

Diocesan News

ARCHDIOCESE OF WELLINGTON

(From our own correspondent.)

August 22.

The net proceeds from the annual social in aid of the Home for Incurables amounted to £230.

Rev. Father Sheridan arrived from Ireland by the *Ionic* on Thursday last. He is visiting New Zealand on account of his health.

The examination of the schools by the Government Inspector was concluded this week. The examination was a very satisfactory one. The children have now dispersed for their holidays.

At the Church of the Sacred Heart on the Feast of the Assumption his Grace the Archbishop conferred Minor Orders on Mr. A. McDonald, son of Sergeant-Major McDonald, of Wanganui, and at the nine o'clock Mass on Sunday morning he received the Order of subdiaconship. Mr. McDonald's parents were present on both occasions.

On the Feast of the Assumption the reception of Miss Emma Evans, daughter of Mr. Evans, of Maarama, Crescent, took place in the convent chapel. His Grace the Archbishop performed the ceremony and also preached. The Very Rev. Father Lewis, V.G., and Rev. Father O'Shea were present in the sanctuary. The young lady's name in religion is Sister Mary Magdalen.

The quarterly conference was held in the deanery of Masterton this week. The following priests left Wellington to attend: Ven. Archdeacon Devoy, Rev. Fathers O'Shea, Holley, Moloney, Clancy (Nelson), and Delach (Otaki). The next conference will be held in the deanery of Nelson.

The Very Rev. Father Lewis, V.G., left on Friday morning for Hastings to assist at the special services to be held on Sunday next in honor of Very Rev. Father Smyth's sacerdotal silver jubilee. The Ven. Archdeacon Devoy, who is at present in the Hawke's Bay district, will also assist. On Tuesday next Rev. Father Smyth will entertain the many visiting clergy who intend to be present to offer him their congratulations.

The soiree held in the Druids' Hall on Wednesday evening, under the management of the ladies of the Sacred Heart Society, proved most successful. There were over 150 couples present. During the evening songs were contributed by Misses Sullivan, White, Segrief, and Daniel. Mr. McLaughlin's orchestra supplied the dance music. An excellent supper was provided. The schools should benefit to the extent of about £40 by the social.

Otaki

(From an occasional correspondent.)

It is with regret that I have to report the death of Hera te Puke, one of the last of the Otaki Catholic pioneers. In her younger days, says her brother, Piripi (Philip), she was a beauty (humarire), and a favorite leader of songs, and dances (hakas), on great occasions. She was an inveterate smoker. She generally used the Maori tobacco (torori), but she never refused good cigars when they were offered to her occasionally. She had always been a most industrious native. Of late years she was seen often at the presbytery, to where she had free access. But she would always make herself useful in the house or in the garden, and on the days of the school picnics she was accustomed to assist the Sisters. No wonder that everybody at Pukekaraka liked the good Hera. Hera was always anxious to make the acquaintance of all the priests and missionaries who were paying a visit to Otaki. She felt quite disappointed if she missed any of them. Baptised in the very beginning of the mission in the church built on the Pukekaraka hill, she had always been a faithful member of the Church. Ever since I came to know her 18 years ago, her fervor as a Catholic had never lessened. When she had the opportunity she would not miss Mass even on week days, and she was always regular at confession and Communion. She was ever ready to bring the young Maori children to be baptised, and to stand as godmother. Three years ago she lost her husband, Perenara (Bernard), and since then had been in receipt of the old age pension. A few months ago, having lost her daughter, Miriana, she grieved very much indeed, and perhaps her sorrow (pouri) brought on the serious illness which attacked her shortly after. Her last days on earth were brightened by the great public demonstration of the Maoris, held on account of the death of Leo XIII., the meeting taking place in the very house where she was lying. She died on August 5th, having received piously the last Sacraments. To the very last she answered

most fervently the prayers said by the priest and the catechist. Her tangi was a very large one, the natives having gathered from most of the villages along the coast as far as Wanganui. On Saturday she had, in the church she had loved so much, the most solemn Catholic funeral ever seen in Otaki. The elaborate decorations made on account of the death of Pope Leo XIII., had been left standing to do honor to our humble but faithful daughter of the Church. The Sisters and the choir (composed mostly of Maoris or half-castes), sang appropriate hymns, and the 'Dead March' was played on the organ. The church (though lately enlarged) was too small to hold the crowd of Maoris who had come to accompany Hera to her last resting place in the Catholic cemetery alongside of her daughter.—R.I.P.

Westport

(From our own correspondent.)

August 15.

In view of the approaching visit of his Grace the Archbishop the children who are preparing for Confirmation are now receiving special evening instructions in St. Canice's Church, by the Rev. Father Malloy.

The Rev. Father Malloy, in referring to your crushing reply to the recent cowardly and blackguardly attack made upon the Holy Church by a local sectarian publication, strongly appealed at the two Masses last Sunday to the congregation to support the 'N.Z. Tablet.' The rev. gentleman said that at the present juncture Catholics were indeed fortunate in having such a powerful and able champion, and he expressed a fervent wish that the 'Tablet' should be in every Catholic home.

At the last meeting of the ladies' committee and others interested in the laudable work of promoting the success of the fancy fair and carnival in aid of the convent building fund, it was decided that the lady collectors meet regularly in the future for the purpose of giving the results of their labors in the town and district. As much remains to be done in connection with the fair, the committee earnestly request the kind assistance and co-operation of as many ladies as possible, so as to enable them to have everything ready in ample time.

The late Mr. Daniel Dennehy, who died at Charleston on August 2, was a staunch and practical Catholic, and his death is deeply regretted throughout the district. The deceased was one of the oldest identities of Charleston, and, having had experience on many of the old-time colonial gold fields, he had many an exciting and interesting reminiscence to tell of the early digging days.

DIOCESE OF CHRISTCHURCH

(From our own correspondent.)

August 24.

Mr. E. O'Connor, president, of the Pro-Cathedral Conference, and Bro. A. H. Blake, President, St. Mary's Conference, Society of St. Vincent de Paul, were recently elected representatives of New Zealand on the Superior Council of the Society in Sydney. Bro. O'Connor has since been appointed a vice-president, 'ex officio,' of the Superior Council.

The Rev. Father O'Connell assisted at St. Mary's on Sunday, and at half-past nine o'clock Mass read the annual report of the local conference of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. The Rev. Father Marnane does not return for another week, but it is understood the entertainment arranged in his honor will take place on the date previously announced.

The executive of the Catholic Club have leased the Hibernian Hall, Barbadoes street, for a term of two years, and it is to be converted into departments suitable for the requirements of the members.

The rehearsals, twice weekly, of the operas to be produced during the season of the 'Polyorama' are being well and regularly attended, very satisfactory progress thus resulting. Several vocalists, quite new to Christchurch and experienced in this special form of entertainment, have been engaged for leading parts, and artists for other branches of operatic work secured. There is every indication that the forthcoming event will rank as one of the best ever promoted here, and thorough success seems assured.

Timaru

(From our own correspondent.)

The church building fund received a substantial increase through the late Mr. Nicholas Quinn, of Makikihi. Mr. Quinn belonged to the Waimate parish, yet he has bequeathed £600 to the proposed new church in Timaru—£300 of that amount to be expended on a peal of bells,