

(adults), first prize £1, second 10s, Sailor's Hornpipe (children), first prize 10s, second 5s; Bagpipes, first prize £1, second 10s; Obstacle Bicycle Race, one lap (open), first prize £1, second 10s; St. Patrick's Handicap, 100yds, 220yds, 440yds, first prize £12, second £6, third £2; 100yds Handicap (amateur), first prize £3, second £1; 220yds Handicap (amateur), first prize £3, second £1; 440yds Handicap (amateur), first prize £2, second £1 (Sir George Clifford's Cup of £5 will be given to the most points in the three last-named events); One Mile Handicap (amateur), first prize £3, second £1; Public Schools' Relay, half-mile, first prize £2, second £1; One-mile Bicycle Handicap (amateur), first prize £2, second £1; Two-mile Bicycle Handicap (amateur), first prize £2, second £1; One-mile Bicycle Handicap (open), first prize £3, second £1; Two-mile Bump Bicycle Handicap (open), first prize £3, second £1; Fire Brigade One-man Competition; Fire Brigade Two-men Competition; Tug-of-war Competition (ten men), first prize £5, second £1.

TIMARU.

(From our own correspondent.)

February 17.

Harvest is in full swing in this district, but work has been put back considerably by a few wet days during the week. The crops will be well up to the average in yields.

The Borough Council intend putting £1000 worth of 4 per cent. debentures on the market for the purpose of procuring a road-roller and stone-crusher. The balance of the loans will be placed on the London market, as the Government decline to lend as much as £10,000 to any one borough.

The arrangements for the monster picnic to be held at Winchester on St. Patrick's Day are progressing favorably. A special train will be engaged and the charges are to be: Adults, males 5s, females 3s. Children travel free. As the catering for such a large number would be rather a big undertaking it is more than probable that it will be decided that each family take its own refreshments. Many hands makes labor light. Father Le Petit is superintending the rehearsal of the drama entitled 'My lord in livery,' while Father Aubry has his hands full with a musical programme for the grand entertainment to be given in the evening as a wind-up to the day's amusement.

Archbishop Redwood, Bishop Grimes, and Bishop Lenihan arrived in Timaru on Thursday last, and left on Friday for Dunedin. During their stay a visit was made to the parish schools and the convent, the distinguished visitors expressing themselves as highly pleased with their efficiency and appointments. The schools are now in full swing, and as there are about 150 pupils in each, the good nuns and Brothers have a busy time.

DIOCESE OF AUCKLAND.

(From our own correspondent.)

February 13

The holy season of Lent began yesterday, Ash Wednesday. The faithful attended in large numbers in the city churches.

The annual St. Patrick's Day Concert will be held this year in St. Benedict's Hall.

Another of the series of social gatherings was held in St. Benedict's Hall last Tuesday evening, and like its predecessors was a most pronounced success. Vocal and instrumental items were given by Miss Pas de Leon and Mr. Bosworth. During the evening refreshments were handed round.

The Rev. Father Croke returned to Auckland from Australia by the Mararoa last Monday evening and proceeded at once to the Mater Misericordiae Hospital at Mount Eden under the charge of the Sisters of Mercy. The Rev. Father is improved in health, a fact which will delight his numerous friends in the diocese.

The Rev. Father O'Brien, of Melbourne, sang High Mass, last Sunday morning, at St. Patrick's, and also preached a very fine sermon on Lent. In the evening at Vespers the Rev. Father Robinson, of Melbourne, delivered an eloquent discourse on Our Blessed Lady. As it was the Feast of the Purification the subject was appropriate.

The concert last Friday evening, held in the Otahuhu Public Hall in aid of the local church funds, was a great success, and must have gladdened the hearts of the Rev. Father McIntosh and his energetic committee. A number of lady and gentlemen vocalists went out from town and materially assisted. To Mr. J. E. Gillies is due much of the credit attaching to the success achieved, as he worked unceasingly for it.

On hearing that the Rev. Father Robinson, who took such a prominent part in the success of Miss Castles' first Australian tour, was in Auckland, I waited upon him in the hope that I might glean some information of the 'young girl from the convent' who just now has the attention of musical ears in two hemispheres. The Rev. Father received me most kindly, and gave me the necessary information which may interest TABLET readers. Father Robinson said the Castles family were old friends, and Amy he knew from childhood. Her first Australian tour netted £4027. Her phenomenal voice placed her in the front rank of singers almost at a bound. Her subsequent successes in study and upon the concert stage are well known. His Majesty the King wrote to Sir Andrew Clarke, Victorian Agent-General, expressing great interest in the success of her debut concert. Lords Jersey, Carrington, and Beauchamp, Lord and Lady Brassey, Sir Charles Dilke, and Mr. T. P. O'Connor also showed active interest in her success. Mr. Williamson, the Australian impresario, cabled to his London representative to attend Miss Castles' concert in St. James's Hall, the result of which was that Mr. Williamson offered Miss Castles terms for an Australian

