

Kaikoura

The members of the choir of the Church of the Sacred Heart were on Wednesday afternoon royally entertained by Mr. William Smith (says the local *Star* of March 31), at his beautiful residence, Ludstone. Opportunity was taken at the gathering to make a presentation to Mrs. Staunton, on the occasion of her departure to the Old Country. This lady, who is the possessor of a fine rich soprano voice, acted as leader of the choir during her residence in Kaikoura, and her services were held in high appreciation. On behalf of the members of the choir, Mr. Smith, in the unavoidable absence of the Rev. Father Johnston, expressed their heartfelt regret, and regret of all, that Mrs. Staunton's visit to England was the cause of her severing her connection with them, and he voiced their thanks for her able assistance. In bidding her Godspeed and a safe and pleasant journey, Mr. Smith begged Mrs. Staunton to accept a beautiful travelling rug from the choir as a memento of esteem, in union with the warm feelings with which it was offered. Mr. John Peoples, as senior member of the choir, spoke of the splendid work done by the guest of the afternoon, and Miss Burland read an address from the choir. Feeling acknowledgment of the gift and of the good wishes expressed was made. Mrs. Staunton left for Lyttelton yesterday, to catch the Orvietto at Sydney next month.

DIOCESE OF CHRISTCHURCH

(From our own correspondent.)

April 10.

A site has been acquired by St. Joseph's Conference of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul (Mission to Catholic Seamen) for the erection of a hall and assembly rooms, close to the church at Lyttelton.

The Rev. Father Kimbell, S.M. (Marist Missionary), who is resting, and recruiting his health at the Hammer Springs, has much improved, and hopes soon to resume his duties.

A fortnight ago his Lordship the Bishop received from an anonymous subscriber a sum of £10, and shortly before he received, also anonymously, £25 evidently from the same generous giver towards the Cathedral fund, which he desires to acknowledge with sincere thanks.

When resuming his episcopal visitation of the diocese, taking in the South Canterbury parochial district, his Lordship the Bishop intends after Easter to commence at Fairlie, visiting also the Albury and Cave portions of the Fairlie parish. Whilst at the Cave his Lordship will lay the foundation stone of a church to be erected there.

His Lordship the Bishop, who had been spending a short time at Hammer, returned to the city at the end of the week. Whilst there, besides the daily Masses celebrated by his Lordship, Mass was celebrated in the local church at 10 o'clock on last Sunday week by the Rev. Father Kimbell, S.M., at which the Bishop preached.

On Sunday last (Palm Sunday) the palms were blessed in the Cathedral by his Lordship the Bishop, who was afterwards assisted in their distribution by several of the clergy. In the ceremony his Lordship was attended by the Rev. Father Creagh, C.S.S.R., as assistant priest, the Rev. Father Lynch, C.S.S.R., deacon, the Rev. Dr. Kennedy, sub-deacon, and Very Rev. Father Price, Adm., master of ceremonies. The 11 o'clock Mass followed, when a mission sermon was preached by the Rev. Father Whelan, C.S.S.R. At 3.30 o'clock in the afternoon his Lordship the Bishop administered the Sacrament of Confirmation to 39 candidates, some of whom were recent converts. The Very Rev. Father Price, Adm., and Rev. Dr. Kennedy, were in attendance.

The mission conducted by the Redemptorist Fathers in the Cathedral was continued during the week with extraordinary success, crowded congregations being the rule. A special course of sermons was delivered in the evenings. On Wednesday evening the second great solemnity of the mission, that in honor of the Blessed Virgin, was observed, when a special altar, erected in the sanctuary and surmounted with a beautiful statue, was tastefully adorned with floral tributes, and brilliantly illuminated. The Rev. Father Creagh was the occasional preacher, and delivered an impressive discourse on 'The Mother of Our Saviour.' On Sunday evening in the presence of a great congregation, the mission was solemnly closed, when the Rev. Father Creagh, C.S.S.R., preached. The subject of his discourse was 'Perseverance,' and at the conclusion he imparted the Papal Blessing. Masses for the repose of the souls of the faithful departed were celebrated this (Monday) morning by the missionaries, who also preached briefly on the efficacy of prayer and good works for the suffering souls in Purgatory. The congregations were large, and nearly all present received Holy Communion.

