

its author is known. All this is not to be met with yellow gloves and mincing accents, nor pushed at with toying thrusts of a sword of boiled leather. And we trust that, in the discharge of this sacred duty towards their flocks, those who (in Father Hickson's happy phrase) 'are privileged to be called Christ's shepherds' will ever 'show themselves alert and no hirelings.'

Notes

Our First Million

Some time ago New Zealand cast away the inchoate designation of a Colony and blossomed into a Dominion—with a big, big D. The change of designation represented a considerable measure of progress achieved; it likewise stood for confidence in the future, for faith in ourselves—for trust in God and time. To some it seemed rather grotesque that the title 'Dominion' should be applied to a young country with less than a million inhabitants. But what nations have so profoundly influenced the world's history as those two small nations, Judea and Greece? And what country exercised a greater influence upon the learning and civilisation of Western Europe in the early middle ages than did Ireland when its population must have been very considerably short of a million? New Zealand has, however, now passed her million mark: her estimated population on the last day of December was 1,008,373. It marks a further mile-post in the road of national progress.

DIOCESE OF DUNEDIN

A retreat for the members of the confraternity of Perpetual Succor, which will be conducted by a Redemptorist Father, begins in St. Joseph's Cathedral on Sunday next.

On Sunday there was Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in St. Joseph's Cathedral from the 11 o'clock Mass until Vespers, after which the usual procession took place.

The annual retreat of the clergy of the Diocese of Dunedin began at Holy Cross College, Mosgiel, on Monday evening, and is being conducted by the Rev. Father Bannon, C.S.S.R.

At a meeting held last week, at which the Rev. Father Coffey, Adm., presided, it was decided to celebrate St. Patrick's Day by the holding of an Irish national concert. A committee, of which Mr. W. P. Rodgers is secretary, was set up to make the necessary arrangements.

On Monday of last week a Solemn Requiem Mass for the repose of the soul of Mr. Richard S. Cotter, who died recently in Edinburgh, was celebrated in St. Joseph's Cathedral by Rev. Dr. Cleary, Rev. Father O'Reilly being deacon, Rev. Dr. Capra subdeacon, and Rev. Father Coffey master of ceremonies.

A Solemn Requiem Mass for the repose of the soul of the late Mr. J. Liston was celebrated at St. Joseph's Cathedral on Thursday by the Rev. Dr. Cleary, Rev. Father O'Reilly being deacon, Rev. Father Delany subdeacon, and Rev. Father Coffey master of ceremonies. There were also present in the sanctuary Rev. Fathers Ryan, Liston, Buckley, Hearn, and D. O'Neill.

On last Sunday week at Naseby a presentation of a rug, umbrella, and purse of sovereigns was made to Rev. Father Delany by Mr. Coughlan on behalf of the ladies of the congregation. On the same day at Ranfurly Mr. P. Bleach, acting on behalf of the Catholics of the various districts of the parish, presented Father Delany with a purse of sovereigns. Father Delany was also the recipient of a handsome presentation from the choir.

Diocesan News

ARCHDIOCESE OF WELLINGTON

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

February 5.

The convent schools, Petone, re-opened last Monday, and were well attended.

The half-yearly meeting of the Wellington Catholic Club will be held in the club rooms on February 22.

The final game of the billiard tournament at the Wellington Catholic Club rooms resulted in a win for J. Gibbs, who defeated H. W. Cockerill.

At a meeting held last Monday evening at Mr. Blake's residence, Wadestown, to consider the best way to raise

£50, the amount required for the first instalment of the money for the purchase of land recently obtained for the new church, the residents responded so liberally that a sum of £100 was subscribed.

On Wednesday, February 17, a social will be held in the Sydney street schoolroom in aid of the funds for the building of the church at Karori.

The annual Communion of the members of the Wellington Catholic Club will take place on Sunday, February 28, at St. Mary of the Angels' Church.

