

MARIST BROTHERS' FUND.

We have been requested by the Rev. Father O'Shea, Wellington, to acknowledge receipt of the sum of £60 12s, per Mr. M. J. Sheahan, collected in Auckland on behalf of the Marist Brothers' indemnity fund, and by Brother Augustine the sum of £1 1s from Mr. Donald Cameron, Nokomai, for the same object.

DIOCESE OF DUNEDIN.

The candidates presented for the N.Z. University Matriculation examination from the Christian Brothers' School (Dunedin), were all successful: viz., C. J. Collins, J. F. O'Leary, and J. P. Hastings. These candidates passed in Latin, French, English, Geography, Algebra, Euclid, Arithmetic. The school re-opens on Monday, February 4.

The members of the Cathedral choir entertained Miss Mary Blaney at a euchre party in St. Joseph's Hall on Monday evening in honor of her approaching marriage.

An adjourned meeting of the General Committee appointed to make arrangements in connection with the holding of a picnic for the Catholic school children and their friends was held in St. Joseph's Hall on Monday evening, when a considerable amount of routine business was transacted. The right of supplying light refreshments and cordials was given to Mr. Corbett, who was the caterer last year. The committee decided to supply tea, sugar, milk, and hot water to the public. Entries from boys between 11 and 15 years of age will be received at the schools, and under that age on the grounds. It was reported that the Caledonian Grounds, Outram, had been secured for the picnic. No tickets will be issued on the morning of outing, but they can be procured up to 8 o'clock on the preceding evening.

His Grace the Archbishop of Melbourne reached Port Chalmers on yesterday (Wednesday) morning by the Mokoia. He was met at Port by Bishop Verdon and Father McCarthy (Melbourne), and on his arrival by train in Dunedin was met at the station by the local clergy. The distinguished prelate proceeds to Wellington this day (Thursday) by the Mokoia, accompanied by his Lordship Bishop Verdon, Monsignor O'Leary, and Father McCarthy. His Grace returns to Melbourne via Dunedin after the close of the ceremony of laying the foundation stone of the new Christchurch Cathedral on February 10.

SOUTHLAND NEWS NOTES.

(From our own correspondent.)

The new Catholic Literary Society at Wyndham bids fair to be a success, especially with such an energetic official as Mr. D. Jones at its head.

The hot fly pest is very prevalent in Southland just now, and several horses are reported to have died in consequence of its attacks.

Mr. T. King (Postmaster) and Mr. W. P. Craig left Gore recently on a month's exploring tour in beautiful Lakeland. From Te Anau they go to Sutherland Falls by a new and unexplored track; thence to Milford Sound, and if time permits a journey is to be made from the north arm up the Glaisnock to Bligh Sound. The paraphernalia of the party consists of two canoes and a new telegraphic camera. The most perilous adventure of the journey is reserved for last. Entering at Manapouri they intend coming down the swift Waiau, which, with its many curves and boulderous bottom, is a dangerous river to negotiate; considering also that it travels 15 miles an hour in some places. The party arrive at the Waiau mouth about the 13th February, and return by way of Orepuki.

HOKITIKA.

(From our own correspondent.)

January 24.

A pleasant entertainment was given in the large schoolroom of St. Columbkille's Convent on Tuesday evening, 22nd inst., the occasion being the celebration of the silver jubilee of Mother Mary Claver. Some of the ex-pupils wishing to show their appreciation of the work done by the good Sisters, and to show their esteem for Mother Mary Claver personally, decided, with the sanction of their pastor and the approval of the Mother Superior, to make Mother Claver a small present on her jubilee, and with that object in view and to bring the ex-pupils together a concert was inaugurated by them and brought to successful issue on Tuesday evening. The schoolroom was tastefully decorated for the occasion, and those ex-pupils who brought the concert to such a successful issue, especially Miss E. Ward, deserve a word of praise for their efforts. A lengthy programme of instrumental and vocal music and recitations was well rendered by the following ex-pupils:—Songs by Misses M. Murphy, G. Burger, M. Ward, and Mrs. Wade, and Messrs D. Clarke and H. Burgher, and choruses by the ex-pupils; instrumental selections by Misses Gribben (2), E. Daly, and Mr. A. McDonald; recitations by Mr. J. Burke and Masters E. McDonald and F. Sellers.

Miss Gribben attended by Misses Ward and Daly read and presented an address and a small souvenir to Mother Claver. The address, which took the form of a small banner was nicely lettered on white satin backed with green silk. Among the guests present were the Mother Superiores and full staff of the convent and also the priests from all the parishes of the district, from Reefton to Ross.

On Wednesday morning a solemn High Mass was celebrated in the convent chapel in honor of the occasion. Rev. Father O'Hallahan (Kumara) was celebrant, Rev. Father King (Ahaura) deacon, Rev. Father Bogue (Ross), sub-deacon, Rev. Father Cooney (Kumara) master of ceremonies, whilst Rev. Fathers Le Petit (Hokitika), Hickson (Reefton), and Kimbell (Greymouth), were also present in the sanctuary.

