

ARCHDIOCESE OF WELLINGTON.

(From our own correspondent.)

May 2.

The reception of Miss Anastasia Quealy (in religion, Sister Mary Peter) took place on Tuesday last in the convent chapel, the altar of which had been beautifully decorated for the occasion. The Very Rev. Father Lewis, V.G., performed the ceremony. There were present in the sanctuary the Very Rev. Father O'Farrell, C.S.S.R., Fathers Holley, Walsh, and McGrath. Father O'Farrell preached a sermon suitable to the occasion.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament was held at St. Joseph's Church on Sunday last. The usual procession of the Blessed Sacrament took place after Vespers, when the different confraternities took part.

His Grace the Archbishop returned from the South on Wednesday last. He left for Nelson immediately, accompanied by Ven. Archdeacon Devoy, to enquire into and settle matters in regard to the rebuilding of the Stoke Orphanage.

By the bazaar and art union just concluded in aid of the Church of the Sacred Heart, a sum of over £1000 is expected to be cleared.

Very Rev. Father O'Farrell, C.S.S.R., who has been engaged in giving missions for some time past in the archdiocese, has been the guest of the Very Rev. Father Lewis, Adm. He leaves to-day for Sydney, and will be accompanied by Rev. Father O'Donnell.

On Friday evening last a meeting of the executive of the Marist Brothers' Old Boys' Association was held in St. Patrick's Hall, when it was decided to entertain members and their lady friends at a conversazione to be held some time this month. It was also decided to hold social gatherings in Spiller's Hall in the months of May, June, July, and August. The secretary was instructed to write to Mrs. Dr. Grace conveying the Association's deepest sympathy with her and her family in her bereavement. The late Hon. Dr. Grace had always taken a keen interest in the workings of the Association and general regret at his death was expressed by members.

The complimentary social tendered to the lady stallholders and their assistants took place in St. Paul's schoolroom on Tuesday evening last, and proved a most enjoyable affair. The stage was most tastefully decorated for the occasion. During an interval in the proceedings the Very Rev. Father Lewis, V.G., apologised for the absence of the Archbishop, and desired on his Grace's behalf and on behalf of the clergy of Thorndon to thank all those who had worked so well to make the late carnival such a success. In a special manner he referred to the help he had received from non-Catholics, and for their generous assistance he felt deeply grateful. He also specially mentioned the committee, who had brought everything to such a successful issue. He concluded his remarks by calling for three hearty cheers to be given for the ladies who had helped to forward such a noble work. The dance music was provided by Cimino's orchestra, and an excellent supper was provided by Mr. Godber. On the following evening the children who had taken part in the dances were entertained in the Guildford Terrace Schoolroom. Some excellent magic lantern views were shown during the evening by Messrs. C. Ward and Horn, and were greatly appreciated by the children. Songs and recitations were also given.

WANGANUI.

(From our own correspondent.)

May 2

Rev. Tobias Dabdah, a Maronite priest, is at present in Wanganui. Father Dabdah has been instructed by his superiors to come to New Zealand to minister to the spiritual wants of his countrymen. He was for many years in charge of important parishes in his own country and from 1896 till January 1902 was chaplain of the hospital of St. John of God, Nazareth. His Grace the Archbishop has authorised Father Dabdah to exercise his faculties in his diocese.

The Very Rev. Father Smyth, pastor of Hastings, spent a few days in Wanganui this week, his object being to see the Very Rev. Dean Kirk, whose health shows no signs of improvement.

Southland News Notes

(From our own correspondent.)

The medals given by the Irish Athletic Society for the school relay race have been manufactured and inscribed. They are fine solid medals, and reflect credit on the Society. It will be remembered that the High School team was the first to come in at the competition, but that team has since been disqualified on account of one of the lads being over age, and the prizes have been allotted to the Waihopai District school. The pennant is being made at the local convent.

A branch of the Hibernian Society is likely to be opened shortly, with headquarters at Invercargill. Mr. Giffedder, who consented to take charge of the branch formation, informs me that 35 men have already signified their intention of becoming members. It is proposed to extend the Society to the country districts, and as the weekly subscription is only about one shilling there is no reason why the Society should not have 200 members.

A marriage took place at St. Mary's Church during the week; the contracting parties being Mr. R. Waterson, son of Mr. W. S. Waterson the well-known ship owner, and Miss Kate Grace, second daughter of Mr. Thomas Grace, Tweed street.

