

course of legislation was more drastic; its administration more searching and successful. Christmas games and shows were forbidden. Actors of mysteries and other plays were fined, imprisoned, or publicly whipped at the cart's tail. Women and girls were forced to spin in the open, under the public eye. Mulcts were imposed on all who rested from work or otherwise attempted to sanctify that sacred day. Laws of a similar import were passed by the legislature of Massachusetts. The anti-Christmas legislation died in England with the Commonwealth, in 1660. In his *Social Life in England*, CONNOR SYDNEY writes as follows of the period between the Restoration and the Revolution:—'The festive season of Christmas was kept in regal style throughout the country. Distinction, for once in the year, lowered its crest. The host and his tenants met on terms of perfect equality. There were great mirth and ceremony almost everywhere. . . . The exhilarating wassail-bowl and the boar's head, crowned with garlands gay and rosemary, were not wanting. The yule-log crackled on the hearth. The sirloins of beef, the minced pies, the plum porridge, the capons, the turkeys, and the geese, smoked upon the hospitable board. The wandering minstrels patrolled the streets blithely, singing their ancient carols, and countless forms of amusement were provided for all.' But the spiritual meaning of the Christmas festivities was to a great extent lost in England, and was not recovered till the days of the Oxford movement.

The old days of the anti-Christmas crusades are dead, and buried full many a fathom deep. Christmas celebrations have already secured the force of custom in most Anglican churches. Certain other denominations show signs of following the lead thus given. And we may hope in time to see many of our separated brethren adopt in part or in whole the Catholic conception of the spiritual significance of this great festival. Our age may be as material as you please. But the non-Catholic world cannot permanently, nor even for long, forget the one day in all the year that is a day of pure joy, the heirloom of the best joy of more than eighteen centuries. Of that sacred joy we wish all our readers a full and flowing measure.

NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS.

Subscribers are entreated to forward the amounts due by them at the earliest possible moment. The amounts due by individual subscribers are not considerable, but taken together they amount to a very large sum. The many calls that we have to meet make it imperative on us to greatly reduce the amount of indebtedness of our subscribers. We therefore ask those who have received accounts to wipe off their indebtedness to us before the close of the dying century. This will be a suitable mode of celebrating the parting of the nineteenth, and the beginning of the twentieth century.

MARIST BROTHERS' FUND.

We have received and duly forwarded to the Rev. Treasurer (Father O'Shea, Boulcott street, Wellington), the sum of £1 1s from the Christian Brothers, Dunedin, in aid of the fund being organised to reimburse the Marist Brothers, late of Stoke, the heavy financial outlay which they have been compelled to undergo in their necessary defence during the recent trials.

ARCHDIOCESE OF WELLINGTON.

(From our own correspondent.)

December 22.

The retreat for the Marist Brothers begins immediately after Christmas, and will be preached by the Rev. J. McInerney, S.J., who recently arrived from Australia.

After the monthly meeting of the Children of Mary last Sunday four aspirants were received into the Association by the Rev. Father Moloney.

Mr. M. J. Crombie has passed his barrister's examination in 'contracts and torts,' and Mr. A. H. Casey his solicitor's in the same subjects. Both are ex-students of St. Patrick's College.

The Sacred Heart Church is to be lighted with electricity, and a contract for the wiring of the building has been let. The contract price is about £200.

The Very Rev. Dr. Pestre is extremely anxious to return to New Zealand, and the Superior of the Order has, I understand, acceded to the request. Should he return it is not unlikely that he will be stationed at Meane.

The Marist Brothers' Old Boys' Association picnic, postponed from the 9th November, is now fixed for Anniversary Day, 22nd January. The Railway Department has purchased grounds for picnic purposes at the Upper Hutt, and these have been secured by the Association for the day mentioned.

The Ven. Archdeacon Devoy has been appointed to succeed the Very Rev. Dr. Pestre as Provincial of the Marist Order in New Zealand. The position of Vicar-General in the archdiocese vacated by the former has been conferred on the Very Rev. Father Lewis, Administrator of the Cathedral parish.

On Monday afternoon at the school in Newtown the parents and friends of the children assembled in large numbers for the mid-summer concert. A programme of fourteen items—vocal and instrumental—was gone through. A violin solo by Miss Harcourt was specially appreciated, and her younger sister, a child only four years of age, received a well merited encore for her singing of 'Won't you tell me.' At the conclusion of the concert Rev. Father O'Shea, addressing the parents, spoke of the advantage the children have now that the nuns were resident in Newtown. He congratulated the children on the excellent entertainment, which, he said, gave great promise of even more successful performances.

