

success in her singing, especially in 'Poor wandering one.' Miss White, who made her debut in opera, acquitted herself very creditably. Mr P. Palmer, in the part of Frederic, sang his solos with taste and acted with considerable ability. As the Pirate King, Mr Cronin was well suited and did ample justice to the character. The part of the Major-General was taken at a very short notice by Mr J. M. Izett. His acting and singing improved with each performance. Mr J. G. Nowlan as sergeant of police, and Mr W. Tabor as Samuel, added much to the success of the opera. Mrs J. G. Nowlan, Misses Hyde and Lawless, as Edith, Kate, and Isabel respectively, sang and acted very well. The bazaar concludes with an auction sale this evening.

NELSON.

(From our own correspondent.)

April 10.

The Very Rev. Dean Mahoney arrived home from Wellington last Monday, his health having been greatly improved during his short holiday, which is very gratifying indeed to his congregation. He has definitely decided to leave New Zealand for the Old Country by the Athenic, which sails from Wellington on May 8. On Sunday evening after Vespers, a meeting was held in St. Mary's Hall, Rev. Father George Mahony being in the chair, to consider what form the farewell to the Very Rev. Dean Mahoney should take. It was ultimately decided that a conversazione should be held, also that a purse of sovereigns be presented to him. A strong and influential committee was formed to carry the above into effect. A subscription list was handed round, when a considerable sum of money was promised. On the following Wednesday the committee met and arranged all details for a systematic canvass being made for subscriptions towards the presentation, and judging by the amount of enthusiasm that is being shown it promises to be a very great success.

On Easter Sunday a very edifying ceremony took place at St. Joseph's Church, Wakefield, when over 20 young girls were enrolled as members of the confraternity of Children of Mary by the Rev. Father George Mahony. The office bearers are:—president, Miss E. Houlst; vice-president, Miss K. Shea; secretary, Miss M. Hagen.

DIocese OF CHRISTCHURCH.

(From our own correspondent.)

April 14.

The many friends of Dr. Morkane in Christchurch have heard with pleasure of his appointment as Resident Medical Superintendent of the Ross Hospital, Westland.

At the enormous public meeting held in Canterbury Hall last week to make a presentation to the Premier, the Catholic boy was represented by his Lordship the Right Rev. Dr. Grimes. His Lordship had been a member of the committee since its inception.

A movement is being vigorously promoted to arrange a testimonial to Ex-Inspector Pender on his retirement from service. Press and public are unanimous in extolling the splendid work done by him whilst in charge of the Canterbury district, and his deep concern in the interests of charity and humanity. At a public meeting held last week an executive committee was appointed, which is both representative and influential, to carry out proposals which were then submitted and agreed to.

A numerously attended meeting was held in the boys' school-room on last Thursday evening to endeavor to put into effect the scheme outlined by his Lordship the Bishop in a recent pastoral with reference to the building fund of the new Cathedral. His Lordship the Right Rev. Dr. Grimes presided, and there were also present the Very Rev. Father Le Menant des Chesnais, V.G., Very Rev. Dean Foley, and Rev. Father Galerne, Mr. E. O'Connor acted as secretary. In his opening remarks the Bishop expressed his pleasure at the good attendance, and especially at seeing so many ladies present, thus showing their deep interest in the great work now going on in their midst, the nature of which they, as well as himself and all concerned, had every reason to be delighted with, every possible satisfaction being given by the contractors. The scheme suggested, if promptly and vigorously acted upon, and the effort sustained throughout the duration of the contract time, would ensure a constant stream being directed to the fund, remove much cause for anxiety, and prevent at any stage a cessation of operations. His Lordship here read the following paragraph from his Lenten Pastoral in which the proposal was outlined:—'The Catholic population of our diocese is two and twenty thousand all told. Now, if half that number, or say ten thousand only, including men, women, and young people earning wages put by sixpence per week, or two shillings per month for the Cathedral fund, we should have within the required time—viz., two years—all that is necessary to complete the noble pile which could be presented to the Most High unfettered and untrammelled without the least debt the very day of its dedication. With their usual good-will on the part of our zealous priests, religious and faithful laity, this scheme might be most workable without too greatly interfering with any of the most pressing local wants in the diocese. The parish priest or his devoted assistant, when he has the advantage of such an assistant, might form a committee in each district, and choose some of the more active parishioners who, for the sake of the noble cause, would collect or receive the several amounts every week, month, or quarter, and hand them over at specified times to be sent to us, to Dean Foley, or the Vicar-General by whom the amounts would be duly acknowledged, and the names and donations might be affixed to the church door in every parish, quarterly or so.'

