

WEDDING BELLS.

CONNOR—BLANEY.

A wedding which created more than ordinary interest took place in St. Joseph's Cathedral, Dunedin, on Wednesday of last week, when Mr. J. J. Connor, Cromwell, eldest son of Mr. J. J. Connor, Dunedin, was married to Miss Mary F. Blaney, youngest daughter of Captain Blaney, South Dunedin. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. Father Murphy, who also celebrated a Nuptial Mass. The bridesmaids were Miss Rose Blaney (sister of the bride), and Miss Winnie Connor (sister of the bridegroom), Mr. Charles Columb being best man, and Mr. John Woods groomsmen. The bride's costume was of white brocaded satin, trimmed with chiffon, with the customary wreath and veil, and the bridesmaids wore dresses of surah silk with cornflower sprays, and black picture hats. The bridegroom presented the bride with a diamond and emerald cluster ring and the bridesmaids with greenstone and gold bangles. After the ceremony the wedding party drove to the residence of the bride's parents where the breakfast was laid. Among the large number of guests present were Rev. Fathers Murphy, Coffey, and Delany. His Lordship Bishop Verdon sent a letter of apology for his unavoidable absence. Mr. and Mrs. Connor left in the afternoon by the north train, en route for Canterbury, where the honeymoon was to be spent. In the evening a large number of friends of the newly-wedded couple were entertained by Captain and Mrs. Blaney in honor of their daughter's marriage. The wedding presents were very numerous, and included a beautiful panel mirror from the members of St. Joseph's Cathedral Choir, and appropriate gifts from the Caledonian Bowling Club and the Roscius Dramatic Society.

DALY—MADDEN.

The Church of the Holy Name, Ashburton (writes an occasional correspondent), was the scene of a pretty wedding on Wednesday, January 23, when Mr. William Patrick Daly, son of Mr. J. Daly, was married to Miss Bridget Madden, both of Ashburton. The Rev. Dean O'Donnell performed the ceremony and celebrated a Nuptial Mass. Mr. W. Schwartz officiated as best man, Mr. S. Madden being groomsmen. Misses Mary and Agatha Madden (sisters of the bride) were the bridesmaids. The bride, who was given away by her father, was daintily attired in a costume of cream figured lustre, and wore the orthodox veil and wreath of orange blossoms. The bridesmaids' dresses were white canvas cloth trimmed with chiffon and black velvet ribbon. They also wore gold initialled rings, and carried pretty bouquets, the gifts of the bridegroom. The Wedding March was played by Miss Marie Bournique as the bridal party left the church. After the ceremony a reception was held at the residence of the bride's parents, the Very Rev. Dean O'Donnell, Rev. Fathers Crotty and Walsh being present. Early in the afternoon the happy couple left by the express for Dunedin to spend their honeymoon. As the express left cheers were lustily given for Mr. and Mrs. Daly, who took with them the good wishes of a large circle of friends. The presents were numerous and costly and came from friends and well-wishers in various parts of the Colony.

NEW ZEALAND: GENERAL.

THE Sixth Contingent from this Colony for South Africa left Auckland for their destination on Wednesday of last week. The contingent was in charge of Lieut.-Colonel Banks.

WITH this number of the N.Z. TABLET we issue a supplement containing process portraits of the prelates present at the dedication of the Sacred Heart Basilica, Wellington, and also of Bishop Lenihan, who was unavoidably absent. We also give a picture of the new basilica.

IT is proposed to erect a statue of the late Queen in Wellington. The movement has been initiated by Lord Ranfurly, who has promised a subscription of 25 guineas. At a preliminary meeting a sum of over £250 was raised, including 50 guineas from the Ministry.

A GREYMOUTH correspondent writes:—Among the successful candidates at the recent matriculation examination was Miss Mary Ellen Noonan, a pupil of the Convent of Mercy, Greymouth. Another pupil of the convent, Miss Frances Broad, passed the second grade freehand drawing examination which was held last December in connection with the Technical School, Wellington.

THE Imperial contingent, which was present at the Commonwealth ceremonies in Sydney, and consisting of about 780 officers and men, arrived in Dunedin on Tuesday evening, and received an enthusiastic reception. On Wednesday there was a parade of the Imperial troops through the principal streets, and in the evening the visitors were suitably entertained by the citizens.

OUR Nelson correspondent writes:—The sum of about £35 has been collected in this parish to go towards the Marist Brothers' defence fund.—The Very Rev. Dean Mahoney and Father G. Mahoney have left for Wellington for the annual retreat. The Dean will go on to Christchurch after the retreat to witness the laying of the foundation stone of the new cathedral.

THE Canterbury Jubilee Exhibition was formally closed on Thursday evening. The president announced that everything had worked smoothly; that the exhibition had been one of the most successful held in the Colony; that the total number of visitors was nearly 250,000, and that there was a surplus of £3000. The home industries and working exhibits sections had been specially successful.

IT is said that Mr. C. Walker, who was present at the proclamation of King Edward VII. at Palmerston North, has seen five

monarchs on the British throne, having been born in 1811. He was a magistrate of Yorkshire in 1849, more than half a century ago, and is still so hale that he was able to take an active interest in the accession of the new King, by braving the elements to be present at the ceremony.

