

look around the cemetery in which we stand we see the great harvest reaped by that indiscriminating angel of death, the young, the old, the rich, the poor, the strong, the weak all ranged around bear silent testimony to the process of the impartial harvestman, the Angel of Death. But "it is appointed unto all men once to die and after this the judgement." Scripture also tells us that "every man's work shall be tried by fire." Death, then, is the lot of all men, and what is more awful still, the judgment of the Great Judge follows. What shall we say of those who assure us that all their dear ones have gone instantly to rest in the arms of Jesus; those who cry to their Saviour and their Judge, "Nothing but myself I bring, closely to Thy cross I cling." Do they not stand self-condemned? In the parable of the "talents" Our Lord condemns them with the lazy servant. He who having got five talents, earned other five, Christ declared received a blessed reward; the earner of two talents also met with a reward; but what of the one who, getting one talent, buried it and returned it to his master. Our Saviour says this talent was taken away, and himself cast out for punishment. And yet was not the lazy servant at least just? We, Catholics, believing the word of Our Lord, and following the teaching of His Church, know that a time of purgation follows our death and our judgment. We dare not—the very best of us—hope recklessly that, with all our stains and frailties at death, we all go instantly to the arms of Him Who said, "Nothing defiled shall enter Heaven." The soldier who, fighting in the front rank, receives his wounds and is stained with the stains of battle where the conflict wages fiercest, is least fit just then to enter the august presence of his king. He must be cleansed and made ready; so we, who made the bravest stand amid the press of battle, are stained the most for that, and need the cleansing fire of purgatory to prepare us for our Master's presence. And have we any of our dear dead calling on us to-day, "Have mercy on me, at least you my friends have mercy on me, for the hand of the Lord hath touched me." Perhaps a father, a mother, a brother, a sister, perhaps a soul in punishment because of our fault or example, perhaps these call so on us to-day. What can we do to aid them? What would they have us do? We can pray for them, receive holy Communion and offer it for them, but above all we can do what blessed St. Monica begged her great son, St. Augustine, to do as she lay dying. She had wept for his return to God's true fold for thirty years, and now she had Him by her dying bed. He was of wonderful intellect; the world lay before him, soon to resound with his name. And what did she beg of him—'Remember me at the altar of God.' Do you, dear brethren, do likewise; remember your dead at God's altar, offer the holy Mass for their repose; join with the priest as he beseeches God for mercy for them. There is one other little point I commend to your attention: your dear dead lie here around; make and keep this place sacred, as it is a fitting resting place for them; be generous in your contributions, for its upkeep; have it such a place as you will like to come to pray for your dead; much there is to be done for that end, do what in you lies out of respect and reverence for the dear dead.' At the conclusion of the sermon a procession was formed, and went through the cemetery, at the same time reciting prayers for the repose of the souls of the faithful departed.

Thames

The Right Rev. Mgr. O'Reilly arrived at Thames last night (says the local *Star* of October 30), and met with a cordial reception from his many friends, who congratulated him upon his recovery and the fact that he would now be able to resume his duties at Thames. The Right Rev. Monsignor was met at the steamer by Messrs. J. Connolly, M. Whelan, J. Twohill, E. Kenny, and W. Meehan. Worthy of mention that the first visitor to the presbytery this morning was the Hon. James McGowan.

The following letter from Mr. A. Myers (Mayor of Auckland) has been received by the Right Rev. Mgr. O'Reilly:— 'Referring to our conversation of yesterday, when you desired to know whether I was willing to sell allotments 64 and 66a, facing Pollen and Queen streets, Thames, respectively, as you required same for church purposes, I now have pleasure in confirming what I intimated to you, that I should be glad to transfer these allotments to the representatives of the Church without any consideration, as a mark of my respect for you personally, and my sympathy in the good object for which you want the land. If you will instruct your solicitors to prepare the necessary deed, I shall be pleased to duly execute same on presentation.'

