

At St. Benedict's Church during Christmas the Crib was nicely arranged, and attracted numbers of the faithful around it to offer their devotions.

The Guard of Honour Confraternity (St. Patrick's parish) held their annual picnic at Northcote yesterday. Several of the clergy were present, and a large number of guests. It was a great success. The party returned to the city at 10 o'clock.

St. Benedict's Christmas Fair concluded with an auction of the goods left over. It has been a decided success financially, and it deserved to be so, as the committee worked long and laboriously for that end. Special mention should be made of the secretaries, Messrs. Callaghan and Knott, upon whom the greater portion of the work devolved.

A fine tennis court has been made on St. Patrick's Convent School grounds, and should prove a great boon to the pupils. It has been completed by public subscribers, but to the ex-Mayor, Mr. Peter Dignan, the greatest thanks are due for his abundant generosity. The good Sisters and their charges express their grateful recognition of the kindness of all who assisted them in this work.

A meeting is to be held in the High School of the Sisters of Mercy, Ponsonby, on Wednesday evening, 17th inst, to devise means for carrying out effectively the proposal made to commemorate the golden jubilee of the Order in New Zealand, by establishing a Convalescent Home and Hospital for Incurables. The Very Rev. Dean O'Reilly is to preside.

At the patriotic meeting held in the Drill Shed last Tuesday evening, execrable taste and bad manners were displayed by a portion of the large assemblage. The names and amounts of the subscribers to the Fund were read out, and because the amounts given in several instances by well-known citizens were not, in the opinion of a number present, adequate to the occasion, they roundly hooted and jeered, and called upon the donors to give more.

The particulars of the death and funeral of the late Very Rev. Monsignor McDonald have already appeared in the TABLET. To attempt to describe the genuine sorrow and expressions of regret at his loss by those outside the Church would be impossible. Go where you will, in the city and suburbs, in the bus, tramcar, or train, everywhere the one topic was: 'Poor old Father Walter, we shall not see his like again.' Even at the annual session of the Grand Orange Lodge of N.Z., held last Friday, 'feeling reference was made to the demise of the Rev. Walter McDonald, the parish priest of Howick, who was highly respected by all the members of the Institution as a gentleman of honesty of purpose who had a word of cheer for every man, irrespective of creed. In the Church to which he was a devoted member his place cannot be easily filled, and our sympathy is with the deceased's relatives.' Mrs. Thomas Morrin, of Wellington Park, Panmure, wrote to the Very Rev. Dean O'Reilly immediately on hearing of the Monsignor's death, expressing sorrow and asking to be permitted to defray at least a share of the funeral obsequies. The Presbyterian Assembly also passed a motion of condolence.

DIOCESE OF DUNEDIN.

One of the founders of St. Joseph's choir in Father Moreau's time passed away last week in the person of Mrs Hesford, fortified by the last Sacraments of the Church.—*R.I.P.*

We have sincere regret in announcing the death of Mrs. Columb, wife of our much esteemed fellow-citizen, Mr. C. Columb. The deceased lady was held in great respect in Dunedin. She passed away on last Friday after a long illness. We take this opportunity of expressing to her bereaved husband and family the sentiments of our deep sympathy.

The Rev. J. J. Cahill, of Brewarrina, diocese of Wilcannia, N.S.W. (brother of Rev. Father Cahill, of Dannevirke), arrived in Dunedin on Monday. He is at present on a visit to his old college companion, Father Delaney, at Lawrence. Another clerical visitor, the Rev. M. O'Reilly, C.M. (editor of the enlarged and breezy Catholic magazine, the *Austral Light*), arrived in Dunedin from Melbourne on Wednesday morning. Fathers J. McCarthy (Melbourne) and J. McCarthy (Nunurkah, Victoria) are at present also on a trip to New Zealand, and are at present at Queenstown.

A meeting of the Bishop Verdon Testimonial Committee was held in St. Joseph's Hall on Tuesday evening. Despite a rattling and continuous downpour of rain there was a good attendance. The chair was taken by Father Murphy, who was appointed permanent chairman of the committee. Excellent work was shown to have been done by Father Murphy, who had furnished the secretary (Mr J. A. Halley) with an enormous list of possible contributors. It was decided to provide the collectors with proper printed forms and to apportion the work of collecting so that each would work in a given portion of his own ward. The secretary is working with great energy; a meeting of the South Dunedin congregation is to be held on Sunday evening in furtherance of the testimonial fund; great enthusiasm and earnestness are being displayed by the committee; and everything bids fair to make the proposed presentation a great success.

Preparations are being made on a great scale for an art union for the extinction of the debt on the beautiful new church which forms so handsome and conspicuous a feature in the architecture of Queenstown. The permission of the Colonial Secretary has been obtained for the holding of the art union. Father O'Donnell and a strong committee have the matter in hands; a capital display of art work may be confidently looked for; and everything gives promise of great success. Further particulars will appear in later issues.

