

the Manila churches, which were brought back by the returning volunteers. They were sold by the soldiers at ridiculously low prices, but are now bringing fancy figures, as collectors are eager to get them. A score or more shops were visited by priests, and in all a number of sacred relics were found.

The Chicago *Record* and other papers contain fuller messages, too lengthy to quote. In the course of a scathing comment on this crying military scandal, the *New York Times* says:—

The thing is simply awful, and not susceptible of any apology. And if there be one American citizen who holds it to be of no account, or of little, that American citizen is to be pitied, but also he is to be greatly blamed. The thing is of the most enormous political significance.

It is, through and through, a sickening story of bigotry and greed. And on top of it all comes the howl from the hysterical portion of the Protestant pulpit to have this miserable looting of homes and convents and 'mass-houses' followed up by the complete confiscation of all the property of the Catholic Church in the Philippines!

Uncle Sam's army has found in the Philippines the Majuba Hill of its military renown and—worse still—a serious blot upon its corporate honour. The muddling of the Crimea has been out-muddled in these fair islands. To the temperate natives of the Philippines the new policy of expansion has brought ship-loads of fiery drinks; on a pure people it has let loose a tide of western blackguardism; it has familiarised the patient Filipino with the sight of a savage disregard for the rights of property, the dearth of human life, the sanctity of the domestic hearth; and it has given him some reason to fear that under the Stars and Stripes, the Filipino will fare no better or little better than the Red Man, and that of the two masters who contended for him the less objectionable is the Spaniard, who, whatever his faults, at least christianised the islanders, raised them to a relatively high state of civilisation, left scarcely an illiterate among them, and made them, in the words of a non-Catholic writer, 'the happiest people on earth.'

Diocesan News.

ARCHDIOCESE OF WELLINGTON.

(From our own correspondent.)

December 30

The Very Rev. Father Bower is the only one of the college staff at present in Wellington. Fathers Hills, Clancy, Mahony, and Bowden are cruising in the Marlborough Sounds. Father Servajean, of Te Aro parish, is one of the party.

The three city churches were crowded at all the Masses on Christmas Day. At St. Joseph's Pontifical High Mass was celebrated by His Grace the Archbishop, assisted by Rev. Father Hills (deacon), and the Rev. Father Clancy (sub-deacon). The Very Rev. Father Bower acted as master of ceremonies. At the conclusion of a short sermon on the feast of the day, his Grace wished the congregation a holy and happy Christmas. Miss Hickling sang the soprano solos in Gounod's Mass, Mr Rowe the tenor, and Messrs. Dunne and Girling-Butcher the bass.

At St. Mary's Church, Guildford terrace, the Rev. Father Ginsty, of St. Mary's Cathedral, Sydney, sang a *Missa Antata* and Weber's Mass in G was sung by the choir, Mesdames Swift and Cimino, Miss Pender, Messrs. Gamble and McManaway taking the solos. Under the skilful hands of Mrs. Scanlon the chapel assumed a very pretty appearance, decorated, as it was, with flowers, ferns, palms, and pot plants artistically arranged.

The Ven. Archdeacon Devoy was the celebrant of the Solemn High Mass at St. Mary of the Angels', Rev. Father Servajean deacon, and Rev. Father Bowden sub-deacon. Mr. Oakes had a strong orchestra to assist the choir, when Haydn's Imperial was exceedingly well rendered. The soloists were:—Soprano, Mrs. Oakes and Misses Kimbell and Mills; alto, Misses McPharland, A. Sandbrook, and M. Kimbell; tenors, Messrs. Brooks and Tabor; bass, Mr. Law. At the offertory, L. Dwan sang Adam's 'Cantique de Noel.'

The editor of *Our Fernery* is deserving of congratulation on the effect produced by her article on the work of the Sisters of Our Lady of Compassion. The good done by the devoted Sisters of this Order is recognized by the charitably disposed in all parts of the Colony. The latest donation, for which these Sisters are very grateful, is one of £7 from the Sisters of the Convent of Mercy of Hokitika, and the branch houses at Ross, Kanieri, and Kumara. Let us hope that the example set will be followed by many others.

Concluding his sermon on the Feast of Christmas at St. Mary's Church last Sunday His Grace the Archbishop made a few remarks anent the Transvaal war. Quite recently there had been, he said, a Peace Conference, but that universal peace sought for was still in the far distant, and until the nations took to heart the principle of universal charity and were less inclined to follow the dictates of passion it would remain so. The Christmas of 1899 would be, in consequence of the present war, one of sadness and mourning in

many a home. In peace as in war it was a duty to do what one could for his country, and fellow-Catholics were among the heroes in South Africa. For the noble and generous hearts who were giving their lives for their country, for the devout women who, with marvellous courage and devotion, were ministering to the sick and wounded, he besought the prayers of all the faithful.

