

The president (Mr. T. O'Grady) was chairman, and Mr. F. Mulvihill filled the position of the guest of the evening. There was a large attendance of members, including the Rev. Father O'Neill. The toast list was as follows:—'The Pope and King' (chairman), 'Army and Navy' (Mr. Jno. Griffiths), 'N.Z. Government' (Mr. J. Wallace), 'Our Guest' (Rev. Father O'Neill), 'The Catholic Club' (president), 'Catholic Education' (Mr. J. Griffiths), 'Sport' (Mr. E. Curran), 'The Choir' (Mr. F. Cooney), 'Local Affairs' (Mr. T. Cooney), 'The Press,' and 'The Ladies.' In proposing and responding to the toast of 'Our Guest' the Rev. Father O'Neill and Mr. Mulvihill respectively made very able speeches. Interspersed among the various speeches were the following items: Flute solo, Mr. J. Cagney; song, Mr. E. Curran; recitation, Mr. J. Wallace.

Miss Hannah Cartwright (pupil of Miss K. Cartwright, A.T.C.L.), who passed the senior division, gains a national prize of £5, awarded to all candidates who in the same year obtain honors in the senior division in both practical and theoretical examinations, and who are under 21 years of age at the date of the second examination. Miss H. Cartwright passed her senior theory in June last with 80 per cent.

### Blenheim

(From an occasional correspondent.)

The contract for the Father Lewis memorial school has been signed. Mr. J. McKinley, a local contractor, is the successful tenderer.

The building which is now being demolished on the Catholic property in Maxwell Road, up to the present used as a girls' school, is one of the sentimental landmarks of Marlborough (says the *Marlborough Express*). It is pleasing to note that the building itself will not be relegated to the things that have been, as it will continue a sphere of usefulness on a site further back as the practice room of the Hibernian Band. The Father Lewis memorial school will be built on the site vacated by the old school. Something of the history of the old building may be of interest to readers. It was originally the first Catholic church in the province.

In November, 1864, the Rev. Father Sauzeau arrived in Blenheim in the province of Marlborough for the purpose of forming a new establishment. With the liberal assistance of the small Catholic congregation land was procured in a healthy and beautiful situation in the southern part of the town, and the station was established in the beginning of the year 1865. It included all the province of Marlborough. The number of the Catholics was small in the beginning, but it increased steadily; they were scattered over a very extensive country.

The present St. Mary's Catholic Church in Blenheim was opened on September 14, 1878, by the Rev. Father A. Sauzeau, S.M. The old church, which had been in use since 1864, became too small, and plans for a new building were prepared by Mr. Thomas Turnbull, architect, Wellington, whereupon the present handsome church in Maxwell's Road was erected at the cost of £2500. It was in 1905 placed on a concrete foundation at a cost of £100; the sanctuary has been renovated; all the ordinary windows have given place to stained glass windows at a cost of £220, and a new porch with double doors facing Maxwell Road has been built at a cost of £120. The church has accommodation for a congregation of 600, and the Sunday services are regularly attended by fully 400 people. There are 1800 adherents in the district, which extends from Forgýth Island to Clarence Bridges, and from Blenheim to Tophouse. Churches have been erected at Blenheim, Picton, Tua Marina, and Havelock, and in the year 1904 a church was built at Seddon at a cost of £340. The Church property in Blenheim comprises six acres on the eastern side of Maxwell Road, on which the church, presbytery, new convent, and boys' school are built, and one acre and a half on the western side, where the old convent and girls' school are situated. The presbytery is a handsome two-storeyed residence, is comfortably furnished, and stands in the midst of tastefully laid-out grounds. At the rear of the church there is a large paddock, with stables for three horses used by the clergy.

Mr. J. McKinley is the contractor for the new building, and has commenced his work of demolition. Many of our old residents look upon the old building with love and reverence, as the place wherein they were united in holy matrimony. They will be pleased to hear that it will still be employed for useful purposes.

