

DIOCESE OF DUNEDIN

The many friends of Dr. E. O'Neill will be pleased to learn that he has returned from his trip to England, having arrived in Dunedin on Wednesday by the Monowai from Melbourne.

The Rev. James Liston (deacon) had an audience with the late Pope on June 13. He is expected in this Colony in a few months' time. The Rev. Father Buckley, who was recently ordained priest, is on his way to New Zealand from Rome.

On Monday evening Rev. Father Coffey delivered a very interesting lecture on the life and work of the late Pope to the members of the South Dunedin Literary and Social Club, and held their close attention for over an hour. At its close a cordial vote of thanks was passed by acclamation.

On Tuesday of last week (says the 'Alexandra Herald') Mrs. J. J. O'Kane was waited on at her residence by a few lady friends, when she was the recipient of a further mark of the esteem in which she is held in the community, the presents taking the form of a silver tureen and entree dish (combined) and an embossed silver jewel casket, each being suitably inscribed. The presentation was made by the Mayor, who said he had much pleasure in being present on that occasion, and in asking Mrs. O'Kane's acceptance of the presents which had been subscribed by her friends.

It is almost unnecessary for us to remind our readers that the complimentary concert to Miss Rose Blaney takes place in his Majesty's Theatre to-morrow evening. All the arrangements are now completed, and the sale of tickets up to date leads the committee to believe that there will be a record attendance. This is only as it should be, considering the generous and ungrudging manner in which Miss Blaney has always given her services for every worthy cause. Amongst the items will be a duet, 'O Sainted Mother,' from 'Maritana' by Mrs. Costello and Miss Blaney, in addition to which those two talented singers will each contribute a solo. The other contributors to the programme are well known in musical circles, and the concert should be for many reasons an unqualified success.

The annual meeting of St. Joseph's Cathedral Choir took place in St. Joseph's Hall on Thursday evening. The Rev. Father Murphy presided. The report disclosed that the choir had made very satisfactory progress during the past twelve months, and referred in complimentary terms to the work of Mr. Valhis (organist), Mr. Feil (deputy-conductor), and Mrs. Woods (pianist). During the evening Mrs. Woods was presented with a handsome case of toilet requisites (on behalf of the choir), in recognition of her valuable services to the choir in the past. Mr. Woods suitably responded on her behalf. The following ladies and gentlemen were elected as a committee for the ensuing year—Miss Heley, Miss Drumm, Messrs. Woods, Feil, Leiby, and Hussey. Father Murphy, in moving the adoption of the report, expressed great pleasure at being present, and apologised for the unavoidable absence of the Bishop. He also complimented the choir on its progress, and referred in complimentary terms to the work performed by the secretary (Mr. Woods), in whom the choir possessed an enthusiastic and hard-working member.

A solemn Requiem for the eternal repose of the late Pope was celebrated in St. Joseph's Cathedral on Tuesday. His Lordship Bishop Verdon was celebrant, Very Rev. Mr. O'Leary (Lawrence) assistant priest, Rev. Father Delany (Holy Cross College, Mosgiel) deacon, Rev. Father Howard sub-deacon, and Rev. Father Murphy master of ceremonies. There were also present a large number of priests of the diocese, and the students of Holy Cross College to the number of 20. The solemn music appropriate to the occasion was rendered by the choir of the Dominican Nuns, assisted by several lady members of St. Joseph's choir, including Mrs. Costello, Misses Rose Blaney, M. Drumm, and Morrison. The sanctuary, altar, and prominent architectural portions of the sacred edifice were tastefully and effectively draped in black and white. At the close of the Mass the customary absolutions were given by his Lordship, the responses being made by the attendant priests and choir. There was an immense congregation present, the Cathedral being packed to the doors.

