

On last Tuesday evening the members of the staff of Lyttelton Gaol, together with the visiting justices, Dr. J. A. Newell, gaol surgeon, and Dr. T. W. Pairman, ex-gaol surgeon, assembled in the gaoler's office for the purpose of taking farewell of Mr. M. M. Cleary, Governor of the Gaol, on his retirement from the prisons service. The visiting justice, who presided, said he had been asked by the members of the staff to express their regret at parting with Mr. Cleary. It was a very considerable wrench, and he understood how they would miss him, but it was a source of gratification to both himself, his fellow Justices, and to the gaol staff, that Mr. Cleary was about to retire to a well-earned rest, after a very long and honorable career in the prison service, and after twenty-two years of service as Governor of Lyttelton Gaol. He then handed to Mr. Cleary a handsome marble clock, subscribed for by the members of the gaol staff, and by the doctors and several ex-members of the staff. Mr. Cleary, who spoke with great feeling, said that day was a solemn one for him in parting from the staff and from the visiting justices and the doctors, at the completion of his long service of over forty-five years. He felt the parting very much, for he had always got on well with his officers, and he had always tried fairly and honestly to carry out his duties.

On Wednesday evening Mr. Cleary was the guest of the Mayor and Borough Council of Lyttelton. The Mayor, Mr. C. Cook, presided, and, in addition to the councillors, there were present Mr. G. Laurensen, M.P., Mr. W. W. Collins, J.P., Mr. P. Pender, J.P., and representative townspeople. Mr. Cook read apologies from the Hon. Dr. Findlay, Minister of Justice, Mr. H. W. Bishop, S.M., Captain Marciel, J.P., and others. He referred to Mr. Cleary's remarkable qualifications for his position, saying that he had been born for it, and during his long career had exercised towards those who came under his care a justice which had been infallibly tempered with mercy. On behalf of the residents of Lyttelton, he presented Mr. Cleary with a handsome silver coffee service and salver and a gold sovereign case. Mr. W. Radcliffe proposed Mr. Cleary's health, and said that all who knew him knew also that he had always done his best to lead the prisoners towards better ways when they were discharged, and many of them had been given a helping hand by the Governor of the gaol as they left its doors. After the toast had been honored, Mr. Cleary said that he would be seventy-four years of age on the following Sunday, but he felt competent to carry out his duties for years to come. His only regret on leaving the service was that the Inspector of Prisons, Colonel Hume, was retiring also, just because he happened to be a few years over sixty-five. Colonel Hume had been selected at Home from a large number of highly qualified persons, and had been sent out to New Zealand at considerable expense, and it was very much to be regretted that he was retiring now, when he was in every way as capable of filling his position as he had been twenty years ago. His own official career of 45½ years would conclude at midnight, and when he left the gaol at that hour, he would leave in it no person who had been there when he took charge. He expressed his deep gratitude for the presentations made to him, and for the honor which had been done to him by the gathering of so many representative people.

His Lordship the Bishop and the Very Rev. Father Price, Adm., were present on last Saturday evening at the complimentary banquet tendered by the Philosophical Institute of Canterbury to Lieutenant Shackleton, the shore party, and officers of the Nimrod on their return from Antarctica. The toast of 'The Army and Navy' was proposed by Bishop Grimes, and very heartily received. He said that by nature and position he should be a lover of peace, and he supposed that few men had a greater dread than he had of the horrors of war. At the same time, he felt that there was a certain fitness in asking an ecclesiastic to propose the toast which had been entrusted to him. He remembered an old adage, 'To be in possession of the blessings of peace you must always be prepared for war.' 'If we are to avert the horrors of war a well-equipped army and navy are essential,' he said. 'Britain has been so long respected and feared by her rivals because she has in her Army and in her Navy men of grit like the illustrious guest of this evening—men of indomitable courage and perseverance—but I am afraid that the Mother Country has been rather long resting on its oars. It has allowed itself to be overtaken by rivals, and the consequence is that to-day it finds itself face to face with a very grave crisis. The Motherland finds herself threatened, and we, her children of the overseas, are threatened with her, by nations which would like to see her downfall. What is the duty of her devoted children in such a crisis? Is it not to rally round the Motherland and to show the nations that require such showing that if the mother is distressed her children in different parts of the earth are

