

There was a very satisfactory attendance at a concert given in St. Mary's school hall, Manchester street, on last Wednesday evening, by the pupils of the Sisters of Mercy in aid of the bazaar fund in connection with the new presbytery. The following excellent programme, in which the young performers acquitted themselves admirably, was given:—Chorus, pupils; pianoforte duet, Misses N. Robins, M. Robins, M. Knox, F. Thomson; recitation, K. Goggan, K. Hangey; vocal duet, Misses K. Joyce, E. Mahon; violin solo, Miss Peggy Bain; vocal duet, Misses M. Buchanan, M. Robins; pianoforte solo, Miss Kathleen Molloy; vocal quartette, Misses G. Wood, M. Molloy, K. Zachariah, L. Fleming; pianoforte duet, Misses G. Smith, R. Winny, M. Brown, L. Simpson; vocal solo, Master John Sweeney. In the drama, 'The Expected Visitors,' the characters were taken by Misses Peggy Bain, Kathleen Molloy, Kitty Zachariah, Alice Nelson, Florrie Thomson. The concluding items were:—Vocal trio, Misses M. Robins, M. Buchanan, E. Willis; pianoforte duet, Misses G. Smith, R. Winny, E. Wood, F. Thomson; vocal duet, Master F. Cronin, Miss J. Sweeney; violin solo, Miss Peggy Bain; chorus, boys.

The Coronation Carnival which is to be opened on May 15 in aid of the building fund of the new presbytery for St. Mary's parish promises to be one of the largest and most successful events of the kind yet arranged in the city. A particularly energetic committee has been at work for many months perfecting details and the results of their labors will be abundantly manifest on the opening night. The Colosseum, wherein the carnival is to be held, provides more room probably than any building in the Colony for the purpose, and with this fact in view the committee have secured 'side shows' in more than ordinary numbers, and many of a novel character. An interest will no doubt be added to the carnival by the fact that since the Shakespearean bazaar many years ago no gathering of the kind has been held in the building, it being used meanwhile for other than 'show' purposes. Apart from all this, however, the object itself must appeal eloquently to everyone who is acquainted with the absolute usefulness of the present presbytery and the urgent necessity of its speedy replacement by a more suitable one.

Our citizens have been enjoying a real feast of music this week. The two oratorios, the "Creation" and the "Messiah," produced by the Musical Society in the Canterbury Hall gave the great numbers who attended splendid opportunities of hearing Miss Dolores (Trebelli) in probably some of her best vocal efforts. On Saturday night there was a vast crowd to hear Miss Amy Castles, who, on her arrival at Warner's Hotel the previous evening, was serend by the Orpheus Society, conducted by Mr. W. H. Corrigan. Bishop Grimes and several of the clergy attended the production of Haydn's oratorio, the "Creation," and also Miss Castles's concert.

A meeting of St. Patrick's Day celebration committee was held, on Thursday evening last in the parochial library, Mr. W. Hoban, chairman of the executive, presiding. The Very Rev. Vicar-General was in attendance and stated that owing to another engagement his Lordship the Bishop was unable to be present. The committee's report and balance sheet were read and adopted. The latter showed a balance to credit of £108 7s 10d. It was resolved to deposit the balance in hand in the Post Office Savings Bank, his Lordship Bishop Grimes, Mr. E. O'Connor, and Mr. G. Hart being appointed trustees, and to keep the fund open adding contributions as they come to hand. It was intimated that steps are being taken to secure a suitable site for the projected home for the aged, infirm, destitute, and incurable, and negotiations were in progress for a community of Sisters to take charge. Votes of thanks were accorded to all who had assisted in the committee's work, especially Mr. E. O'Connor, general secretary, and Mrs. A. Mead, secretary of the Ladies' committee. The meeting then adjourned until the Bishop deemed it advisable to again call it together to still further devise means of adding to the fund.

DIOCESE OF AUCKLAND.

(From our own correspondent.)

April 21.

The Very Rev. Dr. Egan is, I regret to say, unwell, being confined to his room for some days, and last Sunday was unable to fulfil his spiritual duties. His many friends earnestly desire his speedy restoration to health.

The Rev. Father Ahern, of New South Wales, celebrated first Mass at St. Patrick's last Sunday morning, and at 11 o'clock Mass preached a very effective discourse on the alarming lack of parental control in the present day.

The local branch of the H.A.C.B. Society inaugurated last evening in the Hibernian Hall the first of a series of winter socials. It was in every way a pronounced success, and augurs well for the season. This is a step in the right direction and must tend to popularise the branch.

Miss Flossie Quinn, for some time a member of St. Patrick's choir, took her departure last Tuesday for Bendigo, where she is to undergo special training in voice cultivation at the hands of Miss Amy Castles's first teachers. Miss Quinn has at all times given her services gratuitously for church and charitable purposes, and her many friends wish her a full measure of success. In addition to her musical talents she possesses a genial and kindly bearing, due to the good work of the Sisters of Mercy and her good parents. In the saloon of the Moravia a nice presentation was made her by the members of St. Patrick's choir, and Miss Donovan read an address. Her brother, Mr. J. Quinn, replied, and thanked the generous donors. Quite a large number saw Miss Quinn off and wished her success in her new sphere.