A most successful social 'as an expression of sympathy with the Marist Brothers' was held at the Skating Rink on Wednesday evening. His Grace the Archbishop and several of the local clergy were present. The musical portion of the programme was contributed by Mrs. Oakes, Misses McParland and Driscoll, Messrs. Taylor and Dunne. Mr. Freeman gave a recitation which, like each of the items, was highly appreciated. The duties of secretary were attended to by Mr. R. B. Williams, and Mr. T. Davis acted as M. C.

The Very Rev. Augustine Keogh, S.M., M.A., who has been appointed to the Rectorship of St. Patrick's College, is a native of Dublin. He began his education at the University School, Leeson street. Later on he went to St. Mary's, Dundalk, spent several years in France, whence he returned and took out his degrees at the Royal University. At the early age of 30 he became president of his own *Alma Mater*, and was transferred after a few years of brilliant success to the London mission. Several junior members of the clergy in New Zealand studied under him, and look forward with pleasure to his arrival.

The Federal Theatre was well filled on Thursday evening at the annual distribution of prizes in connection with the Marist Brothers' School. A well arranged programme of dumb-bell and drill exercises, recitations, and choruses was given by the pupils. Brother Borgia was responsible for the training of the performers. At the conclusion of the entertainment the prizes were presented by his Grace the Archbishop who in a few words congratulated the Brothers on the success which had attended the school during the year. The following is the prize list:—

Civil Service Class—Good conduct, Herbert Swan; Christian doctrine, Michael McWilliams; general proficiency, Charles Smith 1, Patrick Carmody 2, James Butler 3; geometry, Charles Smith; English composition, Patrick Carmody; grammar and analysis, James Butler; arithmetic, Thomas Faul; algebra, Charles Smith.

Standard VII.—General proficiency, Charles Casey 1, John O'Connor 2, Thos Power 3; reading, John O'Connor; writing, Thomas Power; algebra, Charles Casey; Euclid, Charles Casey; arithmetic, Thomas Boyce; drawing (freehand), Victor Hugo; English history, Victor Hugo; dictation, Charles McGrath; English, composition, Herbert Swan; recitation, Charles McGrath; grammar and analysis, Michael McWilliams; drawing, (scale), Francis Geoghegan; home lessons, Thomas Boyce.

Standards VI. and V.—Good conduct, Robert Lavery; Christian doctrine, Joseph McCarthy.

Standard VI.—General proficiency, Reginald Hill 1, Leonard Martin 2, Albert Kelly 3; reading, Leonard Martin; orthography, John McMahon; grammar and analysis, George Smith; writing, Charles Leary; composition, Vincent Ward; arithmetic, Reginald Hill; scale drawing, William Carrig; home exercise, Albert Kelly; geography, Fitz Thompson; history, Joseph Gosling; recitation, Joseph Elliot; mental arithmetic, Bernard Leydon.

Standard V.—General proficiency, Earnest Casey 1, Rich. Gosling 2, Henry McArdle 3; reading, John O'Connor; orthography, Thomas O'Connor; grammar and analysis, Chas. MacDonald; writing, Emmet Healy; composition, John Duggan; Arithmetic, Thomas Duignan; geometrical drawing, Patrick Stratford; home exercise, Albert Tandy; geography, Gerald Leydon; history, Charles McKenzie; recitation, John Fernandes; mental arithmetic, Louis Kay.

Standard IV.—Good conduct, Francis Eller; Christian doctrine, Raymond Fahey; general proficiency, Kevin McGrath, 1, Hilary Henderson, 2, James McKeegan, 3; reading, Bernard Whitaker; orthography, James Daley; grammar, Michael Guthrie; writing, George Tobin; composition, Joseph Byrne; arithmetic, James Devine; drawing, John Tracey; home exercise, Ernest Thomson; geography, Richard Davis; recitation, Vincent Fraser; mental arithmetic, Bennet Tracey; English history, Thomas Davis.

Standard III.—Christian doctrine, Neill McMurrich, 1, James McCarthy 2; general proficiency, Joseph Stratford 1, Leonard King 2, Rupert Truman 3; reading, Joseph Devlin; orthography, Patrick Galvin; grammar, Leo Swan; writing, James Cotterill; composition, Cornelius O'Connor; arithmetic, David Cashman; drawing, Bernard Fama; home exercise, Vincent Mason; geography, Walter Coleman; recitation, Henry Flanagan; mental arithmetic, John Gosling.

DIOCESE OF CHRISTCHURCH.

(From our own correspondent.)

December 22.

His Lordship the Right Rev. Dr. Grimes and the Very Rev. Father Le Menant des Cheneais, V.G., were among the honored