

Diocesan News.

ARCHDIOCESE OF WELLINGTON.

(From our own correspondent.)

February 23.

Very Rev. Father Smyth returned to Hastings on Monday last. St. Mary of the Angels' choir and the children attending the Convent High School held their annual picnics this week.

The annual meeting of the Convent Ex-pupils' Association will be held on Monday evening next at St. Mary's Convent.

Perfect weather was enjoyed by the ex-pupils of St. Mary's Convent on the occasion of their annual outing held on Saturday last. The picnickers journeyed to Porirua by train and were from there conveyed by coach to Titahi Bay, where the sea-side residence of the nuns was placed at their disposal by the Mother-Superior. During the day the party visited a Maori meeting house which is in course of erection, and were greatly interested in the carving of the natives who were busily engaged therein. The party returned to town by the 5.30 train after spending a very enjoyable day.

The meeting of ladies convened by Rev. Father O'Shea, and held on Thursday afternoon to discuss the question of holding a bazaar this year, was well attended by representatives from Newtown and Te Aro parishes. Father O'Shea explained the necessity for the raising of funds to liquidate the heavy debt on the convent and ground at Newtown, and suggested that a bazaar was the best means of attaining that object. It was decided, after some discussion, that a bazaar should be held, the date to be fixed at a later meeting. The allotting of the stalls was then proceeded with, the ladies of Newtown and St. Mary's Convent ex-Pupils' Association, each undertaking the furnishing and management of a stall. The "tea kiosk" will be in charge of Miss O'Connor. The two remaining stalls are to be allotted at a future meeting. Mr. T. Davis was appointed secretary, and Mr. L. Dwan assistant secretary.

The half-yearly meeting of the Marist School Old Boys' Association was held last Tuesday evening. The Rev. Father O'Shea, S.M., presided. The report of the secretary sketched the progress made by the Association during the past six months, and complimented the members on the success that had attended their efforts in the direction of literary improvement and social amusement. The report of the treasurer disclosed a sound financial position. The election of officers for the ensuing six months resulted as follows:—Patron, Archbishop Redwood; president, Rev. Father O'Shea; vice-presidents, Very Rev. Father Lewis, V.G., and Rev. Fathers Grogan, Holly, Moloney, Ainsworth, Drs. Mackin and Grace, Messrs. J. J. Devine, M. Kennedy, O. McArdle, Lieutenant-Colonel Collins, J. Kays, J. P. Kelly, W. Mussen and Hon. J. G. Ward; hon. secretary, Mr. H. McKeown; assistant secretary, Mr. P. J. McGovern; hon. treasurer, Mr. F. McDonald; librarian, Mr. T. Lawlor; auditors, Messrs. J. Weybourne and J. E. Gamble; chairman of debating society, Mr. J. Kays; general committee, Messrs. C. Gamble, E. Fitzgibbon, H. C. Allan, E. J. Leydon, L. Reichel, A. S. Henderson, E. Gibbs, B. A. Guise, the secretary and assistant secretary to act *ad officio*. Votes of thanks were passed to the outgoing committee, to the chairman, to the Press and donors of trophies. A motion by Mr. McKeown that Catholic young men who were not Marist Old Boys should be permitted to hold office was discussed for nearly three hours and finally carried. The Rev. Father O'Shea and Mr. Kays, judges of the 'Original Essays', announced that the first prize was won by Mr. E. Fitzgibbon, the second by Mr. C. Gamble, and the third by Mr. McKeown. The prizes are to be presented next Thursday week at a meeting of the Literary Society. At the meeting complimentary references were made by members concerning the assiduity and capability of the hon. sec. Mr. McKeown, assistant secretary, Mr. McGovern, and hon. treasurer, Mr. McDonald, all of whom were re-elected. The meeting to discuss the advisability of the Association publishing a journal in connection with the Literary Society will be held shortly, when the report of the sub-committee appointed will be presented.

WANGANUI.

(From our own correspondent.)

February 21.

Among the visitors to the bazaar held here recently were Rev. Fathers Tymons (Palmerston) and Cahill (Dannevirke). The latter was on his way to Rotorua.

The Lenten devotions began last Wednesday morning. There was a good attendance at the evening devotions.

The St. Patrick's Day celebration will, I understand, take the form of a concert.

Miss Kate Connell has booked the Opera House for her concert on March 1. She will be assisted by Miss Lorraine Tansley, and Mr. Roland Boot.

