

tasteful musical programme was proceeded with, items being given by Mrs. T. Costelloe, Miss Rose Blaney, Miss Annie Marks, Messrs. Jago and Stevens. The singing of 'Auld lang syne' brought to a close a very happy function.

The Episcopate of St. Peter

Letter from Bishop Nevill

We are in receipt of the following letter from the Right Rev. Dr. Nevill, Anglican Bishop of Dunedin:—

'Editor of the "N.Z. Tablet."

'Sir,—I presume it is to your courtesy that I owe the receipt of a copy of your paper in which comments are made upon a sermon of mine upon the above subject. I am therefore led to believe that you will insert a few words from me in reply.

That sermon was called forth in consequence of a statement made in the columns of the 'O.D. Times' that St. Peter was bishop of Rome from the year A.D. 33 to the date assigned to his martyrdom, say A.D. 67. It was the statement which I pronounced to be "astounding." I carried the historic enquiry down to the year 63 A.D., up to which time it appeared pretty clear that St. Peter was not in Rome, but I also stated that I had no doubt that he did proceed thither some time during the succeeding four years and suffered there under Nero. I quoted also the statements of St. Irenaeus as to his uniting with St. Paul in the appointment of Linus to be bishop, and that of the scholar Rufinus that both Linus and Cletus exercised the episcopal office in Rome during the lifetime of St. Peter (superstite Petro), though I also pointed out that the story of the 25 years' (let alone 34 or so) episcopate does not appear till the end of the 4th or early part of the 5th century. All your quotations, therefore, to prove that St. Peter really did visit Rome are quite unnecessary. Let it be granted he was martyred there. What of that? You say that "a residence of a day or even an hour would suffice." Could such a visit be called an episcopate—especially one to give all future bishops of that city transcendent powers?—I am, sir, yours, etc.,

'S. T. NEVILL,

'Anglican Bishop of Dunedin.

'July 30, 1903.'

Our editorial remarks in last week's issue were, as stated there, based upon the condensed report of Bishop Nevill's discourse that was supplied to the 'Otago Daily Times'. His Lordship's statements as to St. Peter's presence and martyrdom in Rome were omitted from the necessarily summarised report, and the whole tendency of the matter that appeared was to discredit that Apostle's visit to, as well as his episcopate of, the Imperial City. The communication printed above, and dated July 30, was handed in at our office shortly before it closed on Tuesday. All our available reading space had already been more than fully engaged. Our reply to the points raised by his Lordship is, therefore, unavoidably held over till next issue.

PALMERSTON NORTH

(From our own correspondent)

July 26

The news reached Palmerston of the death of his Holiness the Pope on Tuesday morning a little after 10 o'clock, when the bell of St. Patrick's was immediately tolled for an hour, the parish school breaking up for the rest of the day. The 11 o'clock Mass on Sunday was celebrated by the Rev. Father Bowden for the late Pope, St. Patrick's being tastefully draped in mourning. The choir sang the Gregorian plain chant with the 'De Profundis' as an offertory, a large congregation being present. The Rev. Father Tymons gave a touching discourse suitable to the occasion.

The social and dance in aid of the new convent funds will be held in the Theatre Royal on August 19.

Another item, I am pleased to report, lately added to the curriculum of the parish school is a cooking class by Sister Germaine, which is attended with no small success.

Our much respected pastor also finds time among his many duties to give the boys dumb-bell exercises, which takes on well with the lads.

The 'Excelsior' plough is 'Champion of the World' On hillside, low swamp, tussock, or stubble, it is equally at home.—Morrow, Bassett, and Co., sole agents in New Zealand.—***

DIOCESE OF AUCKLAND.

(From our own correspondent.)

July 30.

His Lordship the Bishop has not yet, I regret to say, recovered from his illness.

