

Diocesan News

ARCHDIOCESE OF WELLINGTON

(From our own correspondent.)

August 15.

A cadet corps has been formed by the pupils of the Marist Brothers' school.

An 'At home,' in aid of the organ fund of St. Mary of the Angels' Church, will be given in the Druids' Hall by the members of the choir on September 4.

Mr. Flenning, one of the Government inspectors, has been conducting the school examinations at Newtown and Dixon street schools this week.

The soiree which is to be held next Wednesday evening in aid of the schools, promises to be a most successful affair. The entire management is in the hands of the Sacred Heart Society.

The circular letter issued by his Grace was read in all the churches on Sunday, and references to the election of Pius X. was also made. At St. Joseph's, St. Mary of the Angels' and St. Anne's the 'Te Deum' was sung. In the course of a sermon at St. Joseph's on Sunday last Ven. Archdeacon Devoy said that the Sovereign Pontiff was no stranger to Catholics in any part of the world; for just as length of time did not lessen the personal love of true Christians for our Lord, so length of distance did not lessen the love of all true Catholics for His Vicar upon earth, and here in New Zealand the Pope was loved and revered just as much as by those who had the happiness of knowing him. The newly-elected Pontiff had, no doubt, taken the title of Pius in honor of Pius IX., who had suffered persecutions but had never sacrificed principles. There was, said Archdeacon Devoy, rejoicing to-day amongst the 270 millions of Catholics who revered and honored the Pope, and their prayers were offered that God would grant him every blessing.

The annual dance of the Convent ex-Pupils' Association was held at the Sydney street schoolroom on Tuesday evening last, and proved the most successful gathering yet held by the Association. The hall was tastefully decorated and an excellent effect was produced in the supper room with ferns, flowers, and various colored lights. The committee responsible for the arrangements consisted of the following ladies:—Mesdames Chapman, Gamble, and Gascoigne, Misses Sullivan (secretary), McDonald, Brady, White, Casey, Redmond, and Sheehan.

The newly-formed branch of the Hibernian Society at Newtown is rapidly growing. A comfortable club room has been secured, and this is to be suitably furnished. The officers intend to hold a series of social evenings, open only to members of a Hibernian Society. A literary society is being formed, and a lecture will possibly be given under its auspices shortly to assist the funds of the young society. At the last fortnightly meeting three new members were initiated and two others proposed. A committee, consisting of the president, vice-president, secretary, and treasurer, was appointed to act with the committee set up by the city branch, to consider what steps should be taken to have Wellington made the centre of the District Executive.

Hawera

On Sunday (says the 'Hawera Star,' August 10) the sanctuary of St. Joseph's Church was beautifully adorned with flowers, and at Mass and Vespers the choir, under Mr. Higham, sang the 'Te Deum.' At Vespers the Very Rev. Father Power preached a brief but eloquent discourse, dealing with the new Sovereign Pontiff. 'Judging of things sacred by things secular (said the Very Rev. preacher) the press is at pains to account for the election of an obscure Cardinal. But almost all the Popes were more or less obscure until their elevation to the Pontificate; and those who now suggest that Pius, at the age of 68, is only a makeshift to meet the exigencies of rival parties must suffer us to remind them that they passed a similar judgment upon Leo, who was chosen for the same supreme office at precisely the same age. But the labors with which Leo crowded his quarter of a century of rule have given the Papacy a power and a splendor which it never enjoyed before; and the humility, piety, learning, prudence, and love for the poor of Pius X. are just the qualities needed to make manifest and resplendent the power of God in this new century. His grace of state and the prayers of the faithful will make him a providential Pope; a Pope raised up by God to meet the wants of this feverish age. He is beset by difficulties, and has to face problems as grave as those which confronted his predecessor; but his courage may not falter, for the promise of his triumph

is Divine, "Thou art a rock, and upon this rock I will build My Church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."

Otaki

The election of a new Pope (says the 'Otaki Mail') being a rather rare occurrence, and a matter of special importance, the Catholics of Otaki were not slow to manifest their joy and happiness on the occasion. Yesterday morning (August 6) the bells were joyfully rung, and the mission flagstaff on the Pukekaraka hill was beautifully decorated with bunting of the Papal colors. In front of the church a rather elaborate arch had been erected. At the 9 o'clock Mass the 'Te Deum' and the hymn for the Pope were heartily rendered. The children decorated the school, the convent, and the presbytery, and were regaled with cakes and lollies. In the evening a large crowd, mostly children, gathered on the top of the hill to witness the illuminations, the bonfire, and the fireworks. It is likely that the day of the election of Pius X. will be for the Otaki Catholic children a day of long and pleasant remembrance.

DIOCESE OF CHRISTCHURCH

(From our own correspondent.)

August 17.

The Rev. Father Huault, S.M., went north last week to be present at the Meance students' ordinations at Wellington. The Rev. Father Marnane, of St. Mary's, is at present at Rotorua, having returned from his Australian tour.

His Lordship the Bishop is now in the Ahaura district, with Kumara to follow, at which place the Bishop's present episcopal visitation will terminate. It is expected his Lordship will return to Christchurch early next month.

The Rev. Father O'Connell has ready for distribution books of tickets for the international art union, on the satisfactory disposal of which so much depends in aiding the Cathedral building fund.

St. Mary's parish committee are arranging a 'Welcome home' to the rector, the Rev. Father Marnane, in the Alexandra Hall for August 25, on his return from a holiday undertaken for the benefit of his health.

The Lyttelton Oddfellows' Hall was crowded on Friday evening last on the occasion of an entertainment given by the pupils of the local convent of Mercy and friends. The various items of a well arranged programme were very creditably rendered and introduced by a prologue spoken by Miss Annie Welsh. The musical portion consisted of choruses capably sung, a vocal duet by Misses L. and E. Parker, humorous song by Miss L. Parker, a euphonium solo by Mr. W. Sullivan, pianoforte duet by Misses M. McConnell and A. Davies, selection for piano, cornet, mandolin, and violin by Mrs. Hayden and the Loader Brothers, and a march played on six violins by Miss Alice Davies and Masters T. Gelliey, D. Loader, T. Joyce, T. Morris, and W. Spears. A dramatic item, 'The violet sellers,' and a farce, 'The hypochondriac,' were given with good effect by the pupils. A tableau was very effectively arranged, and a display of club-swinging added to the success of the entertainment.

DIOCESE OF AUCKLAND.

(From our own correspondent.)

August 13.

His Lordship the Bishop, who was accompanied by the Rev. Father Patterson, Adm., St. Patrick's, left last Saturday for Huntly in order to lay the foundation stone of a new church. The ceremony took place on Sunday, when there was a large gathering of people from all parts of the district. His Lordship was assisted by Rev. Father Patterson and Rev. Father O'Gallagher, the resident priest of Huntly. His Lordship spoke with difficulty, having a very bad cold. He praised the good people of Huntly for their enterprise and strong desire to have a beautiful new church in their midst. He mentioned the good work done by Messrs. Ralph and Harris in assisting so materially the building of the church. He also referred to their pastor for his energy and goodwill in the work. He eulogised the previous pastors, Fathers Luck and Croke, who spent themselves in serving their people. Father Patterson also spoke a few words of encouragement, and exhorted them to be generous in laying their alms upon the stone as an act of gratitude for all Providence had done for them. Father O'Gallagher also addressed the gathering. The collection amounted to the handsome sum of £120. His Lordship