

one of the most admired items of the evening. The concert concluded with 'Nearer my God to Thee,' by the choir, which formed an appropriate ending and which was given with telling effect. Mr. J. A. Cosgrove acted as conductor. The following were the instrumentalists: Violins, Messrs. W. J. Fellow and R. Noake; euphonium, Mr. John Cosgrove; cello, Mr. F. J. Shanly; organists, Misses Moroney and Eccleton.

DIOCESE OF CHRISTCHURCH

(From our own correspondent)

July 6.

The Rev. Father Ahern has been transferred from Ashburton to the charge of the parish of Darfield.

The Rev. Father Marnane went North on Friday last en route to Sydney and Melbourne on a health and holiday trip. Mr. John Barrett is a travelling companion of the Rector of St. Mary's.

Conducted by Mr. W. H. Corrigan, Derry's Private Band gave a very fine performance on Sunday afternoon in the Rotunda, Victoria Square. Several thousand persons were present enjoying the musical treat.

The exceptionally mild weather recently experienced, indicating an early spring, has had the effect of forcing into bud, and even leaf, the weeping willows in places along the banks of the Avon.

A successful entertainment, arranged by the Catholic Club, and under the joint management of Messrs. G. J. Fama and W. McKay, in aid of the parochial school funds, was given in the boys' school on last Thursday evening. The attendance was very satisfactory, and the various items of the extensive programme were well received and capably rendered. The first part consisted of a minstrel performance in the orthodox style. The accompaniments were played by Mrs. A. Mead, Miss Katie Young, and others. Two selections were rendered by Messrs. Geohaghan's orchestra. Banjo selections were contributed by Miss Quill, Messrs. J. Shanley and Waltheu, an item on the zyllophone by Mr. F. Wolgede, sailor's hornpipe by the champion dancer, Mr. W. Manning, a chorus by the company, and songs by Mrs. A. Mead, Misses F. Gardiner, Rubi Crane, W. Shanley, A. Bryant, Messrs. J. Shanley, W. McKay, G. J. Fama, L. McQueen, J. Foley, H. Hobbs, and E. Ballantyne. Several of the clergy were among those present.

Once again after 43 years the site of the first Catholic church built in Christchurch is clear of buildings. Owing to the ruined state of what has latterly been known as the parochial library and club rooms, caused by the recent fire, it was not considered worth the trouble or expense of re-instating the building. On Saturday afternoon the materials, which, during the process of pulling down had been carefully sorted, were auctioned off, and now nothing remains on the historic spot to indicate its long and varied uses. The original building was opened on September, 1860, during the regime of the late Father Chastagner, the little church covering an area of 21ft by 18ft, its dimensions being in marked contrast to the majestic pile now in course of erection. The contract price paid for its construction to a Mr. Coxhead being £75. After a time wings were added to accommodate the priests as a presbytery, and among the many other uses the buildings were put to from time to time was a school, residence for the Marist Brothers, library, societies' meeting place, and the scene of numerous gatherings in which subjects of momentous interest to the parish have been discussed and settled. It is a somewhat notable incident in connection with the demolition of the old building that one (Mr. P. Henley, of Lincoln) was a looker on, he also being one of the historic group present at the foundation-stone laying, the said group as records verify comprising five persons, three of whom were the builders and the fifth the officiating priest. Verily, church building in Christchurch could scarcely have any more modest beginnings. It is not intended to again reoccupy the site with any other buildings, as such would impede the view of the Cathedral, the grounds will, therefore be laid out to correspond with the surroundings. With regard to the Cathedral, the work is going on apace, favorable weather almost throughout the winter aiding the workmen in continually occupying their time. The walls of the entire structure are about up to the roof line, whilst much massive interior work has been accomplished. The main and flanking towers are now receiving attention.

DIOCESE OF AUCKLAND.

(From our own correspondent.)

July 2.

There is to be a religious reception at the Sisters of Mercy's Convent of St. Mary's, in a few days.

The Rev. Father Patterson, Adm. of St. Patrick's, was ordained priest by the late Cardinal Vaughan.

St. Benedict's Church is now being plastered inside throughout. Mr. Kelly is the successful contractor, his price being £263.

The Young Men's Club at St. Benedict's approached the Holy Table in a body last Sunday morning. Very large numbers of the congregation also communicated.

The annual social in connection with St. Patrick's parish is well in hand, several meetings of the ladies' committee having been held in the presbytery presided over by the rev. Administrator.

The 'Passion Play,' a series of pictures of this work, was given last evening in St. Benedict's Hall in the presence of a number of the clergy and a large assem-

blage. Mr. Dillon Fitzgerald lectured throughout, describing each scene in fine style. Solos were rendered by Miss Lorrigan and Mr. Whelan.

Rev. Father Furlong, who returned from Waihi at the end of last week, where he had been temporarily relieve the Rev. Father Brodie, is most enthusiastic with reference to the advanced state of the Waihi parish, and was particularly charmed with the church, which, for a country place, it would be hard to excel.

