

the congregation, which is said to be one of the smallest in the diocese, contributed the splendid sum of £150, surpassing the most sanguine anticipations of everyone in the district. In the afternoon the Bishop blessed the Catholic cemetery; and after the sermon in the evening the 'Te Deum' was sung in thanksgiving for the declaration of peace in South Africa.

Early in the week the Bishop returned to the city, and intended to go to Cheviot on Sunday to solemnly bless and open the fine new church just completed. The inclement weather and flooded state of the rivers prevented the carrying out of his Lordship's intentions. Cheviot is also in the parochial district of the Rev. Father Price, Hawarden, who is evidently accomplishing great things for religion in the wide area under his control.

The choir of St. Mary's Church, Manchester street, under the conductorship of Mr W. H. Corrigan, produced Mendelssohn's 'Lauda Sion' on Sunday evening. According to authorities, the strikingly beautiful hymn for Corpus Christi was written by St. Thomas Aquinas at the request of the then Sovereign Pontiff, Pope Gregory X. Tradition has it that St. Thomas and two others were deputed for the task, but so impressed were the latter at the beautifully appropriate words of the Angelic Doctor that they immediately destroyed their own compositions.

The Catholic Club held its usual weekly meeting on Tuesday, Mr J. R. Hayward (vice-president) occupying the chair. Arrangements were made for a lecture at the next meeting by the Very Rev. Father Le Menant des Chesnais, V.G., on 'Liberty,' and an 'At Home' for the following Tuesday for members and friends (including ladies). During the week a tournament was held between the club and the H.A.C.B. Society in which the club were victorious. Included in the attractions at the rooms is ping pong, a set being kindly presented by Mr R. O. Duncan (vice-president). The game is in great request by the younger members. The programme of the evening consisted of 'impromptu speeches,' various complex subjects being intelligently handled.

A most enjoyable social, tendered by Mr and Mrs J. C. Chase to all those who in any way assisted in connection with Mrs Chase's stall ('Bengal Lancers') at the recent Coronation Carnival, was held on Monday evening last in the Montreal street Hall. Upwards of 200 guests were present, and towards the end of the festivities Mr A. J. Malley spoke in eulogistic terms of the host and hostesses, who are always to the fore in matters pertaining to the advancement of Church undertakings generally, and particularly on behalf of St. Mary's, the results from their stall at the late bazaar being the most successful. Three hearty cheers were given for Mr and Mrs Chase, the proceedings being terminated by the singing of 'Auld lang syne.'

DIocese of AUCKLAND.

(From our own correspondent.)

June 5.

Rev. Father Gillan is still, I regret to say, confined to his room but is on the way to recovery.

The plans for the Marist Brothers' College are nearly ready.

The local press republished from the TABLET the circular letter of the Metropolitan and Bishops of New Zealand concerning the Coronation.

Before leaving for the south Lord Ranfurly publicly expressed his displeasure with the management of the Costley Home and bluntly said it was being carried on in a manner contrary to the trust reposed in the committee.

Amongst the Rev. Father Ainsworth's many friends in Auckland widespread and sincere regret was felt at the loss which has befallen him in the sad death of his mother.

An effort is about to be made to raise funds locally in aid of the Irish Parliamentary Fund. The prospects so far are encouraging.

A letter descriptive of his travels has been received by the Very Rev. Dr. Egan, O.S.B., from Mr J. J. O'Brien, J.P., It was written from Aden, and was read by Dr. Egan to the Young Men's Club of the Ponsonby parish.

The fortnightly socials in St. Benedict's Hall by the Young Men's Club of St. Benedict's parish and those of the local branch of the H.A.C.B. Society in the Hibbrian Hall continue to be highly successful.

There was an unusually large muster of the Children of Mary at the 7.30 Mass and at Vespers at St. Patrick's last Sunday. This Confraternity is increasing rapidly in numbers. On the other hand, I regret to say, the Guard of Honor, which has always done so much good, is evidently on the decline.

In my last letter I omitted to state that his Excellency Lord Ranfurly visited the Takapuna Orphanage before going south. His Lordship the Bishop, the Very Rev. Dr. Egan, O.S.B., and Rev. Father Patterson received him. The boys read an address to which his Excellency replied. The Governor expressed great pleasure at the vast improvements effected in the institution and grounds since his last visit, and was greatly pleased with all he had seen, and heartily congratulated the management.

On last Sunday, which was within the Octave of the Feast of Corpus Christi, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament was held in the city churches from last Mass to Vespers. At the Cathedral devotions were held at 3 p.m. by the Rev. Father Patterson, Adm., at which a large congregation assembled. In the evening the usual procession of the Blessed Sacrament took place. The sermon in the morning was preached by the Rev. Father Buckley, and in the evening by the Rev. Father Patterson.

(From our own correspondent.)

June 12.

