

removed, and thus make the Irish people contented and loyal. Particular stress is laid on the urgent necessity that exists for the settlement of the land question—a question that is 'at the bottom of all the trouble.' When a petition is put before the public they like to know from whom it emanates, and if it has the sanction of representative people. The motives of the originators were no doubt good, but their methods were at fault. There was a mystery about the petition which militated against its success. It was sprung as a surprise upon the majority of Irishmen of the Colony, and if it did not receive that support which the originators expected, they have only themselves to blame for the failure. The leading Irishmen in the different centres should, in the first place, have been consulted as to the propriety of sending such a request, and that matter having been settled in the affirmative, the proposal should have as much publicity as possible. The number of signatures obtained in Dunedin was, comparatively speaking, small, and consequently Mr Seddon might imagine that the suggestions contained in the petition did not meet with the approval of the majority of Irishmen of this Colony.

DIOCESE OF DUNEDIN.

The devotion of the Forty Hours' Adoration will begin at the Sacred Heart Church on Friday morning and will conclude at the half-past nine o'clock Mass on Sunday.

To-morrow (Friday) evening, at St. Joseph's Hall, the South Dunedin Catholic Literary and Social Club will meet the members of the St. Joseph's Clubs (ladies and gentlemen) in a friendly tournament. As there are to be fifty players on either side an interesting match is looked forward to.

Sunday being the first Sunday of the month there was Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at St. Joseph's Cathedral from last Mass until Vespers. In the evening there was the usual procession, in which the children of the parish schools and the members of the Confraternity of the Sacred Heart took part.

At St. Patrick's Basilica, South Dunedin, on Sunday last, there was Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at the conclusion of the 11 o'clock Mass. During the afternoon large numbers visited the basilica, and in the evening there was a procession, the members of the Men's Confraternity of the Sacred Heart and the Children of Mary taking part. The Rev. Father O'Reilly preached an eloquent sermon appropriate to the occasion.

The Foresters' Hall, Port Chalmers, was well filled on Friday evening, when the members of St. Joseph's Cathedral choir, assisted by some friends, gave a concert in aid of the funds of the local Catholic school. The entertainment opened with a pianoforte solo brilliantly played by Mrs J. Woods, while Mrs R. Hudson, jun., Miss Blaney, Messrs T. J. Hussey, B. Stevens, and J. Jago were deservedly applauded and encored for their excellent songs. The second part was devoted to a minstrel entertainment by ladies, which was highly enjoyed. The programme was brought to a close by the company singing 'Good-night.'

ARCHDIOCESE OF WELLINGTON.

(From our own correspondent.)

May 31.

The Ven. Archdeacon Devoy, Provincial, left on Thursday for Christchurch. He will be away for some days.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament was held at St. Joseph's Church on Sunday last. After Vespers the usual procession of the Blessed Sacrament took place.

At St. Mary of the Angels', on Sunday last, the reception of nine young ladies into the confraternity of the Children of Mary took place. The Rev. director performed the ceremony and gave Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

The local secretary of the Hibernian Society, Mr P. Kelliher, was in a critical state of health for some days owing to the bursting of a blood-vessel. His many friends will be pleased to hear that since Thursday a change for the better has taken place.

The choir of St. Joseph's Church, Buckle street, has had an addition to its ranks in the person of Miss Mahar, from St. Vincent's College, Sydney. This young lady is the possessor of a well cultivated soprano voice and will be a decided acquisition to the choir. It is Miss Mahar's intention to commence teaching in Wellington. She holds several gold medals obtained for excellence in her art.

A meeting of the Literary and Debating Society of the Marist Brothers' Old Boys' Association was held in St. Patrick's Hall on Monday evening. The evening was devoted to readings from various authors. These were well chosen and creditably delivered. Rev. Father Herbert gave instruction on the art of reading. A sub-committee consisting of Rev. Father Herbert, Messrs P. J. McGovern, C. Gamble, and H. McKeown, appointed at a previous meeting of the society, presented a syllabus which was unanimously adopted.

Billiard and ping-pong tournaments are shortly to commence in St. Patrick's Hall, under the auspices of the Marist Brothers' Old Boys' Association. For the billiard tournament Mr W. Missen, a vice-president of the Association, has donated a handsome gold medal, for which keen and interesting competitions are expected. The Association will provide a prize for the ping-pong tournament.

