

Dominion. It gave him much pleasure to receive an address from the Children of Mary. He was glad to hear that time was not diminishing, rather increasing their numbers, their fervor, and their exemplary influence among the female portion of the parish. He prayed that God would shower His blessings upon them all; but he particularly exhorted the younger members to be faithful to the rules of their society and to follow the counsels of their pastor and the advice of the nuns who presided at their meetings. If they did that they would be saved from many dangers which lay in the path of the young and inexperienced. He need not say that he was pleased with the joyous welcome he had received that day from the happy and fortunate children of the Catholic schools. It was entirely necessary, if we were to have true Catholic men and women in the future and not merely ill-instructed poor-spirited nominal ones, to have children brought up at home and in school in a Catholic atmosphere; they should have before them, during the years their characters were being formed, the example of good parents and the saintly lives and spirit of good teachers. At home and in school they should be learning, all the day, sweetly and silently the way to sanctify their actions and to govern their conduct by Christian thoughts and maxims. It is of the first importance for Catholic children to be surrounded, during the period of their education, with what is so justly called 'a Catholic atmosphere.' In no way that can be named can the mind be so deeply imbued with sound principles and the heart be so firmly habituated to virtuous practices as by close contact with others thoroughly animated by such principles and practices. See how even some well-educated and already grown-up become the victims of bad and irreligious surroundings and companions. What a gross neglect of duty then it is for parents who, where good Catholic schools exist, pass them by and expose their children, whom they are so strictly bound to protect, to an atmosphere indifferentist, irreligious, and often anti-Catholic. Unhappy children! their own parents exchange their glorious birthright for a miserable mess of pottage. But he was glad to be able to say that there were few Catholic parents in this town who, in view of their splendidly equipped Catholic schools, were so callous—he would say so cruel—towards their children as to victimize them in this way. The Bishop said he could not conclude without speaking some words of praise of their Catholic band. He knew something of music and of its difficulties, hence he was surprised at the state of efficiency the band had reached in so short a time. He must congratulate the members on their playing that evening, and particularly the conductor, who must be a most capable man, seeing that he had already produced such fine results. There was, he felt sure, a bright future before their Catholic band. Having again thanked the parishioners of Invercargill for their splendid demonstration of welcome and fidelity the Bishop sat down amid enthusiastic applause.

The Mayor (Mr. W. B. Scandrett) said he had listened to the addresses and to the Bishop's forcible reply with great pleasure. After the Bishop's eloquent speech, he should come in as a very poor second. He was deeply impressed by the sentiments of unity, kindly sympathy, and reverence for authority that pervaded that enthusiastic meeting. He was an old citizen of Invercargill. He knew the good old French missionaries who built old St. Mary's. He knew many of the priests who had labored in this town and district ever since, and he knew them to be worthy and efficient men. The present pastor, Dean Burke, was much esteemed by his own people; but more than that, he was as a churchman and citizen the object of what he might call cosmopolitan admiration. The institutions of the Catholic Church were keeping fully abreast with the rapid progress of the city. That was not surprising, seeing that the people had such men as their fatherly Bishop and their cultured Dean to lead them. He was much pleased with what he had seen and heard at that large and enthusiastic reunion of the Catholic people of this city.

The band here struck up 'Faith of our Fathers,' and the people sang the hymn. All then knelt down and the Bishop chanted the episcopal benediction, the choir responding. The band played the Bishop back to the presbytery, and about 300 persons not yet fatigued by a long ceremony, followed to the gate, where three cheers for the Bishop closed the proceedings.

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Diocesan News

ARCHDIOCESE OF WELLINGTON

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

April 2.

Mr. D.-McMurrich, a member of St. Mary of the Angels' congregation, and chief engineer in the Wellington branch of the Union Steam Ship Co., will take the position of superintending engineer at the head office in Dunedin. His many friends congratulate him heartily on his promotion.

A special general meeting of members of the Wellington Catholic Club was held in St. Patrick's Hall, Boulcott street, last night (Friday), to devise ways and means for furthering the erection of a new Catholic hall and club rooms. A canvassing committee was elected to wait on members, and ascertain from them how much they would contribute monthly. There is every prospect of a large amount being collected shortly.

The quarterly meeting of the city branch of the H.A.C.B. Society was held in St. Patrick's Hall on Monday evening, March 29. Bro. E. F. Reichel presided. Notwithstanding the boisterous weather there was a large attendance of members. Four new members were initiated and two candidates proposed. The triennial movable meeting of the District Board takes place in Wellington next year, when it is anticipated a large gathering of delegates from all over the Dominion will be present. The question of entertaining these delegates was discussed. It is now over sixteen years since the District Meeting was held in Wellington.

On Tuesday night, at St. Thomas' Hall, the St. Anne's Catholic Club minstrel troupe gave their first public performance, the proceeds from which are to aid the funds of the bazaar which will be held in the Skating Rink at Easter. There was a large and appreciative audience. In the first part of the programme the following contributed items:—Messrs. J. Bradley, E. J. Foote, G. Foote, C. McErlan, S. Parkinson, and E. Reade. In the second part Messrs. D. Kenny, H. P. Clarke, Joll, E. Reade, and C. Webb with songs, and Mr. V. Raymond with his clever conjuring tricks met with great favor from the audience. The entertainment concluded with a farce, 'The Same One,' which was given by members of the Wellington Catholic Club dramatic club, Messrs. F. Eller, F. Hickmott, J. Quinn, T. Tiller, and J. Webb. Messrs. E. Reade and J. J. Butler acted as stage manager and hon. secretary respectively.

It is with sincere regret that I record the death of Mr. Joseph Veara Cordoza, of Wellington, at the age of 66 years. For many years he kept a fruiterer's shop on Lambton Quay. A Spaniard by birth, he came to New Zealand in the early sixties, and settled at first in Wanganui. The death of Mr. Cordoza recalls the sensational Maungatapu (locally called Mokotap) murders by the Sullivan, Burgess, Levy gang, which took place in 1865-6. Mr. Cordoza is said to have been the last man to pass along the road to the Ahura in the Nelson district, a few miles out of Greymouth before the murders were committed. He was arrested on suspicion of being connected with the highwaymen, and was submitted to a private examination before he was released. The funeral took place on March 27, the remains being interred in the Petone Catholic Cemetery. The Rev. Father Maples officiated at the graveside.—R.I.P.

At Levin on March 23 there died an old pioneer, Mr. James Darragh, in his 76th year. Born at Liverpool and educated at Manchester, he, when quite a young man, came out to Australia in 1850. He spent some years on the Ballarat gold diggings, being amongst the first on the field when the licenses were issued in September, 1851. Mr. Darragh had experience of the riots and the hostility between the miners and the Government, which culminated in the siege of the Eureka Stockade in 1854. He then went to Sydney, and in 1859 left for Dunedin, arriving there at a time when it was mainly native bush and flax swamp. As one of the very early settlers the deceased saw Dunedin grow to its present proportions. He was attended in his illness by Rev. Father Cognet, and died fortified by the rites of Holy Church. Mr. Darragh leaves a grown-up family to mourn their loss.—R.I.P.

A very successful sports' meeting took place on the Basin Reserve, Wellington, on Saturday, March 27, when the Wellington Catholic Club and H.A.C.B. Society held their annual gathering, there being over a thousand per-

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