At St. Patrick's Cathedral last Tuesday morning at nine o'clock a Solemn Requiem Mass was celebrated for the repose of the soul of the late Cardinal Vaughan. His Lordship the Bishop was present in the sanctuary. Rev. Father Patterson, Adm., was celebrant, and Rev. Father Buckley and Holbrook were deacon and sub-deacon respectively; cantors, Rev. Fathers Benedict, O.P., and Furlong; master of ceremonies, Rev. Father Purton, O.S.B. There were also present Rev. Fathers Gillan and Tormey.

The members of the local branch No. 81 of the H.A.C.B. Society on last Friday evening assembled in the branch room in the Hibernian Hall, Bro. C. Little, V.P., in the unavoidable absence of the president, Bro. F. Gordon, being in the chair. His Lordship the Right Rev. Dr. Lenihan sat on his right, and Bro. the Hon. William Beehan, M.L.C. District President, on his left. There were also present Rev. Fathers Gillan and Tormey (St. Benedict's), Rev. Father Holbrook (St. Patrick's), and Rev. Bro. Basil. Apologies were received from Rev. Fathers Benedict, O.P., and Patterson. The proceedings began with a pianoforte overture by Mrs. M. Treston, after which the chairman said the object of the gathering was to do honor to their esteemed D.P., who had been so signally honored during the present week by being called to the Legislative Council. It was indeed a pleasure to them all that a Hibernian had won such a distinction, and every member of the district would feel that their great Society had been highly honored. On behalf of the members he then presented to the Hon. Bro. Beehan a very handsome travelling case. Upon the front a small silver plate bordered with shamrocks, bore the inscription, 'Presented to the Hon. Wm. Beehan, M.L.C., by the H.A.C.B.S., Auckland, June 23rd, 1903.' Bro. P. J. Nerheny, P.D.P., in a few well-chosen words, proposed the health of the Hon. Mr. Beehan and Mrs. Beehan. His Lordship the Bishop supported the motion, and said it afforded him genuine pleasure to be present to do honor to a good Catholic, a Hibernian, and an Irishman. The honor was well deserved, as the Hon. Mr. Beehan had well earned it. He was not a politician, but recognised Mr. Beehan's assiduity in public matters, and in regard to Church matters he also gave them much of his attention and time. He concluded by wishing Mr. and Mrs. Beehan and family long life and the blessing of God. Rev. Father Gillan, Bros. J. J. O'Brien, John Patterson, D. Flynn, and M. J. Sheahan also spoke expressing gratification at the appointment.

The Hon. Bro. Beehan replied, and heartily thanked his Lordship, Father Gillan and his brother Hibernians for the kind words and the hearty good wishes they had expressed towards Mrs. Beehan and himself. He heartily thanked them for the beautiful present which was highly ornamental and useful.

Refreshments were then passed round. Songs were rendered by Bros. M. Treston and Stead, P.D.P. A very pleasant and memorable evening then concluded.

On Sunday morning at St. Benedict's the church committee, of which the Hon. Mr. Beehan is an active member, presented him with a nice writing fold, Father Gillan making the presentation. The Young Men's Club, through its president, Rev. Father Furlong, presented a handsome silver matchbox. The Hon. Mr. Beehan feelingly thanked the generous donors. In the afternoon the Hon. Mr. Beehan left for Wellington. Quite a large crowd, amongst whom were Rev. Father Patterson and a number of Hibernians, assembled at the railway station to see him off, several going out to Onehunga with him.

Under the caption, 'Many Happy Returns,' the 'Tasmanian News,' of June 17, had the following reference to the Grand Old Man of the Australian Hierarchy:— 'To-morrow his Grace the Archbishop of Hobart, the senior prelate of the Catholic Church will celebrate his 88th birthday. Born in Ireland on the very day of Napoleon's overthrow at Waterloo, and educated at Maynooth College, young Murphy was ordained a priest on Ember Saturday, 9th June, 1838, and at once volunteered for mission service abroad, desiring, if possible, to come to Tasmania, or, as it was then called Van Dieman's Land. India, however, was selected as the sphere of his work, and he labored so earnestly that he was appointed coadjutor to the Vicar-Apostolic of Madras, and subsequently became Bishop of Hyderabad. He did magnificent work in the Indian diocese, and only when his health failed did he relinquish it to come to Tasmania. His installation took place on May 3, 1866, in St. Joseph's Church. Sixty-five years a priest and 57 a Bishop. Think of the record. Strong of intellect and purpose, unceasing in his care for his flock, zealous in all good works, and esteemed by the whole community as a cultured Christian gentleman, the venerable Archbishop is at once an example to all mankind. In common with all those who appreciate a career of unusual length—devoted to holy work—we wish Dr. Murphy a continuance of good health during the years that we trust are still in store for him. His influence and example have blessed the community and promoted the happiness of all sections of the people.'