A meeting of the Thorndon parishioners was held at the Presbytery on Thursday evening. The Very Rev. Father Lewis, V.G.,

presided. The meeting was called for the purpose of devising means to reduce the debt on the Church of the Sacred Heart, which amounts to £1600. General satisfaction was expressed at the small amount owing on the church. After some discussion it was decided to hold a bazaar about Easter time of next year for the purpose of providing the necessary funds.

PALMERSTON NORTH.

(From our own correspondent.)

June 1.

The annual concert and social in aid of the parish school were held in the Theatre Royal on Wednesday evening. There was a very large attendance, and it is expected that the financial results will be highly satisfactory. The programme comprised the following items:—Piano solo, Miss Campion; song, Mr P. Lomas; song, Miss Cecilia Rush (encored); vocal duet, Misses Oakley and Rush; song, Mrs Dixon (encored); recitation, Mr Haybittle (encored); song, Miss M. Scanlon; song, Mr Arthur Bennett (encored); song, Miss R. Oakley. The accompaniments were played by Mr P. Tombs in his usual finished style. The lady performers are all pupils of Sister Augustine of the local convent, and Miss Rush who made her debut met with a great reception which was well merited, and very flattering to her teacher. The ladies of the parish provided refreshments on a very liberal scale.

Invercargill Notes.

(From an occasional correspondent.)

On last Thursday a very enjoyable evening was spent in Ashley's Hall when the members of the Athletic Football Club held one of their periodical socials. The hall was comfortably filled. A ping-pong tournament formed part of the programme, the prizes for which were awarded to Miss L. Kirwin and Mr T. Kane. This pastime is a novelty at social gatherings here, and judging by its success on Thursday night it is likely to become very popular. Songs were rendered during the evening by Misses Kelleher and Ross.

On Sunday a copy of the plans of the new church which it is proposed to erect here were placed in the porch of the church for the inspection of the congregation.

In matters of recreation, the Catholic young men of the district are by no means backward. A football club, composed solely of Catholics, was formed a few years back, and with the aid of a well-equipped gymnasium built by the club, it has worked its way into a very prominent position among the clubs of Southland. The club, which is known as the Athletic Club, has so far this season an unbeaten record, and two years ago it was the premier junior club of Southland.

Petition to Mr. Seddon.

The following is a copy of a petition to the Right Hon. R. J. Seddon, urging him to bring before the Conference of Colonial Premiers and Imperial statesmen the position of affairs in Ireland, which was open for signature at the door of St. Joseph's Cathedral on Sunday morning:—

Dunedin, May, 1902.

The Right Hon. R. J. Seddon, P.C., LL.D., Premier of New Zealand, London.

Hon. Sir,—We, the undersigned Irishmen of New Zealand, being fully cognisant of the liberal and broad views you have at all times held, democratic views and aspirations, which we need hardly repeat have endeared you to the people of this fair and progressive country, and believing that we voice the feelings and opinions of the majority of the people of Dunedin—indeed we are perhaps safe in saying that of all New Zealand—would respectfully ask that at the Conference of Premiers in London (at which you will, we doubt not, take a leading part) you will bring the subject of Ireland's discontent prominently before the deliberations of the said Conference. It being without doubt to the best interests of the British Empire that the Irish would be contented and loyal, there is hardly a question about it but they would be if the grievances, which friend and foe admit exist, were removed.

The land question is at the bottom of nearly all the trouble. If the people got the land agitation settled it would go far towards a settlement of all other minor matters. In any country that is landlord-ridden, and in this case many of them not of the people even, we do not wonder that there is unrest, discontent, and perhaps want of that loyalty which a free and contented people can alone give in a whole-hearted manner. And we again repeat that if the Irish people and their representatives were treated with more justice and consideration no people would be more loyal—aye, a tower of strength—to the great Empire of which they form an integral part.

Again, Hon. Sir, we must say that we know of no one who is better fitted by the administration and practice of liberal laws in the country you represent as Premier—we say that no one is better adapted to prove to the world what good land laws and compulsory sale of large estates will do for a people than yourself. We believe, hon. sir, that by taking a leading part in the final settlement of the Irish question you would achieve a signal act of triumph on behalf of still further cementing the bonds of unity in an important portion of the Empire.—We remain, etc.