

who based his sermon on the text: 'Thou art Peter, and upon this rock I shall build My Church.' He said that two weeks previously the cable had brought the news that the Holy Father Pope Leo XIII., was in danger of death. All hearts had immediately turned towards Rome, and there, in spirit, the Catholic world had waited day by day, watching over the frail frame of the dying Pontiff. Hope and fear struggled for the mastery. All earnestly hoped that, after 93 years of devotion to the Church Pope Leo would be permitted to continue his Pontificate to his hundredth year; but 93 years of toil and strain had left their mark upon the body never very strong, and the Catholics were that day praying for the repose of the soul of one whom they loved so well. The reason for their love and reverence for the late Pope was not far to seek. It could not be merely because he had displayed great wisdom and sanctity, because other men possessed similar qualities. The reason was that he had been the successor of Peter, the head of Christ's Church upon earth. After Peter, 46 Popes in succession occupied the Papal Chair, and cheerfully bore much persecution for their faith. When the Roman Empire, drunk with the blood of Christians, had toppled to its fall, and brought down with it the whole of the western civilisation, one great figure towered above the ruin. The Pope alone remained unscathed. When the Huns, under Attila, had swept over Europe, a Pope, unarmed and practically alone, turned them back from Italy. Not only in spiritual, but also in temporal matters, the Popes had exercised a great power for good, and their authority had been recognised by kings and nations. The speaker briefly sketched the life of the late Pope up to the time when he succeeded Pius IX. to the Papal Chair. His views had always been heard on political, social, and industrial questions of the day, and had been received with respect all over the world. To-day he was looked upon as one of the greatest Pontiffs. When his life could be viewed with the perspective of time, it would be seen that his occupancy of the Papal Chair had marked an epoch. Catholics knew that when a Pope spoke on religious matters he was infallible. If a Pope taught false doctrine, he would have fed the sheep on poisonous herbs, and Christ would have been to blame for appointing the shepherd. As a man, however, the Pope might have had small weaknesses, and all Catholics should, therefore, pray God to pardon him. If anything had needed purifying in the flames of purgatory, they asked God to have mercy on the soul of Pope Leo.

St. Joseph's Church, Lyttelton, has been draped in mourning on account of the death of Pope Leo, and on last Sunday week a very fine portrait of the late Pontiff was placed at the entrance. The Rev. Father Cooney spoke of the deceased prelate at all the services, and at 11 o'clock Mass delivered a panegyric on his Holiness, reviewing his life and depicting the principal features of his character, his sagacity as a statesman, his wide humanitarian sympathy, his profound erudition, and his saintliness. Reference was made to the chief incidents of his Pontificate, especially his conflict with Bismarck, his encyclical on behalf of labor, and his action against the slave trade. Mr. W. Radcliffe, the Mayor of Lyttelton, was present during the address, and was thanked by Father Cooney for his attendance. The Dead March in 'Saul' was played at the close of the services.

St. Mary's Manchester street, was also suitably draped. The musical arrangements on last Sunday week were in keeping with the solemn occasion. A Gregorian Mass was rendered by the choir, as also the De Profundis.

Timaru

(From our own correspondent.)

On Thursday last a Solemn Requiem Mass was celebrated by the Rev. Father Tubman in the Church of the Sacred Heart for the late Pope Leo XIII. The church was draped in mourning, and a catafalque stood before the altar. A great number of the congregation were present to pay the last tribute to their late great and glorious Pontiff. On the previous Sunday the Rev. Father Tubman preached an able panegyric on the late Pontiff, and on yesterday another sermon on the text, 'Thou art Peter, etc.' Farmer's Mass was rendered by the choir, assisted by the talented violinist, Herr Zimmerman.

