

result was that the Thames people, as they usually did, had responded most generously. The ladies had undertaken to get up a bazaar, and those present could see before them the amount and the beauty of the things brought together. He had the honor of presiding at the first meeting (in connection with the bazaar) of the Paeroa ladies, who, as well as the ladies generally, had taken up the work with great enthusiasm. Now they saw the result. It would be like trying to refine pure gold, or paint the lily, to describe the beauty of the work before them. He hoped that the public in general would appreciate the efforts of the ladies by purchasing every article in the stalls: he hoped that before the bazaar was over such would be the result.

With a view of marking the jubilee of the arrival of the Order of the Sisters of Mercy in Auckland, a number of ladies of the various parishes in the city and suburbs have been working very assiduously for the past few months, and as the result of their efforts a fancy fair and sale of work were opened on Wednesday afternoon at St. Mary's Convent, Ponsonby, by the Right Rev. Dr. Lenihan. In declaring the fair open, his Lordship referred to the work of the Sisters during the past 50 years in teaching and training the young, and said there could be no better proof of the success of their methods than the display of work in the hall. The stalls, which were ranged round the building, were filled with handsome and useful goods, and the work stalls were particularly well worth inspection. The stallholders were as under:—Art union, Misses S. Lynch and Riven, assisted by Mrs. Harris and Miss Jones; fancy goods, Miss Lynch and Mrs. M. Brown, assisted by Misses Sainsbury and Corbett; dolls, Mesdames Leonardo and Swan, assisted by Misses Regan and Corley; strawberries and cream, Mrs. and Miss Loneragan; refreshments, Mesdames James O'Brien, Haven, Mahoney, and Stichbury, assisted by Misses Haven, Walnut, and Sheath; fancy goods, Mrs. Dignan and Misses Hobbs and Mahoney, assisted by pupils of the convent; candy, Misses McCabe and London, assisted by the Misses McCabe; gipsy tent, Miss Outhwaite. At the art union stall were displayed the beautiful vestments brought out from Home by Bishop Lenihan and presented to the Sisters. Among the work of the pupils there was some very creditable wood-carving, which showed that the young people have a decided taste for this artistic work. During the afternoon and evening there was a very large attendance of the public, and the stall attendants had no reason to complain of the business done. During the afternoon Mr. Hunter's band played a number of selections on the lawn, and in the evening an enjoyable programme was rendered by the pupils. A cantata, 'Violet in Fairyland,' was tastefully rendered, and the children also performed a maypole dance and a floral march most effectively. The training of the children reflected the greatest credit on the Sisters, who prepared them for the concert. During the evening His Lordship the Bishop presented a number of prizes and certificates won by pupils at the convent as follows:—To Misses May McGuire and Ivy Ansley, who passed the junior Civil Service examination at the beginning of the year; Misses Matilda Brown, N. Lynch, Corbett, M. Casey, and Dempsey, who passed the sixth standard examination under public school inspectors; Misses Alva Ralph, Gertrude Bray, Jamie Anodeo, and Elsie Bray, who secured certificates in the preparatory grade at the Trinity College, London, examination, 1899; Misses Ellen Brown and Matilda Brown, intermediate division, honors; Violet Fitzpatrick and Nellie Mahoney, junior division, pass.

DIOCESE OF CHRISTCHURCH.

(From our own correspondent.)

December 10.

The Rev. Father Marnane, after a brief visit to the North Island, returned on Saturday last to St. Mary's, Manchester street.

Sergeant John O'Donovan, head of the police training depot at Wellington, is at present in Christchurch engaged on exhibition duty, an exacting position where efficiency is of primary importance.

Mr. T. Campbell (son of Mr. Felix Campbell, of Greymouth), who has been a student at Canterbury College during the past year taking his University course, left for his home during the week for the vacation.

At the Pro-Cathedral on Sunday evening at Vespers his Lordship the Bishop read a Pastoral letter on the Jubilee of Canterbury. The Bishop afterwards, assisted by the Very Rev. Vicar-General, received a number of aspirants into the confraternity of the Children of Mary.

The Rev. Father Leen, a young priest ordained a few months ago, arrived on Thursday last. He is destined for the Christchurch diocese, and is from Killarney, County Kerry. Father Leen celebrated the half-past nine o'clock Mass on Sunday and preached, and again occupied the pulpit at the High Mass.

The Very Rev. Father Le Menant des Chevalais has been engaged during the week preaching the annual retreat for the Sisters of the Good Shepherd at Mount Magdala. The Vicar-General devoted part of the time also to conducting a retreat for the children of St. Agnes's Church, Halswell, preparatory to their First Communion, which took place on Sunday.

Constable T. Mayne, a zealous and popular police officer, has been promoted from city duty to the charge of the Lincoln district. He was entertained by his comrades at a 'send off' social last week and presented by them with a pair of spurs and handsome riding whip suitably inscribed. Constable Mayne is well known in the southern towns, and his numerous friends will be pleased to learn of his well merited advancement in the service.

JUBILEE PASTORAL.

