

by Misses O'Rourke (2), Messrs. Ledger, Pritchard, Bear, and Renouf, while Mr. J. Mullaney danced a sailor's hornpipe and Irish jig. Mrs. Corry and Misses O'Rourke, Murnane, and Falconer played the accompaniments to the vocal items and dances. Tea, coffee, and light refreshments were handed round.

Father Goggan, who presided, and who was untiring in his endeavor to see that all enjoyed themselves, welcomed the company, and explained that the association sought to develop the mental, moral, and physical characters of the young men, to provide them with rational means of recreation which would be an outlet for their physical and mental energies. It was in no sense, however, a religious organisation. Indeed, it might be called non-sectarian, since the subject of religion was not obtruded upon members in any way. It was purely a social club. He trusted they might soon have a social hall, where not only Catholic young men, but others, would be made welcome, and which would help to bring the young men together and make for the advancement of the people. He thanked all who had assisted in any way in providing so enjoyable an evening's entertainment.

The success of the evening was in a great measure due to the efforts of Mr. M. F. O'Rourke, who, owing to the illness of the hon. secretary (Mr. J. P. Fortune, who is laid up with typhoid at the hospital), was called upon to carry out the duties of secretary *pro tem*, and who spared no effort to promote the enjoyment of all. It was mentioned that the association already had over £200 in hand out of a sum of £450 required for the erection of a suitable hall, and that a good site had been offered to them.

NELSON.

(From our own correspondent.)

April 4.

On Easter Sunday morning at the eight o'clock Mass, a great many approached the Holy Table. At the 11 o'clock Mass Father Clancy preached a fine sermon on the Resurrection. The choir, under the conductorship of Mr. C. Trussell, rendered the music of the Mass in a finished manner, Miss H. Scott presiding at the organ with her usual ability. In the evening Father Clancy preached on the Gospel of the day. After Vespers there was a procession of the Blessed Sacrament, in which the Convent school children, the Children of Mary, and other sodalities took part. The altar, which had been decorated by some of the convent children, looked very pretty.

The Very Rev. Dean Mahoney is still in Wellington. He is expected back some time this week. According to his last letter, his health has greatly improved during his short holiday. His parishioners hope it may continue to do so, and that it will not be long before our worthy Dean will be quite well again.

On Sunday evening after Vespers a very pleasing ceremony took place at St. Mary's Hall. A presentation was made to Mr. M. Levy by the Rev. Father Clancy on behalf of St. Mary's Social Committee, the occasion being his approaching marriage. Mr. Levy has taken great interest in social and other matters in connection with the church. Father Clancy, in an appropriate and humorous speech, congratulated the recipient upon the very important step he was taking, and expressed good wishes for his future happiness and prosperity, and also for his intended bride. He also expressed great pleasure in being called upon to make the presentation. In the course of his remarks Father Clancy said that it was always gratifying to the clergy that these acts of good fellowship were so often repeated. The members of the committee who were present also expressed their kind regards for the happy couple's future welfare. Mr. Levy in a happy speech suitably replied. The presentation consisted of a very handsome silver-mounted biscuit barrel and butter cooler. On Saturday night Mr. Levy was the recipient of a very beautiful present from the officers of the Post and Telegraph department, he having been in the service for upwards of 25 years, and at the present time holding the position of head letter carrier. Mr. Seymour, acting chief clerk, in the absence of Mr. Dryden, postmaster, made the presentation, which consisted of a handsome silver egg cruet. Mr. Seymour spoke of the high esteem in which Mr. Levy was held by his brother officers, and wished him every happiness in the future.

DIOCESE OF CHRISTCHURCH.

(From our own correspondent.)

April 7.

The Rev. Father McDonnell, accompanied by Mr. Frank Geohagan, left on last Monday on a cycling tour to the West Coast.

On Thursday another of those enjoyable gatherings known as 'a pink tea' is to be given in the Oddfellows' Hall, Addington, in aid of the local Catholic school fund.

I regret to learn that owing to the unsatisfactory state of his health the Rev. Father Cooney, the popular parish priest of Lyttelton, has found it necessary to relinquish duty for a few weeks. He leaves to-night (Monday) for the North Island, and the Very Rev. Dean Foley will do duty at the Port until Father Cooney's return.

The Pro-Cathedral was crowded to excess on Sunday evening. Mdle Dolores (Trebelli) sang Mascagni's 'Ave Maria,' being accompanied on the organ by Mr. Clarence Newell. The Very Rev. Vicar-General preached a beautiful sermon on 'Peace,' and there was the usual monthly procession of the Blessed Sacrament.

The choir and sanctuary boys of St. Mary's, Manchester street, went by excursion train to Little River on Easter Monday, and held a most enjoyable picnic. Sports and games were indulged in and the points of interest about the picturesque locality visited. Included in the party were the Rev. Fathers Murnane and Gallais, and the weather being everything to be desired, all returned thoroughly well satisfied with the day's outing.

