

With the increasing prosperity to all the Churches, the bigotry that has existed in Canada is gradually disappearing. Under the teachings of the Catholic Premier, Laurier, the Dominion is beginning to realise that its best hope of national salvation lies in the sinking of all discord, as the history of the United States has shown so clearly. As against the 2,500,00 Catholics, the Methodists can show 917,000 of their own members, the Presbyterians 842,000, Protestants proper 700,000, and Baptists nearly 300,000.

Regarding the feeling subsisting between Catholics and Protestants, M. Maury has to say that, in theory, the attitude of armed neutrality is still in existence. The French Canadians are wholly conservative, and view with distrust anything like centralisation. Nevertheless, in practice the most amicable relations prevail between the priest and the minister—no matter what denominations the latter belongs to. Particularly have they all united to fight the growing scourge of alcoholism.

The priests still maintain the highest reputation for piety and zeal, and (says Maury) they are, of all the Catholic priests in the Western Hemisphere, the most devout and the least worldly, while still assiduous in their parish duties.

On the whole, he concludes, the Dominion of Canada, in respect of its freedom in religious matters, has no cause to envy any other country on the face of the earth.

Diocesan News

ARCHDIOCESE OF WELLINGTON

(From an Occasional Correspondent.)

October 9.

The H.A.C.B. Society held its anniversary social gathering in the Alexandra Hall on Wednesday evening, when there was a large attendance.

A start was made on Thursday with the erection of a brick chapel for St. Bride's Convent, Masterton. The chapel will cost about £1100, and is likely to be finished by Christmas.

In the annual report of the Tourist and Health Resorts Department there is shown a decrease of 1082 visitors from overseas last year. The value of the year's tourist traffic to New Zealand is estimated at £430,000.

The third social gathering in aid of the Catholic Church building fund, Kilbirnie, was held in O'Donnell's Hall on Wednesday evening. The gathering was very successful, and the funds will be considerably augmented.

Mr. R. G. M. Park (Tiki Paaka), native interpreter, of Wanganui, a prominent member of St. Mary's Catholic Club, has announced that he will stand for the Eastern Maori electorate against the sitting member, Mr. A. T. Ngata.

Speaking at last night's valedictory social to the retiring postmaster, Mr. J. G. Price, of the Lower Hutt, the Very Rev. Father Lane spoke eulogistically of Mr. Price's personal qualities, and paid a tribute to the devotion of his wife. Mr. Price was presented with a gold watch suitably inscribed, and Mrs. Price with a silver tea and coffee service.

At the usual weekly meeting of the Wellington Catholic Club Junior Debating Society, held on Tuesday, the members engaged in an oratorical competition. The following members took part: Mr. J. McCusker (George Washington), P. McGrath (Archbishop Gould), J. O'Leary (Sir Thomas More), F. Hickinott (General Wolfe). The chairman (Mr. Moran), who acted as the judge, gave his verdict in favor of Mr. J. McCusker.

In the five-mile teams' race from the Te Aro baths to the Patent Slip and back on Saturday afternoon, Mulcahy, a member of the Wellington Catholic Club, came in first. Eight teams lined up for the start. They got away about half-past 3, Mulcahy being well in the lead. In the run home he forged ahead, arriving three-quarters of a minute before the next runner. The winning team was the Harriers, the runners-up being the Wellington Catholic Club team. Mulcahy's time was given as 23 minutes 45 seconds, which is considered a record.

The holiday promised the students of St. Patrick's College in connection with the jubilee of the Rector, Very Rev. Father Keogh, S.M., was very pleasantly spent at Day's Bay. The boys, accompanied by the members of the College staff, left Wellington early in the morning, and on arrival went to the Catholic presbytery at Rona Bay and partook of breakfast. They then adjourned to Day's Bay, where some sports were held. A record for the college in the hop, step, and jump event was put up by

James Stewart, who did 42 feet 7 inches, the previous record being 42 feet 4 inches.