As Vespers the Rev. Father Benedict, O.P., delivered an eloquent sermon on devotion to the Sacred Heart, and gave an account

of the action of the Church in regard to the propagation and practice of this devotion. The eloquent Dominican concluded by referring to the peace between Boer and Briton. They should thank God that the war was over, and pray that men may come to love God and one another.

The Auckland Harbor Board is at present discussing the question of further additions to their white elephant the Admiralty House in the way of furnishing it. The whole scheme was a blunder and the building should never have been erected.

Mr Corley, the builder of the Marist Brothers' College at Hunter's Hill, Sydney, is at present in Auckland, and will act as clerk of works in the construction of the new college about to be erected here for the Brothers.

A dramatic entertainment by the Auckland Catholic Literary and Debating Society is announced to be held in St. Benedict's Hall shortly, the proceeds of which will go to the St. Vincent de Paul Society and the Cathedral parish fund.

An unfortunate and distressing railway accident occurred last week by which Patrick Bartley, a member of the Auckland branch of the H.A.C.B. Society, was killed.—R.I.P.

His Lordship the Bishop celebrated the half-past seven o'clock Mass at St. Patrick's on Sunday morning, after which he read the Act of Consecration to the Sacred Heart. At the eleven o'clock Mass his Lordship preached on devotion to the Sacred Heart. This devotion, said his Lordship, reminds us of the great love of Jesus for us. It appeals directly to our own hearts, the seat and fountain of our affections. Our Blessed Saviour came upon earth in a time of universal peace, and after 33 years gave up for us His heart's blood. The Church, in order to counteract the growth of heresies and indifference to our holy faith, exhorts her children to practise devotion to the Sacred Heart. We need the love of Jesus in our trials and necessities. Referring to the cessation of hostilities in South Africa, the Bishop said while each of us may entertain our opinion as to the righteousness or otherwise of the war, we may all unite in rejoicing at the termination of the war. To those in authority must be left the task of satisfying Almighty God of the justice of their actions. Bravery was shown on both sides. They should rejoice at peace and beseech God to grant a peace that may prove to be lasting. At the conclusion of Mass the choir, under Mr P. F. Hiscocks, sang the 'Te Deum' as a thanksgiving for the declaration of peace.

Religious Orders in Spain.

To one living abroad as much as I do (writes Mrs C. E. Jeffery in the *Catholic Times*) it seems curious to note the apparent inability of English Catholics to understand the present agitation against the religious Orders in various Catholic countries. Yet it seems to me perfectly clear and obvious. It is impossible, indeed, to visit any Continental country where this agitation is going on, and to study the foreign newspapers, without gaining the clue to the apparent mystery. This week the *Catholic Times* has a paragraph on the threatened action of the present Government of Spain against the religious Orders. It finishes up by saying: 'It is hard to conceive why the people should be so bitterly opposed to inoffensive men and women whose only desire is to lead a quiet life.' Well, the answer to this is that 'the people' are not opposed to the religious Orders. Quite the contrary. The vast majority of the people in all these lands are extremely attached to them—as well they may be, seeing that all the great charitable institutions—the hospitals, schools, and homes of refuge for the poor and the afflicted—are managed by the religious.

It is true that a section of the working classes who are not Catholics at all, but Socialists and Anarchists, periodically raise a hue-and-cry against the Religious. Of course these men are stirred up and goaded on by professional agitators, who work them up to frenzy pitch by incendiary speeches, and often subsidise them to commit deeds of violence, as in Portugal, where I heard it said that loafing ruffians out of work were paid liberally to stone priests and even nuns (notably the Sisters of St. Vincent de Paul). In every country nowadays there are two parties violently opposed to each other—namely, the Liberals (so-called), i.e., the freethinkers and anti-Christians, who hate all religion, and whose aim is to overthrow it, and the Conservative or clerical party, who make a stand more or less determined against the encroachment of their Godless opponents, and in the cause of law and religion.

Senor Sagasta, the Spanish Premier, is not even nominally a Catholic, I believe. He is a man of no religion, and a resolute enemy of the Church. He may find it convenient to cloak his aims under fair-sounding words, such as declaring that the remonstrances of the Holy See will be treated with respect; but that stands for nothing. To say that the great mass of the populace in Spain or Portugal is inimical to the religious Orders is as unjust and untrue as it would be to say that at the Protestant 'Reformation' the poor of England were party to the dissolution of the monasteries which were their great refuge and support. So far from the lower classes in Portugal being hostile to the religious Orders, I was told when I was there that the people were clamoring for their recall and were signing monster petitions to the Government for the repeal of the laws against them.

At this season everybody is liable to Coughs and Colds. Avoid all danger by taking TUSSICURA.—*.*

The railway authorities notify that holiday excursion tickets will be issued on the Hurunui-Bluff section in connection with the Coronation Celebrations and the Dunedin Winter Show. Particulars will be found in our advertising columns...