An Anglican clergyman in the city recently essayed the task of enlightening readers of a local paper on a cablegram from London with reference to the attitude of the Anglican Church towards Confession. The rev. gentleman took pains to say that the censure,

after Confession, pronounced upon the sinner, was the censure of the Church (Anglican), not that of God, for Whom it did not profess to act. The Very Rev. Father Benedict, O.P., splendidly answered the Anglican clergyman in St. Patrick's last Sunday evening. The eloquent Dominican went to the very root of the matter, and treated of Confession from its institution by our Divine Lord, and its constant and efficacious use by the Church from that day to this, laying particular stress upon the fact that our Lord in instituting Confession purposely made it an act of humiliation for the transgressor. He also exposed the often-repeated fiction that Confession was invented by the monks of the middle ages. Throughout the discourse was eagerly listened to by the large congregation, and its effect upon those outside of the faith who heard it must assuredly dispel many illusions and prejudices which they had previously entertained.

[This letter arrived too late for insertion in our last issue.]

(From our own correspondent.)

May 1.

The Very Rev. Dr. Egan was still too unwell to officiate at the Sacred Heart Church last Sunday. The Rev. Father Purton acted for him. It is to be hoped Dr. Egan will soon be himself again.

His Grace Archbishop Redwood, accompanied by the Ven. Archdeacon Devoy, returned last Monday afternoon from the Lakes District, where they were for the benefit of their health. They are the guests of his Lordship Bishop Lenihan, and expect to go South to-day.

The Rev. Father Kehoe, of Parnell, returned from Sydney by the Elingamite last Monday evening. He has benefited greatly by his stay in Australia, where he underwent a surgical operation. Father Kehoe is rapidly regaining health, and his many friends here are delighted beyond measure. He is at present staying with his Lordship the Bishop at the palace.

The Marist Brothers' College, about to be erected in the Ponsonby suburb, will soon be an accomplished fact. The plans which were sent to the Superior of the Order in France have been returned and approved, and are now in the hands of Messrs. E. Mahoney and Son, who will immediately call tenders for the erection of the college. The portion which will be first erected is expected to cost several thousand pounds. Its erection will be a cause of joy to the whole Catholic body of the province, and a long felt want will have been supplied.

At the ordinary meeting of the Education Board yesterday Mr. Laute thought the Catholic schools should be inspected, but not by the Board's inspectors. The chairman, Mr. Bagnall, improved upon this by saying 'the expense was too great, and that the Catholic authorities had been asked to contribute towards the expenses but had refused.' These frugal gentlemen know very well the amount saved annually to the State by Catholics in the maintenance of their schools, but with them this counts for nothing.

Presentation to Dean Mahoney, Nelson.

(From our own correspondent.)

May 1.

A FAREWELL social was given last night in St. Mary's Hall to the Very Rev. Dean Mahoney, who is on the eve of his departure for the Old Country. There was a large attendance, the hall being crowded. Besides the Dean's parishioners, there was also a large number of non-Catholic friends of the Dean, including Judge Robinson, Messrs John Trulene, C. Y. Feil, F. Hamilton, and W. T. Bond.

The following programme was presented:—Overture, Miss Scott; song, Miss N. Driscoll; song, Mr. H. G. O'Beirne; vocal duet, Misses Higgins; pianoforte solo, Miss Duff; song, Mr. T. Con-dell; song, Mrs. Pratt; cornet solo, Mr. C. Trussell; song, Mr. W. Ryder, and two recitations by Mr. Duff, which were encored.

The chairman, Father George Mahony, then made a few brief remarks, in which he said that they were gathered together that evening to do honor to one who had endeared himself throughout the Nelson district to non-Catholics as well as Catholics. Dean Mahoney's health for some time past had given great anxiety to his friends and now upon the recommendation of his medical adviser he had decided to take a long holiday, leaving Wellington on May 8 for England. The rev. chairman went on to say that two years ago that very night they had presented the Dean with something similar to that they were going to give him that evening. But instead of devoting it to a holiday for himself, he had kindly made use of it for beautifying the church property. The token of esteem they would give that evening they desired the Dean to take and spend in having a good holiday. He then called upon Dr. Duff, who, on behalf of St. Mary's congregation, presented the Very Rev. Dean Mahoney with a beautifully illuminated address and a purse containing 125 sovereigns. Dr. Duff read the address, which was as follows:—

'Very Rev. and Dear Father,—It is with somewhat mingled feelings that we address you on this occasion, feelings of joy and gratitude for your partial restoration to health, and of sorrow for our approaching separation. You have now officiated as a pastor in this parish for the long period of seven and twenty years, and during a considerable portion of that time you were practically alone. Never sparing yourself, you have labored in season and out of season, with an energy and perseverance seldom paralleled, not only in connection with your immediate charge, but cheerfully undergoing the severest mental and bodily toil in originating and perfecting schemes for the amelioration of the temporal and spiritual condition of your fellow-colonists.