

DIOCESE OF DUNEDIN.

The Rev. Father Ganly, of Melbourne, who arrived in Dunedin last week, left on Monday afternoon for Australia by the Monowai. During his stay in Dunedin he was the guest of the clergy at the Bishop's Palace, and on Sunday evening preached a fine discourse on Ireland's patron saint.

Last week Father Hunt, Rector of Cromwell, purchased a very commodious house built of stone and surrounded by a well-laid-out garden and orchard. He has provided a very suitable convent for the Dominican Nuns, who have charge of the Catholic school at Cromwell.

Whilst holding his episcopal visitation during the past fortnight his Lordship Bishop Verdon gave Confirmation in Queens-town, Arrowtown, Cardrona, Hawea, Cromwell, Alexandra, Roxburgh, and Miller's Flat. He confirmed 165 children and adults. Next Sunday his Lordship will administer Confirmation in Lawrence.

The sports in connection with the Catholic schools' picnic, which were postponed from February 14 on account of the weather, were held on Saturday afternoon on the Caledonian Grounds, when there was a very fair attendance, including the local clergy. A good deal of interest centred in the tug-of-war and the hurling match, the latter causing considerable amusement. Thanks are due to the Caledonian Society and to the Dunedin Cricket Club for the use of the ground.

WAIMATE.

THE annual concert in connection with St. Patrick's School, Waimate, took place on Monday evening in the Oddfellows' Hall, when an excellent programme was submitted. The parts assigned to the pupils of the school (says the local *Times*) were all well performed and reflected every credit on the teachers. The scarf drill by the girls and the wand drill by the boys were perhaps their most interesting contributions. Miss Ethel Jones played very acceptably the music for the school children. The children's piano numbers and choruses were also well rendered. The performances of the scholars were interspersed with items by local adult talent. Mr. C. J. Goldstone was successful in 'The lads in navy blue.' Mr. Hutton received an encore for his first song and responded by giving 'Father O'Flynn,' the song on the programme. The same gentleman contributed another item in substitution of a jig by Mr. J. McAleer, whose services were not available. Mr. J. Manchester gave a new version of 'The wearing of the green,' which took immensely, and he was encored, his encore number being also well received. Mr. Manchester is improving greatly in his singing, a fact which the audience was quick to acknowledge. Miss Petit gave a most acceptable rendering of 'The dear little shamrock,' which was encored. The pretty song 'Killarney so fair' was sweetly sung by Miss Boyd. Miss Sinclair played a violin solo with great skill and was well received. Mrs. Hamilton playing the piano accompaniments. Altogether the programme was an excellent one and not too long. Those who accompanied were Mrs. Hamilton and Misses Gaitt, M. Franklin, and Dooley.

The drawing of the Carnival art union afterwards took place, the result of which will be found in our advertising columns. The first prize goes to the Thames. The carnival altogether realised nearly £600.

On Saturday the ceremony of unfurling the flag of Ireland, presented to the pupils of St. Patrick's school by the Rev. Father Regnault was performed at 12 o'clock. The flagstaff, which was presented by Mr. William Quinn, of Mukikihī, is erected near the gate in the presbytery grounds.

Just before noon the children were drawn up on the lawn. Father Regnault said he had asked his Worship the Mayor to put up the flag of Ireland, which it was most fitting should be flown on the eve of St. Patrick's Day. It would serve to remind them of the land from which their fathers came and to keep green within them the faith their fathers brought with them and for which they still made so many sacrifices. For centuries Ireland was the home of letters and the arts. They need have no reason to blush for the flag which was lowered only with honor to a superior force.

In unfurling the flag his Worship expressed himself as very pleased, more especially as he had Irish blood in his veins. After an interesting sketch of the early life of St. Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland, he said that though the Irish flag was embodied in that of Great Britain and they were one nation under one flag, still there was no reason why they should not revere the flag of the native country of their fathers. They would remember that it was very shortly before the late Queen died that she presented the flag of Ireland to the Irish regiment which had fought so bravely in the present war.

Three cheers were given for the flag, the children uniting in a verse or two of 'God Save Ireland.' Cheers were also given for Mr. Quinn and Father Regnault.

The Rev. Father O'Connell said that though they were hoisting the flag of Ireland, they were none the less loyal to their other flags. If the children would uphold the honor of their flag they would realise what it was to be true, gallant children of Irish parents.

Several gentlemen present were entertained at the presbytery, and after a few minutes' chat a very pleasing ceremony was concluded.

A list of the winning numbers in the art union in connection with St. Patrick's Church, Waimate, will be found in our advertising columns.—*.

NEW CONVENT AT MILTON.

