

DIOCESE OF AUCKLAND.

(From our own correspondent.)

June 26.

During the remainder of the winter Vespers at St. Benedict's will commence at 6.30 instead of 7 p.m.

Sir Edward Barton, Premier of the Australian Commonwealth, and the Hon. J. A. Tole, ex-Minister of Justice for this Colony, were class mates in the Sydney University where both secured their degrees. The latter recently wrote to Sir Edward Barton to London upon the question of Home Rule for Ireland and the advisability of discussing it at the forthcoming Premier's Conference.

St. Patrick's Amateur Dramatic Club gave a very successful performance of 'The Lady of Lyons' in St. Benedict's Hall last Thursday evening. The building was filled to the doors. The cast was as follows:—Claude Melnotte, Mr. Jas. J. Donovan; Colonel Damas, Mr. W. Thorne; Beaumont, Mr. E. C. O'Brien; Glavis, Mr. P. L. Donnelly; Mons. Deschappelles, Mr. W. P. Naughton; landlord, Mr. R. J. Hoare; Gaspar, Mr. E. Bailey; Captain Gervais, Mr. F. J. Simpson; Lieut. Dupont, Mr. Goodge; Major Desmolins, Mr. Rae Owen; notary, Mr. John English; Pauline, Miss May Heighway; Madame Deschappelles, Miss Lillian Ferguson; Widow Melnotte, Miss Florence Lora. Rev. Father Patterson conducted the orchestra. The net proceeds are to be devoted to St. Vincent de Paul Society and St. Patrick's presbytery fund. The performers are to be highly commended for their efforts. It was an ambitious task for an initial performance, but they rose to the occasion. It is contemplated to repeat it at an early date.

The Bible-in-Schools agitation, fanned from the Nonconformist pulpits, has found vent in the public press. The following excellent letter, the writer of which is known to me, being an Anglican churchman, is, I think, worth producing. It appeared in our local evening paper:—'After reading as much as the average man can endure of the orations delivered on this subject, and noting the fact of the Catholics being in a minority in the Colony, it is pertinent to enquire: If these people give religious instruction in their own schools at their own expense, quietly and without ostentation, why do not some of the strong Nonconformist bodies do the same thing, and thus show the public they are really in earnest in the matter? Are they unwilling or simply unable to do this? At any rate we may apply the words of the wise man to the Catholics, "They are a feeble folk, but they have their home in the rock."'

At the Mater Misericordiae Hospital, Mount Eden, conducted by the Sisters of Mercy, last Thursday afternoon a new ward was opened. It is intended for consumptive patients, and is detached from the main building. His Lordship Dr. Lenihan performed the ceremony in the presence of a number of visitors, including the local clergy and members of the medical profession. Its chief features are that its north, east, and west sides are built like a verandah, with sliding glass doors, so that nearly the whole of these sides, above the handrail, may be thrown open to freely admit the air. At the invitation of the Rev. Mother Superior, the party adjourned to the main building, where an excellent repast was provided. The Bishop gave a brief history of the inception and progress of the institution, and wished it God-speed, as it supplied a long-felt want in the city, and concluded by highly complimenting the Sisters upon their good work. Dr. Purchas replied on their behalf, and heartily thanked the Bishop for his kind encouragement. Dr. Purchas described the cause and progress of consumption and the reasons for providing a ward designed to afford necessary shelter from the elements, at the same time making it possible for the patient to live in the open air.

WAIHI NOTES.

(From our own correspondent.)

June 21.

Last Wednesday night the pupils of the Convent School gave a concert and drama in the Academy of Music in aid of the school funds. The hall was crowded, and the audience were delighted, the unanimous opinion being that it was the best entertainment by local talent ever given in this town. This says much for the care and patience of the Sisters in training the little ones.

Last Monday the Sisters of Mercy took up their residence in the new convent building, which was blessed under the patronage of St. Catherine of Siena, and will in future be known as St. Catherine's Convent.

A contract for building the new convent school has been let for the sum of £461 to the same contractors, who built the church and convent in so satisfactory a manner.

Messrs Ridley and Son, tea growers and importers, of Christchurch, announce in this issue some startling reductions in the price of teas. Mr M. S. Ridley has just returned from Ceylon and India, having been on a visit to the tea plantations the firm are interested in...

