

ST. MARY'S ORPHANAGE, STOKE

We are in receipt of the following appeal on behalf of the Stoke Orphanage and Industrial School—

'Thou wilt be a helper to the Orphan.'—(Ps. ix., 11.)

The complete destruction of Stoke Orphanage by fire at three o'clock on Monday morning, 27th April last, is a blow which keenly affects the whole Catholic body in New Zealand—a blow felt all the more coming so soon after the melancholy news of the death of its founder, the Very Rev. Dean Mahoney, S.M., whose life's work was largely there. It was a noble, most necessary, and most deserving institute of Catholic charity, sheltering our fatherless boys and neglected waifs, while it carefully trained them in religion and virtue, and prepared them to take an honorable place as useful citizens in the community. The edge of the blow has been greatly blunted in regard to the Archbishop and the managers of the institute, by the spontaneous and generous offers of practical assistance accompanying the expressions of cordial sympathy which have poured in by wire and letter from all classes throughout the Colony. Temporary and comfortable accommodation is being provided for the homeless boys. But we are confident, nay, sure, that the Catholic body in New Zealand will speedily cause St. Mary's Orphanage to rise from its ruins in nobler dimensions and increased efficiency. Steps are being taken to immediately erect a brick building which in point of durability and adaptability to its beneficent purposes will far surpass the late lamented structure. As prompt assistance is the best, the Archbishop and the Managers of the institute now appeal most earnestly to the Catholics and all well-wishers in the Colony for subscriptions, donations, and legacies towards so deserving an enterprise, in order that the noble work done by the Stoke Orphanage and Industrial School may suffer, at most, only a temporary check.

Subscriptions and donations may be sent to the manager, Rev. Father George Mahony, S.M., Nelson, or to the 'New Zealand Tablet'. The smallest subscriptions will be thankfully received and acknowledged in the same paper.

Nelson, May 1st, 1903.

(Needless to say, we shall be greatly pleased to receive and acknowledge in our columns donations sent to us for the Stoke Orphanage. We need not again point out to our readers the inestimable value of the work done for fatherless and neglected Catholic children from every part of New Zealand by this noble charity, and we join with the Archbishop and the Managers of the institute in the fervent hope that it will speedily rise from its ashes to resume its beneficent work. We are authorised to state that his Lordship Bishop Verdon gives his cordial approval and encouragement to any movement for raising subscriptions in aid of the Stoke Orphanage throughout the diocese of Dunedin.—Editor 'N.Z. Tablet').

WESTPORT

(From an occasional correspondent)

The handsome new convent of the Sisters of Mercy is rapidly approaching completion, and when finished will add greatly to the architectural beauties of the town.

A Catholic improvement and debating society is about to be established in connection with the Hibernians. The value of such a society cannot be over-estimated. It is earnestly to be hoped that large numbers of our Catholic young men will now avail themselves of the many advantages to be derived, by at once joining the society. Those who become members may confidently anticipate spending many a pleasant and profitable evening.

A tribute of praise is due to the Altar Society, who are doing such good work. During the last twelve months these good ladies, by the aid of socials and contributions collected, have procured several beautiful statues for the church. No allusion to St. Canice's Altar Society would be complete without mention of the energetic secretary, Miss Ready. This young lady has never spared herself in the good cause, and is at all times to be found attending to the requirements of the altar.

At the 9 o'clock Mass on Sunday the Children of Mary and the members of the Altar Society made their monthly Communion. A most edifying sight was witnessed when the members of the Hibernian Society, in their regalia, approached the Holy Table in a body. During the course of a powerful and eloquent sermon delivered at Vespers the Rev. Father Malloy paid a high tribute to the fine body of men comprising the society, and alluded to their action in the morning as 'a magnificent display of holy faith.'

It is with regret that I have to record the death of Mrs. H. Moran, which occurred at the local hospital on Sunday evening, May 3. The deceased had been ailing for a considerable time and suffered much from a painful complaint. Mrs. Moran was born in County Galway and had resided about 19 years in this Colony, the greater portion of that time having been spent at Charleston, where she was widely known and respected. The funeral took place on Wednesday afternoon and was very largely attended by all classes of the community. As a tribute of respect to Mr. Moran, who is one of the oldest Hibernians in the district, the members of the local Hibernian Society attended in regalia and marched in front of the cortege. The late Mrs. Moran was of a

quiet and amiable disposition, and much esteemed by those who had the pleasure of her acquaintance, and great sorrow was expressed when it became known that she had passed away at the comparatively early age of 44 years. The deceased leaves a husband and three children and a sister (Mrs. McDonnell, wife of Mr. John McDonnell) to mourn their sad loss. The Rev. Father Malloy, who had attended deceased in her last hours, conducted the service at St. Canice's Church and also officiated at the graveside.—R.I.P.

