

been sweetened by it in many respects. Nevertheless, all feel and many confess that the reality has not been up to the level of their hopes. They cannot deny it, when they consider the state of minds and of manners, the statistics of crime, the deep sounds of discontent that arise from the lower orders, and the predominance of force over right. Not to speak yet of the multitudes that are the prey of misery, it suffices to cast even a superficial glance over the world to find convincing proof that an indefinable sadness weighs upon souls, and that an immense void exists in men's hearts. Man has indeed succeeded in subjecting matter to his power; but matter has not been able to give him what it does not possess; and to the great questions which bear on our loftiest interests human science has given no reply. The thirst for truth, for the good, for the infinite, has not been quenched, and neither the joys and the treasures of earth, nor the increase of the conveniences of life have been able to lull to sleep the moral sufferings in the depths of hearts. Are we then to despise or put aside the advantages which flow from instruction, from science, from civilisation, and from a wise and gentle liberty? Certainly not. We must, on the contrary, hold them in high esteem, preserve them and increase them like so much precious capital; for they constitute means, good in their own order, conferred by God Himself and appointed by infinite Wisdom for the well-being of the human family and for its profit. But we must regulate its use according to

The Intentions of the Creator,

and employ them in such a manner that they may not be separated from the religious element, in which resides the virtue that confers on them a special value and makes them genuinely fruitful. Such is the secret of the problem. When an organic being dies or decays it has ceased to be under the action of the causes which gave it its form and constitution. In order to build it up again in a healthy and flourishing state it should undoubtedly be subjected anew to the vivifying action of these same causes. Now, actual society in the foolish attempt that it has made to escape from God has rejected the supernatural order and Divine revelation; it has thus withdrawn itself from the salutary influence of Christianity, which is manifestly the most stable guarantee of order, the strongest bond of brotherhood, and the inexhaustible source of private and public virtues.

From this sacrilegious abandonment has sprung the trouble which harasses the world to-day. Hence society must once more enter inside the pale of Christianity if it has its well-being, its repose, and its safety at heart.

Just as Christianity does not penetrate the soul without elevating and improving it, so it does not enter into public life without producing order and harmony. With the idea of a God Who rules all things, Who is all-wise, infinitely good and infinitely just, the sense of duty must penetrate the human conscience. This is the faith that sweetens suffering, subdues hatred, and begets heroes. If it transformed pagan society—and that transformation was veritably a resurrection, since barbarism disappeared in proportion to the spread of Christianity—it will be able in the same way, after these terrible shocks of incredulity, to place modern states and contemporary peoples again on the right path and to restore order in their midst.

(To be concluded in our next issue.)

Diocesan News

ARCHDIOCESE OF WELLINGTON.

(From our own correspondent.)

June 11.

At St. Patrick's Church, Masterton, on Sunday last the 'Te Deum' was sung in thanksgiving for peace.

The theory examinations in connection with the Royal College of Music, London, are being held at St. Mary's Convent to-day.

The following ladies have promised to take stalls at the bazaar, which is to be held at Easter time in aid of the church of the Sacred Heart: No. 1, Lady Ward; No. 2, Mesdames Gibbs and Duignan; No. 3, Mesdames Baldwin, I. Duncan, Turnbull and H. Johnston; No. 4, Mesdames W. Keefe and L. Dwan, Refreshment stall, Miss Maginnity. No. 5 stall has still to be decided upon. Signor Borzoni has been engaged to take charge of the amusements. In such capable hands a novel display will certainly be provided.

On the occasion of the annual social in aid of the Sisters of Compassion on Wednesday evening the drillshed was taxed to its utmost capacity. An excellent musical programme was provided by the following:—Misses Mahar, Birch, Ward, Gallagher and Mr Hendry. All the performers were encored. An excellent supper was provided by the ladies of the parish. The dance music was provided by Mr McLaughlin's orchestra. Over £100 should be realised by the social.

At St. Joseph's Church on Tuesday morning a Solemn Requiem Mass was offered up for the repose of those who had fallen in the South African War. The Ven. Archdeacon Devoy was celebrant, Rev. Father O'Reilly deacon, and Rev. Father Tymons sub-deacon. Rev. Father Herbert acted as master of ceremonies. The solemn music was sung by the Fathers of St. Patrick's College, who were assisted by the priests from Thorndon and Te Aro parishes. On Wednesday morning at the Church of the Sacred Heart the Very Rev. Father Lewis, V.G., celebrated Mass for the same object. Rev. Father Costello acted as assistant priest. The music was sung in an excellent manner by the choir, assisted by Rev. Fathers Holley and Mahony. Large congregations were present on both days.

