

N A P I E R.

(From our own correspondent.)

February 8.

The Napier Catholics have just undergone the ordeal of having in their midst a man who, having fallen through his intemperate habits from the dignity of the priesthood, now strives to atone himself by vilifying the religion of his forefathers, and calumniating the good name of those who have devoted their lives to the service of their Master. The Very Rev. Dean Grogan, S.M., addressed the congregations at the various services on this matter, and exhorted every Catholic to keep away from the Slattey's lectures. As the people left the church, leaflets were distributed amongst them containing extracts from the N Z TABLET exposing the career of the man and woman. To the credit of the Catholics of Napier be it said that not one attended these lectures, much to the lecturer's chagrin. His meetings were very scantily attended, the respectable portion of the Protestant community being conspicuous by their absence. The local clergy did not attend, and Slattey was reduced to the expedient of appointing his own agent as chairman at the meeting. From beginning to end his lectures consisted of venomous utterances against the Catholic Church, intermingled with occasional prurient references, and strong appeals to his Orange brethren to support him in his mission to wipe out (as he put it) the Church of Rome. The pamphlet entitled *The Romance of an Unfreed Priest*, by the editor of the N. Z. TABLET, was distributed by the Dean amongst all the respectable portion of the Napier public during the Slattey's stay here, and materially assisted in severely handicapping them, and thinning the attendance at their meetings. It may be safely said that Slattey's visit to Napier was by no means a financial success. He left with his female companion by the boat going south on this date. The Theatre Royal here was refused him, and so would the Gaiety Theatre, had the proprietor known the purposes for which it was wanted at the time of engagement.

Diocesan News.

ARCHDIOCESE OF WELLINGTON.

(From our own correspondent.)

February 10.

Rev. Father Ryan, from Dunedin, resumed his journey to Rotorua in the Flora, leaving here last Monday.

The Rev. Father O'Shea is due to-day from the West Coast. His health is reported to have benefited greatly by his holiday there.

The Empire City Athletic and Cycling Club is to give its co-operation to the St. Patrick's Celebration Committee at the sports on the 17th prox.

The Rev. Father Grogan arrived from Blenheim on Wednesday. He is to resume control of the Sacred Heart Society and the Sunday school.

After their annual holidays Mr. Rowe, conductor of St. Joseph's Choir, and Mr. Kenny, organist at St. Mary of the Angels, have resumed duty.

St. Patrick's College re-opened last week. The number of students already on the roll compares very favourably with that of previous years at the same period.

Sunday being Exposition Day at St. Mary of the Angels the attendance at all the services was very large. At Vespers the Rev. Father Ryan, of Dunedin, preached the sermon.

The Rev. Father Cahill who has been under treatment by Dr. Van Slyck for an affection of the throat, has sufficiently recovered to permit his return to Dannevirke. He left on Wednesday.

His Grace the Archbishop left Wellington during the week to resume the missions which have thus far been a series of successes. Beginning at Westport, the missionaries will visit each of the parishes in the southern portion of the archdiocese.

The picnic held last Saturday by the ex-pupils of the Convent was in every sense a complete success. About 60 members journeyed to Titahi Bay by special train and coaches. The house which is being built for the nuns there is fast nearing completion.

Mother Mary Joseph Aubert recently wrote to the City Council asking for the remission of rates on the Home for Incurables. At its last meeting the Town Clerk was instructed to reply that the Council regretted that the present state of the law prevented its complying with the request.

Owing to a slight outbreak of scarlet fever in St. Joseph's Orphanage the Hill street school has been closed for a fortnight. One of the sufferers has been sent to the hospital while the only other patient has been isolated and all the necessary precautions taken to stay the spread of the fever.

The following is a list of the successful students from St. Patrick's College at the New Zealand University examinations: Matriculation: Arthur Ongley (Oamaru), Thomas McCarthy (Wellington), Michael Mahoney (Timaru), Thomas Walshe (Reefton), Edward Wilson (Auckland). R. J. Loughnan qualified on the scholarship papers. Medical Preliminary: Richard Dorset (Mauriceville), Patrick J. Garvey (Wellington).

In the fire at St. Mary's Cathedral last year two of the pictures, those representing the first and fourteenth Stations of the Cross, were destroyed. The work of replacing them was entrusted to Mr. M. J. McMahon, a local artist, who has just completed his task. Recognised critics are greatly impressed with the highly creditable manner in which the paintings have been executed, the one representing the fourteenth station being specially commended.

DIOCESE OF CHRISTCHURCH.

(From our own correspondent.)

February 12.

The Rev. Father McDonnell occupied the pulpit of the pro-Cathedral for the first time at Vespers on Sunday, and preached an instructive sermon on the Sign of the Cross.