LAYING OF THE FOUNDATION STONE.

THE ceremony of the laying of the foundation stone of the new Dominican Convent at Milton was performed on Sunday—St. Patrick's Day—by the Right Rev. Dr. Verdon, Bishop of Dunedin, assisted by the Very Rev. Mgr. O'Leary (Lawrence), and the Very Rev. Father O'Neill (Milton). Pontifical High Mass was celebrated by his Lordship Bishop Verdon, Very Rev. Mgr. O'Leary being deacon, and Very Rev. Father O'Neill subdeacon. The choir, under the conductorship of Mr. J. A. Scott, rendered the music—Este's composition—in a very efficient and devotional manner. Mrs. King, of Lawrence, assisted, and sang as an offertory an 'O Salutaris.' The occasional discourse was preached by Monsignor O'Leary, who took for his subject the feast of the day, dealing with the life and labors of St. Patrick, Apostle of Ireland. After Mass a procession, consisting of the school children wearing green sashes, the members of the local branch of the Hibernian Society, the clergy, and the congregation, was formed and proceeded to the site of the new convent.

The solemn ceremony of laying the foundation stone was then performed by Bishop Verdon, at the conclusion of which he delivered an address, in the course of which his Lordship congratulated the Catholics of Milton on the spirit displayed in providing suitable accommodation for the Sisters of St. Dominic, who, for a number of years, had labored so successfully in their midst, and whose efforts in the cause of Christian education were so successful throughout Otago. The new convent would be an ornament to the district, and he earnestly hoped and trusted that when completed it would be entirely free of debt.

At the invitation of Father O'Neill, Monsignor O'Leary also addressed the assembled people, and said that he could bear testimony to the splendid work done by the Dominican Nuns in the diocese. He also gave a brief discourse in Gaelic, which was interpreted by Father O'Neill for the benefit of those who were not conversant with the old tongue.

In the evening Father O'Neill exhorted his people to make a united effort so that this new and much-needed institution should open without the disadvantage of a financial burden.

The weather was beautifully fine, and as a result there were large numbers of persons present from Balclutha, Kaitangata, Waiholo, and Henley. The collection amounted to the very respectable total of £170.

NEW ZEALAND: GENERAL.

OUT of £2000 required for the Queen's statue in Wellington, £1360 have been received.

LADY RANFURLY leaves London to-day for this Colony by way of Australia. She is accompanied by her two daughters, and is expected in Wellington the second week in May.

OUR Kaikoura correspondent wires as follows:—Notwithstanding the dull and threatening weather the St. Patrick's sports' meeting on Monday was a signal success.

THERE was an average of 50 applicants for each of seven sections of land balloted for at Urenui, in the Taranaki district, last week. There is no necessity to advise the people there to 'go on the land,' as they have evidently a very keen desire to do so.

AT the Trinity College musical examination held in November last the successful candidates from the Convent of Mercy, Lyttelton, were:—Junior Division—(pianoforte), honors, Alice Davies, 80, Preparatory Division—(violin), Walter Hildson, 62.

It has been decided to postpone the Otago A. and P. Society's popular winter show until about June 26, the exact date to be fixed as soon as the committee ascertain the dates on which the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York will visit Dunedin.

It is said that the Government have gone in for the production of wine, having established a vineyard at Wairangi, in the Auckland province. The area under vines is about three acres, and sheds are in course of erection for the necessary plant.

A RATHER cool request has been made to the South Canterbury Education Board. A parent claims free education for his children in the literal sense of the word, and refuses to supply them with school books or pay for those supplied by the teacher. The knotty problem has been referred to the Board's solicitor.

It is believed that tobacco can be grown profitably in certain parts of this Colony, and the Government have taken the matter in hand, and have instructed Mr. Sutherland, an expert, recently in the employ of the New South Wales Agricultural department, to ascertain the localities most suited for the purpose.

THE Canterbury A. and P. Association seems to be in a very healthy condition. The receipts last year were £3,421, and the expenditure £2,994. Over £1300 were given away in prize money during the past year. The life members number 117, and the annual subscribers 582.

AMONG the many excellent articles which make up the contents of the March number of the *Austral Light* are 'The Coronation Oath,' a timely contribution to this subject, from the pen of the late Father Bridgett, 'The Pope and the Papacy' by the Rev. Father Phelan, S.J., 'The Great Jubilee and the Holy Year' by the same writer, 'Catholic Devotion to the Sacred Heart,' the sermon preached by the Archbishop of Melbourne in Wellington a few weeks ago, and which appeared in the N.Z. TABLET, and a thoughtful contribution on 'The Negro in America' etc.