

sufferer occasioned the deepest anxiety, and prayers and supplications were offered up to Almighty God for his recovery. God in His mercy was pleased to hear the prayers that were offered so earnestly, and to-day hundreds of millions of his Majesty's subjects throughout the vast British Empire are giving expression to their joy on the auspicious occasion of his Coronation. They were assembled there that day to raise their voices in hymns of praise and thanksgiving, and earnestly implore the good God—by Whom kings reign and lawgivers decree just things—that He might bless the reign of his Majesty, and make it long, happy, and prosperous. The accession of a new monarch is an event of very great importance in the life of any nation. The destinies of subjects and their rulers are closely united, and the prosperity of the subjects depends to a great extent on the wisdom and good government of the rulers. People are apt to think that a constitutional monarch is a mere figurehead, fitted to adorn the vessel of State; but in this they are mistaken, for it may be said with truth that there is no Sovereign in Europe who can exercise greater influence for good than he who was crowned yesterday at Westminster Abbey. (Here his Lordship read a telegram from the Acting-Premier to the effect that the coronation had taken place, and that the King was not at all fatigued after the ceremony.) This, continued his Lordship, was good news, and would cause all to rejoice. The Coronation ceremony of to-day has lost much of its significance, but according to the ritual of the Catholic Church the coronation of a king is in the highest degree impressive and instructive. We are told in the Old Testament that the earliest kings who were called by God to rule over His chosen people were, by the express command of God, anointed with oil, and therefore in the Sacred Scripture the king was called the 'Lord's anointed.' In the 'First of Kings' we are told that 'Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed David in the midst of his brethren, and the spirit of the Lord came upon David from that day forward.' The sacred unction that the king receives is intended to represent the outpouring of Divine grace which is so necessary to enable him to rule in a manner befitting a Christian king. The ceremonies in the ritual of the Catholic Church clearly point out to the sovereign-elect that there is a Sovereign King, a Lord above, from Whom all power comes, and that whatever power he receives should be employed for the honor and glory of God, the good of religion, and the benefit of the subjects committed to his care. From the coronation of Edward VII. we are tempted to go back to that of his predecessor, the venerable Queen who died in the early part of last year. She was crowned 64 years ago—in the year 1838—and in that very year New Zealand was visited for the first time by a bishop and a priest of the Catholic Church. What a change there is to-day, when we have an archbishop, three bishops, 160 priests, 663 nuns, over 50 Brothers, and a large Catholic population spread over the whole of the Colony. Sixty-four years ago New Zealand was not recognised as a British Colony, yet to-day it is spoken of all over the civilised world; the richness of its mineral wealth, the fertility of its soil, the salubrity of its climate have brought about a degree of prosperity that is seldom witnessed in a country so young as New Zealand. The British Constitution is the freest in the world. United to England, we enjoy the greatest liberty, we are free from every external danger, and are therefore in a position to devote our energies to the development of our resources. We should be deeply grateful for all these things, and should remember that all good things come from God, and that we should thank Him from our hearts for all His blessings and favors. The 'Te Deum' would be sung as an expression of gratitude to God for the restoration of the King to health, and all should pray that God would grant him a long, a prosperous, and a happy reign. The Catholic people should take an interest in all public affairs, and in every movement which had for its object the benefiting of the community and advancing the progress of the country. They were all deeply interested in the welfare of the Empire, and they should pray that God would shower down His blessings on their King, country, and families.

At the conclusion of the Mass his Lordship intoned the 'Te Deum,' which was taken up and impressively rendered by the choir.

The music of the Mass was sung in a finished manner by the choir, under the conductorship of Mr A. Vallis. The soloists were: Soprano, Miss Blaney; contralto, Miss Drummond; tenor, Mr Carolin; bass, Mr Feil. Mrs J. Woods presided at the organ. After Mass the orchestra played in fine style 'God save the King.' In the evening Miss Leonard sang an 'Ave Maria,' with violin obligato nicely played by Miss Stokes.

INVERCARGILL.

(From an occasional correspondent.)

The Bluff Coronation Festival has been celebrated with success. Though only two months were given to the preparations the stalls were supplied with more than sufficient goods for a town of the population of Campbelltown. The Dominican nuns are effusive in their thanks for goods received from their old pupils over the country and from other convents. Considering that this is the slackest time of the year at the Port the sales were satisfactory and not an article was left. This is owing to the energy of the assistants, who deserve particular commendation. The children's comedietta was a most beautiful thing; so that there were calls for its repetition every evening. All who listened to it declared that it was the best youthful performance they had seen in Southland. The performance piloted by Mr Lister also afforded much merriment and some of the amateur actors gave promise of dramatic talent of which we shall hear again. The most perfect order prevailed. One would think the festival an affair confined altogether to 'superior' people rather than a demonstration open to all comers

in a port town. The whole show reflected the greatest credit upon the organisers, to whom the nuns are grateful for their time and labor spent and for the generosity of their material contributions.

