

Diocesan News

ARCHDIOCESE OF WELLINGTON.

(From our own correspondent.)

April 26.

The lady stallholders of the Irish stall entertained their assistants at afternoon tea at Godber's rooms on Wednesday. A very pleasant time was spent.

On Tuesday evening the members of the chorus, who took part in the production of the operas during the bazaar, presented their conductor, Mr. W. McLauchlin, with an ebony silver mounted baton as a mark of esteem. Mr. Nolan made the presentation. Mr. McLauchlin used the baton at the opera house on Wednesday and Thursday evenings when the operas were again produced.

Very Rev. Dean McKenna, of Masterton, spent the greater part of last week in Eketahuna attending to parochial work. He celebrated Mass there on Sunday when Rev. Father Cahill, of Carterton, officiated in Masterton. In his discourse the latter pointed out the necessity there was for having Catholic literature and periodicals in every household.

At St. Patrick's College on Saturday morning the students presented the Rev. Father Keogh, Rector, with an address on the occasion of his feast day. On Monday a holiday was given in honor of the event, and on the invitation of the Rector the professors and students spent the day at Belle Vue gardens, Lower Hutt.

Solemn High Mass was celebrated at St. Joseph's Church on Sunday last, the feast of the Patronage of St. Joseph, and also the feast of the Rector of the college. The Rector was celebrant with Rev. Father O'Reilly deacon, and Rev. Father Tymons subdeacon. Rev. Father Moloney, acted as master of ceremonies. The music rendered by the choir was up to their usual standard of proficiency. At Vespers the Rev. Father Keogh preached on the festival of the day.

Lieutenant-Colonel Collins, of the Wellington Rifles, has been gazetted as Lieutenant-Colonel in the New Zealand Militia in recognition of services rendered by him in the enrolment and despatch of our several contingents to South Africa. Colonel Collins has been connected with the volunteer service in this Colony for the past thirty years.

The wedding of Miss Cissy Redwood, daughter of Mr Charles Redwood, formerly of Blenheim, to Mr James Clouston, of that town, was celebrated on Wednesday afternoon. Rev. Father O'Shea performed the ceremony at the residence of Mr M. J. McGrath, brother-in-law of the bride. The bride was attended by Misses McGrath and Clouston, nieces of the bride and bridegroom. Mr C. Fulton acted as best man.

The operas which proved such an attraction at the Empire bazaar were repeated on Wednesday and Thursday evenings in the Opera House in aid of the schools of the parish. They were heard to much better advantage there than in the Skating Rink, and were witnessed by large audiences. The performers acquitted themselves admirably. Several beautiful floral tributes were given to the principals. During an interval on Thursday evening the Rev. Father O'Shea thanked the public on behalf of all those concerned in the production for their generous support, and also referred to the amount of work these operas had entailed on Mr McLauchlin. He concluded by asking the audience to show by acclamation their appreciation of the efforts of those taking part.

On Wednesday, April 9, the marriage of Miss Ellen Dormer, second daughter of Mr Dormer, of Titahi Bay, to Mr Oliver M Gardner, fourth son of Mr John Gardner, of Kaiwarra, was celebrated at the Church of the Sacred Heart by Rev. Father Holley. The bride was given away by her father, and wore a becoming gown of light blue cloth, with white silk trimmings and a white chiffon toque. The bridesmaids were Miss Gardner (a sister of the bridegroom) and Miss B. Dormer (a sister of the bride). They wore dresses of white muslin, with silk sashes and burnt straw hats trimmed with white. To each of the bridesmaids the bridegroom gave a gold brooch. Mr R. Gardner acted as best man. The honeymoon is being spent in Palmerston.

DIOCESE OF CHRISTCHURCH.

(From our own correspondent.)

April 28.

A series of entertainments, organised by the Rev. Father Price of Hawarden, have recently been given with much success in various centres of his extensive district in aid of the parish funds. A party of Christchurch musical friends and others possessing dramatic talent rendered very valuable assistance.

At Vespers in the Pro-Cathedral on Sunday evening the Very Rev. Vicar-General preached an eloquent panegyric of Blessed Peter Louis Marie Chanel. Special devotions in honor of the Proto-Martyr of Oceania are to take place on the feast day (Tuesday).

The erection of the new Cathedral is progressing with remarkable rapidity, and every week reveals some fresh feature of its beautiful design and proportions. Visitors to the city make a point of viewing the operations under the guidance of the genial clerk of works (Mr. J. A. Hickmott), who is always anxious and willing to explain the plans and furnish full particulars concerning the magnificent structure to all who may care to interest themselves, a chance which should not be lost.

