

DIOCESE OF AUCKLAND.

(From our own correspondent.)

February 1.

Our schools open next Monday. The Very Rev. Dean O'Reilly urged with great force last Sunday the absolute necessity of parents sending their children to Catholic schools.

On Tuesday last at Panmure Solemn High Mass was celebrated in memory of the late revered Monsignor McDonald by the Very Rev. Dean O'Reilly, Rev. Father Buckley being deacon, Rev. Father Jelp sub-deacon, Rev. Father Purton master of ceremonies. The parishioners in large numbers and several friends from Auckland attended Mass.

Several prominent citizens have consented to speak at the public meeting in St. James's Hall on February 23 to further the establishment by the Sisters of Mercy of a Convalescent Home. Several anonymous letters denouncing the scheme as sectarian have appeared in the local Press. The ex-town clerk, Mr. P. A. Phillips, who is a member of the Jewish congregation, warmly champions the proposed institution and the good nuns who voluntarily impose the great task upon themselves.

At the Matriculation examination of the New Zealand University Mr. Maurice O'D. Lavery, from the Marist Brothers' High School, Auckland, was one of the successful candidates. He belongs to Charleston, on the West Coast, and for the last three years has studied with the Brothers. Mr. Lavery is well known in the Hibernian Society, and is a typical young Irish-Colonial and Catholic. The Brothers and he have been warmly congratulated upon the success earned.

The Auckland Education Board at its meeting last week received a letter from the Very Rev. Dr. Egan, hon. secretary of the Catholic Diocesan Education Board, requesting that the Board's Inspectors examine our schools. A majority present favoured the request, but in deference to the opinion of several members present, who wanted information as to the number of schools to be examined, the question was deferred until the next Board meeting. It is safe to predict that at last our persistent efforts for State school inspection are about to be rewarded with success. The day following the Board meeting the *Herald* in a leader strongly and eloquently pleaded in this respect for our schools.

The Slatterys have come and gone, and speaking from a financial point, which is their maximum and minimum principle, their prurient harangues have been complete failures. Their audiences in the Foresters' Hall were composed of two classes, the Orangemen and those in quest of sensation. The latter after the first night's show had had enough, and the faithful and the few—the crusty old bigots of the 'iron nuts and paving stone order'—were all that remained to pay up their shillings. The extra 6d for front seats was docked after two trials. The Slatterys were lonely in the midst of multitudes, and but for the posters and dodgers scattered broadcast in the city and suburbs their polluted presence would never have been known. Save by the handful above referred to the Slatterys were by the citizens of all creeds and classes shunned. The *Tablet*, the *Observer*, and the pamphlets of the Catholic Truth Society did their work very effectually. At a meeting of the Foresters it was decided to instruct their hall-keeper that he was not on any account to re-let their hall to Slattery or his agent. At an Orange picnic held outside of the city last Monday Slattery addressed them and extolled the 'Society' and its great necessity, and above all urged young men to join it as it was essentially an order for them. Success now awaits the Society.

DIOCESE OF CHRISTCHURCH.

(From our own correspondent.)

February 5.

The Very Rev. Dean Foley officiated at Lyttelton on Sunday.

The Very Rev. Father McEnroe, C.M., is now engaged conducting a retreat for the Sisters of the Mission at Ashburton.

The Very Rev. Vicar-General presided at the usual monthly meeting of the Children of Mary Confraternity on Sunday afternoon, received several candidates, and gave Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

The Diocesan Retreat which was conducted by the Very Rev. Father McEnroe, C.M., of Melbourne, was concluded on last Monday morning at the Pro-Cathedral. A procession of the clergy round the interior of the church was made, and an act of consecration to the Blessed Virgin and St. Joseph terminated the ceremonies. At 11 o'clock a theological conference was held, and a synodical session in the afternoon.

The following clerical changes are about to take place in the Diocese:—The Rev. Father Richards from the Pro-Cathedral is appointed parish priest of Lincoln (New Headford); the Rev. Father Goggan, S.M., goes to Leeston to assist the Very Rev. Father Chervier, S.M., in place of the Rev. Father Aubrey, S.M., who replaces the Rev. Father McDonnell, S.M., as assistant to the Rev. Father Tubman, S.M., at Timaru; the Very Rev. Dean Foley, S.M., and Rev. Father McDonnell are to be attached to the Pro-Cathedral. The Very Rev. Canon Franklin, as previously intimated, takes charge of Lyttelton, in succession to the Rev. Father Salvador, who, to the regret of many, is, owing to continued ill-health, compelled to relinquish the position.

T I M A R U.

(From our own correspondent.)

February 5.

A very impressive sermon on the Gospel of the day was preached on Sunday evening by Rev. Father McCarthy, of Melbourne.

I understand that the Rev. Father McDonnell, who has been curate here for some time, has been transferred to Christchurch, and the Rev. Father Aubrey takes his place here.