The Invercargill Catholic Literary Society invited friends to a literary feast on Tuesday. About 150 attended. Mr Cormac gave an address on the Land War in Ireland, and Mr Eager gave one on the founding of the Home Rule Movement by Mr Butt. Mr Cormac's effort was truly a literary treat, brimful of information put in very choice language, and Mr Eager's was full of humorous situations, especially in his description of the election of Mr Blennerhassett for Kerry, which produced much amusement. Each lecture lasted an hour, and votes of thanks were proposed by Mr Gilfedder and the Rev. Father Lynch. Some melodies were sung by members of St. Mary's choir. The audience is anxiously inquiring as to when the society will give another such treat. They have found out that there are evening reunions of a class much more elevating, instructive and more truly amusing than the whirl and skirl and stupidity of the ordinary 'social.'

PALMERSTON NORTH.

(From our own correspondent.)

August 10.

On Tuesday, 5th inst., the past and present members of St. Patrick's choir met to present Mr. W. Gamble, who lately retired from the position of conductor, with an ebony walking stick with ivory handle and mounted with gold band suitably inscribed. The Rev. Father P. W. Tymons presided and also presented Mr. Gamble on behalf of the congregation with a purse containing £20. Mr. Gamble, who has held the conductorship for the past six years, has of late suffered severely from an affection of the throat, and it was only on the advice of his doctor that he reluctantly relinquished his post.

Father Tymons, in a few well chosen words, spoke of the loss sustained by the choir and the whole congregation by Mr. Gamble's retirement, and trusted that in accepting the purse he would not look upon it in any way as suitable remuneration, but as expressive of that esteem in which he was held. Father Tymons hoped that he would soon regain his voice and health, and resume his position to the satisfaction of everyone.

Mr Gamble, in thanking Father Tymons for his kind allusions as to past services, spoke of the grief it caused him to sever his connection with the choir, said he had only tried to do his duty, and that any Catholic blessed with a voice at all should at once be ready to use it for the service of God. If he got better he certainly should resume his old position.

During the evening songs were contributed by Mrs Anderson and Misses Rush and R. Oakley, and by Messrs V. Dallow, T. Rodgers, and P. Lomax, and instrumental items by Misses Scanlon and Watson and Mr P. Tombs, and the gathering, which was held in the schoolroom, proved a most enjoyable one. The ladies of the choir kindly supplied the refreshments.

A sacred concert will be held in St. Patrick's Church next Sunday, at 3 p.m., on behalf of the organ fund, and it is to be hoped that the necessary means of paying off all the choir's indebtedness will be well supported.

Mr V. Dallow, who lately severed his connection with the hardware staff of the United Farmers' Association to join the firm of Permain and Gilchrist, was presented the other evening with a silver teapot, suitably engraved.

On Saturday morning Mass was celebrated at nine o'clock for King Edward VII., and at 11 o'clock a united Coronation service was held by the Protestant denominations in the Show Ground. Mr W. T. Woods, Mayor, laid the foundation stone of a handsome drinking fountain to be erected in the Square. At six o'clock a procession was held of the children and fire brigade, volunteers (mounted and foot) cadets, terminating with a grand display of fireworks in the Square, and a huge bonfire. The town was crowded all day to see the celebrations and illuminations, but everything passed off quietly and by 11 o'clock the streets were entirely clear of the noise of holiday makers.

NEW ZEALAND: GENERAL.

Mr. SEDDON leaves England for New Zealand about the end of August, but has not decided by what route he will travel.

At the instance of the Right Hon. R. J. Seddon, Mr Chamberlain, Secretary of State for the Colonies, has arranged to issue letters patent creating King's Counsel for New Zealand.

PATRONS of the General Assembly Library are just as absent-minded as other folks, as there are 710 volumes missing, one-third of which are works of fiction. The yearly growth of the library is set down at over 2000 volumes.

ON the arrival of the troopship Orient at Wellington it was discovered that one of the troopers was suffering from smallpox. The vessel was ordered into quarantine, and the men were sent to Somes Island. The men who were landed at Dunedin and Lyttelton have also been quarantined.

ACCORDING to a Westport paper, Mr P. J. O'Regan recently received a communication from some of his old constituents inquiring if he would accept nomination for the Buller electorate, and promising him active and enthusiastic support. Mr O'Regan replied, however, that for private reasons he could not possibly spare the time necessary to contest so large a district.

THE Kaiapoi people do not take very kindly to itinerant lecturers, as the young German, with the unpronounceable name