

was eastward, we met the sun each morning before it would rise at the point where we had been on the morning before, and the day was, therefore, shorter than the complete period of the globe's revolution. Each degree of longitude represented a loss of four minutes, and the total loss in a complete circuit would be an entire day of 24 hours. We had gone through half of it, and the captain owed us 12 hours. He paid us these and he advanced us 12 more, which we should have spent or paid back to him by the time that we reached Liverpool. That's the story part of the gift of a day which is even still—close to Honolulu—puzzling many a one on board the good ship Moana, and once in a while reviving the storm of 'Hows?' and 'Whys?' that danced around main and upper decks on that double first of April near where the feathery palms of Vanua Levu lisped and bowed to the whispering waves of the Koro Sea.

We Crossed the Equator

at 7.45 p.m. on April 4. The lateness of the hour prevented the wags on board showing 'the line' to too trusting maids and matrons—said 'line' consisting of a hair deftly fastened to the objective of telescope or binocular. A brief blast of the ship's steam-whistle indicated the psychological moment of the crossing. In the northern sky the Great Bear was visible and in the far Antipodes the Southern Cross was reeling over and preparing to plunge its right arm in the ocean. The following night (April 5) we passed under the sun's track, and on Low Sunday, for the first time in 14 years, I stood north of the shining sun. We were still slicing with prow and pounding with screw the waters of the tropics, and a hot spell and languishing forces were due. But we have passed all through the sun-scorched belt of Capricorn and close to the outer fringe of Cancer with comparatively little discomfort from mere heat. For a friendly trade wind has been constantly playing upon one or the other of our vessels bows ever since we headed off from Brisbane on our long diagonal line from the south-west to the north-east Pacific. It has been a spray-bath, a cooling draught, and all manner of things pleasant and refreshing to every bundle of humanity on board, and people sit far into the nights on our spacious main and upper decks to bask in this blessing from the realms of Boreas. Cooling rains fell frequently, too, especially at Fiji and during the first two days after we had crossed the equator. The usually tranquil seas, too, allowed us to keep all ports open throughout, except on a few nights, when the closed discs of brass and glass cut off from the lower cabins the circulating coolness that made life on deck so pleasant in the daytime. But three days ago—the night after we had passed under the sun's track—the closed weather-ports caused us little inconvenience below, and the industrious fanning of the trade-wind seems to have almost completed its work and stolen the heat out of the vessel's sides and timbers as it would entice the moisture out of a line of flapping napery.

Our coolest night in the tropics thus far has just been passed—one that might have fallen at this season on Dunedin. The THUMP-THUMP-thump of the propeller is silent, and when I come upon deck at 5.30 a.m. my eye rests upon the long circular sweeping shore in the midst of which Honolulu stands, while behind it rise steep ranges of rugged, ragged hills up the tops of which the grey mists of morning are scaling their way to the skies. The health officer's launch is cutting the blue waters towards our ship, an early breakfast is to follow his inspection, and then, ho! for a welcome day on mother earth among the pleasant scenes of Honolulu. Another week will see us at Vancouver and at the end of our voyage among Pacific seas.

Diocesan News

ARCHDIOCESE OF WELLINGTON.

(From our own correspondent.)

May 3.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament was held at St. Joseph's Church on Sunday last. In the evening after Vespers the usual procession was held.

The Very Rev. Father Lewis, Adm., V.G., Rev. Father Keogh, and Very Rev. Father Lane left to-day to assist at the services in connection with the reopening of the new portion of St. Patrick's Church, Masterton.

Rev. Father Servajean was in town this week. The opening of his new convent at Blenheim is arranged to take place at the end of the month. The building has cost over £1000.

From the proceeds of the late concert held in Martinborough a splendid-toned American organ has been obtained for the church there. After Mass on Sunday last Rev. Father Cahill complimented the choir on its acquisition.

At the invitation of Mr. and Mrs. Chapman the stallholders and assistants of the New Zealand stall attended an 'At Home,' which was held at their residence, Lower Hutt, on Saturday last. The party was conveyed from town in drags. Various games were indulged in in the admirably laid-out grounds. Music and a ping-pong tournament made up the indoor attractions. Cheers were given for Mr. and Mrs. Chapman before the party left for home.

The annual meeting of St. Joseph's Choir was held at the presbytery, Boulcott street, on Monday evening. Rev. Father O'Shea presided. The report and balance sheet presented were considered satisfactory. In the former regret was expressed at Mr. Rowe's resignation of the conductorship, and Mr. McLaughlin, who was temporarily filling the position, was thanked for his services. The election of officers resulted as follows. President, Rev. Father

O'Shea; treasurer, Mr. Reichel (re-elected); secretary, Mr. Fraser (re-elected); committee, Mrs. Turner, Misses Rigg, McDonald, and Henderson; organist, Mr. M. J. Ennis.

