

world.' After the sermon his Lordship made an appeal to the congregation to give according to their means, so that the church might be, as far as possible, free from debt. At the collection subsequently taken up the people showed their generosity by contributing a sum of £165. Father Regnault heartily thanked those who had in any way contributed towards the church, and all who had helped or sympathised. He also thanked the Rev. Father O'Connell for coming to assist at the opening, he being the prime mover in having the church erected before he was removed to Christchurch. There was a crowded congregation.

The church stands on an admirable site on the west side of the railway, a very fine view being obtained from the line. Although not quite finished, the inside finishing and furnishing are worthy of notice, the wood lining and rafters of the roof presenting a solid appearance. The windows are of cathedral stained glass, those for the sanctuary being the gift of Mr. Nicholas Quinn. They are not as yet placed in position, but will present a very fine appearance when this is done. The plans of the church were kindly prepared free of charge by Mr. O'Connell, of Christchurch, who also supervised the erection of the building. Great praise is due to the contractors for the excellent way in which they have carried out their work. After the ceremony his Lordship and the clergy were entertained by Mr. Nicholas Quinn, whilst the choir was likewise treated by Mr. William Quinn.

In the evening his Lordship preached in St. Patrick's, Waimate, to a crowded congregation.

On Monday evening the Catholics of the district held a social gathering in honor of his Lordship and Father O'Connell, a report of which will appear in our next issue.

DIocese of AUCKLAND.

(From our own correspondent.)

June 4.

The parish of Gisborne is to be divided, and the Rev. Father Lane, now stationed at Onehunga, is to take charge of one half, and the present priest in charge, Rev. Father Mulvihill, the other half. This has been found necessary, owing to the growth of population. Rev. Father McGuinness, now curate at Gisborne, is to take Father Lane's place at Onehunga.

The body of the late Mr. Toohey, M.L.C., of New South Wales, was on board the inward 'Frisco' mail steamer, Sonoma, which passed through here en route to Sydney yesterday. Mrs. Toohey and her sister, Miss Egan, were passengers by the steamer. At this port their brother, the Very Rev. Dr. Egan, O.S.B., joined the vessel and accompanied the party to Sydney.

At a meeting of the Mothers' Union one evening this week in the city Lady Ranfurly, to her own accompaniment, sang the delightful Irish ballad, 'Sweet Vale of Avoca.' It is a matter for deep regret that our fine old Irish songs seem to have been relegated to obscurity. The spurious articles from the music halls are mostly chosen, even at our own Catholic concerts.

The Mapourika, with our picnicking legislators, returned from the Island cruise to this port last Monday. In the 'Star' appears an account of the trip by 'our special correspondent,' who appeared to have held a brief from the London Missionary Society which body, one would imagine, after reading 'our special,' caused the isles of the Pacific to live, move, and have their being. The 'special' saw the good chief Mataafa and his people, of whom he writes in high praise, saying: 'We saw no signs of demoralisation amongst the natives like that so painfully apparent in Tahiti.' This scribe quite forgot to tell the 'Star' readers that Joseph Mataafa and his people are Catholics.

On Monday afternoon last the Countess of Ranfurly and suite paid an official visit to the Sisters and inmates of the Sisters of the Poor, Shelly Beach road. On the arrival of her Ladyship 'God save the King' was played, and his Lordship Bishop Lenihan received the guests at the door of the home. There were also present: Rev. Father Patterson (Administrator of the Cathedral), Rev. Fathers Benedict, O.P., Furlong, Purton, and Holbrook, Mrs. Peacock, Mrs. and Miss Outhwaite, Mrs. Lonergan, Mr. Patrick Darby, and Dr. Bayntun. A thorough inspection was made of the convent, and Miss Casey, on behalf of the old people, presented a bouquet of flowers to the Countess. One of the inmates made an excellent speech of welcome to Lady Ranfurly, and Bishop Lenihan expressed himself highly pleased and delighted to see such a deep interest in the aged poor displayed by their honored guest, who, through the length and breadth of the Colony, had made herself endeared to the hearts of the poor. Lady Ranfurly made a most sympathetic speech, expressing her pleasure at being with them and her entire satisfaction at the comfort and cleanliness of the home and self-sacrifice displayed by the good Sisters. Her Ladyship served out tea and refreshments to the old men and women, and then all the guests adjourned to a room, where they were supplied with a light repast. At the departure of the Countess three hearty cheers were given by the old people.

