

yellow spike sticking out of each one like the handle of a new tack-hammer. And then, all around the walls you have the same old tin plates with the same old stork on the same old one leg in the midst of the same old bulrushes. And I have found out that it is considered a capital offence against art to paint all the bulrushes sticking up straight. You must make two or three of them hang over broken. Here and there you may find the picture of a peony, but it is as much like a peony as a peony is like a private income. The art of the period is decadent. It is enough to make a man blow out his brains with a loaded bayonet, and it ought to be improved. Mr. Seddon must see to it.

Patriotism.

It is wonderful to what lengths patriotism will drive people. Artemus Ward said that he was willing to sacrifice all his wife's relations in the war. His generosity has been equalled, if not surpassed, by that of a certain lady of whom Colonel Stackpool spoke in a recent interview in *M.A.P.* According to the Colonel the said lady wrote this letter to him:—

'Dear Sir,—I hear that the soldiers in South Africa suffer very much from thirst. An old soldier in our village, who is now a total abstainer, told me that sucking a pebble is a very good thing under such circumstances. I enclose two pebbles, and shall be very pleased indeed to collect sacks full of them to send to the men in South Africa if you can make arrangements for forwarding them.'

I am sure the soldiers would prefer the pebbles to the beer. The former wouldn't leave any brown taste in the mouth.

Quips

DIOCESE OF DUNEDIN.

A week's mission was commenced on Sunday in the Catholic Church, Port Chalmers, by the Very Rev. Father Boyle, C.M. There were large congregations both morning and evening.

The Rev. Father McCarthy, C.M., opened a week's mission in the Sacred Heart Church, North East Valley, on Sunday morning. Large congregations were present at the services on Sunday, and also during the week.

His Lordship the Right Rev. Dr. Verdon will hold a visitation at Invercargill on Sunday, when the Sacrament of Confirmation will be administered. During the following week his Lordship will administer Confirmation in the out lying districts.

On Sunday there was Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in St. Joseph's Cathedral from the 11 o'clock Mass until Vespers. In the procession which was held in the evening the children of the parish schools and the Confraternity of the Sacred Heart, to the number of nearly 150, took part.

During the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at St. Joseph's Cathedral on Sunday the members of the Confraternity of Perpetual Adoration were present in large numbers, as many as one hundred at a time. Many members also pay visits to the Cathedral during the week. The Confraternity bids fair to become one of the most successful societies in connection with the Cathedral parish.

PALMERSTON NORTH.

(From an occasional correspondent.)

April 6.

The Rev. Father James Tymons, of St. Patrick's College, was the guest of his brother, Rev. Father P. W. Tymons, during Holy Week. He preached at High Mass and Vespers on Easter Sunday to crowded congregations. At High Mass at 11 o'clock Farmer's Mass was sung by the choir, the solos being taken by Miss Rose Rush (soprano), Misses M. Scanlon and R. Oakley (contraltos), and Messrs. T. Rodgers (tenor) and J. Hanley (bass). The altars and sanctuary were tastefully decorated with ferns, evergreens, and pot plants, reflecting great credit on Mrs. J. J. Redwood and Misses N. Oakley and M. Scanlon.

A most successful concert was held in the Town Hall, Ashurst, on Easter Monday night in aid of the funds of the new Church of St. Columba. The hall was crowded, and judging by the liberal applause accorded to the performers the audience highly appreciated the various items. The talent was entirely supplied from Palmerston, most of whom were members of St. Patrick's choir. The following was the programme, which was arranged by Mr. V. Dallow, to whom, with Rev. Father Tymons, the success of the concert was due: Piano solo, Mr. P. Tombs; song, T. Rogers; song, Miss Rush; song, V. Dallow (with violin obligato by Mr. T. Kitchen); song, J. Hanley; song, Miss Scanlon; violin solo, T. Kitchen; song, Mr. D. Scanlon; duet, Miss Hickey and Mr. V. Dallow; song, Mr. Hitchens; piano solo, Mr. P. Tombs; song and chorus, Mr. Dallow and the company; song, Miss Hickey; song, Mr. Hitchens; song, Miss R. Oakley; violin solo, Mr. T. Kitchen; song, Mr. Hanley. After the concert the hall was cleared for dancing. Mr. J. J. Lynch made an efficient M.C., and excellent music was supplied by Messrs Cronin and Careen, refreshments being supplied by the ladies of the parish.

