

the Egyptian bondage.' To those exiles the United States became the Promised Land. They found there freedom, contentment, and happy homes, and it is pleasant to record that in every department of State and in every walk of life those exiles and their descendants have proved themselves grateful, energetic, and enlightened citizens.

The Church in Australasia.

It will be pleasing to you to know that in our own fair Australian land religion may lay claim to no less progress. A hundred years ago it would be idle to go in search of anything bordering on civil or religious liberty in Australasia. In all the vast territories designated by that name there was no church, no school, and there was no priest to break the Bread of Life to the Catholic wayfarer or to impart to the dying convicts the consolations of religion. The lot of the scattered, suffering Catholics was the more unendurable, as they were ordered to assist at the Protestant service, and should they refuse 40 lashes awaited them. In their last moments their hearts were embittered by the thought that enforced Protestantism would be the lot of their orphan children. Even ten years later than that centenary date, when a zealous priest made his way to this city, eager to spend his life in bringing the blessings of religion to his suffering countrymen, he was treated with contumely by the authorities, thrown into gaol, and sent back to London a prisoner.

In common with the whole Catholic body throughout the British Empire in 1829, we partook, in some measure at least, of the blessings which emancipation conferred; but so blind was the bigotry, and so intense the anti-Catholic prejudices which everywhere held sway, that it took at least two decades of years for the principles of civil and religious liberty to assert their place, and for religious equality to be established amongst us. To-day religion keeps pace with the material development and progress of this vast territory, and in the fervent spirit of union, piety, devotedness, and generosity our faithful people will not yield to any nation in Christendom.

I have dwelt, at some length on, the great benefits that have accrued to Ireland through the moral influence of your great nation. There are still, however, many grievances to be redressed, many victories to be achieved. May we not hope that the same beneficent influence which has been so effectually exercised in the past shall long continue to make itself felt, the better to obtain for the motherland of many of your citizens the healing measures of which it stands in need; and may we not trust that the first fruits of that salutary influence shall be the contentment, prosperity, and peace, associated with the triumph of Home Rule, which are the prized heritage of our Australian Commonwealth.

Speeches were delivered in support of the toast by the Lord Mayor of Sydney and Mr. Justice O'Connor.

Rev. Father Gleeson, in responding, said their welcome by the Catholics of Sydney would be appreciated by the non-Catholic body as well as by the Catholic body, because in America, in every movement that was for the uplifting of struggling humanity or for the promotion and well-being of the race, the Catholics and Protestants stood shoulder to shoulder. Turning to the Cardinal, Father Gleeson said on behalf of the men of the fleet he desired to again thank him. The banquet had the distinction of having 14 captains, over 120 commissioned officers, 200 chief petty officers, and 800 men present. The reason why they had not 5000 present was because the Town Hall or the Cathedral could not accommodate them. It was not too much for him to say that when the fleet left Sydney their visit would be written in gold in their memories if such a thing were possible.

NEW BOOKS

THE CHRISTIAN BROTHERS' NEW READING BOOKS.

A new series of reading books has just been published for the use of the pupils of the Christian Brothers' Schools. The series consist of a Primer, First, Second, Third, Fourth, and Fifth Readers, together with an Irish History Reader. The binding, the beautiful design on the covers, the bold, clear type, the good paper, and the numerous and highly artistic illustrations in colors and monochrome are all so attractive that one is led to examine with interest the literary matter that is deemed worthy of such a setting. The extracts are of the best literary taste, and highly interesting. We hope that these beautiful books will not be confined to the Christian Brothers' schools, for we feel that the boys and girls of our Catholic schools will be bettered by their use. The New Zealand agents are Messrs. Whitcombe and Tombs, Dunedin.

Diocesan News

ARCHDIOCESE OF WELLINGTON

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

September 5.

The Rev. Father Creagh, C.S.S.R., began yesterday a retreat for the boarders at the Convent of the Sisters of Mercy, Hill street.

On Tuesday evening next the Catholics of the Hutt are to hold a social gathering in aid of the schools. Special train arrangements have been made for the convenience of city friends.

The Rev. Father O'Connell, S.M., has been conducting a retreat for the students of St. Patrick's College. The Rev. Father begins next week a retreat for the Sisters of Compassion.

The concert on Monday evening next in aid of the Home of Compassion promises to be as successful as usual. Mr. Robert Parker has kindly arranged a varied and attractive programme of high merit.

At a meeting of the Catholics of Karori, held a few weeks ago, a committee was set up to devise ways and means for the speedy erection of a church for the district. Members of the committee are now busy with the necessary arrangements. From the tone of the meeting it could be easily gathered that the parishioners regard the erection of a church at Karori as an urgent matter, and are determined to do their best in this direction.

It has been found necessary for the Sisters of Mercy to concentrate their efforts on the schools in the city. The business of conducting schools at Petone and the Hutt has therefore devolved on the Sisters of the Mission, who will shortly enter on their new labors. Their convent will probably be located in Petone. The Sisters of Mercy have done splendid work at the Hutt and Petone, and their efforts have been heartily appreciated by residents of these localities.

Last evening members of the committee that arranged the presentation to the Very Rev. Father Keogh, S.M., B.A., met at the college to consider the report submitted by the secretary and treasurer. Mr. Martin Kennedy presided. It was announced that the total receipts to date came to £348. It was decided to have the many letters of appreciation from men of all classes and creeds throughout the Dominion bound and presented to the Rector. The latest donation with letter of appreciation was one from the Chief Justice, Sir Robert Stout. After votes of thanks had been passed to the secretary and treasurer, Messrs. F. W. Crombie and M. Kennedy respectively, the attendance of the Very Rev. Rector was requested. Mr. Martin Kennedy, in an appropriate speech, made Father Keogh a presentation of a further instalment of £30 from subscribers. Father Keogh, in a feeling reply, thanked the committee for their great kindness, and expressed his warm appreciation of what had been done to mark the occasion of his jubilee.

(From an occasional correspondent.)

August 31.

A large number of Wellington Catholic Club members paid a return visit to the St. Peter's (Anglican) Club rooms on Tuesday evening, when they were hospitably entertained by the members.

A very old identity of the West Coast and a respected member of St. Joseph's congregation, Mr. Malachi Richard Taylor, passed away at his residence in Collège street, Wellington, on Friday last. Deceased leaves a widow and family of nine, for whom sincere sympathy is felt in their bereavement. R.I.P.

The annual inter-club billiard tournament will commence on Thursday. Messrs. L. A. Frost and H. Rees will represent the Wellington Catholic Club and Mr. S. Bryce the Petone Catholic Club. The tournament has been won by Mr. George Grimstone (Civil Service Club) for the past two years, and if he succeeds in winning it this year the cup will become his property.

A concert and social gathering in aid of St. Francis' Church fund, were held in the Assembly Hall, Island Bay, on Wednesday evening. There was a large attendance, including the Ven. Archdeacon Devoy and several of the local clergy. The following contributed items:—Miss O'Neill, Messrs. Campbell and Christie, and Masters Christie, Hayden, Mackay, and Sullivan.

A very enjoyable concert, organised by the Rev. Father Finerty, was held at the Victoria Home for Incurables on Wednesday evening. Mr. W. McLaughlin was conductor, and the fol-

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