There is evidently not to be much lagging in connection with the early opening of the new Provincial Seminary at Mosgiel. In accordance with instructions received from his Lordship Bishop Verdon, Father Murphy has already made arrangements with a large firm in Dunedin for a portion of the furnishings of the

Seminary—the beds, to wit. The Bishop has decided to open the new Seminary shortly after his arrival in Dunedin in April next, and the Colony will then be furnished, for the first time in its history, with the means of practically fostering here in our midst vocations for the secular priesthood among the young generation of New Zealanders.

THE MAORI MISSIONS.

CHURCH-OPENING FESTIVITIES AT TE PUNA.

(From our Matata correspondent.)

THE first day of the year 1900 was a memorable day for the natives of Te Puna. For the last two years these Maoris have laboured in the bush and at home to gather material for their new church, and they have succeeded so well that by the end of the year their work could be considered completed, even with regard to its minor details. Invitations had been sent to the surrounding tribes and were cordially received and responded to. Hence a great many Maoris, to the number of 500, were gathered to join in the festivities. This number was largely increased by Europeans from Tauranga and its environs, who were agreeably surprised at the proofs of skill and zeal of the Maoris evidenced in the construction of their new church. The church is a modest building with a pretty tower. The outside measurement is 50 x 20 feet. It will comfortably accommodate 125 people, seats to the number of 20 having been provided. The interior is a real picture, lined throughout with rewarewa timber, a timber so beautifully variegated and mottled that it would be difficult to find a finer material. The sanctuary is dome-shaped, made of red satinette. The altar is of carved kauri, and the whole presents an attractive appearance.

On the day of the opening the Papal flag, the Union Jack, and the French flag could be seen side by side (there are a great many French half-castes in Te Puna). The Very Rev. Father A. Lighthouse, the Superior of the Maori Mission, assisted by the Rev. Fathers Holierhoek and Smiers, began the ceremonies of the blessing of the new building at 10 o'clock a.m. Preceded by the cross-bearer (Mr. F. Borell) and two acolytes, Father Lighthouse performed the blessing outside the building. The church doors were then opened, and the multitude soon filled the building to its utmost capacity, and the blessing of the interior was proceeded with. A *missa cantata* was sung by the Rev. Father W. J. Smiers (Whangarei). Afterwards the Very Rev. Father Lighthouse gave a very eloquent and touching sermon in the Maori language, illustrating the meaning of the great ceremonies of the day. After the service all were invited to partake of the refreshments liberally provided by the Maoris. I think it would take a great deal of labour and thought for any European cook to improve on the eatables or to provide and distribute them with greater expedition.

In the afternoon a second service was held—viz., the erection of the Stations of the Cross. This was accompanied by an instructive sermon of the Rev. Father Holierhoek, in which the rev. gentleman with great clearness explained to the Maoris the meaning of the devotion called the Way of the Cross. This was followed by Benediction, given by the Rev. Father Kreymborg, assisted by the Rev. Father Holierhoek as deacon. The music was very creditably rendered by the Maori girls, under the conductorship of the Rev. Father W. Van Dyk. They sang the 'O Salutaris,' the 'Adeste Fideles,' and 'Tantum Ergo.' This devotion over, the visitors returned to the large meeting-house erected for the occasion. Here it was agreed that another collection should take place to reduce the debt to a minimum. A plate was placed on a box outside the large building, and stirring speeches were given to encourage the people to generosity. The visitors took it up with an alacrity usually absent when the unpleasant work of collecting is going on, in fact some Maoris, especially Ngatiawa, contributed their donations with great good humour. The day's collection realised nearly £15, leaving only a small debt on the building, which costs nearly £100 for material alone. Later on an entertainment with the magic lantern was given by the Rev. Father Holierhoek, and greatly appreciated by the congregation. Next morning preparations were made for returning to their respective homes, and judging by the behaviour of the dispersing Maoris it was easy to see that they had enjoyed themselves. It would be short of my duty if I did not give the greatest credit to Frank Borell and John Bidois. Their energy and perseverance in the work can only be explained by their great love for their work. From beginning to end there was no dawdling or *tachia* during the erection of this handsome building, which is a credit to all.

MESSRS. Robert and John Goldstone, of Waimate, volunteers for service in South Africa, have been approved for the second New Zealand contingent. Of the three members from Waimate two are thus Catholics.

Do not esteem too lightly the small things of life, for the whole universe of God is made up of insignificant atoms.

Greatness, after all, in spite of its name, appears to be not so much a certain size as a certain quality in human lives. It may be present in lives whose range is very small.

We are very apt to be full of ourselves, instead of Him that made what we so much value, and but for whom we can have no reason to value ourselves; for we have nothing that we can call our own, no, not ourselves; for we are all but tenants, and at will, too, of the great Lord of ourselves, and the rest of this great farm, the world that we live upon.