

we find in one of her common-place books a long quotation from the great Catholic preacher, Lacordaire, which evidently helped to shape the frame of mind in which her work was done. 'I desire for a considerable time only to lead a life of obscurity and toil, for the purpose of allowing whatever I may have received of God to ripen, and turning it some day to the glory of His name. Nowadays people are too much in a hurry both to produce and consume themselves. It is only in retirement, in silence, in meditation, that are formed the men who are called to exercise an influence on society.'

Thus, although Florence Nightingale was never received into the Catholic Church, we have some reason for claiming her as almost one of our own. The Church had more to do in shaping her character than any of the Protestant denominations, and she frankly recognised that she owed it much, though perhaps she herself hardly realised how much.

Diocesan News

ARCHDIOCESE OF WELLINGTON

(From our own correspondent.)

May 29.

His Grace Archbishop O'Shea left last Saturday morning on a brief visit to the Taranaki district.

The St. Anne's Ladies' Club held a very successful euchre party at St. Anne's Hall last Wednesday evening.

The parishioners of Thorndon held a most successful social, in aid of the education fund, last Wednesday evening in the Sydney Street Schoolroom. There was a large attendance, including the Rev. Fathers W. T. Tymons, Adm., and Smyth.

'Should trial by jury be abolished?' was the subject of a debate by members of the Catholic Literary and Debating Society in St. Patrick's Hall, last Tuesday evening. Mr. G. Dee presided, and the Rev. Father Venning, S.M., was present as director. Mr. J. Grant took the affirmative, and Mr. R. Duffy the negative, both stating their case with considerable ability. A general discussion followed, and at the conclusion the chairman reviewed the evening's work, pointing out certain defects. Father Venning also spoke, and congratulated members on the excellent showing they had made.

The regrettable railway catastrophe last week claimed one of our Catholic young men in the person of Mr. Geo. N. Grimstone, as one of its victims. Mr. Grimstone occupied the position of Registrar of the Tokerau Maori Land Board District, a position to which he was appointed from the Native Land Department at Wellington a few weeks ago. The Tokerau headquarters are at Auckland. He was formerly secretary to Judge Palmer, of the Native Land Court. Mr. Grimstone had been on a short visit to Wellington, and was returning to his duties at Auckland. He was a son of the late Mr. Grimstone, who for many years was secretary of the Wellington Racing Club, and was himself much interested in sports of various kinds. He was educated at the Marist Brothers' School, and St. Patrick's College. The interment took place to-day at Karori. Mr. Grimstone leaves a widow and six children to mourn their loss.—R.I.P.

Representatives from ten different Catholic societies met at the Catholic Federation rooms last Thursday evening for the purpose of forming an inter-Catholic Societies' Debating Union. Mr. P. D. Hoskins, who presided, explained that there were some thirty or forty Catholic sodalities, societies, and clubs in existence in this city, and the Wellington District Hibernian Council thought that the time was opportune for the establishment of a debating union. Such a union would have an excellent effect on the young men and women of the different societies, as it would enable them to improve themselves by studying the subjects chosen for debates. After some

discussion it was resolved to establish the union, and a sub-committee was formed for the purpose of drawing up a detailed report of the lines on which the union should work and submit it to a meeting to be held next week, when officers will be elected.

The second annual meeting of the Celtic Club was held last Thursday evening, Dr. Cahill presiding. The annual report, which was adopted, stated that the session was opened on June 6 by a lecture entitled 'The Celtic Race and its Influence on British Life and Letters.' The evening was so successful that, by special request, the lecture was repeated on July 9. Professor H. McKenzie, M.A., of Victoria College, was the lecturer on both occasions. On August 1, Mr. E. Tregear lectured on 'Celtic Lore and Customs.' 'Charles Stewart Parnell' was the next subject, the speaker being Mr. P. Galvin, who delivered a comprehensive and learned address. In January last the celebrated Irish tenor, Mr. John McCormack, was entertained at supper by the club. The attendance of members has been very satisfactory. The balance-sheet showed a credit of £18 13s 7d, which, considering the club's limited resources, was considered satisfactory. The thanks of the club were due to those who had given lectures, and also to the musical director, Mr. Blick, and those who assisted him at the various musical entertainments provided. Mr. M. O'Kane moved—'That the annual subscription to the club be reduced to ten shillings a year. This was seconded by Mr. J. McGrath, and carried. The election of officers resulted as follows:—President, Professor H. McKenzie; vice-presidents, Dr. A. Martin, Dr. Cahill, Messrs. G. Winder, Martin Kennedy, C. W. Hendrey, P. J. Griffin, and A. A. Corrigan; secretary, Mr. M. O'Kane; treasurer, Mr. J. F. O'Leary; executive committee—Messrs. J. J. McGrath, C. W. Hendrey, F. McParland, J. Breen. On the motion of Mr. J. McGrath, the retiring president (Dr. Cahill), who did not seek re-election, was accorded a hearty vote of thanks for past services.

DIOCESE OF CHRISTCHURCH

(From our own correspondent.)

June 1.

The members of the Marist Old Boys' Association express deep gratitude to the president, Sir George Clifford, Bart, who has donated a quantity of suitable furniture for the new rooms, opened last week in Manchester street. Centrally and conveniently situated and comfortably fitted up, the club is evidently in for a long period of usefulness in the interests of Catholic young men.

Mild, but heartfelt, rejoicing was indulged in when it became known that the Home Rule Bill had passed its third reading in the British House of Commons, indicating at length the realisation of the hopes and prayers of all true Irishmen and women, and countless lovers of the dear, suffering Isle of the West. The green flag of Ireland proudly waved above the Hibernian Hall, and all the Catholic schools were granted a half-holiday, to mark the happy event. At the Convent Schools, Lower High street, the children sang heartily 'God save Ireland' and other patriotic songs, whilst green ribbons floated from the convent windows.

Whilst passing through Christchurch on her way to Auckland, Miss Callan, the late energetic diocesan secretary of the Catholic Federation, Dunedin, called upon several officers of the executive of the local Diocesan Council, who were particularly pleased to meet a young lady who has shown such praiseworthy zeal and interest in a Catholic movement which is evidently destined to accomplish great things in this Dominion. We trust that Miss Callan's example, in so ably filling an exacting office for a time, will inspire others to imitate her, and thus show that men alone need not monopolise every position. In Federation matters in this city, the indications in this regard are entirely satisfactory, some of the most energetic members of the Federation being ladies.