The arrangements for the Coronation Carnival, to be opened in the Coliseum on May 15 in aid of St. Mary's Presbytery Building Fund, are rapidly assuming definite shape. The ladies in charge of

the stalls, of which there are to be eight, have made a splendid collection of goods, and are now busily engaged designing the costumes for their army of assistants. 'Army,' curiously enough, will be the correct designation, as those engaged at the stalls in connection with the spectacular displays are to be costumed after the style of some of the 'crack' regiments of the Empire. The 'first line of defence' will be represented by a gallant naval brigade. The 200 and more children, under Miss Lowe's tuition, with characteristic aptitude, are making satisfactory progress in a number of pretty dances, and these, together with the assistants, will number in a grand march 350 all told. As a prelude a miniature coronation scene will each evening be enacted.

GREYMOUTH.

(From our own correspondent.)

At St. Patrick's Church, Greymouth, a few Sundays ago, the Very Rev. Dean Carew, S.M., made an appeal to the congregation to reduce the debt on St. Patrick's school. He spoke in part as follows:—

I am about to ask you this morning for some assistance to reduce the debt on St. Patrick's school, lately erected. As you are aware it is a large and beautiful brick building 85ft by 30ft and 17ft walls, plastered inside and out with Portland cement. It has two large porches which may serve as class rooms. The main room is divided into two compartments by glass folding partitions so that it can when necessary be made into one room. It has a permanent stage erected in one room for plays and concerts, and as a school it is fully furnished with all requisites, so that I have no hesitation in saying it is one of the finest Catholic schools in the Colony. It cost £1380. Of that amount the parish has so far subscribed close on £600 so that a debt of £780 remains yet to be provided for. As you are aware this school replaces one that was built of timber about 30 years ago. The old building was very much out of repair. It was so draughty and cold that neither the teachers nor children could continue to work in it in winter time. Most of the interior was of white pine and so grub-eaten that to repair it would, according to the estimate of the architect, cost £300. So the church committee decided, very wisely I think, to erect the new school in brick. See how much the congregation has lost in building its first church and schools of timber. They are now perished and things of the past and must have cost £3000. That amount is now a total loss, although of course the buildings served their purposes for the time being.

As we Catholics receive no external aid from Government or any other source in church or school matters, but must depend on ourselves for everything we do in that direction; and as our churches and schools do not grow up like mushrooms, coming through the ground gratuitously to us, it is customary at the opening of any such building that the people for whom the building has been erected should be called upon to contribute what is possible for them to the cost of its erection. The school erected in honor of our patron St. Patrick was opened on the 17th of March, of last year, but the customary and necessary collection was omitted, and that omission explains why we have such a large debt remaining. I am in no way responsible for that omission as I celebrated the feast of St. Patrick last year in Ireland, the emerald gem of the western sea. I regret it too, because on such occasions people contribute generously and willingly. But when the opportune moment is allowed to pass and not taken advantage of, it is not so easy to find people in so generous a mood at another time. And as I always found you most generous to meet every reasonable demand when called upon in church and school matters I trust you will be as generous to day as on all former occasions.

As you are aware, the primary reason that we Catholics have in maintaining our schools is to give our children a complete education, that is, to give them such an education as should prepare them to get on well in this world and enable them, if they follow it, to attain eternal life. That twofold object must be always held in view if you desire to give a complete education. As we know, man is composed of a body and soul. The body is purely material and is directed by the soul and vital principle. The soul is the recipient of all knowledge. It has two great faculties, the superior and inferior. The superior part possesses the memory, the intelligence, and the will. The inferior, the passions. The latter are to be restrained by right reason within the limits of the law of God. Each faculty of the former must be educated each in its proper knowledge. The memory to recall the past, the intelligence, the seat of knowledge, and the home of thought and the will which is the executive power in man and the seat of moral life, should be thoroughly imbued with the principles of Christianity. Secularists aim at educating the memory and intelligence only in mere secular knowledge. They make no attempt to educate the will, or in other words to form the moral character by giving a child a Christian education. But whilst we must neglect nothing that secularists teach, to give a complete education we must go a step further and educate the will by giving it a complete training in the Christian religion. The will which is the executive power in man is the seat of all good or evil in him. And it is by teaching the human will to conform itself in all things to the will of God, to make the Christian religion the law of its life that the Christian child receives a complete moral education. The child's education is complete when the memory and intelligence are replete with knowledge and the will with principles of Christianity, which is the wisdom of God. When the human will does not receive this training it is not guided by the wisdom of God which it was never taught. But other guides resident in human nature will attempt to direct the will and these guides are the passions some of which man possesses in common with inferior animals and when man is guided by passion he becomes the worst and most dangerous of all animals. It is to avoid such dangerous consequences that we Catholics make such supreme