and Mr. Munnings (mandoline solo).

Mr. E. O'Connor, J.P., who presided, said that some friends of the Rev. Father Peoples, feeling that he should not be permitted to leave the scene of his three years' self-sacrificing and devoted labors without at least a modest recognition of his fruitful work in their midst, had decided upon the present gathering. He felt keenly the difficult and delicate task allotted him. Praise would be distinctly out of place, as Father Peoples, like all others in the sacred ministry, came to do duty, and expected no recognition or reward. In the present instance, however, some of those duties stood out in such strong relief in their performance that he felt, in common with all composing the large gathering, impelled to make allusion to them. Father Peoples' attention to the sick, and his consoling ministrations to the dying, were foremost in this connection. He assured Father Peoples that he left the city with the best wishes of grateful friends, whose prayers would go with him, and who would, one and all, feel a deep and lasting interest in his future. Mr. O'Connor then presented Father Peoples with a substantial purse of sovereigns.

His Lordship the Bishop said he was pleased to find that Father Peoples had merited their recognition of his worth and work. To his Lordship's knowledge he was a devoted priest, and time after time, night after night, after his other duties, and often in the very early morning, when answering a message, he had found Father Peoples already away on a sick call. At the hospital many a soul owed comfort, strength, and consolation to Father Peoples. His chief characteristic was devotion to the sick, which was the glory of the priesthood. Even contagious diseases were no barrier, and he had good reason to know that time after time, when the call came, he did not hesitate to reason why, but at the call of duty realised his place to be at the bedside of the suffering and dying. To his ministrations many souls owed the gift of faith. Whilst tempted to speak of all Father Peoples had done, he (his Lordship) regretted that circumstances over which he had no control necessitated his departure. Wishing him many years of health and strength in the divine ministry he would from none receive a more hearty and cordial welcome than from himself should he return to the Christchurch diocese.

Father Peoples, who was most warmly greeted on rising to reply, assured the assemblage that this manifestation of their kindly feeling came as an overwhelming surprise. A little over three years ago he came here quietly, and he had hoped he would be allowed to quietly depart, but his hopes in this respect were not realised. He was exceedingly grateful to his Lordship the Bishop for presiding, and the motives which urged him to come that night. He sincerely thanked the committee, who had so ably organised and carried out such an exceedingly pleasant event, and also those who had so well assisted in the musical programme. Looking back as he did over his term of service in this city, coming almost fresh from the hands of the ordaining prelate, he felt then how crude and unfitted he seemed for the great work before him. With strength of spirit and undaunted courage the ordeal was faced. Mistakes were made, but these had their advantage in ensuring greater care next time. The greatest joy and consolation to the Lord's anointed is to realise they are recognised as such, and also the work carried on by the priests of the Church. These are some of the consolations of religion. Speaking to the people here for probably the last time, he would say how much he venerated those aged ones amongst them whose years of experience were invaluable, and to whom he was grateful for what they had taught him. There were representatives of all classes, whose very presence was a recognition of sympathy in his work during the past. The Bishop of Christchurch had been a true friend to him, and he could not adequately express his gratitude to him. He owed much also to his fellow-priests, past and present, whose kindness and consideration he would never forget. To-night was the hardest he had ever experienced, harder even than when he first left home, and he keenly felt a pang of regret at parting.

Light refreshments were provided in abundance by a ladies' committee, and handed round.

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