Many figures which the people of New Zealand cannot ignore are given in the annual report of Dr. Mason, chief health officer, which was presented to Parliament on Wednesday; for instance, deaths in 1907 totalled 10,066, equal to 10.95 per 1000 of the population, compared with 9.31 in 1906. Of the marriages in the year 1907, 24.38 per cent. were solemnised by ministers of the Church of England, 26.23 per cent. by ministers of the Presbyterian Churches, 14.95 per cent. by ministers of the Methodist Churches, 11.22 per cent. by clergy of the Catholic Church, 7.99 per cent. by ministers of other denominations, and 15.23 per cent. by registrars.

Mr. Henry Saint-George, the Trinity College examiner, concluded the practical examinations in Wellington on Tuesday, October 6. He expressed himself as satisfied with the general excellence attained, and especially remarked upon the very high order of tuition at the St. Mary's Convent School. The following is a list of the successful convent pupils and marks obtained: Associates—Agnes Segrief, 98; May Storey, 88; Doris Haywood, 84. Certificated pianist—Gerly Blacklock, 64. Senior division—Piano honors: Irene Aicken, 86; Dorothy Norton, 82. Senior pass—Florence Dixon, 76; May Storey, 68. Senior division—Singing honors: Teresa McEnroe, 93; Rose Segrief, 91. Intermediate division—Myra Hodgins, 66; Olive Young, 63. Junior division—Piano honors: Bessie Gard, 87. Junior division (pass)—Winifred Ryan, 70; Mona Blacklock, 64; Lily Dealy, 62. Preparatory division (piano)—Bessie Martin, 80; Hilda Martin, 78. Senior division—Winner of the 'anonymous donor' medal, Irene Aicken. Junior division—Winner of the Martha Myers Memorial medal, Bessie Gard. Winifred Quill, of the Otaki Convent, with 76 marks, passed in the Preparatory Division (piano).

Greymouth

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

October 9.

The St. Columba Club's annual junior oratorical competition for a trophy donated by the executive was held in the club rooms last Monday evening. Mr. R. C. Heffernan (vice-president) occupied the chair, and there was a large attendance of members. Rev. Bro. Arthur and Messrs. C. Casey and W. H. Duffy acted as judges. The following members entered for the competition:—Messrs. A. McSherry (Defence of New Zealand), C. Carmine (St. Columba), M. Keating (Daniel O'Connell), J. Condon (Lord Nelson), and B. Rasmussen (General Gordon). The judges, in giving their decision in favor of Mr. McSherry, congratulated the speakers on the high standard of the competition, and in the course of their remarks said that with such excellent talent the club had nothing to fear in future inter-club competitions in keeping up the proud reputation it now enjoys of being the champion club of the West Coast.

Wanganui

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

The chief topic of interest amongst the Catholic community and their friends is the forthcoming bazaar, which is to be opened on November 10, in aid of the new convent building fund. The present building is both old and unsuitable, and the excellent work done for education by the Sisters of St. Joseph has evoked the admiration and sympathy not only of the Catholic community, but of many not of the fold. The bazaar promises to be one of the most successful ever held here, and the stallholders are vying with each other to make it an unqualified success. Apart from the magnificent display of ornamental and useful work, the bazaar will be rendered attractive by the various concerts to be given, and the graceful dances by the convent children and the physical exercises by the Marist Brothers' School boys.

The midwinter issue of *Our Alma Mater*, the organ of the students of St. Ignatius' College, Riverview, Sydney, has just come to hand, and, like all its predecessors, is a credit to the editors and to the institution. As is usually the case with the midwinter number, a great deal of space is devoted to a record of school work since the beginning of the year, with an account of the doings of the various clubs connected with the college. An interesting feature is a letter from Father Robert Hugh Benson in reply to some criticisms of his works by students of the college. A fac-simile of portion of Father Benson's letter is given. The illustrations in the present issue are very good, and the printing and general get-up of the magazine are all that could be desired.

GEO. T. WHITE
NOVELTIES AT LOWEST PRICES.

Importer, Watchmaker, Manufacturing Jeweller, Medallist, &c.
COLOMBO STREET, CHRISTCHURCH.
LAMBTON QUAY, WELLINGTON. Established 1875.