

on the theological virtues. After the sermon Miss Julia Moran, of Wellington, gave as a violin solo an exquisite rendering of Gounod's 'Ave Maria.' The organ accompaniment was faultlessly played by Miss Funston.

The half-yearly meeting of the St. Patrick's Branch (No. 82) of the H.A.C.B. Society was held on Monday evening, the 7th inst. Bro. A. J. Malley (president) was in the chair. A large amount of inward and outward correspondence was dealt with, including a letter congratulating Brothers Wybertus and Killian on their acquittal of the odious charges recently laid against them in connection with the St. Luke Industrial School. Enclosed with this was a cheque for £2 2s towards the expenses of their legal defence. The balance sheet for the December quarter was read and adopted, votes of thanks being accorded the auditors, Bros. Steinmetz and Daniels. The election of officers for the ensuing term resulted as follows: President, Bro. P. S. Shannon; vice-president, Bro. F. J. O'Connell; secretary, Bro. G. J. Sellars, P.D.E. (re-elected); treasurer, Bro. J. McCormick, P.P. (re-elected); assistant secretary, Bro. D. Edmonds; warden, Bro. Dineen; guardian, Bro. P. J. Nelson; sick visitors, Bros. Finnerty and Edmonds; auditors, Bros. Steinmetz, P.P., and Daniels; medical attendants, Doctors J. H. and G. Deamer and B. Moorhouse. The incoming officers were installed by Bro. A. J. Malley and Bro. J. Nelson, and returned thanks in a suitable manner, votes of thanks being also accorded the retiring officers.

A large and fully representative meeting of Catholics of the city, including ladies, was held on Sunday afternoon, in the boys' schoolroom, to make arrangements for the suitable reception and entertainment of his Eminence Cardinal Moran and other distinguished dignitaries who intend visiting Christchurch for the ceremonies in connection with the laying of the foundation-stone of the new Cathedral. His Lordship the Bishop presided. There were also present the Very Revs. Vicar-General and Dean Foley, Rev. Fathers Marnane, Leen, and McDonnell, and Sir George Clifford. Strong committees, consisting of reception, testimonial, decoration, and finance, were formed to immediately commence preparations. Imposing as have been the receptions accorded his Eminence and visiting prelates on other occasions, when we have been honored by their presence, the Catholics of Christchurch and surrounding districts intend that this event shall far surpass all previous efforts, and will tend—as more than one speaker indicated at the general meeting—to mark an epoch in the history of the Church in Canterbury. *Inter alia*, his Lordship the Bishop announced that on the Sunday set apart for the celebrations (February 10) Pontifical High Mass will be celebrated in the Pro-Cathedral by his Grace the Archbishop of Wellington, and his Eminence the Cardinal will preach. At 3 o'clock in the afternoon the ceremonial laying of the foundation will be effected. In the evening one of the visiting prelates is to officiate at Pontifical Vespers, and his Grace the Archbishop of Melbourne is to preach. During the following days festivities of a social nature are intended to be held.

THE NEW CATHEDRAL.

A commencement has been made with the preparations for getting ready the site of the new Cathedral for the ceremony of laying the foundation-stone on February 10. The following particulars regarding the new edifice—which will be one of the largest buildings in the Colony—have been furnished to the local papers:—

Three years will be occupied in completing it, and the total cost will be £38,000. The style will be that of the Italian Renaissance, and there will be seating accommodation for nearly 3000 people.

Very little wood will be used in the building, but it will require, roughly, 100,000ft of Oamaru stone, 20,000ft of Mount Somers stone, 1000ft of blue stone, 4000 cubic yards of concrete, and between 80 and 90 tons of iron and steel. The tender of Mr. J. Small, for erecting the building, has been accepted, and all the zinc work will be supplied by Messrs. Wunderlich and Co., of Sydney.

In the general dimensions, the sides will have a total length of 204ft, and a width of 105ft. The height from the floor to the ceiling of the nave will be 49ft, to the apex of the roof of the nave 62ft, to the top of the dome tower 97ft, to the top of the dome itself 117ft, and to the top of the cross 122ft. The nave will be 111ft in length, including a vestibule, and 42ft 6in in width. There will be two side aisles, which will pass the flanks of the nave right round the sanctuary and choir. Each of these aisles will be 150ft by 12ft. There will be four side chapels, each 13ft by 17ft, and eight other side chapels, each 13ft by 9ft. Besides these, there will be a chapel under the flag tower, 14ft square. The baptistry in the other flag tower will be of the same dimensions.

The sanctuary and choir, immediately under the dome, will, together, be 55ft by 29ft. The base of the dome itself will be 45ft square, and it will be finished with a cupola of 40ft wide. An inner dome, rising to a height from the floor of 72ft, will be furnished with two ecclesiastical galleries and a whisper gallery. There will be four vestries, two 20ft by 13ft, and two 13ft by 14ft.

Above the aisles and over the side chapels, in the transept, there will be galleries, giving a total gallery space of 302ft by 12ft, and 52ft by 18ft. The organ loft will be 66ft by 19ft. Access to these galleries, and also to those over the sanctuary, will be by six iron stairways, four being in the dome tower and one in each of the flanking towers.

