

WAIMATE.

(From our own correspondent.)

August 4.

At the half-yearly meeting of the H.A.C.B. Society there was a fair attendance of members. The balance sheet was read and adopted. The following officers were elected for the ensuing term: President, Bro. T. Twomey; vice-president, Bro. J. Carrigg; secretary, Bro. C. J. Goldstone (re-elected); treasurer, Bro. J. O'Brien; warden, Bro. M. Healy; guardian, Bro. J. Hickey; sick visitors, Bros. T. Flaherty and Connor. The Rev. Father Regnault was elected a life member of the Society. The rev. gentleman, in a few remarks, said he was very pleased to see the membership of the Society increasing. One candidate was proposed for membership. It was decided to carry out the Coronation celebrations as previously arranged. Bro. Carrigg proposed that a letter be sent to the Rev. Father O'Connell thanking him for past favors. It was seconded by Bro. Sims and carried unanimously.

There was Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at St. Patrick's Church on Sunday from the 11 o'clock Mass until the evening devotions.

The annual meeting of the Altar Society was held in St. Patrick's schoolroom on Sunday. There was a large attendance of members. The following officers were elected for the ensuing year: President, Mrs M. Healy; secretary, Miss L. Kent; treasurer, Rev. Father Aubry. The Misses Healy, Goldstone, Sims, Mesdames O'Brien and Kent were elected collectors.

DIOCESE OF AUCKLAND.

(From our own correspondent.)

July 31.

Rev. Father Kehoe is back once more in his old parish of Parnell.

The officers and men of the French war ship Zelee, now in the Waitemata, attended Mass in a body on Sunday morning.

The local collection in aid of the Irish Parliamentary Fund is progressing well. His Lordship the Bishop and many of the priests of the diocese have readily subscribed to it.

The fortnightly socials of St. Benedict's Young Men's Club and the local branch of the H.A.C.B. Society took place last evening in St. Benedict's Hall and the Hibernian Hall respectively, and were decided successes.

Several candidates for the priesthood intended for this diocese were ordained in Ireland last month, amongst whom were Rev. Fathers Furlong and Twomey, of St. Patrick's College, Thurles. They are expected here about November.

Rev. Father Croke's numerous friends were pleased to see him once more in the sanctuary at St. Patrick's after so long and enforced an absence due to ill-health. Quite a number waited on him outside after Mass last Tuesday morning, when he received many greetings and congratulations.

A burglar scare prevails in city and suburbs at present. Some very daring and hazardous exploits have been brought off by cracksmen during the last month. Inspector Cullen some time ago asked for twelve additional constables, and in two of the suburbs which the Inspector singled out as being entirely unprotected—viz., Parnell and Newmarket—alarming robberies have been perpetrated. It reminds one of the old adage of closing the stable door after the steed had been stolen.

A Solemn Requiem Mass was celebrated last Tuesday morning at St. Patrick's Cathedral for the repose of the soul of the late Archbishop Croke, of Cashel, and formerly Bishop of Auckland. His Lordship Dr. Lenihan was celebrant. Rev. Father Darby deacon. Rev. Father Russe 1 sub-deacon, Rev. Father Purton, O.S.B., assistant priest, Rev. Father Gillan master of ceremonies. There were also present, in the sanctuary, Rev. Fathers Croke, Buckley, and O'Hara. The choir included the Very Rev. Dr. Egan, O.S.B. (who presided at the organ). Rev. Father Benedict, O.P., Rev. Father Patterson, Adm., and the Hon. J. A. Tole. Dr. Lenihan briefly addressed the congregation, and spoke very feelingly of his illustrious predecessor, and exhorted all to pray fervently for the repose of the soul of the Archbishop who had done so much for his Church and for his native land. It was most gratifying to see that the church was filled to do honor to the memory and to pray for the repose of the soul of, as Father Patterson said on Sunday night, 'the greatest of Irish Archbishops.' It was Bishop Lenihan's intention to have spoken last Sunday night at St. Patrick's concerning the late Dr. Croke, but owing to a severe attack of influenza he was reluctantly compelled to forego the duty. The Rev. Father Benedict, in his Lordship's absence, gave a short outline of the deceased prelate's career. As the people left the church the organist played the Dead March from 'Saul.'

NEWMARKET.