The Irishmen of Wellington, under the auspices of the Irish National Federation, have shown in a very practical manner their appreciation of the good work being done by the Irish leaders, especially in the efforts they are making towards a settlement of the Land Question. The drain on the bone and sinew, so to speak, of Ireland has been going on long enough, and any country that is virtually depopulated of its manhood must sooner or later become like a derelict ship. The Wellington Irishmen, in sending the sum of £50 to Mr John Redmond by the last San Francisco mail, also forwarded an accompanying letter strongly supporting him and his colleagues, and Mr T. W. Russell, in the stand they are making against the tyranny of the Government in sending men to pri on because they are advocating the 'land for the people.' Moral support like this from the colonies, apart even from the financial aid, is likely to have a good effect on the people at home. It is to be hoped the other centres will take action by following the good example set by the Wellington Irishmen. Such action would be most gratifying and encouraging to the Irish Parliamentary Party who are fighting for their country in the British Parliament.

WANGANUI.

(From our own correspondent.)

June 13.

Although, of course, the Catholics of Wanganui joined heartily in the local peace celebrations, which were organised as soon as the long-expected news came to hand, yet Sunday, the 8th inst., was the day set apart for the formal thanksgiving at St. Mary's Church. At the conclusion of the Mass the Very Rev. Dean Kirk addressed the large congregation. In most touching language he exhorted them to join in the great 'Te Deum' of thanksgiving to Almighty God for the inestimable favor of peace. The late war, extending as it did over nearly three years, had been a terrible war, and ignoring altogether the material cost, there had been a great loss of life both by sickness and on the field. He hoped that peace would be lasting and a prelude to an everlasting peace in the world to come. The 'Te Deum' was then beautifully rendered by the choir.

At 8 o'clock on Tuesday morning a Solemn Requiem Mass was celebrated by the Very Rev. Dean Kirk for the repose of the souls of all those who have died (Briton and Boer alike) in the late South African war. Rev. Father O'Sullivan was also present in the sanctuary. In spite of the inconvenient hour there was a good congregation and a full attendance of the choir to render the music appropriate to the solemn occasion.

There will be Mass at 9 o'clock on Coronation Day, 26th June, when the 'Te Deum' of thanksgiving, as directed by the Archbishop, will be sung. It is expected that all the Catholic volunteers will attend.

GREYMOUTH.

(From an occasional correspondent.)

June 12.

On Sunday evening after Vespers a handsome picture of St. Anthony of Padua was blessed, and a sermon on the life and virtues of the saint was preached by the Rev. Father Kimbell, S.M. The picture is the gift of an anonymous donor, a member of the congregation. The Catholics of Greymouth are to be congratulated in possessing such a beautiful picture of the 'saint of the whole world' as St. Anthony has been styled by the Holy Father.

The May devotions in honor of Our Blessed Lady were brought to a conclusion in St. Patrick's Church, Greymouth, by a procession of Our Lady—whose image was carried round the church in a beautifully adorned shrine by four of the Children of Mary. Those who took part in the procession were the pupils of the convent schools, the members of the Children of Mary, altar boys and clergy, all having lighted tapers, whilst the choir sang hymns in Our Lady's honor. Devotions such as this do much to enliven faith and increase our love and respect for the Mother of God. A sermon on the virtues and dignity of the Blessed Virgin was preached, a large congregation being present.

On Wednesday, June 11, Mr T. W. Tymons accompanied by Mrs Tymons and Miss Mary Tymons said good-bye to Greymouth where they have resided for the past 14 years. Mr Tymons having retired from business is going to reside in Wanganui. Mr and Mrs Tymons have made a host of friends whilst on the West Coast, by whom their departure is sincerely regretted.

DIOCESE OF CHRISTCHURCH.

(From our own correspondent.)

June 16th.

It has been found necessary to alter the date of the entertainment in aid of the schools from July 3 to July 10.

The Very Rev. Dean Foley is at present ministering at Akaroa, and on last Sunday week at St. Patrick's Church the 'Te Deum' was sung in thanksgiving for the declaration of peace.

The letter of his Holiness the Pope granting a special dispensation to Catholics throughout the British Empire on the occasion of the Coronation was read in the churches on Sunday.

The Rev. Father Goban, of Kaituma, arrived by the Wakatu on Tuesday night on a business visit. While here he was a guest at the episcopal residence.

On Sunday, the 8th inst., his Lordship Dr. Grimes administered the Sacrament of Confirmation in the new church at Waiau, North Canterbury. The Bishop preached both morning and evening, and in response to an appeal on behalf of the Cathedral building fund,