DEATH OF THE VERY REV. DEAN CHERVIER, S.M., LEESTON.

(From our Christchurch correspondent.)

VERY sincere sorrow was experienced in Christchurch, and indeed throughout Canterbury, on Monday morning when news was received of the death of the Very Rev. Dean Chervier, S.M., on Sunday at Blenheim, where he had gone a few weeks previously with the hope that the change would benefit his health. The fact that he was able to do so raised the hopes of his congregation and numerous friends, who fondly cherished the thought that, perhaps, despite all he had suffered, Divine Providence would spare him still longer to them. This happy condition, however, was not to be, and the sad intelligence of his demise was received by his Lordship the Bishop in a brief message on Sunday night at a late hour.

John Claudius Chervier was born in Lyons, France, on January 5, 1833, was professed in the Marist Order on January 3, 1857, and shortly afterwards was ordained to the priesthood. He was thus at the time of his death 68 years of age. He came to this Colony in 1861, and was appointed assistant to the parish priest of Christchurch—the Rev. Father Chataignier, S.M.—and signed the original document placed under the foundation stone of the Church of the Blessed Sacrament (now the Pro-Cathedral). When the church was recently lifted from its foundation for removal to its present site this document, with the signature still legible, was discovered, and is now framed and much valued at the Episcopal residence as a historical relic. Father Chervier was associated with Father Chataignier until June, 1869, when the latter removed to Timaru to found the now prosperous mission there. Father Chervier remained, and was appointed successor in pastoral charge, a position he held until 1871. After this time another change was made. The province of Otago was erected into a new diocese, and Christchurch and suburbs became a parish, and the country districts a separate one. Rev. Father Ecuyer (lately deceased) took charge of the former in June, 1871, Father Chervier being placed over the country districts. The latter fixed his residence at New Headford, or Shand's Track, near Lincoln. His parish embraced all the districts from Christchurch southwards to the Rangitara River, northwards to the Hurunui, and westwards to the dividing line between Canterbury and Westland. He established schools in Lyttelton, Shand's Track, Leeston, and Ashburton, and the list of churches he erected is as follows:—Leeston, opened December 3, 1869; Rangiora, July 31, 1870; Shand's Track, January 1, 1871; Ashburton, July 16, 1876 (all these are now used as schools, new and more commodious churches having taken their places); Loburn, May 30, 1875; Southbridge, September 3, 1878; a new church (that of the Reparation) at Shand's Track, September 19, 1880; Darfield, church, October 31, 1880; and the fine new church of St. John the Evangelist at Leeston, the foundation stone of which was laid by his Lordship Dr. Grimes on April 1, 1891, on which occasion the Bishop conferred upon Father Chervier the dignity of Dean. He erected a fine convent for the Sisters of the Mission, whom he introduced to teach his schools, and this was blessed by his Grace Archbishop Redwood on October 2, 1898, and also a handsome presbytery at Leeston. His last undertaking was the removal of the old church from its original foundation to a more populous part of the town for educational purposes, the whole forming now in close proximity one to another probably the finest group of church buildings to be found in any country district in the Colony. The late Father Chervier ministered to the spiritual wants of the Catholics of Akaroa in the far past, and it is truthfully said of him that every day he would, in the long ago, take his 'swag' and make a circuit over the hills of the peninsula to the north, south, or westward, as occasion required, and in frequent journeys was in imminent risk of losing his life by the dangerous nature of his labors. At each of the places where his missionary efforts were exercised his memory is revered by all classes of the community, with whom he was very popular.

Immediately on the news of his death being received his Lordship the Bishop sent instructions for the mortal remains of the late Dean to be embalmed and conveyed to his old parish for interment, and this was done by the Rev. Father Fay (who, by the way, is a former pupil of the deceased). The coffin containing the remains was taken to Wellington on Monday, and was brought down by the 'Tarawera' which arrived at Lyttelton on Wednesday morning. A solemn Requiem Mass will be celebrated at Leeston on Thursday morning, after which the interment will take place in the Catholic cemetery.

Rev. Father Fay accompanied the remains to Leeston. Failure of the heart's action was the immediate cause of death, weakness of the organ being the primary cause of the prolonged illness.—R.I.P

Tussicura, the wonderful cough remedy—sold by all chemists and grocers.—*.*

Intending students are notified that studies will be resumed at St. Patrick's College, Wellington, on February 7.—*.*

Funerals are conducted in all parts of Southland by Messrs. Kingsland and Ferguson, Undertakers and Monumental Masons, Spey and Dee Streets, Invercargill. All descriptions of monuments are kept in stock, and the firm is prepared to supply and erect all kinds of grave fences, and to cut inscriptions.—*.*