

7s being subscribed by the parishioners. After Mass the Bishop administered the Sacrament of Confirmation to 16 candidates, 13 of whom were males, including two converts.

During a recent visit of his Lordship the Bishop to North Canterbury he was presented by the parishioners at Waiata with a very handsomely executed illuminated address. The text, neatly engrossed in gilt lettering on white satin, conveyed in effect a concise history of the Church in that somewhat isolated settlement. Eight years ago it is stated, on the occasion of his Lordship's first visit, Mass was celebrated in the public schoolroom. Since then a fine new church has been erected on an excellent site, in the building of which non-Catholics very materially assisted. The new Cathedral was referred to, and was described as a great and noble work, and the zeal and self-sacrifice displayed by the Bishop in its erection, have gained for him the affection of his own children and the admiration of those outside the Church. The parishioners, the address went on to say, deemed it an honor as well as a duty to contribute their mite towards that great diocesan work, and concluded by praying that his Lordship may long be spared to enjoy the fruits of his labors and rule over the diocese. The address was signed on behalf of the congregation by Messrs John Coakley, Daniel Mullane, Alfred O'Malley, and Thomas Monahan. The illuminating, which was most artistic, was done by the Sisters of Mercy at Lyttelton, being a pretty floral design in oils. The address was handsomely framed.

A drawing-room entertainment was given in the Choral Hall on Thursday evening last to a fairly large audience, in aid of the Pro-Cathedral parish schools. Among those present were his Lordship the Bishop, the Very Rev. Vicar-General, Rev. Dr. Kennedy, and Rev. Fathers Marnane, Cooney, Price, and McDonnell. The entertainment was organized and most successfully carried out by Mr and Mrs. A. Mead, and the Hayward family, assisted by a few friends who are to be warmly complimented on the nature and variety of the programme, excellent management, and particularly enjoyable evening afforded. Part I. consisted of the amusing cantata entitled, 'Soot and the Fairies,' with the following cast of characters:—Queen Lily, Miss Florence Gardner; Queen's Secretary, Miss Violet Hall; Lady Bootlace, Miss Mabel Harrington; Lady Soapbuds, Miss Laurie Bradley; Dr. Sunlight's Secretary, Miss Rima Young; Dancers to the Queen's Court, Miss Mona Fraser, Miss Daisy Watkins; Dr. Sunlight, M.R.C.S., Master Len Bradley; Baron Hairbrush, Master Jack Hall; Wag, Master Reg. Bradley; fairies in attendance, Misses Muriel and Olive Courtney, Hilda Harrington, Moya Hayward, Madge Donohue, and Master Leonard Hayward; Captain Soot, Master Claude Bradley; followers of Captain Soot, Misses Dolly Hall, Winnie Harrington, Masters Willie Dobbs and Clarence Courtney. This was charmingly given, the tuneful voice of Miss Gardner in the incidental songs suiting admirably, whilst the clever dancing of Miss Daisy Watkins and especially Miss Mona Fraser was a distinct feature of the whole entertainment. The cantata was followed by a choice little concert programme, consisting of a clarinet solo by Mr. W. H. Corrigan; song, 'The last rose of summer,' Miss M. McLaughlin; song, 'His Majesty the King' and 'Doreen,' Mr. Chas. Read; recitation (selected), Miss McNeish, and Moore's 'Oft in the still night' as a recall. All the items were encored. The concluding portion of the entertainment was a very capable performance of the charming and amusing comedy in one act entitled 'A Baronet's Marriage,' in which the following took part:—Messrs. R. Beveridge, Henry Hayward, A. J. Barnard, J. Quinlan, and Misses Lillian Thompson and May Wells.

### WAIMATE.

(From our own correspondent.)

July 14.

St. Patrick's School reopened last Monday. Parents should see that their children attend school regularly, otherwise they will not be able to pass their examinations at the end of the year. If the children are not successful parents very often blame the teachers for what is really due to their own negligence.

A very pleasant evening was spent in the Oddfellows' Hall last Monday evening, when the Hibernians met the Oddfellows in a crib and euchre match. Considering the short notice they received the Hibernians turned out fairly strong and proved too good for their opponents. The scores being Hibernians 21 games, Oddfellows 20 games. At the conclusion of the proceedings light refreshments were handed round. Bro. Sims, on behalf of the Hibernians, thanked the Oddfellows for the way in which they had been treated, and hoped that they would soon meet again in a return match. Bro. Jackson suitably responded.

### DIOCESE OF AUCKLAND.

(From our own correspondent.)

July 10.

Tenders will soon be called for the erection of the Marist Brothers' College in Ponsonby.

An active canvass is now in progress in the city collecting funds for the Irish Parliamentary Fund, and so far the results are most encouraging.

The Sisters of Mercy, of St. Patrick's Convent, Hobson street, had a three days' retreat conducted for them during last week by the Rev. Father Patterson, Adm.

The Rev. Father Gillan is, I am pleased to say, on the way to recovery, and is now able to perform a portion of his many ministerial duties. All his friends are delighted to see him about once more.

