

chairs were occupied by Sister Donnell (vice-president) and Bro. F. O'Connell (vice-president). Apologies for non-attendance were received from the Very Rev. Father Ginaty and the local priests whose duties precluded their being present, Bro. Sellars (secretary), owing to indisposition, and Sir Westby B. Perceval, who had departed for the West Coast. After breakfast the president expressed, on behalf of the Society, their gratitude to the Bishop for gracing the occasion with his presence, their great appreciation of the many services his Lordship had rendered them, and thankfulness for the success of the morning's ceremonial. His Lordship, who on rising to address the assemblage was received with prolonged applause, in appropriate terms expressed his great pleasure at being present at what was an entirely new departure so far as the Branch was concerned, but which he trusted, being now so auspiciously inaugurated, would be an annually recurring celebration. He was edified beyond expression, as he felt sure all were who beheld the truly devotional manner that they in such great numbers attended Holy Communion that morning, first of all as a loving duty they owed to Almighty God, and also in honor of their illustrious patron Saint. Any efforts he had made on their behalf in the past would be renewed in the future, especially in using his utmost endeavours to induce many young men to join their ranks. In alluding to a work most dear to him—the erection of a cathedral—he thought it would be fitting if the brethren took upon themselves the raising of a chapel in the new structure to St. Patrick. His plan was to have one in any event, and no work he felt sure would appeal to them with greater force than an enduring monument and token of their unbounding fidelity to their great saint. The Very Rev. Dean Foley, in a practical address, referred to the spiritual and temporal benefits derived from membership with the society. Bro. F. Doolan, delegate to the recent district meeting held in Dunedin, gave a résumé of the transactions there and other matters pertaining to the progress of the society, and on the motion of Bro. Nelson, P.P., a very hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Brother and Sister Burke for providing and supervising at short notice the breakfast they all had so much appreciated and enjoyed. Bro. Burke who, although present, is I am extremely sorry to learn far from well, did not feel fit to reply, this duty was however very capably carried out by Bro. R. Hayward. All those who were in attendance at the breakfast were subsequently photographed in a group.

At 11 o'clock Solemn High Mass—*Crem. Episcopale*—was celebrated. The Rev. Father Galerne was celebrant, the Very Rev. Dean Foley deacon, Rev. Father McDonnell subdeacon, and the Very Rev. Father Le Menant des Chesnais assistant priest. The solos at the Mass were taken by Miss Rose Blaney—the 'Agnus Dei' of Mozart's First Mass being especially well rendered. Mr. H. H. Loughnan conducted, and Miss Fauson presided at the organ.

At Vespers in the evening the Pro-Cathedral was filled in every part. After alluding to the events of the morning, in which the Hibernian Society was so conspicuous, his Lordship the Bishop, who occupied the pulpit, took for his text the 16th verse of the 15th chapter of St. John:—'You have not chosen me; but I have chosen you,' and delivered a panegyric of St. Patrick, the first discourse on that particular theme yet heard in this city. It was a masterful recital of the cruel wrongs inflicted on the Irish race through long ages, their love of the faith of their forefathers, and fidelity to St. Patrick. At times during the delivery of this remarkable discourse the description of persecution and suffering through famine and other evils was so intensely vivid that many were visibly affected. His Lordship the Bishop, assisted by the Very Rev. Father Le Menant des Chesnais and Rev. Father Galerne gave Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, prior to which the choir sang the hymn in honor of St. Patrick. The Litany of the Blessed Virgin was sung, and at the conclusion of the service, at the Bishop's request the choir sang 'Faith of our Fathers.'

ROSS.

(From our own correspondent.)

Rev. Father Bogue is at present on his annual visit to his parishioners in South Westland. During his absence Rev. Father Le Petit of Hokitika and Rev. Father Malone, of Greymouth have kindly paid visits here.

Dr. F. Rosetti, for the past seven years, surgeon-superintendent of the Totara Hospital, was on Wednesday evening last presented with an illuminated address and a gold sovereign case as a mark of the esteem in which he is held by the residents of Ross. The address was as follows:—'We desire on your resigning the position of surgeon-superintendent of the Totara District Hospital to express our united approbation and esteem for the energetic, impartial, and satisfactory manner in which you have discharged the duties of your responsible position. We also wish to convey to you our appreciation of your high professional and private character, which during the past seven years, we have had ample opportunities of observing. In conclusion, we wish you every success and happiness in whatever sphere you may choose to direct your future energies.' The address was signed by all the leading business men in the district, and was beautifully done on satin by the Sisters.

Dr. Rosetti is a good, practical Catholic, and was always to the fore in anything that pertained to the welfare of the parish.

As your Brunner correspondent has informed you his successor, Dr. A. T. McIlroy, was the recipient of several flattering testimonials before leaving, and he has now taken up his residence amongst us. And in this connection I hope our local choir will avail themselves of his services.