A largely attended meeting of the Catholic body was held in the Marist Brothers' school on last Sunday afternoon, when his Lordship the Bishop presided. The object of the meeting was to see what steps should be taken to fittingly open the new Sacred Heart College at Ponsonby on Sunday, June 21st. The Bishop addressed the meeting, and explained the efforts put forth by the

Marist Order in the erection of the magnificent College, and stated that already £6000 had been spent on it. After discussion, Mr. W. Tole moved that collectors from the four city churches be appointed to collect at the opening ceremony and conduct the proceedings on the occasion. The following were appointed: Messrs. Nerheny, Carty, Duffin, Sheahan (St. Patrick's), Treston, Brophy, Taylor, Gormley (St. Benedict's), D. Flynn P. Darby, jun., J. J. O'Brien, P. Bryant (Sacred Heart), E. Mahoney, Gleeson (2), P. J. O'Sullivan (St. John's, Parnell). Mr. M. J. Sheahan was appointed secretary. The above committee met in the Marist Brothers' school-room last Tuesday evening. Mr. J. J. O'Brien, J.P., was appointed chairman. The details in connection with the opening ceremony were discussed very fully. The whole of the committee decided to visit the College next Sunday afternoon and there consider on the spot the best means to be adopted. In addition to his Lordship the Bishop, Rev. Fathers Brodie and Darby, ex-pupils of the Marist College at Hunter's Hill, Sydney, will speak at the opening ceremony. The lay speakers are to be the Hon. J. A. Tole, Mr. Mahoney (solicitor), and Mr. James Gleeson (an ex-pupil of Hunter's Hill College, Sydney). Sir Maurice O'Rourke, and his Worship the Mayor, the Hon. E. Mitchelson are also to be invited to address the assemblage. The opening is, therefore, likely to be a great success, and so it deserves to be, as the results of the Brothers' enterprise have given us a structure in which, not only the Catholics of Auckland, but of the whole Colony should feel a pride, as it is one more great advance in the march of Catholic education.

THE WONDERLAND OF THE NORTH

(By our Auckland correspondent.)

Rotorua, with its wonderful sights, has been brought, by a considerate Government, within easy reach of the people. Between this fire and steam riddled region and the northern capital there is now a daily train service. With a small party, which included Rev. Father Furlong, of St. Benedict's, your correspondent left Auckland station at 10 a.m., whirling through the country upon a bright autumn day past verdure clad fields and snug little homesteads and over swamp and bramble growth to the majestic waters of the Waikato and Waipa rivers. It is a new world to those habitually surrounded by brick and mortar and the bustle of a big city. Soon we pass the Matamata estate, covering 20 square miles of country, in the hands of the Assets Board, and which, before long, will be closely settled, as the Government has decided to take it compulsorily. Then our course lies by the model poultry farm, an extensive Government undertaking. After that we enter a vast tract of grazing country, where our panting engine halts to replenish its boilers from a round brick cistern, several of which may be seen along the line, recalling, on a miniature scale, the round towers of dear old Ireland. Quite a crowd of Maori children of both sexes gather in a group, and, with rolling eyes, extended arms, and swaying of their bodies, these young aboriginals attempt an impromptu haka, in the midst of which a few pence are thrown from the carriage windows. Away we go again. The shades of evening begin to steal upon us, and we enter the forest. For nearly an hour our engine draws its train slowly up the mountain side until it reaches the flag station, Mānukū, on the summit, 1888 feet above sea level, and 14 miles from Rotorua. In the twilight we descend the mountain, and very soon catch a glimpse of the blue waters of Lake Rotorua, and at 5.50 p.m. we steam into the busy station of Rotorua.

Through wide, well-cared streets, lighted with electricity, we reached our hotel. To a first visitor the sulphurous odor is strange and disagreeable. Upon alighting from the vehicle a cheery voice welcomes me to Rotorua, and looking around I saw an old friend in the person of the Rev. Father Holierhoek, one of the pioneers of the Mill Hill missionaries. After dinner the Government sanatorium and grounds were visited. Under the electric light we strolled over the spacious well-kept paths. It was here a first acquaintance was made with the boiling springs, several of which are to be seen close to the handsome band-stand, upon which a brass band was playing. Close by there is a large marquee, in which refreshments are served out by obliging Maori girls, with Maori mats dangling from their waists. This establishment is run by the Government. The three principal baths are the Blue, the Priest's, and the Duchess'. The latter was constructed specially for the Duchess of York, and the water was turned into it for the first time for the Duchess when she visited Rotorua, but her Royal Highness refused to enter it. In charge of one of the baths there is an Irishman about whom a good story was told me. Some time back a young sprig of the Irish aristocracy, accompanied by a lady, made daily visits to the grounds. It was summer time, and a big, fat half-caste Maori was in the habit of stretching out under the trees every day and indulging in a siesta. Pointing to the sleeper on one occasion, the young aristocrat asked the Irishman in charge 'if he were a specimen of the New Zealand working man?' 'No,' came the ready answer, 'he is a specimen of our New Zealand landlords, swelled out by fat rents, and who sleeps while his tenants toil.' The floral display on the grounds is on a large and magnificent scale. It would be difficult to find