It is almost unnecessary for us to direct the attention of our friends in the country districts to the notice from Messrs Reid and Gray, the well-known agricultural implement makers of Dunedin, which appears elsewhere in this issue, as they have a reputation that is not confined to New Zealand of being the manufacturers of up-to-date agricultural machinery of all kinds. Messrs Reid and Gray are sole agents in this Colony for the celebrated 'Deering' Harvesting Machinery—binders, mowers, knife grinders, and hay rakes. They have also for sale at lowest prices binder twine and machinery oil. Their new catalogue is now ready and can be had on application...

Opening of a New Catholic Church at Cheviot.

(From an occasional correspondent.)

THE development of the Cheviot settlement has naturally attracted the interest of the various religious bodies and several churches have already been erected to meet the spiritual requirements of that rapidly increasing district. The latest movement is the building of a beautiful Catholic Church (by far the most imposing structure in Mackenzie), on the splendid site purchased by Bishop Grimes some eight years ago, and which his Lordship generously presented to the Catholics of Cheviot on Sunday, June 22, on the occasion of the opening ceremony of the church. The sacred edifice, which is dedicated to St. Anthony of Padua, affords seating accommodation for 250 people. Built in the style of early English Gothic, it comprises a nave 50ft long and 24ft wide with open timber roof and hammer-beam trusses, and an apsidal-ended chancel, 21ft in length by 16ft wide, separated from the nave by a lofty and richly moulded arch. The communion rail which is open Gothic panelling is exquisitely worked, while the altar in tasteful Gothic is in pleasing harmony with its surroundings. The sides of the nave and chancel contain double-lighted traceried windows, with cathedral glass in varied tints, and an elaborate three-light window of a similar character is placed above the west wall. A diagonal panelled dado runs the length and width of the church, and the walls are finished in sage green. The sacristy, 10ft x 10ft, is at the east end, and porch, 8ft x 8ft, at the west end, of the south side. The west end of the main roof supports an octagonal spire rising 54ft. The church, which has just been completed and furnished at a cost of £820, reflects great credit on the architects, Messrs Collins and Harman, Christchurch; while the contractor, Mr C. Jansen, of Cheviot, deserves much praise for the excellent manner in which he has executed the work entrusted to him. The new building is not only a convenience for the Catholics of Cheviot, but an ornament to the township of Mackenzie.

The opening ceremony was performed by the Right Rev. Dr. Grimes, S.M., under the most favorable circumstances. The weather was beautifully fine, and a large and influential gathering was present at the important event. At 11 o'clock his Lordship solemnly blessed the new church, being assisted in the ceremony by the Rev. Father Marnane, S.M., of St. Mary's, Christchurch, and the Very Rev. Father Price, rector of the parish. High Mass was subsequently celebrated by the Very Rev. Father Price. After the first Gospel, his Lordship the Bishop preached an eloquent and touching discourse from the text 'I have loved O Lord the beauty of Thy House, and the place where Thy glory dwelleth.' He paid a warm tribute to the zeal and devotion of the rector, to the faith and generosity of the Catholics of Cheviot, and appealed to the liberality of the parishioners to defray the debt still remaining on the church that it might soon be offered unfettered to the great God in whose honor it had been raised. The appeal resulted in a collection amounting to £44 3s 6d. The music of the Mass, which was beautifully rendered by the Hawarden choir, was taken from Mozart's First and Murphy's in D, Mr. W. H. Dudderidge presiding at the organ with his accustomed ability. The principal vocalists were:—Mrs. C. T. White (soprano), Mrs. W. Dudderidge (contralto), Mr. C. T. White (tenor), Mr. W. Dudderidge (bass). At the offertory Mr. C. T. White gave a very pleasing rendering of Neidermeyer's 'Pater Noster.' In the evening solemn Vespers were sung by the Rev. Father Marnane, S.M., his Lordship the Bishop occupying a throne in the sanctuary. At the conclusion of Vespers, and prior to the Bishop's sermon, the Very Rev. Father Price appealed to his parishioners to assist his Lordship in the great work of his cathedral. He emphasised the enterprise as a most unselfish one, and worthy of the most liberal support. 'The people of Cheviot,' continued the rector, 'by giving all the material assistance they could to the great work, would not only be discharging a duty incumbent on every Catholic in the Diocese of Christchurch, but they would also be giving a practical proof of their gratitude to his Lordship for the munificent gift he had that day presented to them.' The Bishop then preached a powerful and convincing sermon on the necessity of an infallible Church, explaining with wonderful clearness the Catholic doctrine of the Pope's infallibility. The service concluded with solemn Pontifical Benediction.

The scheme of a sixpenny weekly collection in aid of the Cathedral building fund was enthusiastically taken up by several prominent ladies of the parish.

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