St. Patrick's School is now in full swing again after the holidays. One of the Sisters' pupils—Master Willie Knowles—was successful in passing the Junior Civil Service examination, and two of the Sisters' pupils also passed the preparatory examination in music held in Hokitika recently by the Trinity College examiner.

The Rev. Father Cooney's Ross friends, while sorry to hear that he has left the Coast, are, nevertheless, glad at his promotion to the charge of such an important parish as Lyttelton.

THE FLOWERY KINGDOM.

BITS OF CHINA OLD AND NEW.

A CRUEL MARTYRDOM.

Father Louis Van Dyck, Provincial Superior of Eastern Mongolia, has sent a letter, dated September 20, to the Superior-General of his Order announcing that the Belgian priest, Father Joseph de St. Nicholas, suffered most cruel martyrdom on the 24th July last. After undergoing many tortures and ignominies, he was buried alive by order of the Sub-Prefect Lampin Hsarn.

THE WORK OF THE BOXERS.

Interviewed by the representative of the *Temps*, Monsignor Favier, Bishop of Pekin, is represented to have expressed the belief that the Dowager Empress would return to Pekin in the spring. The events of the past few months would, he thought, make the work of Europeans in China easier. The pagans had suffered much more than the Christians. The Boxers at Pekin killed 30,000 who refused to follow them. They pillaged 2000 native shops and 24 Chinese Banks, and burned a third of Pekin. They wrought similar destruction outside the city.

A TERRIBLE FATE.

Many terrible reports have come from China of late, but perhaps none containing such fearful details as those set forth in the letter of a Sister of Charity with regard to the massacre of the innocents at Wan-tung. She tells how about a hundred little boys had taken refuge there when the place was attacked and fired. The children with two Brothers sought a high terrace, and there defended themselves for several hours, at the same time witnessing the horrible massacre of between 300 and 400 Christians. The church was set on fire, and as the boys were being roasted they had to descend from the terrace. Nearly all were killed, but a few broke through, and, led by a Brother, escaped to the orphanage outside the city at Sha-La. There they begged for help from the Legations, but none could be sent, and all were killed, the place being burnt a couple of days later. The little fellows behaved heroically, refusing to apostatize, despite all threats. This noble conduct on the part of the young recalls the fidelity shown amidst tortures by the early martyrs of the Church.

HOW THE BELL-RINGER DIED.

One of our Protestant exchanges has the following thrilling account of the destruction of the Catholic cathedral at Pekin by the Boxers:—

While the Protestant missionaries were shut up in the Methodist mission, and other mission premises, including the Catholic, were being destroyed, rescue parties of marines and some civilians went out to bring in the surviving Christians hiding within the ruined districts. Dr. Morrison, the Pekin correspondent for the *London Times*, and Professor James of the Imperial University, interested themselves to procure premises where the rescued Christians could be protected. They got possession of a prince's palace just opposite the British legation and behind and in close proximity to the Japanese and Italian legations. Here were received the long line of Catholic refugees, who came, torn and bleeding, some wounded unto death, from the neighborhood of the old Catholic mission, with its cathedral 500 years old, near the Hsunchile gate. And here, the diplomats were told, was a place prepared for all native Christian refugees from the cruelty of their own people. Here the French Fathers, who had long foreseen the oncoming crisis and had provisioned and fortified to meet it, kept about 2,000 Catholics within the walls of the cathedral premises, wherein were an orphanage and school.

'A thrilling account is given concerning the burning of the old Catholic cathedral mentioned above. It seems that the Catholic missionaries had announced that when the Boxers should appear against them an alarm should be rung by the cathedral bell. Accordingly, when the first mutterings of the storm were heard in that vicinity, the bellman took his place and rang the alarm with might and main. The fire caught the tower and crept to the floor beneath his feet; but still he kept the big bell pealing. Then the floor gave way and he and the bell went down together into the flame-wrapped ruin.'

The first New York Vanderbilt to be received into the Catholic Church is the infant daughter of William K. Vanderbilt Jun. and his wife, who was Miss Virginia Fair. The child was baptised in St. Patrick's Cathedral.

Sir James Prendergast, late Chief Justice of this Colony, has been selected by the Government to proceed to London as a legal expert to assist at a Conference as to the strengthening of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council. Sir James Prendergast was born in 1828, being son of the late Mr. Michael Prendergast, Q.C., and was educated at St. Paul's School, London, and Cambridge University, where he graduated B.A. when 21 years of age. He entered as a student of the Middle Temple in 1849 and was called to the Bar seven years later. Having practised in England for some time he came out to New Zealand in 1862. From 1865 to 1875 he held the office of Attorney-General, becoming in the latter year Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. Sir James has, on several occasions, administered the Government of the Colony during the absence of the Governor.