Addressing a crowded congregation in the Cathedral at the close of the Mission on last Sunday evening, the Rev. Father Creagh, C.S.S.R., said he had assisted at Missions in all parts of the world, but at none had he witnessed such wondrous things wrought by the Grace of God as had been manifested during the past three weeks in this city. What at first was intended to be a renewal

mission had almost from the start developed into a general one. On the previous Sunday morning, upwards of a thousand men and youths of the parish approached the Holy Table. Each morning during the week the altar rails were thronged, and at the special eight o'clock Mass on the present Sunday a never-to-be-forgotten sight was witnessed. All one side of the Cathedral was occupied by women and the other by men. Thirteen hundred of the congregation approached the Holy Table, whilst 300 observed a similar duty at the seven o'clock Mass, and many more at the 9.30 o'clock Mass. Altogether ten thousand Holy Communions were received during the three weeks' mission. Such excellent results were mainly attributable (he said) to the splendid organisation of the parish and the devotion of his Lordship the Bishop and resident clergy. This he enlarged upon in eloquent terms, and incidentally referred to the noble Cathedral—the life work of, and enduring monument to the zeal and foresight of an illustrious prelate. The fervent prayers of the Redemptorist Fathers, and he trusted those also of his Lordship's flock, would be that the celebration of his Lordship's silver episcopal jubilee in the near future would be marked by the greatest of all the ceremonies of the Church—the consecration of the sacred edifice.

Timaru

(From our own correspondent.)

April 10.

The Timaru Dairy Company has practically ceased operations. This is the second dairy company in the district that has been unsuccessful.

The members of St. John's Tennis Club, who have had a very successful season, have accepted an invitation from the St. Mary's Club, Ashburton, for a match on Easter Monday. The Timaru players are keenly looking forward to the outing, and are expecting a more even match than when these teams met in Timaru on December 16.

A representative gathering, numbering about seventy persons, assembled in the boys' school yesterday afternoon, at the invitation of the Rev. Father Tubman, S.M., to take steps to give the Irish delegates a fitting reception in Timaru. The Rev. Father Tubman opened the proceedings with a short explanation of the object of the gathering, and expressed the hope that the 1911 visit would be as successful as the last one over three years ago. He suggested electing a committee to take charge of all the arrangements. This was at once done, with the following result:—President, Dr. Loughnan; treasurer, Mr. D. Mahoney; executive, Messrs. T. Harvey, M. Mullins, W. Gillespie, J. O'Rourke, T. Cronin, W. Angland, Kane, J. Sullivan, and the office-bearers: general committee, all those present, with power to add. The secretary was instructed to write to representative men throughout the district inviting their co-operation. A letter was received from Mr. Martin Kennedy (Wellington), stating that the delegates would address a meeting in Timaru, and enclosing subscription lists. The Rev. Father Tubman handed in the initial donation to the fund, £5 5s from the priests of the parish. At a meeting of the executive held immediately afterwards it was resolved to hold a public meeting to go into the whole question of the delegates' reception and the collection of funds, and also to give all interested in the movement an opportunity of being present and perhaps helping on one of the committees.

Ashburton

(From our own correspondent.)

April 10.

The weekly meetings of the Catholic Young Men's Club continue to be well attended. On Tuesday week the meeting was presided over by Mr. S. Madden, and the programme for the evening took the form of a debate, 'Secular versus Religious Education.' Messrs. J. Moison and W. Cunningham, in very able addresses, led for religious education. These speakers were followed by Messrs T. M. Brophy and M. J. Moriarty, as champions of secular education. A very spirited debate eventuated in a victory for the religious education party.

As a consequence of recent rain, the aspect of the country in and around Ashburton has greatly improved within the past few weeks. Farmers are now hopeful of having feed for their stock during the winter, provided we have no early frosts.

The local Convent of the Sacred Heart is now in the hands of the painters. The completion of this work will greatly improve the appearance of the building.

Sincere regret was felt when the news reached Ashburton that Mrs. Julia Nohelty, who was on a holiday visit to Dunedin, had died rather suddenly in that town. The late Mrs. Nohelty was held in high esteem by a large circle of friends. The funeral was largely attended. The Rev. Father O'Hare officiated at the graveside.—R.I.P.

WANTED KNOWN—That Bill-heads, Circulars, Cards, Programmes, and General Printing of every description are executed at the *Tablet* Office. Moderate rates.