The picnic for the children attending the Catholic schools of the city was held on Boxing Day and was the most successful we have had for years. Headed by Jupp's band they marched from St. Mary of the Angels' Church to the station where a special train was in readiness to convey them to the Very Rev. Father Lane's grounds at the Hutt. Sports and games were arranged for the children, and in this respect special praise is due to the local clergy and Fathers Lane and Maples. The picnic was well patronised by the adult population, about 4,000 people being present. During the afternoon the Right Hon. the Premier arrived on the ground and was received with cheers. There was no hitch of any kind and the committee is to be congratulated on the excellence of the arrangements.

N A P I E R.

AFTER the Napier Correspondence on page 5 of this issue went to press we received the following communication:—

At the distribution of prizes at the Convent School, Mr. Fraser, the new Member for Napier, at the invitation of the Very Rev. Dean Grogan, addressed the large audience present. He said he felt pleased and honoured to be asked to take part in the distribution of prizes in the Convent School of Napier. He was not ignorant of the high reputation which these schools had in the province, and the high class entertainment which he so much enjoyed, of what these schools can do. Mr. Fraser then called attention to the number of Convent girls from Napier now settled in various parts of the district, of whom Mrs. Fraser was one, who are an honour to the nuns and the convent. The speaker briefly touched on the question of how the Catholic schools, though doing such excellent work, are handicapped in New Zealand by the present school system and its friends, such as some of the Napier Education Board. Against such injustice he protested, and as far as he could would do his best to have the present state of things remedied. He congratulated the nuns on the efficiency of their school, and the children on the great advantages they had in attending such schools.

Dean Grogan thanked Mr. Fraser for his kind expressions of sympathy and approval. In his position, he always appreciated any kindness in word or work done to the Catholic schools. For over fifteen years he had learned from experience what energy it requires to keep our schools up to the high standard they have attained, so he felt grateful to Mr. Fraser or any other person for any expression of encouragement they give in such a vital matter. There is another gentleman in this town who has taken a deep interest in the efficiency of our schools (continued the speaker) for the past two years—Mr. Hill, the Government Inspector. On a public occasion like this I feel pleased to express our feelings of gratitude towards him and to protest against the unreasonable strictures put on him of late by the Chairman of the Education Board of Napier for the interest he has taken in the Catholic schools. The fact is admitted that the chairman and his friends are jealous of our schools because they are aware the Government schools cannot compete with ours. Therefore, in the opinion of such men, we must be handicapped; the government Inspector must be prevented from examining our schools; and the class passes obtained by our children at the past examinations must not be given them. Could anything be more unjust? They are pleased to see our Catholic young men volunteer for the Transvaal in defence of the Empire. They can shed their blood to any extent they wish, but they must not fit themselves for any Government office or position, simply because they are educated in Catholic schools. I hope the time for such prejudice is fast passing away, and that the late example we have had of it at Napier is about the last. Whether we are forced to continue in the future as we have been in the past, whether handicapped or not, we have made up our minds to use every means in our power to keep our schools up to the same high standard of efficiency, and we doubt not but the time is near at hand when our children, by their truthfulness, their exemplary lives as well as by their scholarly abilities will prove to the public that neither the nation nor society generally can well do without them. It is more and more evident every day that the public schools are not improving society. On the contrary, they are a danger to society and even to Christianity. If a remedy is to be found it must be sought for in the religious schools. Dean Grogan, on behalf of the convent, again thanked Mr. Fraser, also Mr. McLean, the late member for Napier, who was also present, as well as the parents and friends, who showed by their presence that they were friends of the convent.

The Catholics of Napier held a very successful picnic here on Boxing day. The locality chosen was the green meadows in the mission farm at this season of the year, a sort of terrestrial paradise. It is computed that over 1500 people attended and every person enjoyed himself to his heart's content. The Christmas festivals, as usual, were celebrated here with great splendour. On the feast itself, in St. Patrick's, there were Solemn High Mass and Vespers. Rev. Father Chauvel, of Samoa, with Fathers Bell and Hickson officiating in the morning, and Dean Grogan and Fathers Chauvel and Bell in the evening. Father Hickson preached on Sunday evening and Dean Grogan on Christmas evening. There were some 300 for Holy Communion in both churches.

W A N G A N U I.

(From our own correspondent.)

December 28.

At the Christmas Midnight Mass at St. Mary's, the music provided was Haydn's 'Sixteenth,' which was rendered by the choir in a manner that gave evidence of long and thorough practice. Miss