A most enjoyable entertainment in honor of the Rev. Mother was given by the pupils of the convent schools at St. Canice's Schoolroom on Monday afternoon. The programme commenced with the 'Feast-day song' by the pupils, the item eliciting the approval of the audience. Master Alfred Cullen (son of Sergeant Cullen, who has recently arrived in Westport) read an appropriate address of congratulation to the Rev. Mother. Master Cullen's enunciation was remarkably good, and the eulogistic references contained in the address at once found a response in the hearts of all present. A pianoforte duet by the Misses Flo. and Lily Stitt was played in excellent style, the young ladies well meriting the enthusiastic plaudits they received. The Misses A. Lock, A. Radford, and W. Struthers, in a prettily rendered selection on violins, gave much pleasure to the audience, and the pupils in their song and chorus entitled 'I have heard sweet music,' were heard to advantage. The violin solos given respectively by the Misses Amy Lock and Winnie Struthers were nicely played, and the efforts of the young instrumentalists were most cordially received. In their pianoforte selections the Misses Lily Stitt and Gertie Scott created a most favorable impression, both young ladies displaying taste and expression in the execution of the pieces entrusted to them. A most entertaining and amusing item was presented by the infant class in their song and chorus, whilst the senior boys in their drill were really excellent. The Rev. Father Malloy sang 'The Holy City' and was enthusiastically applauded. After the entertainment had concluded the boys were taken to Victoria Square, where games were indulged in under the supervision of the Rev. Father Malloy, assisted by Mr. Sullivan. The Ven. Archpriest Walshe, much to the regret of all, was unavoidably absent.

NEW ZEALAND: GENERAL

The May number of the 'Triad' contains a large amount of interesting reading matter, and its worth is enhanced by a musical supplement.

The Mayor of Wellington is to have an allowance for the current year of £400. He draws £300 as member of the House of Representatives, so that he can afford to devote some of his time to public affairs.

Speaking at the Hawke's Bay Christian Convention, Mr. Lang, an ex-Indian missionary, is reported to have said that he found heathenism among the young of the outskirts of the Hawke's Bay district as great as he had seen in India.

At a meeting held by parishioners of St. Mary's (says the Nelson 'Colonist') it was decided that a suitable marble tablet should be placed in St. Mary's Church as a memorial of the late Very Rev. Dean Mahoney.

The Very Rev. Dean Rolland's numerous friends, by whom anxious inquiries are being constantly made as to his state of health, will (says the 'Inangahua Times') be pleased to learn that the rev. gentleman has so far improved that he was permitted to get up for a short time on Sunday last. Although extremely weak after his long confinement, he is making good progress towards recovery, and it is hoped that in two or three weeks' time he will be able to leave the hospital.

Discussing the small-birds nuisance in Timaru the other day, a member of the Levels County Council said that the birds were becoming more destructive than ever. In the Point district, he said, the winter wheat which had been sown this season had been already very materially damaged through the birds pulling up the grain just as it commenced to sprout. A suggestion was made that the Levels Council should combine with other councils and offer a substantial bonus to the person who can devise the best method of coping with the pest.

Regarding the prospects of the poultry industry in the Colony Mr. D. D. Hyde, Government Poultry Expert, says:—'It takes an average of three acres to keep a cow. On that area 300 head of poultry can be grown. By careful selection and breeding only from the best layers, in three years the stock should average 12 dozen eggs a year each. Averaging the price of eggs at a shilling per dozen, and deducting 4s per head a year for food and 3s for interest and labor, it leaves a balance of 5s per head; equal to £25 an acre, or £75 per annum on the three acres required for the cow. No other stock, £ for £ invested, will give such results.' It is notable that the growers all over the Colony are now going in for a better class of stock, recognising that it costs no more to feed first-class birds than the scraggy mongrels heretofore seen on almost every farm. The demand for the utility breeds such as the Orpingtons, Wyandottes, Langshams, and Plymouth Rocks from the Government farms is the best evidence of this fact. It might also be stated that there was a big increase in the demand for eggs for hatching purposes from the Government poultry stations last season, no less a quantity than 21,000 eggs being supplied, while for breeding stock, the call just now is quite unprecedented, the number available for sale being rapidly distributed.