The internal arrangement of the building will be in the style of a Greek colonnade. The nave will be surrounded by 30 columns, and the back of the sanctuary will be carried by seven columns. This colonnade will be repeated in the second order above, carrying the gallery ceilings. The lower order will be on the Ionic or Corinthian principle. Each order will support its whole entablature. The dome internally at the level of the whisper gallery will be carried by a Corinthian colonnade of 24 columns.

Externally the building has been designed on the Roman Arcade principle, both the lower and the upper order, the one being

Ionic and the other Corinthian. There will be the full proportion of arches, including imposts and arch-voils. The pilasters of the order will be in the centre of the pier. Each entablature will be mounted by its full balustrade. The main front of the building will have two flanking towers, surmounted with stone belfries and cupolas, rising to a total height of 108ft., with pediments for clock faces. The central space of the front, between the two towers, will have a full Corinthian colonnade of four columns, 42ft. high, having a full tabature, with a central pediment, surmounted by a cross 8ft high, rising to a total height of 80ft. Under the colonnade there will be the principal entrance, in addition to which there will be four flank entrances, besides those of the vestries.

Generally, the whole of the building inside and outside will be constructed of stone, with as little woodwork as possible. In fact, only a certain portion of the roof framing will be wood, and all the rest of the building, including the window frames, will be concrete, iron, or stone. The ceilings throughout will be of embossed zinc, the design in its decorations being suitable to the building. The floors of the galleries, and the flat roofs over the side chapels and vestries will all be constructed of concrete, with iron bars added, and expanded steel covering. The roof of the nave has its principals framed with angle-iron, and covered with Marseilles tiles. The roofs of the three cupolas are covered with stamped zinc tiles placed upon rubberoid.

One of the internal features of the nave ceiling will be the embossed zinc work, which will be profusely decorated, arranged coffers, surrounding three internal acoustic domes. The whole will be painted and decorated, and will form a ceiling which will resist any damage from wet, and will also have a certain degree of fire-resisting quality.

[We regret to state that, despite repeated promises made to us by the architect, our representative has been unable to procure any particulars whatsoever regarding the new Cathedral. In connection with this, as with several other important Catholic buildings in the Colony, we have been unable, despite repeated applications, to secure from the same source information which seems to have been supplied without difficulty or demur to the secular Press.—ED. N.Z.T.]

TIMARU.

(From our own correspondent.)

The Rev. Father Herbert, S.M., of St. Patrick's College paid a short visit to Timaru, and officiated on Sunday.

Miss Mary Twomey has undertaken the duties of organist at St. Joseph's, Temuka, rendered vacant by Miss Quinn's approaching marriage.

Sister Mary Anne, of St. Joseph's Convent, Temuka, is leaving this week for Port Chalmers. This lady has been in Temuka for the past 15 years, has rendered invaluable assistance in the schools and choir, and will be very much missed in the community. Sister Bernadine, of Waimate, is to take up Sister Mary Anne's duties at Temuka.

The half yearly meeting of St. Mary's branch H.A.C.B.S. was held in St. John's Hall on Thursday the 10th inst. The president (Mr. M. F. Dennehy) was in the chair. The balance sheet and auditors' report showed the branch to be making steady progress financially, the membership also being on the increase. The election of officers for the ensuing six months resulted as follows:—President, M. F. Dennehy (re-elected); vice-president, R. Kelly; treasurer, Jno. Sullivan (re-elected); secretary, J. P. Fitzgerald (re-elected); warden, Nolan Knight; guardian, T. Murphy; sick visitors, E. O'Connor and P. Mara; delegates to annual meeting, M. F. Dennehy and P. Kane; delegate to the Dispensing Board; M. F. Dennehy; auditors, T. Lynch and N. Knight. The report of committee reforming a juvenile contingent was adopted. The formation of a juvenile branch should prove a capable auxiliary to the parent branch as a recruiting ground for future members. It is to be regretted that there are a number of eligible young men in the parish who do not take advantage of the benefits to be derived from this Society. Self interest should be a sufficient inducement for them to join, when by paying an almost nominal contribution they can secure themselves against those casualties to which they are all liable. Timaru should have a roll of at least 200 members in the local branch, which would make it one of the strongest branches in the Colony.

Wanted, about 50 clerks to help read testimonials *re* Tussicura. Sole manufacturer, S. J. Evans, 2s 6d.—*.

The Public Works Department, Dunedin, calls for tenders for the erection of a police station at Waikouaiti, and post office at Caversham. Tenders will be received for the former up to the 22 inst, and for the latter up to 17 inst.—*.

Messrs. Whitaker Brothers, Wellington and Greymouth, have much pleasure in informing the reading public that they have now for sale Father Sheehan's *My New Curate*, a book which has had an enormous sale in the United States, having run to eight editions in as many months. Messrs. Whitaker also notify that they are direct importers of various aids to devotion, incense, statues, etc. As soon as the proposed new Catechism is finally settled by the coming Synod, they shall advertise same without delay.—*.

The Grand Prix was the highest award obtainable at the Paris Exhibition, and the McCormick Harvesting Machine Company, of Chicago, secured this coveted honor, and not only this but they obtained more special prizes than all other competitors. Such a tribute to the worth of the McCormick machines is proof positive of their excellence. Messrs. Morrow, Bassett and Co., Christchurch, Ashburton, and Dunedin, are the agents for the Company's manufactures in New Zealand.—*.