

A Catholic picnic was held at Mr. P. Butel's homestead at Arrowtown on Wednesday, January 24 (says the *Lake County Press*), and, although the weather was anything but favourable, the attendance was very large. The parents and children seemed to enjoy themselves thoroughly. Mr. Butel's is an ideal place for a picnic, the surroundings being very beautiful. Mr. Butel placed his large residence and mill at the disposal of the visitors, and during frequent squalls Mr. and Mrs. Butel's generosity was fully taken advantage of. Queenstown was particularly well represented, a dozen or more vehicles being necessary to convey the residents of that place to the scene of the outing. A few members of the Queenstown Band also attended, and the sweet strains of music added much to the day's enjoyment. The ladies were all attention to the wants of the visitors, and it would be unfair to individualise in any respect. A committee of gentlemen kept the children busy at outdoor sports, the most exciting event being a tug-of-war between Queenstown and Arrowtown boys, in which the former proved victorious after a very even finish. The Rev. Father O'Donnell and his committee are to be congratulated on the thorough success of the picnic, the general verdict of the people being that they spent a very pleasant day. Several visiting priests were present.

THE WAR IN SOUTH AFRICA.

REQUIEM MASS IN CHRISTCHURCH

(By telegraph from our own correspondent.)

AT ten o'clock this (Tuesday) morning at the Pro-Cathedral a Solemn *Requiem* Mass was celebrated for the repose of the souls of the faithful who have fallen in the Transvaal War. There was an immense congregation, the sacred edifice being filled in every part. The ceremony was most impressive, evidently affecting a great portion of the congregation. Amongst those present were members of the War and Patriotic Fund Committees, officers of the North Canterbury Battalion in uniform, the Mayoress and City Councillors. His Lordship the Right Rev. Dr. Grimes was celebrant, the Very Rev. Father Le Menant des Chesnais assistant priest, the Very Rev. Deans Foley and Carew deacons at the throne, the Very Rev. Dean O'Donnell and Rev. Father Regnault deacons of the Mass, the Rev. Fathers Bowers and Richards masters of ceremonies. Among those present in the sanctuary were the Very Rev. Canon Franklin, Very Rev. Dr. Pestre, S.M., Provincial of the Marist Order, Very Rev. Dr. Kennedy, Very Rev. Dean Martin, Very Rev. Fathers Binsfeld, Chervier, Ginaty, Rev. Fathers Tubman, Fauvel, Galerne, McDonnell, O'Connell, Cooney, Hyland, Price, Crotty, Higgins, Aubry, Goggan, Chastagnon, Malone, Marnane, Gallais, Le Petit, Bogue, O'Hallahan, and King.

His Lordship Bishop Grimes, who preached, took for his text, 'It is therefore a holy and a wholesome thought to pray for the dead that they may be loosed from their sins.' After referring to the battles fought by Judas Maccabees, a warrior as pious as he was brave, Bishop Grimes said that the words of the text came home very forcibly to them at that moment. A few weeks ago a cry had rung through the Colony telling how their brothers had gone forth to the battle field to risk their lives at the call of duty. The call had come here, and we had given the world a grand object lesson which had surprised and terrified some nations. The cream of the colonies, unsolicited, had gone forth at the call of duty, had given spontaneously, bidding farewell to home and country, and sacrificing the feelings of nature and the promptings of human affection. They had gone because their brothers were in danger and their rights were outraged. There were in the sanctuary at that service priests who had relations fighting in South Africa, and there were others who had volunteered to go as chaplains. Were he able and were he permitted by Rome he would be glad to go to share the lot of those brave men, and to do what he could to relieve their sufferings. It was no burst of oratory that had made him say that, he said it because he felt it. Men who were at variance in all else had merged all into one noble feeling of patriotism. He would read them something from a paper which he had just received, from Australia. A young priest there had been accepted as a chaplain to the troops from Australia, and the Mayor and councillors and leading citizens and the volunteers had turned out to give him a great 'send off.' In the course of his remarks that brave priest had said that the previous week a Catholic paper had stated that he was an Irish Nationalist. Well, that was true, but as an Irish Nationalist he proclaimed that it would be one of the greatest disasters to the world if our Mother Country were to go down before an inferior people. He did not want to indulge in jingoism, but no matter what differences the Irish had at home in that poor little isle which was his own Mother Country, he would contend that they were all better off under the British flag than under the flag of Russia, or any other country. Continuing, Bishop Grimes said that there was no one who deprecated the war more than the sovereign who ruled over these realms, and they also deplored it, but once the call had gone forth was it not their duty to pray for the success of the country that ruled over them? He thanked the priests who, at his wish, had remained behind at the close of the Retreat to take part in the service, and he thanked those members of the War Fund Committee and officers for attending, and the people who were present in such large numbers. That service would show that they cherished the memory of those who had gone, and would assure those who were going that they had the good wishes of the congregation. He quoted the words written by the late poet Laureate, words spoken by Arthur to his companions in arms 'If thou shouldst never see my face again, pray for my soul. More things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of. Wherefore let thy voice rise like a fountain for me night and day; for what are men better than sheep or goats that

nourish a blind life within the brain, if knowing God they lift not hands of prayer, both for themselves and those who call them friend? For so the whole round earth is every way bound by gold chains about the feet of God. But now farewell, I am going a long way, where I will heal me of my grievous wound.' In the words of the Church 'may eternal rest be given to those soldiers who had fallen, and to another soldier of the Church, their late Vicar-general, the anniversary of whose death it was by a coincidence that day.