The annual meeting of the St. Patrick's Day Sports Association was held last Friday evening in the Mechanics' Hall. Mr. D. Mahoney (president) was in the chair, and Messrs. J. Hole (Mayor), M. Mullin, D. J. Caldwell, W. Gunn, H. V. Stapelton, P. Reilly, T. McAuliffe, M. O'Meehan, M. O'Rourke, P. Malthus, J. McAuliffe, and the hon. sec., Mr. M. F. Dennehy, were also present. The balance sheet was read and showed the receipts to have been £151 0s 9d, and the expenditure £144 9s 6d, leaving a credit balance of £6 11s 3d. Mr. Mahoney, in moving the adoption of the balance sheet, said that notwithstanding the falling off of receipts, as compared with the previous year of nearly £50, in members' subscriptions, booth privileges, gate money, and concert, and after spending nearly £90 in prizes, the association could show a credit balance of £6 11s 3d, which, under the circumstances, must be considered very satisfactory. Mr. J. Hole seconded the adoption of the report and said he was very pleased to see the association come out on the right side of the ledger. Mr. Mahoney, before proceeding with other business, thanked the members for their hearty sympathy during his illness, and Mr. Mullin for acting on his behalf. He proposed that the whole of the profits be devoted to the Patriotic Fund, and moved that as a recommendation to the incoming committee. Mr. Mullin seconded Mr. Mahoney's proposal. A good committee could make the meeting a great success; he would favour retaining the money in New Zealand. The motion was carried. A hearty vote of thanks was passed to the chairman and committee on the motion of Mr. Hole. The election of officers resulted as follows:—Patron, the Hon. W. Hall-Jones; president, Mr. D. Mahoney; vice-presidents, his Worship the Mayor, Rev. Father Tubman, Messrs. J. J. Grandi, M. O'Meehan, J. Reilly, D. J. Caldwell, E. Hall, H. Rothwell, W. Gunn, H. Geaney, T. J. Burns, P. Reilly, J. Egan; treasurer, Mr. M. Mullin; secretary, Mr. H. V. Stapelton; committee, Messrs. Egan, M. Shepherd, J. O'Rourke, M. O'Driscoll, W. Ingram, D. Stuart, P. Reilly, T. McAuliffe, B. Chute, E. Hall, W. Priest, H. Rothwell, M. Quinn, H. B. Kirk, W. Cronin, J. Dore, M. Crannitch, M. Fitzgerald, F. Cameron, J. Hole, J. Sullivan, W. Thompson, Jas. Sullivan, J. Goulding, J. O'Dowd, J. Reilly, D. Murphy, P. Malthus, H. Scarf, M. F. Dennehy, and Sergeant-major Jones; handicapper, Mr. McAuliffe; starter, Mr. D. J. Caldwell; referee, Mr. D. Mahoney. Working and concert committees were appointed. Mr. Caldwell raised the question of having League or Alliance racing in bicycle races. He thought the people were tired of the League racing and were wanting the Alliance again. The matter was held over for the committee to deal with. The appointment of judges of athletic events was held over for recommendation by the committee. The secretary was instructed to write to the directors of the Caledonian Society to engage the grounds for the sports day. Mr. J. Hole moved, to test the feeling of the meeting, that the sports be held on Thursday, March 15—the Thursday previous to St. Patrick's Day, which falls on a Saturday. Mr. Stapelton seconded, and the motion was carried.

O A M A R U.

(From our own correspondent.)

February 5.

A meeting has been held here for the purpose of co-operating with the other parishes of the diocese in preparing for the suitable reception of his Lordship the Bishop, and to give practical testimony of appreciation of the manner in which the affairs of the diocese have been administered since his Lordship's appointment to the See of Dunedin. Very Rev. Dean Mackay, who presided, made special reference to the establishment of the Orphanage at South Dunedin and to the purchase of the property at Mosgiel for the establishment of a Provincial Seminary. These as diocesan works have special claims for support upon the whole diocese, and, besides, there are the additional expenses incidental to his Lordship's journeying to Rome and of providing a number of priests; so that the liberal support of the people is of more than usual necessity on this occasion. An influential committee has been appointed and the parish apportioned to the various canvassers and lists distributed. The 25th March is the time decided upon for the return of the lists, so that ample time is given for the thorough canvass of the parish, and no doubt the response will be liberal and unanimous.

Very great regret—in fact it might be described consternation—was felt throughout this parish at the announcement in last week's issue of the *Tablet* that the Rev. Father Howard had been transferred to the Naseby district. It will not be an easy task to fill the place of Father Howard here. His activity and his knowledge of outlying districts make him specially suitable for the work of the curate in this parish. There is a very wide area to be attended to and Catholic families are scattered far apart and in most isolated places, so that an intimate knowledge of the districts and imperviousness to fatigue are necessary qualifications, and these Father Howard possesses. The hope is general that Father Howard's absence may be only temporary.

The want of a suitable convent building in Oamaru has been much felt by the Dominican nuns. The extensive property owned by the community here, its excellence and commanding situation, and the unequalled climate of North Otago make the convent here specially suitable for a boarding school. In fact, I believe that the Sisters have from time to time received many applications from intending boarders, but owing to the want of accommodation they had to be refused. I understand that steps will be taken this year to supply this want, and that the erection of a convent suitable to the requirements of the Sisters will soon be commenced. It ought not to be necessary in Otago to state the claims of the Dominican Order to the most generous support of the people. Their pioneer labours in this diocese are known and appreciated, and when the time comes for giving practical expression to this appreciation I am sure the proverbial generous pity of the people will not be wanting.

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