concert season in excess of that received by any previous singer for a similar tour. Father Robinson could not disclose the actual sum Miss Castles will receive, but it was stated in the press that it was £5000 for twenty concerts. Mr. Williamson assured Father Robinson that notwithstanding the high fee he is paying he anticipates good financial results, because Australians generally will welcome Miss Castles. Before leaving Sydney Father Robinson received a cable from Miss Castles stating that she would leave Marseilles by the F.M.S. Polynesian on the 23rd inst. and will be due in Melbourne on March 25. Her first concert will take place in Melbourne early in April next. Father Robinson, through a private source, has learned that the King's musical director has communicated with Miss Castles in regard to a royal command to sing before his Majesty, and that Miss Castles has been engaged for the whole of next season to sing in London. On her way back to England, after the conclusion of her Australian tour, Father Robinson has good reason to think that the people of this city will be afforded an opportunity of hearing Miss Amy Castles sing in Auckland.

INVERCARGILL NOTES.

(From a correspondent.)

The schools of the parish re-opened on Monday last.

At a well-attended meeting of the directors of the Irish Athletic Society held last week, Mr. M. Gilfedder, M.H.R., in the chair, a communication was read from the Railway Department stating that cheap fares would be issued on the day of the sports and available for return on the following day; all outgoing trains would be delayed, and late trains run to the Bluff and Waimahaka.

The monthly meeting of the Men's Confraternity of the Sacred Heart was held last Friday night, when there was a very large attendance. Benediction of the Most Holy Sacrament was given by the Very Rev. Dean Burke, and the congregation, accompanied by Miss L. Maher on the organ, sang a number of hymns. On Sunday morning a very large number received Holy Communion. Dean Burke complimented the men on the way in which they attended to their duty.

On Thursday, February 6, a pretty wedding took place at St. Mary's, when Mr. A. Pascoe, of Invercargill, was joined in the bonds of Matrimony to Miss Maud Murphy, of Fern Hills. The ceremony was performed by the Very Rev. Dean Burke. Mr. J. Pascoe, brother of the bridegroom, acted as best man. The wedding presents were numerous and costly, including a beautiful hall-stand presented to Mr. Pascoe by the members of St. Mary's choir, of which he has been a member for a number of years.

[This letter arrived too late for insertion in our last issue.]

Bishop Grimes in Dunedin.

THERE was a crowded congregation at Vespers at St. Joseph's Cathedral on Sunday, when the Right Rev. Dr. Grimes preached on 'Faith.' Many, said his Lordship, look upon faith as an oppressive burden, a galling yoke, whereas, according to the promise of our Blessed Lord, it is a pleasing yoke, and the source of every other virtue. Faith is a supernatural virtue by which we believe what God has taught. It is the most precious of the gifts of God. The great work which had been done in the diocese of Dunedin by its chief pastor, clergy, and laity could be only accounted for that it was the result of faith. In contrast to the condition of those so-called philosophers, whose opinions were the result of disordered imaginations, how happy was that of the man whose soul was illumined by the light of divine faith. What a solace was this great virtue which guides and directs all our actions. Happy, said the world, was the man who had wealth and enjoyed earthly pleasures. The child of faith, on the other hand, recognised in this great virtue a source of strength, especially in time of temptation. Man's life was a continual warfare; all men had trials and troubles. The man who was armed with faith was as humble as a child, and looked to the Way of the Cross as the way to attain the crown. The demon of lust might attack men, but faith guided, comforted, and consoled them. There was one moment especially when it was the source of great happiness and strength, and that was at the hour of death, when the demon exerted all his power to gain a mastery over the departing spirit. But the Church touches the heart of the dying person, and solaces him with the remembrance of this faith. This faith was the glory of the patriarchs, it was that which supported Mary the Mother of God in her martyrdom at the foot of the cross; it was faith that helped her to realise that the tiny child in her arms was the Lord of the heavens and earth and the fulness thereof; it was faith which enabled her to recognise in that child her God and her Redeemer. It was that faith which came to her aid at the foot of the cross and told her that her separation from her Son would be only temporary, and that after a brief time she would be united with him for all eternity. They had received the same faith. But did they realise what it was? It had been handed down to them unsullied and untarnished by their forefathers, who had suffered persecution and even death rather than give up this precious heirloom. Were they careful in guarding this gift? Did they treasure it as they ought? Was their faith real and practical? Did they realise that there was only one great evil in this world, and that was sin? Did they realise the import of the words, 'What will it profit a man to gain the whole world if he suffers the loss of his soul?' It was faith which prompted them to assist by their prayers the suffering souls in purgatory. In conclusion, his Lordship said that if they had faith and lived up to the practices of their holy religion they would receive that crown which was to be the reward of all who served God faithfully here below.