The proceedings at the bazaar during the week are set forth in the following report from the *Herald*:—Last evening the Imperial Bazaar was brought to a close. Considering the many calls that have been made on the public of late, the interest in the function has been well maintained, during the six days' run, and the Very Rev. Dean Kirk and the ladies and others who have worked so hard, should feel gratified at the results. The takings at the various stalls were as follows:—India, £80; Ireland, £69; England, £48; Canada, £40; Africa, £36; refreshments, £32; and produce, £11. To this is to be added the sum of £50 taken at the doors, or a total of about £400. The expenses will be something over £20. Last evening the goods unsold at the various stalls, were submitted

to auction by Mr. J. H. Keesing. Several ballots were drawn during the evening, for the principal prizes in the art unions. A lad named A. H. Taylor (No. 1339) who is at present a patient in the hospital, had the good luck to secure the valuable and handsome hand-painted duchess table; Master E. Troy won the large oil painting, Mr. J. Cullinane a hand-painted mirror, and Messrs. Jefferson and Hean each won a handsome worked chair. The surplus is to be devoted to reducing the debt on the church, which has but recently been enlarged and generally improved at a cost of something like £1600. The sacred edifice of St. Mary's is now one of the largest and prettiest churches in New Zealand, and is a lasting tribute to the energy and enterprise of the Very Rev. Dean Kirk, who has done so much to further the interests of the Catholic Church in Wanganui, and who by his unfailing zeal, devotion to duty, and extreme courteousness to all, has endeared himself not only to the congregation of St. Mary's, but to members of all denominations.

(By telegraph.)

The results of the Junior Civil Service examination are just to hand, and among the successful candidates are four pupils of the local Catholic schools, viz:—Master T. Noble-Beasley (who received his education at the Marist Brothers' School) and Misses J. and F. Whelan and M. Steadman (all of the Wanganui Convent). These young ladies were the only pupils sent up by the Sisters, who after their successes at the Matriculation examination have good reason to be pleased with their record this year at the public examinations.

DIOCESE OF AUCKLAND.

(From our own correspondent.)

February 22.

On Sunday night at St. Patrick's Cathedral the Rev. Father Benedict, O.P., delivered a most instructive sermon on 'Our Blessed Lady,' to a large congregation.

All the Catholic schools of the diocese have been opened for three weeks or more, and the teachers are highly pleased with the increase and renewed diligence of the pupils.

A mission was commenced at St. Benedict's last Sunday, by two of the Passionist Fathers. Both at the 11 o'clock Mass and evening devotions the Rev. Father Augustine preached very impressive sermons to crowded congregations.

On Sunday at the 11 o'clock Mass at St. Patrick's the Rev. Father Corcoran, during the course of his sermon, made mention to the congregation of the fact that a young men's club had been established in their midst, and, if there were any desirous of joining it, they could do so by handing in their names to Mr. James Ford, the hon. secretary.

A pastoral has been issued by Bishop Lenihan to the clergy and laity (says the *Auckland Star*) detailing the progress made during the year. The pastoral states that the clergy had persuaded the Board of Education to allow their inspectors to examine pupils of the schools. Six Sisters of Mercy were professed, while the number of Sisters of St. Joseph had increased by 10. New churches had been built at Te Kōpuru, Pahitahi and Coromandel. The reductions made in church debts are shown; also the debts contracted by improvements and alterations. His Lordship hopes during the year to increase the staff of priests. During the year there were 460 confirmations. The Passionist and Dominican Fathers will give a series of missions throughout the diocese.

His Lordship the Bishop has made the following clerical changes:—The Right Rev. Mgr. O'Reilly returns to his former parish, the Thames. The Rev. Father Mahony has been transferred from the Thames to Puhoi; Rev. Father Patterson from Panmure to the Cathedral; Rev. Father Corcoran from the Cathedral to Panmure; Rev. Father Croke from Kihikihi to St. Patrick's; Rev. Father O'Carroll from the Cathedral to Kihikihi; Rev. Father Buckley from Hamilton to St. Benedict's; Rev. Father Darby from St. Benedict's to Hamilton; and Rev. Father Brodie from Puhoi to Waihi.

Regarding the transfer of Rev. Father Buckley from Hamilton to St. Benedict's parish, Auckland, the *Waikato Times* says:—We learn that the Rev. Father Buckley, of St. Mary's, Hamilton, and St. Peter's, Cambridge, is transferred to Auckland. During the time the Rev. Father has resided in Hamilton he has confined himself to the strict performance of the duties of his office. All those, however, who have had the pleasure of his acquaintance have found him a courteous gentleman and the people of his church an earnest priest. He will be succeeded by the Rev. J. C. Darby, of St. Benedict's, Auckland. We also learn that the Rev. Father Croke, of Kihikihi, is also transferred to Auckland, and will be succeeded by the Rev. M. A. O'Carroll, of St. Patrick's, Auckland.

Writing with reference to the departure of Rev. Father Croke from Kihikihi to the cathedral parish a correspondent of an Auckland contemporary writes:—Father Croke will be much regretted by his people. During his stay amongst them he endeared himself to all, and was popular with people of every creed. He succeeded the late Father Luck, and indeed proved himself a worthy successor. The many improvements he effected in his districts are standing monuments of his zeal. His duties extended over a very wide range of country, and were performed under many difficulties, especially in wet weather. In one of his journeys he got a wetting and contracted a cold, from which he still suffers, and which, we regret to say, has considerably impaired his health. His medical advisers have recommended him to try a hot climate for a change in the hope that his health may be thereby improved. His parishoners will undoubtedly extend their sympathy to him in his affliction; for it was in serving them and in discharging his sacred duties towards them that his present illness was contracted. His speedy recovery and perfect restoration to health is the ardent wish of all.