The Forty Hours' Adoration commenced in St. Mary's Church on Sunday. Solemn High Mass was celebrated by

Rev. Father Finnerty, Rev. Father O'Sullivan being deacon and Rev. Father Holley subdeacon. The Children of Mary and Hibernian Society took part in the procession. At Vespers Father Finnerty preached an impressive sermon on the Holy Eucharist. On Monday Masses were celebrated at 6, 7, and 9 o'clock. At devotions in the evening Father Finnerty again preached to a crowded congregation. On Tuesday at nine o'clock a Solemn High Mass was celebrated by Rev. Father Fay, Rev. Father Finnerty being deacon, and Rev. Father Holley subdeacon. The Adoration concluded with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. There was a large number of communicants at all the Masses; fully 500 approached the Holy Table. The members of the choir sang the music throughout very creditably, and attended consistently at the three principal Masses. The beautiful arrangement of the altar was very creditable to those responsible for the work.

### Greymouth

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

The annual meeting of St. Mary's Ladies' Cricket Club was held in St. Patrick's Schoolroom last Sunday afternoon, when there was a large attendance. The balance sheet showed a substantial credit balance. The election of officers resulted as follows:—Patron, Very Rev. Dean Carew; president, Rev. Father Taylor; captain, Miss Julia Greaney; vice-captain, Miss Kate Campbell; secretary, Miss Emily Roche; treasurer, Miss Mary Heffernan. Dean Carew promised to present a bat to the member making the most runs in matches during the season.

The current session of the St. Colomba Catholic Club was brought to a close last Friday evening, when a most successful smoke concert was held in the club rooms. There was a large attendance of members and guests. Amongst the latter was the Mayor of Greymouth (Mr. T. E. Coates) and Mr. A. A. Adams, also representatives from the various clubs in town. The president (Mr. E. Casey) occupied the chair, and a comprehensive toast-list was honored. The following were the speakers:—Messrs. E. Casey, A. A. Adams, T. P. Fogarty, J. Booth, Wm. Ryan, T. M. Heffernan, T. E. Coates, W. H. Duffy, J. Griffen, R. C. Heffernan, P. J. Smyth, A. Sharkey, A. O'Donoghue, and P. C. Heaphy. During the evening songs were contributed by Messrs. Keddie, Mulcahy, Minton, King, and Egden, and recitations by Messrs. B. J. Phillips, O. Egden, P. J. Smyth, E. Casey, and J. Sherwood.

The St. Colomba Club's annual oratorical competition took place in the club rooms last Monday evening, when there was a large attendance of members and their friends. Rev. Bro. Arthur (vice-president) occupied the chair, and Mr. T. E. Coates (Mayor of Greymouth) and Mr. A. A. Adams (head master Greymouth Public School) acted as judges. The following competitors took part:—Messrs. P. J. Smyth ('George Washington'), A. Fraser ('Michael Davitt'), E. Casey ('Daniel O'Connell'), A. O'Donoghue ('Oliver Goldsmith'), W. H. Duffy ('Michael Davitt'), A. McSherry ('Defence of New Zealand'), and T. M. Heffernan ('Robert Emmet'). The judges, in giving their decision in favor of Mr. E. Casey, congratulated the competitors on the high standard of the various speeches. The winner receives a handsome gold medal presented by the executive, also the handsome diploma of merit presented by the Federal Executive. An additional interest was taken in the competition, as a few months ago a beautiful honors board was placed in the club rooms, and the name of the winner of the competition is to be engraved on it. The names already on the board are: 1905, Mr. J. F. Devonport; 1906, Mr. D. F. Butler; 1907, Mr. T. J. Barry.

### Palmerston North

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Amongst the many visitors to the Show was his Grace the Archbishop of Wellington.

On Thursday, Friday, and Saturday a sale of work was held in the Zealandia Hall, which had been largely attended. There were amateur theatricals, fancy dancing, tableaux, and musical items each evening. The whole of the proceeds go towards the parish debt.

The three days' Show, for which our town is justly celebrated, terminated on Friday last, and will be long remembered for the very unseasonable weather, the worst in this respect for several years. The strong wind prevented the exhibitors in the machinery class from making anything like a true test of their various lines in motion until the afternoon of the third day.

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