

the Children of Mary, and also the brown scapular. Each of them was attended by Mrs. Mackin, of Wellington, their kind friend and benefactress, to whom in the morning they had extended a very affectionate reception. The girls should never forget her kindness, and they will associate with her name in their gratefulness that of Dr. McDonald, of Wellington.

In the evening the grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes on the Pukekarakā Hill was illuminated in commemoration of the jubilee of the apparitions at Lourdes (1858-1908). This was the work of Father Melu. Father Regnault addressed the gathering from the grotto on the wonders effected at Lourdes, and also on devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary. On Sunday evening after devotions the Maori etiquette was timed for farewell speeches. The chiefs and catechists expressed their gratitude to our worthy Provincial, to the priests, to all their benefactors, and to all the tribes represented in the meeting. Mr. J. R. McDonald, Fathers Melu, Maillard, and Delach responded at some length. Very Rev. Dean Regnault (whose remarks were interpreted by Mr. J. R. McDonald) expressed his deep satisfaction at the good spirit evinced by all during the meeting, and also at the results of the retreat. He eulogised the work done by the priests, and all those who organised or helped the meeting. Judging from what he could see and hear, he could safely say that assemblies of that kind went a long way towards the improvement of the Maoris' religious condition. They should be held as often as possible, and they would meet his hearty support. Later on he expressed the thanks of all for the manner in which Mr. J. R. McDonald had assisted the priests during the whole meeting. Te Rikihana, in bidding us farewell, announced that a church meeting would be held in Hokianga on next Christmas Day, and that he would expect some representatives from the tribes to be present. At the last prayers Father Cognet said that before leaving Otaki all visitors should gather once more at the foot of the altar, and there assist at Mass for the repose of the souls of their chiefs, catechists, and relations—so a remembrance of the faithful departed was the last function of this excellent Maori meeting.

OAMARU

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

August 31.

At St. Patrick's Hall on Friday evening last the members of the Catholic Club gave an 'At home' to their lady friends. The function proved the most enjoyable and successful of its kind yet held. The club rooms were tastefully decorated, and during the progress of the euche-tournament, which occupied the first part of the programme, presented a very animated spectacle. Amongst those present were the Right Rev. Mgr. Mackay and Rev. Father O'Neill. Misses Lavery and McMahon tied for first prize, the latter winning in the play-off. The other prizes fell to Miss Magee and Mr. J. Griffiths. At the conclusion of the euche party supper was partaken of, after which Monsignor Mackay delighted the audience with some excellent selections from his fine gramophone. The president (Mr. T. O'Grady), on behalf of the club, moved a hearty vote of thanks to Monsignor Mackay for the honor done them by his presence during the evening, and for the pleasure his gramophone selections had given. Monsignor Mackay congratulated the club on their progressiveness. Vocal and other items were then given as follow: Piano-duet, Misses N. Cagney and N. Corcoran; vocal duet, Misses Cagney and Conlon; recitation, Miss O'Donnell; song, Mr. W. O'Leary; song, Miss A. Magee; recitation, Mr. Barry; song, Mr. Ford. A vote of thanks to the president, and also to the decoration committee (Messrs. Breen, Cagney, and Wallace), was carried by acclamation, after which the proceedings were brought to a close by the singing of 'Auld lang syne.'

Marist Brothers' School, Napier

The blessing and opening of the new Marist Brothers' School, Napier, a brief account of which appeared in our last issue, took place on Sunday, August 23. The ceremony (says the *Daily Telegraph*) was made the occasion of a great Catholic demonstration. A procession was formed at St. Patrick's Church and paraded through the principal streets of the town to the school in Shakespeare road. The procession was headed by the Battalion Band, and included the children attending the Marist Brothers' School and the Convent, members of the Hiber-

nian Society, the Catholic Club, Old Boys' Football Club, and the general body of the Catholic community and the clergy. The procession was received at the school gate by Brother Phelan. In addition to his Grace the Archbishop of Wellington, who officiated, there were also present Very Rev. Dean Smyth (Hastings), Rev. Fathers Goggan and O'Connor (Napier), Rev. Fathers Tymoens and H. McDonnell (Meanee), and Brothers Phelan, Virgilius, and Fidelis. At the conclusion of the ceremony of blessing and opening the school his Grace the Archbishop addressed the gathering from a raised platform, on which were seated Rev. Father Goggan, S.M., the Mayor (Mr. J. Vigor Brown), and Mr. Westall (a member of the Napier High Schools Board of Governors). Amongst other gentlemen present were Messrs. S. Carnell, J. B. Fielder, W. J. McGrath, P. Gleeson, R. P. Clarkson, and M. L. Gleeson.

His Grace, in the course of his address, said: 'I am proud to be here to-day before this vast assemblage and to see the very large body of Catholics who formed that splendid procession through the city of Napier. It was a profession of your faith and an expression of your conviction of the necessity and great importance of a truly perfect Christian education. This fine school, which has been erected is an example of what is being done by every Catholic body, for what can be said of this city can be said of many others throughout the whole Dominion. This school is only a specimen of hundreds of others. What have those schools cost? They have cost very large sums of money. From whose pockets has that money come? It has come from the pockets of the Catholic body, and very often it had come from the pockets of the poor. In many cases it has been the hard-earned wages of the workman. This expenditure of money is a proof, and the strongest proof, that can be given of the sacrifice and the faith and conviction that exist regarding the importance of a perfect Catholic education.' Continuing, his Grace said that great efforts supported great causes. The erection of schools by Catholics implied their affection for their children and the desire that their little ones should be so trained as fully to realise and perform the whole duties of manhood and womanhood—so trained in the principles of the noblest and strictest morality as to fit them not only for this world, but for the world to come. This principle had actuated them not only in this Dominion, but throughout Australia and the great Republic of America, where they found magnificent schools and convents built by the Catholic body in order to perfect a religious education combined with a secular one. They wanted the whole man to be formed. They wanted to shape their young people so that they might be capable for the business of this world and happy in the world to come. That was the problem of the Catholic Church, and was it not a perfect one? A short time ago a fire had destroyed the Marist Brothers' School here, but the Catholics of Napier had shown what they could do by erecting a new one. He desired to congratulate them upon their achievement, and also to express his appreciation of the efforts of the parish priest (Father Goggan). He wished also to extend his congratulations to the architect, Mr. W. P. Finch, and to the contractor, Mr. John Griffin. He desired to acknowledge the sympathy of others who were not of the same persuasion as themselves, and drew attention to the presence with them of his Worship the Mayor of Napier, who was shortly to address the gathering. His Grace concluded by reading the following telegram sent from Wairoa by Mr. A. L. D. Fraser, M.P., to the Rev. Father Goggan: 'It is with considerable regret that I am unable to accept your invitation to be present at the ceremony of opening your new and extended school. May I be permitted to congratulate you and those associated with you on the self-reliance, courage, and patriotism displayed in the great arena of education—an arena that must solidify and mould the future of Church and State, and be to the glory of the great Creator.'

The Mayor said that it gave him very great pleasure to be present at the opening of the splendid new Marist Brothers' School. He was there in his position as Mayor of the city, and desired to congratulate the Catholics of Napier, not only on the splendid building they had erected, but also on the fact that they had erected it so speedily. It seemed but a few months ago that the old school was partly burned down, and the prompt erection of the new building showed how earnestly the work had been taken up by the Catholic people. Everybody knew that the Catholics had shouldered responsibilities that no other denominations did; they had to do so because of the present state of the law. They had assumed those responsibilities, and the result was already to be seen. In this city they had proof of the education received by men in the town from the Marist.

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