DIOCESE OF CHRISTCHURCH

(From our own correspondent.)

November 8.

His Lordship the Bishop made an episcopal visitation at Lincoln on Sunday.

As usual for Carnival Week there is a large influx of visitors to the city, and as a consequence the congregations at the Cathedral and other Catholic churches were considerably augmented on Sunday.

A contract for the erection of the permanent Nazareth House on the property of the Sisters of Nazareth, 'The Grove,' Sydenham, has been entered into with Mr. John Smith, builder, of this city. Mr. T. O'Connell is to be clerk of works, and probably in the near future the foundation stone will be laid by his Lordship the Bishop.

The annual appeal in aid of the funds of the Cathedral Conference Society of St. Vincent de Paul was made in the Cathedral on last Sunday. The matter was referred to at the early Masses, and at the 11 o'clock Mass the occasional charity sermon was preached by the Rev. Dr. Kennedy.

Timaru

(From our own correspondent.)

Mr. M. F. Dennehy, the H.A.C.B. Society's District Board's representative in Canterbury, has just opened a branch of this flourishing society in Geraldine under the most favorable auspices. About seventy members handed in their names, and if the initial enthusiasm is maintained a vigorous branch of the society is assured for Geraldine.

In the Trinity College musical examinations, recently held here, the Catholic teachers more than held their own. Among their results are—Miss Eileen Dennehy (teacher)—Higher, G. A. Driscoll; intermediate, F. O'Driscoll; junior, M. Power, A. C. Wood; preparatory, V. Crosbie. Miss Twomey (teacher)—N. Macsmith (senior). Miss Fitzgerald (teacher)—Intermediate—W. Baird; junior honors, E. Healy, F. Black, L. K. O'Brien; preparatory, K. Moore and L. Smith. Miss Spring—Preparatory, A. Bennett, W. Bardsley.

Waimate

(From an Occasional Correspondent.)

The following are the names of the candidates who were successful in passing examinations in practical music held by the examiner for Trinity College of Music, London, Mr. Henry Saint-George, at the Convent, Waimate. Eleven candidates were presented, and all were successful:—Preparatory—Agnes Lawlor, 80; William Craighead, 79; Mary Brosnahan, 77; Tottie Byers, 77; Madge Craighead, 74. Junior—Nettie Nicoll, 76; Minnie Kane, 76. Intermediate—Alice Jones, 78. Senior—Mary O'Connor, 84; Mary Bartos, 81. Higher examination.—Associate pianist, A.T.C.L.—Dorothy Dellahunt, 85. This pupil is only sixteen years of age, and thereby holds the distinction of being the youngest A.T.C.L. in the world: so says the examiner, Mr. H. Saint-George.

Oamaru

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

November 2.

Yesterday, being the Feast of All Saints and the general Communion Sunday for the ladies' branch of the Sacred Heart Society, large numbers approached the Holy Table at the 8.30 o'clock Mass.

The following candidates were successful at the practical examinations in music in connection with Trinity College, London, on Saturday last:—Senior Division—H. Cartwright (Miss K. Cartwright, A.T.C.L.), 85, honors. Intermediate—E. Cartwright (Miss K. Cartwright), 83, honors. Junior—M. Cartwright (Miss Cartwright), 78; L. Stevens (Miss Falconer), 69. Preparatory—E. Williams (Miss Gilligan), 86; I. Gray (Mrs. T. Hall), 84; I. McGregor (Miss Falconer), 84; T. Clarke (Miss Falconer), 83; E. Marshall (Miss Falconer), 83; C. Munro (Miss Falconer), 83; J. Marshall (Miss Falconer), 82; O. Pryor (Miss Cartwright), 80; J. Pringle (Miss Falconer), 78; J. Robertson (Miss Cartwright), 77.

A very successful meeting was held at the Catholic Club rooms on Friday evening last, when a mock banquet was given.