The Education Board Inspector in his annual report states:— 'In the eight Roman Catholic schools 1112 children were presented in 1900 and 1079 in 1901, showing a small decrease of 33. The number presented in standards in 1900 was 656, of whom 558 passed; and in the past year, 1901, the number of standard children was 611, of whom 566 passed. These results tend to show that the efficiency of the schools is maintained. Improvement is in evidence also in the extent and quality of both standard and class work. In several of these schools elementary science, drill, and kindergarten occupations receive more attention than formerly, and the teaching of arithmetic is much more satisfactory than it was in former years. Good reading, composition, and needlework are features of these schools, and very commendable order and control are met with.'

At the City Council Chambers on Wednesday afternoon a representative gathering of both citizens and Justices of the Peace assembled to bid adieu to Inspector Pender on his retirement from the police force. The Mayor (Mr. Aitken) presided. Apologies for their absence were received from Sir Joseph Ward, Mr. A. Greenfield (Palmerston North), the Hon. J. Rigg, Judge Batham, and Mr. C. M. Luke (formerly Mayor of Wellington). The Mayor pointed out to the large assemblage present the great services Inspector Pender had rendered to the Colony during his long career in its service. His uprightness of character and devotion to duty were so well known to the citizens that it was unnecessary for him to do more than merely refer to them. As Chief Magistrate of the city he wished Inspector Pender a long and happy retirement.

A beautifully illuminated address from 96 Justices and a purse of sovereigns were then presented.

Inspector Pender, on rising to reply, was greeted with a liberal round of applause. He impressed on those present at the commencement that it would be well nigh impossible for him to give expression to his feelings on the occasion. He had come to Wellington with the determination to perform his duties impartially, with discretion and without bitterness of feeling, and he was glad to know from his Worship the Mayor's speech that he had succeeded somewhat in the performance of his duties. Mr. Pender felt great pride on the occasion, and thanked most heartily all that were concerned in getting up the testimonial.

The citizens' purse contained £146, and the cheque of the Justices of the Peace was for £118 1s. The barristers and solicitors also presented a purse containing about £50, and the Salvation Army sent a guinea and specially thanked Inspector Pender for the valuable assistance he had given them in their rescue work.

DIOCESE OF CHRISTCHURCH.

(From our own correspondent.)

May 5.

Mr. John Daly, a prominent Catholic and a patriotic Irishman has been re-elected for another term, Mayor of Kaiapoi, defeating an opponent by a substantial majority.

During the stay of the Waikare at Lyttelton, the Vincentian Fathers, who had just completed a mission in the Dunedin diocese, came through to the city and visited the various objects of interest including the new Cathedral. They spent a few hours at the episcopal residence as guests of his Lordship the Bishop.

The handsome new wing of the Christchurch public library was opened on Thursday afternoon. Amongst those present were members of the Board of Governors of Canterbury College including his Lordship Bishop Grimes.

Not the least attractive stall at the forthcoming Coronation Carnival will be that furnished by the St. Mary's Catholic Ladies' Club. Among numerous costly and attractive gifts, received from leading trades-people, may be mentioned a handsome wedding cake from Mr. J. Buggy, confectioner. Their stall is to be called the 'Royal Artillery,' and the attendants are to be costumed somewhat in imitation of the regulation uniform.

At a complimentary dinner, tendered a few evenings ago by the City Council to Mr. A. E. G. Rhodes on his retirement from the mayoral chair the proposer of the toast, 'the present chairman,' characterised Councillor H. H. Loughnan, who occupied that position, as the most painstaking and level-headed man in the Council.

The grounds of St. Mary's Convent, Colombo street, have just been very tastefully laid out by Mr. J. Joyce. The fine property has recently been added to by the Sisters acquiring an adjoining house and grounds. Part of the grounds has been formed into a tennis court for the use of the High School pupils, and the building, its detachment from the main convent building suiting the purpose, has been opened as a High School for young boys. A feature of this building is the possession of a very extensive room, or hall, used by the former occupier as a class room, and now admirably filling a like object for the Sisters. Already quite a number of small boys are in attendance at the school.

The pupils of St. Mary's High School, Colombo street, were, on last Thursday week, treated to a most enjoyable outing to Sumner by the Sisters of Mercy. The party, numbering 60, left the city at 10 o'clock by a special tram. Mrs. A. J. White kindly placed her grounds and house at their disposal, and here games and pastimes were indulged in throughout a perfect day. Mrs. W. Inkstone, who is at present occupying the residence, was most painstaking in contributing to the requirements of the excursionists, and was actively assisted by Mrs. Turner, Mrs. G. T. White, Mrs. and Miss Holland. A seasonable gift from Mrs. Jones, Colombo street, much enhanced the pleasure of the occasion.