On Saturday afternoon the inmates of Mount Magdala had a musical treat owing to the kindness of Mdle. Dolores, who paid a visit to the institution. Mdle. sang four songs in the recreation hall, to the great delight of the inmates who were present with the Sisters. One of the girls presented Mdle. Dolores with a handsome bouquet. His Lordship Bishop Grimes, who with Dean Foley was also present, expressed the grateful thanks of the inmates for the treat afforded them by Mdle.

Joint committees of the Catholic churches at Leeston and Southbridge conducted a successful and well-organised garden party on Easter Monday evening in Mr. Spring's recreation grounds, Leeston, there being an attendance of about 1000 persons. The grounds were illuminated by electricity, a complete installation having been provided by Mr. A. E. Brown, Christchurch. A well arranged programme of events was provided and carried out in a pleasing manner by the committee. Among the attractions during the evening was a maypole dance, music being rendered by the Woolston Brass Band. The profits of the gathering are very satisfactory, and are to be devoted to the improvement of the church grounds and necessary work in connection with the other buildings.

For some time a movement has been under consideration for the establishment of a federation of the numerous Catholic Social Clubs and Literary Societies throughout the Colony. As an outcome of preliminary arrangements, a conference of delegates representing various centres assembled in Christchurch during the Easter holidays. Those present were Messrs. B. Guise and J. Stratford (Wellington), H. McKeown (acting for Napier), J. G. Venning, G. J. Fitzgerald and M. Mahony (Timaru), D. Moriarty and D. McDonnell (Ashburton), G. Dobbs, J. R. Hayward and F. Doolan (Christchurch). Mr. J. J. Wilson (Christchurch) was chairman, and Mr. H. McKeown, secretary of the conference. Three meetings were held in the Christchurch Club rooms, when the project was thoroughly discussed, and rules were drafted for the guidance of the federation. An executive, consisting of the Rev. Father O'Shea (President), Mr. J. J. Devine (Vice-President), Mr. Fitzgibbon (Treasurer), and Mr. H. McKeown (General Secretary) was appointed. The members are residents of Wellington, and hold office for one year, pursuant to a rule that the executive for the time being shall belong to the centre where the next conference is to be held. At one of the meetings his Lordship Bishop Grimes paid a visit, welcomed the delegates, expressed sympathy with the movement in which they were engaged and satisfaction with the nature of the deliberations, and at the close of the sitting accompanied the members on a tour of inspection of the excellent museum attached to the Episcopal residence. Besides granting to visitors the free use of the library and Club rooms during their stay, the local club members organised several enjoyable gatherings, including a tennis party and afternoon tea at the courts of Mr. Hayward, sen., a drag with four-in-hand drive around the suburbs, and a farewell smoke concert.

DIOCESE OF AUCKLAND.

(From our own correspondent.)

April 9.

Rev. Father Benedict, O.P., left to-day for Northern Wairoa to continue his mission work.

The Catholic schools have been closed since Wednesday last for the Easter Holidays. They reopen again on Monday.

The Rev. Mother Mary, of the Order of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Australia, is at present in Auckland, having come thither on the recommendation of her medical adviser from Sydney. Mother Mary has been spending the past month at Rotorua, and came to Auckland to attend the Holy Week services. She is staying at the Newtown Convent and intends returning to Rotorua in the course of a few days.

A bitter attack was made in last week's *Graphic* on St. Patrick's Day, calling for its abolition on the grounds of 'too many holidays, and this day was a good one to begin with.' The sting, however, was in the tail, the writer concluding thus: 'It tends to keep alive old feuds, better forgotten, and on this ground alone, and for the integrity of the Empire, St. Patrick's Day should be forgotten.'

Tuesday being the anniversary of the ordination of the Rev. Father Buckley, the members of the Sodality of the Children of Mary, of which he is chaplain, assembled in the schoolroom at St. Patrick's Convent with the object of making him a presentation. Miss K. Rogers presented Father Buckley with a handsome gold Albert, and read an address congratulating him on the anniversary of his ordination, and expressing gratitude for the interest taken by him in the welfare of the society. A pleasant evening was then spent, the following contributing items to a really excellent programme, embracing vocal and instrumental items: Misses Rist, Cassin, J. Rist, Thorne, C. Rist, Wilson, M. Sheahan, N. Ormond, M. Duffin, and Rev. Father Buckley.

The services in connection with Holy Week were attended by large congregations at the four city churches. The usual Tenebrae services were held at the Cathedral, when his Lordship the Bishop presided. On Good Friday morning the Cathedral was crowded, when the Mass of the Presanctified was celebrated by his Lordship the Bishop. In the afternoon the Stations of the Cross took place. In the evening a sermon of the Passion was preached by the Rev. Father Benedict, O.P. The Rev. Father Gillan conducted the services at St. Benedict's and those at the Sacred Heart, Ponsonby, and St. John's, Parnell, were conducted by the Rev. Dr. Egan, O.S.B., and the Rev. Father O'Hara respectively. At St. Benedict's on Good Friday evening short sermons of ten minutes each were given by the Rev. Fathers Gillan, Guinness, and Russell on 'The seven last words of our Lord on the cross,' each preacher occupying the pulpit twice. At the Cathedral on Holy Saturday morning Mass was celebrated by the Rev. Father Purton, O.S.B.