Rev. Father Buckley, speaking at St. Patrick's last Sunday morning, gave some good and wholesome advice to parents and guardians of children. He told them they were bringing up their children in a very different manner from that in which they themselves were brought up, and that so surely as parents neglected their children, the children in turn would neglect them. The Rev. Father also deprecated the doggerel lines inserted with Catholic obituary notices in the local press, and advised Catholics instead to ask for prayers for the repose of the souls of the departed ones.

In my report of the Rev. Father Patterson's presentations it was made to appear that the dinner and tea service, etc., were the gift of the Bishop. This was an error, as the gift was from the ladies of St. Patrick's parish.

The Very Rev. Dean Hackett's sermon at St. Patrick's last Tuesday evening on the occasion of the memorial service in honor of the late illustrious Pope Leo XIII. has been generally voted to rank with the finest ever delivered in Auckland.

The memorial services in Auckland in connection with the death of his Holiness were carried out with unusual impressiveness. At St. Patrick's on last Sunday evening the Rev. Father Gillan, of St. Benedict's, was the preacher, and a panegyric of the late Pope was given by him. He said that looking back on the life of Leo XIII. one might well consider that he had a specially-appointed training for his arduous work. There were three forms of experience in which a Pope, over and above his other qualifications, required to be pre-eminently versed—administrative capacity, familiarity with diplomacy, and spiritual government. These seemed particularly Leo's gifts. The preacher then sketched the life of Leo XIII. from his ordination to his election as Supreme Pontiff, and then went on to speak of the rise and necessity of the temporal sovereignty of the Roman Pontiffs, and showed how Leo had to maintain principles and rights in opposition to the ideas of all, or nearly all, of the Governments of modern times. He had to uphold the traditions and dignity of the Papacy, and, at the same time, to conciliate and soften his adversaries. How skilfully Leo did this is evidenced to-day, and voiced in every tongue, and in every paper throughout the world. Father Gillan then spoke of the spiritual government of the late Pope, saying that Leo XIII. was pre-eminently a teaching Pope. Concluding his discourse, the preacher spoke of the piety of the late Pontiff, his zeal for the diffusion of the knowledge of the Sacred Scripture, and his filial piety to the Mother of God, his great desire to consecrate mankind to its Divine Redeemer, and how—so the cables tell—when the world was passing, and death rapidly approaching, in calmness and joy, he dictated a last poem to our Lord and His Blessed Mother.

The church was tastefully decorated in the papal colors, purple and gold. The catafalque, draped with purple velvet and gold, was erected in the centre aisle before the high altar, and was surrounded by lighted candles. At the head of the Cathedral was the papal coat of arms, which included the keys of St. Peter, surmounted by the tiara, with stole. On the right of this was his Lordship Bishop Lenihan's coat of arms, 'For faith and country,' and on the left was the Corporation's coat of arms, 'Advance Auckland.'

On Tuesday evening the services were continued, the cathedral being crowded. The foreign consuls occupied seats in front of the altar rails, also Captain Breen, of the Delphic and his chief officer, Mr. Simmonds. The Rev. Canon Nelson and Rev. Mr. Wilson, Anglican clergymen, were present, and the members of the Hibernian Society in regalia. His Lordship the Bishop occupied the throne, and was supported by the Very Rev. Mgr. Paul, V.G., and the Rev. Mgr. O'Reilly. The dirge commenced with the recital of the solemn office of the dead, matins and lauds.

The panegyric on the late Pope by the Very Rev. Dean Hackett was delivered in a most eloquent manner, and is considered one of the most able sermons heard in the Cathedral for many years. In the course of his sermon the preacher said that to-day the eyes of 250,000,000 Catholics were turned to Rome, and the voice that spoke to all nations and all classes, from the Sovereign on his throne, to the workman in his pit, was silenced. The heart that loved the poor, the suffering sons of toil, was stilled; the hand that steered the barque of Peter through troubled seas had fallen from the helm; the eyes of the watchful sentinel were closed and sealed in death. This mourning was not confined to