His Lordship Bishop Lenihan left town for Paeroa last Friday for the purpose of opening the new convent there. The energetic

parish priest, the Very Rev. Dean Hackett, the Sisters of St. Joseph and the people of Paeroa are to be highly complimented on the successful issue of their work.

Rev. Father Benedict, O.P., preached last Sunday evening at St. Patrick's upon the marks of the true Church. He referred to the early days of the Church in England, the unity which then prevailed, and the three hundred odd sects that now existed there as the result of the so-called Reformation.

At St. Mary's Convent, Ponsonby, last Saturday afternoon, the interesting ceremony of the reception of two postulants into the Order of Sisters of Mercy took place. The Bishop being absent in Paeroa, the Rev. Father Purton, O.S.B., conducted the ceremony. There were also present Rev. Fathers Tickell, O.S.D., and Russell, of St. Benedict's. The music incidental to the ceremony was very devotionally rendered by the convent choir, which was strengthened by Misses Lynch and Thomson the former singing the 'O Salutaris,' and the latter the 'Salve Regina.' The two postulants were Miss Maud Towers, Taree, New South Wales, in religion Sister Mary Bernard, and Miss Cecilia Carrington, Auckland, a member of a very old and respected Catholic family, who took the name of Sister Mary Hilary. At the conclusion of the ceremony the relatives and friends of the novices assembled and partook of afternoon tea. Before leaving all heartily congratulated the two young ladies upon entering the religious life.

## A Retrograde Movement.

THE Protestant League that has just come into existence in Victoria, to the great joy of the Orange lodges, has met with little encouragement from the secular Press, whilst the Anglican organ, the *Church Commonwealth*, administers the following rebuke to the zealots who are endeavoring to stir up religious strife in the State: 'No one who reads this journal can accuse us of undue sympathy with the Roman Catholic Church, either in some of her religious developments or in the methods she adopts here and in Europe to achieve political ends. And so we have no compunction in declaring emphatically that the circular published in Melbourne, which affirms that it is "desirable that a league should be formed for the purpose of meeting and counteracting the organised Roman Catholic influence on the legislation and administration of this State (Victoria), and which is unfortunately signed by three junior bishops and a priest of our Church, is utterly unjustified by the facts, is an error in tactics, and is calculated to bring into existence the very shadowy and unproved organised Roman Catholic influence which has smitten horror into the aforesaid three bishops and one priest, and the miscellaneous hodge-podge of religious opinions represented in the subsequent signatures. Surely these ecclesiastics might have learned statecraft from the wise and venerable Administrator of the Melbourne diocese. His long experience and the keen wisdom of the Archdeacon of Melbourne have at least saved the diocese from becoming officially compromised in this false move. If danger threatens, Anglicans outnumber Roman Catholics by three to two at the least, and if our clergy wish to oppose Roman political influence, let them try to organise their own people instead of associating with those who deny some of the very foundations of our Church's position.'

'We have denied that there is any organized Roman Catholic vote in Victoria, and the burden of proof is, we think, on those who affirm that there is. But a few instances may be given to show that there is not. So far back as 1883, Sir John O'Shannassy, the leading layman of the Roman Church, was defeated at Belfast (now Port Fairy), a thoroughly Roman Catholic electorate, and that although the whole influence of the Church from altar and elsewhere was thrown in his favour. The same constituency has twice rejected Sir Bryan O'Loughlin in favor of a Protestant, who now represents it. The districts about Kilmore, Lancefield and Broadford have a very large Roman Catholic vote, and yet they have at different times defeated the popular Mr. Gavan Duffy, Mr. P. Hunt, and Mr. Rawson, two Protestants, Mr. Argle, and Mr. McKenzie, now representing these districts. If the Roman Catholic organised vote were a political influence, Mr. Duffy would have been returned to the Senate last year, but instead he only received about two-fifths of the votes given to the Orange Mr. Fraser, and was hopelessly out of the running. Again, Warrenehup, a thoroughly Irish electorate, returned for many years the genial Mr. Murphy but on his death a Wesleyan captured the seat, to the great chagrin of the *Tribune*, which loudly prophesied his defeat at the next election. The election came, however, and Mr. Holden still holds the seat. If the Roman Church has 'organised for political purposes' in Victoria, she is making a worse job of it than one would imagine, or else her power is so small that it is needless to organise against her.

'But let our three bishops, one priest, not forgetting a lonely layman who also signs this foolish document, remember that our Church is fighting in England the very battle that Rome is fighting in Australia, and that her would-be allies here are her bitter and unscrupulous foes there. For the ragged regiment do not conceal that their aim is to make the education of Roman Catholic children in the way their Church desires as laborious and burdensome as possible. Instead of endeavoring to follow the magnificent example of self-denial, faith, and energy, set them by that Church in the matter of religious education, they desire to make her task heavier. That Roman Catholics conscientiously object to their children attending secular State schools is nothing to them. Rather compel them to violate their conscience than let their children be taught the faith of their fathers. And let us sound a note of warning for the benefit of those impetuous prelates who are bawling "No Popery" in the daily press. If they are content with the non-descript lessons, prayers and hymns drawn up by the Royal Commission on the principle that anything positively affirming any-