ready and willing, aye, eager, to come to her aid? I think that anyone with a spark of true patriotism in his body must be proud of the recent action of our Prime Minister. I can fearlessly say that the bulk of the Dominion, indeed, the whole of the Dominion worth speaking of, is proud of what he has done. We look upon the offer of a Dreadnought, and of two if required, as a measure of sound policy and as a practical proof of the readiness of the younger countries to come to the aid of the Motherland. We look upon it as something more: it is an object-lesson and a great object-lesson to the whole civilised world, and especially to those nations that require such a lesson. It cannot fail to make a deep impression on those who would wrest from Britain her long undisputed supremacy on the sea. I have long thought that the young New Zealanders should learn something more about the Army and Navy; I have thought, too, that they should be urged, as well as encouraged, to join the Volunteers. I say to those who talk of setting up a navy in New Zealand that I do not think they know what they are talking about. That proposal is simply a day-dream, the height of folly. Our duty is to strengthen the Government at Home, for if at any time a foreign foe came to the shores of the Dominion no local navy could save us. For that reason I think that even a lover of peace may well ask you to raise your glasses and your voices in receiving this toast—the health of our excellent Army and our dauntless and unconquerable Navy.'

DIOCESE OF AUCKLAND

(By Telegraph from our own correspondent.)

April 5.

Palm Sunday was observed in all the city churches, a pleasing feature being the large numbers of both sexes who wore palm during the day.

His Eminence Cardinal Moran, in writing to his Lordship Dr. Lenihan thanking the Bishop for the handsome cross which the latter brought from Rome for his Eminence, said: 'It is one more link binding together the mother sees of Australasia.'

Rev. Father Hegarty, of Queensland, is at present visiting Auckland, and celebrated Mass at Newmarket last Sunday at St. Benedict's. At the eleven o'clock Mass a procession took place around and inside the church, the processionists bearing palms. The sight was most edifying and devotional.

The net result of the St. Patrick's Day celebration in Auckland amounted to £236. To this sum from time to time will be added contributions from parishes throughout the diocese. Helensville has already contributed £12 19s. The fund will be devoted to the schools of the diocese, an object which at once enlists the support of every Catholic worthy of the name.

On Wednesday evening last the prizes won at the St. Patrick's Day sports were presented, by his Lordship the Bishop at the Marist Brothers' Schools, Hobson street. There was a very large attendance, and the proceedings were marked by the greatest enthusiasm. The Bishop thanked all connected with the sports for the success achieved, and congratulated the successful competitors.

His Lordship the Bishop accompanied by the Right Rev. Mgr. Gillan, V.G., and Rev. Father Holbrook, visited Avondale last Tuesday morning to see for the first time the new church there, which had been erected during the Bishop's absence in Europe. His Lordship was greatly pleased with the sacred edifice. The party drove out in the new motor car which the Bishop purchased in Belfast. It is a fine car, and capable of holding five passengers.

At the Cathedral on last evening his Lordship the Bishop explained from the pulpit the meaning of Tenebrae, the music of which was sung by the choir. The music employed was in use, he said, in the English College in Spain, at which the King and Queen of Spain used to attend regularly in Holy Week. St. Patrick's choir was the only choir in Australasia in which it was used. The large congregation listened with much interest to his Lordship's explanatory remarks.

Patea

(From an occasional correspondent.)

April 2.

The Rev. Father Duffy, who has been ill for the past four months, will soon be able to resume parochial duties. His parishioners showed their sympathy by presenting him with a purse containing over ninety sovereigns. The priests of the diocese are making a similar presentation.