Presentation to the Premier.

THE Canterbury Hall, Christchurch, was packed to the doors on Tuesday evening on the occasion of the presentation to the Right Hon. R. J. Seddon, on behalf of the Colony prior to his departure for the Coronation ceremony. The chair was occupied by the Mayor (Mr. A. G. Rhodes), who called upon Sir John Hall to make the presentation. As ex-Premier and an old public servant, said the chairman, the committee thought no more suitable person could be found. As for the testimonial itself, over 20,000 signatures were already in, but various districts had still to send in signatures, which would be bound and forwarded later. These represented all shades of political opinion.

Sir John Hall in the course of a patriotic speech enlivened the services rendered by the Premier to the Empire during the past two years in sending the contingents to South Africa. After reading the address Sir John Hall begged the Premier to accept it on behalf of the colonists of New Zealand, without distinction of class or party. He confidently believed that it would be treasured by Mr. Seddon and his descendants as a tribute of the eminent service rendered by him to the Colony and the Empire. The fact that it was presented by one not able to see eye to eye politically might add to the value in his estimation. Sir John Hall concluded by saying that the address would be supplemented by a purse, which was not yet ready, but which represented a large amount subscribed in many small amounts.

Speeches were also delivered by Messrs G. G. Stead and T. W. Stringer.

The Premier, in reply, reviewed the events of the past two years and the part he had taken in sending troops to South Africa. He said that New Zealand's prompt action had come from the people of the Colony, supported by almost the entire Press of the Colony and by all parties in the Legislature. In respect to taking the initiative, if any credit was due, it was simply because there were times in the government of a country as in a family, when it was necessary to act promptly, quickly, and decisively. Hesitancy was the cause of much of the world's trouble. Better for a man sometimes to act quickly and wrongly than to vacillate or never act at all. People would forgive a man who made mistakes, but not one who never acted. The moral effect of New Zealand's action had been a splendid testimony for the Colony. In conclusion, he said that the addresses delivered that night and the testimonial signed by 20,000 colonists would be treasured by him as long as life was in his body. It had been mentioned that something tangible was to follow. That never troubled him. There had been a good deal of pin-pricking, and much had been said and written which would have been better left unsaid and unwritten. They knew him too well to attribute his action to selfish motives. He left New Zealand not simply as Premier of New Zealand, not as the representative of a party, but as the representative of the Colony to convey their loyalty and devotion to the throne and constitution, and the detraction of their representative was a detraction of them. But they need have no fear for their kindred. The Mother Country knew that the Colony had been wholly unselfish in its services. He left the Colony strengthened by their kindness, and hoped on his return to still say he had done his duty.

It was one of the most enthusiastic meetings ever held in Christchurch, and the Premier's speech raised the enthusiasm of the audience to the highest pitch.

NEW ZEALAND: GENERAL.

It is stated that Inspector Pender is to take up his residence in Christchurch.

THE *Triad* for the current month contains a very fine selection of articles on many subjects, in addition to which it is excellently illustrated.

THE North Island battalion of the Tenth Contingent leaves by the Drayton Grange for South Africa on Saturday. The port of departure will be Wellington.

It is expected that Parliament will meet in the first week in July, and that the Premier will return to the Colony in time to deliver the Financial Statement, about the third week of August.

It is reported that a considerable portion of the potato crops in the Oamaru district has been ruined by the excessive wet, especially crops in low-lying or flat land.

MANY of the more pretentious boroughs in New Zealand must envy Gore, which has now an electric light system under municipal control.

REV. FATHER O'SULLIVAN, S.M. (writes our Wanganui correspondent) returned from Australia on Good Friday, after a holiday trip extending over six weeks. He appears to be much benefited by the change.

A CORRESPONDENT of the Wellington *Evening Post*, writing from Taranaki, says it is an indisputed fact that hundreds of young children whose parents are engaged in the dairying industry, are simply white slaves. He has in his possession a letter from a young man who came out from England some six months ago, in which he complains bitterly about the long hours at 'cow-spanking'—from 4 a.m. to 10 p.m.

SPEAKING at Wellington the other day the Premier said the Government were taking steps to fortify the principal coal ports, and were considering the question of establishing large coal depots in various parts of the Colony in case of war. The Government would, he added, give early consideration to the suggestion that ocean mail contracts should only be let to British-owned steamers.