At St. Joseph's Cathedral on Sunday evening his Lordship Bishop Verdon made reference to the great loss sustained by the Church owing to the death of Pope Leo XIII. To-day, said his Lordship, all thoughts are turned to Rome, where the remains of the great Pontiff are lying in state in the great Basilica of St. Peter. Whenever a great sovereign or a great ruler dies it is customary to have his funeral obsequies carried out with great solemnities, and his people express their regret and show their respect for the memory of the dead. But among all the sovereigns of this earth there was none so esteemed as the Sovereign Pontiff, the successor of St. Peter, Christ's Vicar upon earth, whose empire extended

over three hundred millions of willing subjects. Even the purest and holiest of men may have done something for which they would require our humble prayers, and in addition to the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, which had been offered up for the repose of the soul of the late Pontiff, they should unite their prayers with the millions of their fellow-Catholics that God may give him eternal happiness. His Lordship was for a long period resident of the Eternal City, both as a student, as vice-rector, and rector of the Irish College, and in one or other of these capacities was associated with a number of the most stirring events of the later years of the Pontificate of Pius IX. He was also intimately acquainted with the events of the Pontificate of Leo XIII., and to these he made reference in the course of his remarks. Beginning with the revolutionary movement, which followed close on the accession of Pius IX. to the Papal throne, his Lordship sketched the most notable events that happened prior to the stirring times of 1848, and thence on to the revolutionary movements of the '50's and '60's, which culminated in the capture of Rome by the Piedmontese troops in 1870. Bishop Verdon spoke in terms of strong commendation of the saintly and gentle character of Pius IX., of the firmness which he displayed in the face of the many troubles which marked his long career as Pope, and stated that this attitude of Pius IX. laid the foundation of the admirable policy by the aid of which his successor did so much to raise the Papacy in the eyes of the nations. His Lordship then entered into details regarding the Pontificate of Leo XIII., whom he knew intimately, and with whom he had had a very great number of personal interviews. He spoke in terms of warmest eulogy of the late Pope as a man, as a Roman Pontiff, as a statesman, as a scholar, and as a friend of the poor and oppressed, concluding with reference to the conclave for the election of a successor, and asking for the prayers of the congregation to aid the Cardinals in their selection of a worthy occupant of the Holy See.

WELLINGTON SOUTH

(From an occasional correspondent.)

July 18.

The newly-formed branch of the Hibernian Society held its ordinary meeting on Thursday evening, when there was a full attendance of members. Two new members were initiated, and several candidates were proposed. A letter was read from his Grace the Archbishop, appointing Father Ainsworth as chaplain to the branch. The president (Bro. E. J. Fitzgibbon) read a most interesting paper, which was very warmly applauded, a hearty vote of thanks being passed to Bro. Fitzgibbon at its conclusion. It is hoped that similar papers will be read by other members at each fortnightly meeting.

One of the oldest members of the Wellington branch of the H A C B Society, in the person of Bro. D. Hayes, passed to his eternal reward on Wednesday evening after a long and painful illness. Much sympathy was expressed on all sides with the widow. The funeral took place this afternoon, and was largely attended, the hearse being preceded by a strong body of Hibernians. The Rev. Father Moloney read the prayers for the dead at St. Mary of the Angels' Church, and also at the graveside. The body was interred in the old Catholic cemetery. There are now only two members left who joined the branch before the late brother, whose initiation dated back to 1875—R.I.P.

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It is hardly necessary for us to remind our readers in Otago and Southland that the great event of the year—Messrs. A and T. Inglis's annual colossal sale—will commence on Saturday next, and will continue until September 12, during which time the whole of their magnificent stock, amounting to upwards of £60,000, will be disposed of at very large reductions. Those living a distance can take full advantage of the sale by procuring a catalogue and sending an order for their requirements, which will be forwarded without delay. It may also be mentioned that since the catalogue was printed the firm has made several large purchases from local warehouses and manufacturers which are too numerous to particularise, but it is sufficient to say that these goods will be marked at about half the usual retail prices...