The sanctuary was draped in black, with white facings and Maltese crosses whilst the high altar was stripped of ornaments and bore signs of symbols of mourning. A catafalque was placed in front of the altar and shrouded with a Union Jack. At the termination of the ceremony the organist, Miss Funston, played the Dead March.

O B I T U A R Y.

MISS TOLE, AUCKLAND.

Profound sorrow was felt throughout the Catholic community on Sunday, January 21, when it was announced in all the churches of the city (writes our Auckland correspondent) that Miss Tole, of Ponsonby, sister of the Hon. J. A. Tole, had died that morning. The deceased lady had been a long time ill. She passed away fortified by all the rites of Holy Church. On Monday evening the remains were brought to the Sacred Heart Church, Ponsonby, where they rested during the night. On Tuesday morning at 7.30 a *Requiem* Mass was celebrated by the Very Rev. Dr. Egan, O.S.B. The Rev. Father Gillan addressed those present, and extolled the many sterling virtues of the deceased lady. Her good works for the Church, and aid to every charity, and in particular her work in the St. Vincent de Paul Society, rendered her loss irreparable. The beautiful altar lamp in this church and the mission cross at St. Patrick's were but a few of the many gifts received from her. She was ever retiring in her manner, and was known only by her benefactions. The funeral was, at the deceased's request, private. The service at the grave was conducted by Rev. Father Gillan. The burial took place in the Catholic Cemetery, Symond street. —R.I.P.

AMONG THE BOOKS.

'ST. CECILIA'S CHILDREN'S HYMN BOOK.'

WHITAKER BROTHERS, of Wellington and Greymouth, have rendered a good service to the Catholics of the Colony by the issue of a new and very much improved edition of *St. Cecilia's Children's Hymn Book*. The title by no means indicates the full contents of this valuable little manual of piety which the Messrs Whitaker Brothers have placed in the hands of the rising generation of Catholic New Zealanders. For, in addition to a fine selection of hymns, there are within the covers of this neat but unpretentious little volume Prayers at Mass, specially adapted to the capacity of children, Hymns at Mass, Vespers for Sundays, and Benediction of the Most Holy Sacrament. The hymns are, of course, the chief feature of the book. They occupy some 70 pages, include many hymns that did not appear in the first edition, and—a matter of considerable importance—are admirably arranged as follows:—(1) Hymns to the Divine Persons, (2) Hymns to the Blessed Virgin, (3) Hymns to the Saints; (4) Miscellaneous Hymns. A carefully arranged alphabetical index enables the reader to find any given hymn at a moment's notice. The printing of the book has been admirably done by the N.Z. TABLET PRINTING AND PUBLISHING COMPANY (Dunedin). It is sold at the low price of threepence, and the book, which has the *imprimatur* of Archbishop Redwood, should find a speedy sale.

The attention of inventors and others is directed to the notice of Messrs. Hughes, Rayward, and Baldwin, patent agents and consulting engineers, Wellington, Auckland, Christchurch, Napier, Dunedin, and Invercargill, who are prepared to secure trade marks in all countries.—*.*

Messrs. Duthie Brothers, drapers, George street, Dunedin, notify the public that at the request of a great many of their clients they have determined to alter the day on which the half holiday will be observed them. From the 1st inst. they will keep their premises open all day on Wednesdays, and until 9 o'clock on Friday evenings, and will close at 1 p.m. on Saturdays. Messrs. Duthie Brothers trust that their friends and the public generally will support the new departure, and make their purchases before one o'clock on Saturday.—*.*

The Commissioner of Crown Lands notifies that sections of rural lands in the districts of Catlins, Rimu, Tauteku, Poolburn, Rankleburn, Waipori, Woodland, Tuapeka West, Blackstone, Warepa and Otakia will be open for selection at the Lands Office, Dunedin, either for cash occupation with the right of purchase, or lease in perpetuity, on March 7, at capital values ranging from 5s to 20s per acre. Plans, areas, and prices are contained in the sale plans, which will be shortly exhibited at the various post offices and railway stations, etc. Full information can be obtained by applying to the Crown Lands Office, Dunedin.—*.*

MYERS AND CO., Dentists, Octagon, corner of George street. They guarantee highest class work at moderate fees. Their artificial teeth give general satisfaction, and the fact of them supplying a temporary denture while the gums are healing does away with the inconvenience of being months without teeth. They manufacture a single artificial tooth for Ten Shillings, and sets equally moderate. The administration of nitrous-oxide gas is also a great boon to those needing the extraction of a tooth. Read advertisement.—*.*