On next Sunday afternoon his Grace Archbishop Redwood will open the temporary convent for the Sisters of Notre Dame des Missions at Richmond street, Petone.

The secretary for the Home of Compassion Christmas tree and fete fund (Mr. A. Amodeo) acknowledges with thanks further sums from Mr. J. Curran, Mrs. Goulter, and Mr. Felix Ward, which brings the total up to £107 14s 10d.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament took place on Sunday at the St. Joseph's Church, Buckle street, from the last Mass until Vespers. In the evening there was the usual procession, in which the children of the parish schools and the Children of Mary Confraternity took part.

At the usual monthly meeting of the women's branch of the Sacred Heart Association (Te Aro parish), held at St. Joseph's Church on Friday evening, there were about 500 members present. Rev. Father Bartley, S.M., B.A., of St. Patrick's College, preached an impressive sermon on 'Charity.'

At a social evening held in Ross's Private Hotel last week a hearty welcome was accorded to Messrs. Connolly (of the Hutt district), Minnihan (an old pupil of the Marist Brothers' School, Wellington), and Skinner (of Auckland, a student of Holy Cross College, Mosgiel), who were on their way to Meance, where they intend studying for the priesthood.

The Wellington Catholic Club cricket team journeyed to Sefton on Saturday afternoon to play the local team, and after a very exciting and close finish they were defeated by two wickets. The Catholic Club made 37 and 53 runs, and Sefton 59 and 32 for eight wickets. For the losers T. McGovern (15 and 15), P. McGrath (10), and J. R. Hunt (10) were the highest scorers; and A. H. Casey and P. McGrath bowled splendidly.

On Wednesday, February 3, the wedding of Miss Caroline Margaret Wilkinson, daughter of Mrs. T. Wilkinson, to Mr. J. J. McGrath, solicitor, Wellington, took place at St. Francis' Church, Island Bay. The Ven. Archdeacon Devoy officiated, assisted by the Rev. Fathers Walsh, Herbert, and Herring. The bride was given away by her brother, Mr. P. Wilkinson. Mr. Thomas McGrath was the best man. After the ceremony a reception, attended by over 200 guests, was held at the residence of Mrs. T. Wilkinson, where a large marquee had been erected for the occasion. Mr. and Mrs. J. J. McGrath left for Auckland, en route to Japan and other Eastern countries, where they will make a prolonged tour.

The new brick memorial schools which have just been erected by Mrs. W. Johnston, in memory of the late Hon. Walter Johnston, in Derby street, Feilding, were opened on February 1. Accommodation has been provided for 200 children, with four large class-rooms, and an entrance hall 50ft long and 16ft wide, for drill purposes in wet weather. All the interior woodwork is finished in picked heart of rimu, except the seats and desks, which are of kauri. All the classroom walls have a handsome wooden dado all round, above which the plaster walls, etc., are finished in Keen's cement, with enriched cornices and centre pieces manufactured by the Carrara Ceiling Company. Each classroom has special hloplates and other modern conveniences, to enable the work of the schools to be satisfactorily carried out. The amount of the contract was £3000.

A retreat for all the members of the various conferences of the St. Vincent de Paul Society in the district of Wellington will begin at St. Joseph's Church, Buckle street, on February 22. The Rev. Father O'Connell, S.M., will conduct the retreat. As it is the first of its kind held in the Dominion, and as the society has over 100 members, the clergy think that it will be a great success and of much benefit to the Catholics of the district. All parishioners may attend the retreat. It will close on Sunday, February 28, when all the men belonging to the conferences are expected to approach the Holy Table and attend the quarterly general meeting of the society in the afternoon at the new hall, St. Anne's Church. At the weekly meetings of the different conferences held last week a collection was taken up, which will be sent to Brother F. L. Heydon, Superior of the Society in Australasia, who intends to present the offering on behalf of the St. Vincent de Paul Society in Australasia to his Holiness the Pope as a Jubilee offering. The Ladies' Guild of Mercy is doing exceptionally

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