Pending his departure for the Home Country, the Rev. Father Walsh, late of Kaituma, is the guest of the Rev. Father Marnane at St. Mary's, Manchester street, and celebrated High Mass on Sunday.

His Lordship the Bishop has handed the Patriotic Fund Committee the sum of £10 10s, as the result of the recent special collection in the pro-Cathedral. The Rev. Father Marnane, S.M., of St. Mary's, has also handed in £1, collected for the same object.

The Rev. Fathers McCarthy (2), recent visitors from Australia, returned to Sydney by the Zealandia which left Lyttelton on Friday last. By the Waikare, which left on the same date, the Very Rev. Father McEnroe, C.M., left for Melbourne.

The Rev. Father Crotty, from the pro-Cathedral, has taken the place of the Rev. Father Cooney as assistant to the Very Rev. Dean O'Donnell at Ashburton. Father Cooney left during the week for Westland, where he is to assist the Rev. Father O'Hallahan at Kumara.

Prior to his departure on Wednesday last from Ashburton to Kumara, the Rev. Father Cooney was presented by the members of the Ashburton Catholic Literary Society with a handsome travelling bag. The Rev. Father proved himself an active and energetic member of the Society during his comparatively brief stay in the town.

The pro-Cathedral choir have been ably assisted on the last two Sundays by Miss Kathleen Hickling, who sang the soprano solos of Farmer's Mass on the former occasion, and those of Weber's Mass in G on the latter. At the Mass the tenor solos were taken by Mr. Lenihan, another visitor. Other members of the Opera Company also assisted the choir of St. Mary's.

What was probably a record number of passengers to the seaside resort of Sumner was conveyed there on last Thursday by the Canterbury Tramway Company to take part in the fête organised to aid the War Fund. The whole of the takings, together with the fares, which the Tram Company intend handing over, will, it is expected, realise the substantial total of £500. A wonderful result for one day's operations, in the face of all that has been collected already. Truly the war fever in Christchurch is running very high.

PRESENTATION TO FATHER COONEY.

At the conclusion of the ordinary business at the meeting of the Ashburton Catholic Literary Society last week the members took the opportunity of saying farewell to their spiritual director, Rev. Father Cooney, and presenting him with a travelling bag as a mark of their esteem, the occasion being his approaching departure for Kumara. Mr. L. Hanrahan (says the *Mail*), who made the presentation, spoke at considerable length in regard to the sterling qualities of the rev. gentleman, and also thanked him most heartily for the assistance he had given the Society in various ways during his period in Ashburton, and he felt certain that Father Cooney would be missed in Ashburton and by no one more than by the Literary Society. On behalf of the Society he wished Father Cooney long life and happiness in his new home. Rev. Father Cooney, in a brief speech, thanked the members one and all for the handsome present given him. He stated that his work in connection with the Society was a labour of love, and he was exceedingly sorry that want of time had prevented him from devoting more of his services to the Society. He urged them to work together and make the Society a credit to Ashburton. The rev. gentleman again thanked them for their present and after a general handshaking with their beloved priest the meeting closed. The Rev. Father Cooney left on Thursday. There was a large number of friends and others at the station to see him off.

THE WAR IN SOUTH AFRICA.

THE RECORD OF THE DUBLIN FUSILIERS.

To the Dublin Fusiliers (writes a contributor in the *English Illustrated Magazine*), who stormed the Boer position in the first great fight at Glencoe, belongs the glory of establishing the British supremacy in India. They were the chief instrument in the hands of Clive, at Wandewash and Porto Novo they helped Coote to carry out the great design of Warren Hastings. Their name is written in letters of blood on every page of our Indian history. It is more than 200 years since the regiment was raised, but till 1871 it never saw the shores of England. All that time it was warring in the East. It had whipped the Dutch once and again ere the charge of Glencoe, but until the day of Glencoe it never fought outside the borders of Asia. Its badges are the Royal Tiger of Bengal and the Indian elephant. Round these are the great words, 'Plassey,' 'Mysore,' 'Buxar,' and 'The Carnatic.' The long list of victories that glitters on its colours is entirely made up of Indian names—and of these names 15 are peculiar to the 'Blue-Caps,' and are shared by no other regiment. The list of the victories is the story of Britain's lordship in the East: 'Arcot,' 'Condore,' 'Wandewash,' 'Sholingur,' 'Nundy Droog,' 'Amboyna,' 'Ternate,' 'Banda,' 'Pondicherry,' 'Mahidpoor,' 'Guzerat,' 'Seringapatam,' 'Kirkee,' 'Beni Boo Ally,' 'Aden,' 'Punjaub,' 'Mooltan,' 'Goojerat,' 'Ava,' 'Pegu,' 'Lucknow.' Such is the great record. The history of the Dublin Fusiliers is the history of British India.