The local branch of the Hibernian Society held their usual fortnightly meeting on Monday last. Six candidates were proposed by Brother O'Sullivan for membership. The secretary reported that two new members were initiated by the officers on Sunday. He also reported that the officers and several members of the branch went to St. Andrews on the previous Saturday to initiate several members there. They were most hospitably welcomed by Bros. E. Burns, P. Ryan, J. O'Connor, and some 20 other members. The local library hall was engaged for the occasion, and a formal meeting was

held, and the initiation being concluded a discussion arose as to establishing a separate branch at St. Andrews. Bro. Ryan strongly advocated such a step, as by acting conjointly with the Foresters Society already established there a medical practitioner might be induced to reside permanently at St. Andrews. Bro. Dennehy (Timaru) considered the idea a good one, but as yet premature. The visitors were entertained by the local members, and a most enjoyable evening was spent. Several songs, recitations, and musical items were rendered, and the meeting was wound up by Bro. O'Connor in a neat speech.

The officers of the branch for the ensuing term are as follows:—President, Bro. T. Donovan; vice-president, Bro. P. O'Sullivan (who has proposed nearly 90 members in less than three months); treasurer, Bro. J. O'Sullivan (re-elected); secretary, Bro. J. P. Fitzgerald (re-elected). The subordinate offices are mostly filled by young members, the greatest interest being taken in contesting the different offices. Hibernianism has made a decidedly forward movement in this district, mainly through the energy of Bro. O'Sullivan.

The St. John's Tennis Club will be to the front again this year, when the season opens. Already they have held a progressive euchre party, with good financial results, to go towards paying preliminary expenses.

Southland News Notes

(From an occasional correspondent.)

The popularity of a member of the Invercargill Catholic Literary Society was fittingly demonstrated on Thursday night, when that Society tendered a complimentary concert to one of its most energetic members, Mr. G. A. Cormack, St. John's Schoolroom being crowded. Although only some three years in Invercargill, Mr. Cormack has won the esteem and goodwill of the whole Catholic community and a large section of the public at large of this town. He has been ever willing to lend a helping hand in all matters connected with the church, and to his untiring efforts the Literary Society now owes its proud position. The programme opened with an overture, 'Humors of Donnybrook,' by the orchestra, after which were shown about one hundred limelight views, principally of South African towns. The views, which were very distinct, were highly appreciated, the ones most warmly received being the late Pope Leo XIII., the late Queen Victoria, and the British officers. Two very pleasing items were the illustrated songs, 'Ora pro nobis' (sung by Mr. A. Pasco), 'The Holy City' (sung by Miss K. Kirwan). The second part consisted of an overture, 'Stars and stripes,' by the orchestra, song, 'Love's golden dream,' with orchestral accompaniment, Miss M. Hishon; song, 'The skipper's flag,' Mr. A. Pasco; violin solo, 'Home sweet home,' Mr. G. Cormack; duet, 'The Elfin call,' Misses Hishon and Kirwan; song, 'Asleep in the deep,' Mr. J. Finnerty, flute solo, Mr. E. Lepetit; song, 'Daddy,' Miss E. Kelleher; quartette, 'Moonlight will come again,' Misses Kirwan and Hishon, Messrs. Wills and McGrath, march, 'Bride elect,' orchestra. At the conclusion of the programme the Very Rev. Dean Burke, who presided, referred in glowing terms to Mr. Cormack's sterling qualities. Mr. J. Eagar, on behalf of the Society, presented Mr. Cormack with an address, and Mr. M. Giffedder, in a neat speech, warmly eulogised Mr. Cormack's work while in Invercargill. Mr. Cormack, who left by Monday's express en route for Canada, takes with him the good wishes of a large circle of friends.

On Wednesday last our Catholic football team, the Athletics, concluded the season's play by beating their old rivals the Cambridge. This team, which has just this year come into the senior ranks, was defeated by the Star team, with a record of 14 years' premiership, by only 6 points, which speaks volumes for the young players.

On last Tuesday night the Invercargill Catholic Literary Society held one of their periodical entertainments in St. Joseph's School, when the hall was comfortably filled. Very Rev. Dean Burke presided, and Father Lynch read a paper on Dr. Brownson, the great American philosopher, journalist, and author. It is needless to say that the rev. gentleman handled his subject in a very able manner. Songs were contributed by Misses Kirwan and Kelleher, both of whom had to respond to encores. A first-class orchestra, under Mr. A. R. Wills, contributed several selections, which were very highly appreciated.

At this season everybody is liable to Coughs and Colds. Avoid all danger by taking TUSSICURA.—***