On Thursday, August 21 (writes a correspondent) the children attending St. Joseph's School, Newmarket, gave their beloved pastor, the Rev. J. P. Kehoe, a most cordial and affectionate reception, on the occasion of his first visit to the school after his return from Sydney, where he had gone to undergo a very serious operation. The children sang very sweetly some appropriate verses of welcome, and afterwards presented him with a nice silver mounted umbrella, and a neat and artistically got-up 'spiritual bouquet.' Miss L. Philpot, in a neat little speech, made the presentation. The Rev. Father thanked the children and said it gave him the greatest pleasure to be back once more among his devoted little ones. During his absence he had visited some of the leading schools in Sydney, but nowhere had he seen better behaved or more industrious

children than those of Newmarket. He said they had much to be grateful for in having the Sisters of St. Joseph for their teachers. He himself had much to thank them for, so zealously did they assist him in every good work. He then exhorted the children to be faithful to their early training and when they come to manhood never to be ashamed of their faith, but like their co-religionists across the sea—to be Catholics first and statesmen afterwards—the one was not incompatible with the other for the boy or girl who would be ashamed of his or her faith would never be good for anything. The children dispersed deeply impressed with the good advice and highly delighted at seeing their kind pastor amongst them once more.

Sovereigns and their Rings.

IN view of the ceremony which will take place in Westminster Abbey on Saturday, the following extracts from an article contributed recently to the New York Tribune by 'Ex-Attaché' will be of interest:—

While finger rings are among the most ancient emblems of rank, as has been shown by the fact that in the Khedival Museum at Cairo, and at the British Museum in London, there are to be seen some found in tombs dating from the Pharaoh of the Exodus, there are only two monarchical countries that have retained the ring as an integral portion of the regalia of their rulers. One of these is Russia, while the other is Great Britain, and it is worthy of note that in each of these cases the investiture of the sovereign with the ring is held to endow him with majesty of a more sacred character than that conferred by the placing of the crown upon his head. The King of England, like the Emperor of Russia, claims to be not only the temporal monarch, but likewise the head of the State church of his country.

The investiture of King Edward with the ring will, indeed, precede the placing of the crown upon his head. The ring in question consists of a large table ruby, on which the cross of St. George is engraved, set in plain gold. The stone is reset for each successive sovereign, and while it is known as 'King Edward's ring,' there is no truth whatsoever in the story according to which it dates from the time of Edward the Confessor. True, there was formerly a ring used at the coronation of English sovereigns, which, according to popular legend, is said to have reached Edward the Confessor from St. John the Evangelist. Edward, it is said, was one day asked for alms by a 'fayre old man,' and having no money, drew his ring from his finger and bestowed it upon the mendicant. Some years afterwards two English pilgrims travelling in the Holy Land were met by a 'fayre ancient man wyth whyte heer for age,' who asked them what they were and whence they came. On learning that they were English pilgrims, he talked to them of the 'welfare and holynesse' of their King Edward, and when leaving them he told them who he was and said: 'I am St. John the Evangelist, and say ye unto Edward, your King, that I greet him well by the token that he gave me, this ring, with his own hands, which ring ye shall deliver to him again,' and when he had delivered to them 'the ring,' he departed from them suddenly.

The ring of Edward the Confessor, whatever its origin, was preserved in his shrine at Westminster as a sacred relic. But it disappeared at the time of the Commonwealth, having perhaps been consigned to the melting pot by Oliver Cromwell, and the one now in existence dates only from the time of King Charles II.

There has always been a certain amount of speculation as to what was meant by the fourth finger, and this uncertainty about the matter led to an awkward contretemps at the coronation of Queen Victoria. The authorities of the Royal College of Heraldry assumed that the fourth finger was the smallest and last of the hand, and had made the coronation ring to fit the Queen's little finger. The Archbishop of Canterbury, however, declared that the thumb counted as the first finger, and consequently insisted at the proper moment during the coronation in placing the ring by main force upon the third finger of the Queen's hand. He took the ground that any departure from the ritual in matter might impair the validity of the ceremony of the coronation. The putting of the ring on this third finger of the Queen was only accomplished with considerable difficulty and at the cost of much pain which, as time went on, increased to such an extent that at length the young sovereign could endure it no longer.

Most of the principal actors in the coronation ceremony seemed to have lost their heads when she showed signs of fainting. One of them, however—namely, the Rev. Lord John Thynne, canon of Westminster Abbey—was equal to the emergency. With the assistance of a verger he managed to procure a basin of water and some soap, by means of which it was found possible to relieve the Queen of the ring, her finger, however, remained swollen and painful. King Edward, warned by this incident, has taken precaution to avoid anything of the kind at his own coronation, and has insisted upon the primate and the College of Heraldry coming to an understanding as to which of his fingers is to be invested with the ring. The finger finally determined upon is the one which we are accustomed to call the third finger, this being in accordance with the ancient belief that a vein came direct from the heart to that particular finger.

The coronation ring of King Edward has been sometimes known as the 'wedding ring of England,' on the understanding that it was emblematic of the union between the sovereign and his kingdom. The matrimonial idea has always been associated in some way or another with the rings of office, and it may be remembered that in the days of the old Republic of Venice its doges were invested on their inauguration with two rings, one of which they retained, while the other they cast with much pomp and ceremony in the sea from the prow of the great state galley, in order to signify the fact that Venice was the bride of the Adriatic.