Mr. T. O'Brien, of Winton, who recently underwent serious surgical treatment, is now out of danger.

A Remarkable Nun

MOTHER M. XAVIER WARDE.

Marlier and Company (Boston, U.S.A.) have recently published a highly interesting biography of that remarkable Irishwoman, Rev. Mother Mary Xavier Warde, who was the foundress of the flourishing Order of Mercy in the United States. The work is written by the Sisters of Mercy, Mount St. Mary's, Manchester, N.H., United States, and is well illustrated. It tells the life story of the noted Irish nun, her birth at Mountrath, her early training, her work among the cholera patients during the fearful visitation of that epidemic in 1832, and, eleven years later, of her departure, with seven other Sisters of Mercy, to found the first house of the Order in the United States, in Pittsburg. Schools were established by Mother Warde in quick succession in Pittsburg, Chicago, Providence, Rochester, Hartford, Newhaven, Manchester, and over fifty other places. A stirring chapter in the book tells the story of

The 'Know-Nothing' Attack

on their house in Providence on March 22, 1855. These no-Popery fanatics had planned the attack on a great scale and made no secret of their movements.

'Some days before the mob appeared,' the authors write, 'the Mayor of the city, Mr. Knowles called on Reverend Mother, and requested her to depart with her religious from the city, as ten thousand "Know-Nothings" from different parts of New England were to arrive on a certain evening to demolish the convent.'

'Reverend Mother, with a quiet air and gentle ease, made answer to this astounding threat: "Your honor, we have disregarded no duty, nor responsibility of good citizenship. As a body of religious women we are laboring here in our own sphere. Have we given any provocation for this interference? Will Christian men constitute a mob against unoffending women? Are our rights as citizens not to be protected?"'

'The Mayor replied that he could not control the uprising, and the only means of safety for the Sisters lay in flight.'

'Mother Warde turned graciously to the perplexed official, and, in dignified tones (with, perhaps, just the slightest flavor of gentle sarcasm), replied, "If I were Chief Executive of municipal affairs, I would know how to control the populace." With her strength of character, and calm, honest purpose, she certainly could have ruled a kingdom, and did not understand the vacillating attitude of the Mayor shirking the unpleasant performance of his duty. His Honor still urged the departure of the Sisters from Providence; but Reverend Mother gently affirmed, "We will remain in our house, and, if needs be, die rather than fly from the field of duty where in God has placed us."

'During the crisis of affairs, she seemed more calm and peaceful in her whole manner than ever before; so certain it is that "true virtue shows its mettle amid trials and contradictions." She spent long hours before the Blessed Sacrament, and from the King of kings she asked and received help in the day of trouble.

'On an eventful evening, shortly after the Mayor's interview, the mob surrounded the convent. As the rioters made their way up the street, the Catholic men of Providence, well armed, took up their places, rank and file, in the Sisters' garden. Perfect quiet reigned within the convent. The novices knew nothing of what was going on without. They enjoyed their evening recreation as usual, said their night prayers, and retired. The older Sisters remained on guard before the Blessed Sacrament. A few assisted Rev. Mother, who, with the utmost self-control, quietly made her way through the ranks of men within the convent enclosure, and exacted from each a promise that no fire-arm should be raised nor offence given, unless they were called on to do so in self-defence.

'The rioters noted the calm dignity and self-possession of the Reverend Mother as they drew up in line before the convent; and one was overheard remarking to his colleagues on either side, "We made our plans without reckoning the odds we will have to contend with in the strong controlling force the presence of that nun commands. The only honorable course for us to follow is to retreat from this ill-conceived fray. I, for one, will not lift a hand to harm these ladies." But the mob hissed and hooted at these words, and threatened the Sisters with death if they did not leave their convent. At this juncture the Bishop and Mr. Stead, the former owner of the convent, appeared on the front entrance. Mr. Stead, with the courage of a Spartan and the serenity of a saint, addressed the mob in the following words: "The first shot fired at this house will go through my body. Let me tell you there is a strong force of brave Irishmen, well armed, within the enclosure of the garden walls. If you dare attack the convent of the religious, they will defend them with their hearts' blood."

'The Bishop then came forward, and said, in grave, clear tones, "My dear friends, in God's name, let not