A CORRESPONDENT writes:—Next month Miss Connell, of Hawera, who has already earned a name for herself in musical circles as a vocalist, leaves for Wellington to join a concert party who purpose touring the Colony professionally. This done it is the intention of Miss Connell to proceed to Europe to further pursue her musical education.

A SAD drowning accident occurred on the estuary at New Brighton on Saturday. Mr. B. Bull, ex-Mayor of St. Albans Borough, with a married and a single son and a grandson, were sailing in the estuary, when a puff of wind capsized the boat. The younger son, Leonard, first got the nephew ashore and then his father, but Samuel, the father of the boy, was exhausted and was drowned.

A HAILSTORM of an exceptional character was experienced the other day at Duntroon, 28 miles from Oamaru. The storm expended itself over a small area, but it entirely ruined the crops of one farmer, and partially destroyed those of others. The hailstones were like hens' eggs, and iron roofs were perforated and windows smashed wherever they faced the storm.

MR. W. HOBAN, solicitor, of Christchurch (says an exchange), has just purchased from the New Zealand Farmers' Co-operative Association the Te Raki estate, at the Chatham Islands, formerly in the estate of the late Mrs. T. O. Hay. The property comprises 4666 acres, 1,600 sheep, a number of horses, implements, together with the buildings and improvements, which have been considerably increased of late. This property adjoins his own run, and will be advantageously worked in conjunction therewith.

CALCULATIONS made by the Postal department show that during the week ended January 7 to 13 the number of letters posted in the Colony was 30 per cent. greater than during the corresponding period last year. Other figures showing the operation of the penny postage system disclose the fact that 55,932 letters went from the Colony by the San Francisco mail on the 21st ult., as against 25 662 by the previous mail in September, an increase of 109 per cent.

AN occasional correspondent, writing from Hastings under date January 28, says:—Sunday, January 27, the occasion of the opening of the new convent, was a day of special devotion in the Sacred Heart Church, Hastings. Mass at 7.30 was celebrated by the Very Rev. Father Smyth. At 11 o'clock Solemn High Mass was sung by the Very Rev. Dean Kirk, of Wanganui, Rev. Father Goutenoire, of Meaneer, being deacon, and Father Piquet, of Sydney, subdeacon. After Mass Father Smyth, in the absence of his Grace the Archbishop, blessed the convent, and Very Rev. Dean Kirk preached a short sermon. At 7 o'clock Solemn Vespers were sung by Very Rev. Dean Kirk. Rev. Father Piquet preached a very instructive sermon on 'Death.'

THE following paragraph which appears in the *Stirling Journal and Advertiser* of December 7 will be read with interest by West Coast readers as evidence of the success of a young New Zealander and native of Hokitika:—The Town Council of Stirling has conferred the freedom of the burgh on Dr. St. Leger H. Gribben, who lately returned from South Africa, with the Edinburgh and East of Scotland Hospital. Dr. Gribben, who is a native of New Zealand, was house surgeon at Stirling Royal Infirmary, and volunteered for service in South Africa. He left Stirling in March last for the seat of war. His many patients and friends will be pleased to see that this honor has been accorded him, for by his professional ability and tact Dr. Gribben gained the respect of all who knew him. Dr. Gribben's father is Mr. H. Gribben, Superintendent of the Sea View Lunatic Asylum, who is to be congratulated upon his son's promising career.

THERE was a crowded house of members of the Ashburton Catholic Literary Society and their friends at the Boys' School on Wednesday night of last week (says the *Mail*) to hear a lecture by the Rev. Father Crotty, entitled 'A glimpse at London,' with limelight illustrations. The lecture occupied over two hours in delivery, in the course of which the lecturer explained his experiences in the metropolis, and also described the various sights to be seen there, his description of St. Paul's Cathedral, Westminster Abbey, and the Tower of London proving very interesting. The lecture was delivered in a humorous and telling manner, and the lecturer kept his audience with him from beginning to end, a consequence of which was that the proceedings were a great success, everyone being thoroughly pleased with the evening's entertainment. The various scenes were thrown on the canvas in a manner that reflected the highest credit on Mr. F. Cooper, who manipulated the limelight apparatus. A hearty vote of thanks was accorded Father Crotty for his excellent lecture.

EX-JUDGE GRESSON died at his residence, North Canterbury, on Friday morning, the anniversary of his birthday. The deceased was 92 years of age, and had been living in retirement for a considerable time. The deceased was born in County Westmeath, Ireland, in 1809. He matriculated at Trinity College, Dublin, and took his B.A. degree. He studied with a view to the profession of a barrister, and was called to the Irish Bar in Trinity Term, 1833; but was without any intention of offering himself for practice at the time. In London and in Dublin he obtained experience in his profession, and, in conjunction with a brother barrister, published a book on Irish Equity Pleading. In 1854 he arrived in New Zealand, and later on was appointed Provincial Solicitor and Crown Prosecutor. These offices he continued to hold until December, 1857, when he accepted the office of Acting-Judge of the Southern Districts, including Wellington, Nelson, Westland, Canterbury, and Otago. He retired from the Supreme Court Bench in 1874.