To put the proposed scheme into effect a resolution was unanimously adopted, and the Very Rev. Dean Foley, who had mapped out the city and suburbs into convenient areas, defined the various boundaries, after which all present, having previously been formed into a general committee, determined to aid by every means in their power the carrying out of the scheme. A number of collecting books were distributed, each area having a head collector and several assistants. It was resolved that the committee meet monthly, when subscriptions would be handed in.

The Need of a Catholic Press in France.

No argument has ever been advanced for the existence of a properly supported, vigorous Catholic Press so strong as that which Mr F. Hugh O'Donnell casually makes in the London *Tablet*, in concluding his essay on the causes which have led to the present enfeebled state of French lay Catholicism. Mr O'Donnell remarks, in speaking of that grand figure of French Catholic journalism, the late Louis Veuillot, of the *Univers*, that a great many of the evils Veuillot sought to prevent or to eradicate might never have become a danger, if it had not appeared to be as a fixed piece of impolicy to deprive French Catholicism of lay journalism as of lay learning. 'The absence of the latter,' says our writer, 'no doubt reacted upon the former. At any rate, at no period since the French Revolution, any more than before it, has there been a Catholic Press in France, at once popular, polished, eloquent, and convincing.' Mr O'Donnell minces few words in placing the blame for this condition of affairs.

'Though' he says, 'even the dimmest vision might have apprehended generations ago that reading must take a place that hearing could never fill, and that the congregations of the thinker who addressed the eye must be millions as compared with the hundreds who could be reached through the ear, this most obvious of decisive facts remained as unregarded as if the provocation of calamity was the first duty of the shepherds of the people. . . . The indifference of hostility toward the provision of a popular press, clean in thought, bright in execution, fascinating in treatment, judicious in guidance, remained, as it remains, a characteristic note of the dominant imbecility. If ever it could be said of any Christian nation that it was carefully neglected at every perilous turning point and on every critical occasion, this can be said of Catholic France since the Revolution, as well as long before that landmark of destruction.'

'You could obtain,' points out the *Tablet* writer, 'the means for a stone memorial to any of the saints, or all the virtues; but the best medium of Catholic civilisation and culture for an entire nation remained an unnoticed necessity, until the devil, that excellent man of business, had securely covered every access to the popular mind with his dirtiest and his largest circulations.'

Propaganda College.

In a previous issue we gave some particulars regarding Propaganda College, which we now supplement by the following written by the Rome correspondent of the Philadelphia *Catholic Standard*:—

I am indebted to the Rector of the Urban College of Propaganda, Mgr. Camassei, for an interesting account of the condition of the institution in this first scholastic year that has opened during the new century. Probably this is the most celebrated college in the world. The seat of the college is small; the means of support are fair; the demands for admission are enormous.

The arrivals in the college during this scholastic year are four Australian students—two from the diocese of Geraldton, one from the diocese of Lismore, and one from that of Wilcannia; four American students—one from the diocese of Ogdensburg, one from the Josephinum College, which lies within the diocese of Columbus, and two from the diocese of Buffalo; three Oriental students, one Swiss student, one from Zante, one from Albania, and one from Zululand, whence have come three students already in the college. As many as 22 students took the mission oath at the hands of the Cardinal Prefect of Propaganda this scholastic year.

Mr Albert Nequahnquet, a member of a tribal family in Indian Territory, was a newcomer in the college, as were two of the three Chinese, whose conduct keeps up the very satisfactory tradition established by their compatriots in the Urban and the reputation of its Chinese students for aptitude in philosophical studies, and these facts, with those just cited, show that the variety of races which is the distinctive of the Urban grows with the growth of the college. With the arrivals of this year counted, there are in all 122 students from all parts of the Christian world, taken in its widest, general signification. The first ten students stand as a good example; they are respectively for the Patriarchate of Chaldea, the Vicariate Apostolic of Constantinople, the Apostolic Administration of Cephalonia, the Diocese of Cattaro, the Apostolic Vicariate of Norway, the Maronite Patriarchate, the Diocese of Harbor Grace, that of Smyrna, and that of Mo-sul. Beginning with the second hundred, the first ten students are for the Diocese of Buffalo and Halifax, N.S., the Vicarates Apostolic of Constantinople, St. George, N.E. and Southern Ho-Nan (three students), the Dioceses of Damascus, Lismore, Dublin, and Lugano.

Miss Mary A. Anglim, of New Jersey, U.S.A., would be thankful for any information regarding her brother, Mr John Anglim, who left the United States for Ireland, and later on came out to New Zealand. Any particulars sent to the *TABLET* office will be forwarded to the inquirer....