The following Pastoral by the Right Rev. Dr. Grimes was read in all the Catholic churches of the diocese on last Sunday:—

In a few days we shall have entered upon the fiftieth anniversary of the foundation of Canterbury, which, taking in the West Coast, once comprised nearly the whole of the Catholic diocese of Christchurch. Praiseworthy efforts are being made for the fitting celebration of this, the Golden Jubilee of the province. Shall we not gladly unite with our fellow-colonists in their legitimate rejoicings on this auspicious occasion? Who amongst us could withhold a feeling of admiration, gratitude, and delight as he looks back upon the beginnings, and compares the rapid progress and present prosperity of this fair and fertile portion of the 'Britain of the South.'

Who could refuse to admire the heroic enterprise, the indomitable courage and perseverance of the noble pioneers who, 50 years ago, left home and friends and fatherland to come and settle down in a far-away isle, then little known, save as one of the most uncivilised parts of the globe? Well may we imagine their feelings when, landing at Lyttelton, they crossed the Port Hills and gazed upon a sight dreary in the extreme. For miles and miles they beheld one unbroken series of plains, covered with brown tussock, with here and there a few clumps of native flax and a species of wild palm-lilies, or cordyline, familiar to us now as the cabbage-tree. The monotony of the scene was unrelieved by neither fruits nor flowers nor shrubs, and not even the least undulation. Such an outlook would have filled men of less character and determination with utter disappointment or despair, but the 'Canterbury Pilgrims' had come resolved, with God's help, to overcome every obstacle, and to be daunted by no difficulties, no matter how formidable. And to-day it is given us to witness the results of their bold but peaceful conquests—results which have surpassed even their most sanguine expectations. With feelings of admiration, the sight of these marvellous results must call forth those of gratitude, and following the footsteps of their fathers, the children of the founders of Canterbury made strenuous and successful efforts to build up an ideal home for themselves and their offspring. And lo! a wondrous change now unfolds itself to our view.

Instead of the dreary plains and swamps of 50 years ago, to-day we behold magnificent parks, with their stately trees, which the stranger would suppose the growth of centuries; richly cultivated fields, smiling meadows, lofty buildings, splendid churches, commodious schools and colleges, numerous factories teeming with home industries, and, as the centre and outlook of all, Christchurch, so well known as the 'City of the Plains.' Here are to be found, not only all the conveniences, but even the luxuries of the most civilised life.

For us, dearly beloved brethren, and children in Christ, there is another and higher motive for heartfelt gratitude and delight. For 10 years after the foundation of Canterbury, we had neither church nor school, and only two devoted missionaries to minister to the wants of our people scattered over the whole of the South Island; whilst the Catholic population of Canterbury, even in 1851, amounted to no more than 150 souls all told. And now this jubilee year reveals to us the fact that in our diocese alone we have 50 churches, 17 convents, 35 priests, 13 brothers, and 160 nuns engaged in the sublime work of imparting Christian education to our dear children: six boarding or high schools, 30 primary schools, the admirable institute of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd at Mount Magdala, doing such noble work for all classes in the whole Colony, whilst our Catholic population numbers over two and twenty thousand.

Is it not then right well and meet that we offer up fervent prayers to the Throne of the Most High, in thanksgiving for the manifold blessings we have received during this half-century of years? Should we not earnestly beseech the Father of all mercies to continue to shower down His choicest gifts upon ourselves and our fellow-citizens in Canterbury and all New Zealand, for many the land of their birth, and for most of us the beloved home of our adoption? At the same time, should we not strive to give some tangible proof of this gratitude and delight? Appeals have been made to all sections of the community to erect a Jubilee Memorial in our midst, and it is to be hoped that these appeals will meet with a cordial response.

Besides this, we have a great work in hand which must strongly appeal to the whole of the diocese. During one of our audiences with our Holy Father the Pope, on the occasion of our last visit to Rome, he expressed his surprise that we had only a wooden Pro-Cathedral in the beautiful city of Christchurch. He urged us to do our utmost, with the co-operation of our priests and people, to erect a temple more worthy the abiding presence of our dear Lord in the marvellous Sacrament of His love. When we ventured to speak of the difficulties in the way, he paused for a while, then, looking from heaven to us, 'Intende prospere procedat regna, my dear Lord,' he answered, with a look of inspiration—'Set out, proceed, prosperously and reign' (Ps. xlv., 5). 'Fear not, you are sure to succeed'—with other words that we dare not repeat. He lovingly imparted and still imparts a special blessing to all who in way contribute to this noble work. Not only this, but he gave us a generous donation in behalf of this our Cathedral Fund. Since our return to New Zealand our beloved priests and people have heartily entered into the spirit of the vast undertaking, many having already given or promised most handsome contributions, which up to the present have reached the truly noble sum of £18,000! Not a few are holding back till they hear that we are ready to lay the foundation stone of our future Cathedral. We are glad to be able to announce to you that his Eminence the Cardinal Archbishop of Sydney has graciously promised to come and perform this ceremony the second Sunday in February. Several other distinguished Prelates have intimated their willingness to be present on that memorable occasion.

May we not now appeal to you, dearly beloved brethren and children in Christ, to do your part. We are confident that those on whom a merciful Providence has bountifully bestowed the goods of this world will consider themselves as no more than stewards thereof. Will they not emulate the noble conduct of our saintly