

tractor for the woodwork. The approximate cost of the building is estimated at £650, and given good weather the contractors hope to have it ready for the opening in about four months' time.

The Ceremony.

At 3 o'clock the grounds presented an animated appearance. For the previous half-hour the numbers were being gradually augmented by the arrival of pedestrians, riders, and drivers in every sort of vehicle. The weather was most suitable for the occasion, being bright and surprisingly warm in the winter's sun. A roofed platform had been erected close to the foundations, and to this his Lordship was conducted by the Rev. Father Le Petit. Here he was received by a deputation of the parishioners, headed by Mr. W. Barry, who read the following address:—

'Your Lordship,—We the Catholics of this part of the extensive parish of Fairlie, extend to your Lordship a most cordial welcome on this most auspicious occasion. It affords us no small amount of pleasure to extend to you an invitation to lay the foundation stone of yet another church in our flourishing district, a proof that our holy Faith is making rapid progress in our midst, and that its many divine consolations are being sincerely appreciated by its numerous adherents. During the years of your fruitful episcopal ministration you have seen the mustard seed of the Gospel grow and expand in our midst. We are glad to say that this progress is due in no small measure to the energy of our zealous and devoted pastor. Rev. Father Le Petit, and the practical sympathy shown to us on all occasions by our fellow-men of other denominations. In the near future we hope to have the pleasure of another visit from your Lordship, to dedicate to the service of the Almighty this beautiful church, the foundation stone of which you blessed to-day. Whilst thanking your Lordship for the many proofs of zeal which you have shown in our spiritual interests during the quarter of a century that it has pleased God to allow you to rule over us, we earnestly pray that you may be granted length of days to bring the great work of your episcopacy, the Catholic Cathedral, to a successful issue, and that in the near future, untrammelled by debt, you may be able to realise the joy of your heart, its consecration to the service of the Almighty. Begging your blessing, we have pleasure in signing ourselves your obedient children.—William Barry, Michael Coughlan, Patrick O'Connor.'

His Lordship's Reply.

His Lordship, on receiving the address, replied as follows:—'I thank you most sincerely for most cordially welcoming me in your midst, and for the expressions of goodwill you have used in this beautiful address, which has been prompted by a spirit of faith and gratitude. Like yourselves I rejoice to be amongst you on this auspicious occasion to lay the foundation stone of the third church which it has been my privilege to place in this parish. Twenty-two years ago I came here before there was any presbytery in Fairlie, with the predecessor of the present zealous rector of Timaru, to lay the foundation stone of the church in Fairlie. We came to Albury the same evening, stayed the night there, celebrating Mass the next morning. There was no thought of a church here. Eighteen months ago your devoted pastor told me it was your wish and his to erect a temple to the Most High here, and I readily gave my blessing to the undertaking. I thank you for your good wishes, which are so many earnest prayers that God may spare me not only so as to fulfil the duties of my office, but so that I may have the consolation of seeing the splendid Cathedral in Christchurch free from debt. It would not, however, be gracious for me to speak to you of this liability now.

His Lordship then delivered an impressive discourse from the following text:—'Behold I will lay a stone in the foundations of Zion. A tried stone, a corner stone, a precious stone founded in the foundation' (Isaiah, xxviii., 16). In concluding he said:—'I must ask you to contribute according to your means to-day. May it be necessary to say, as we are told in Scripture, that it had once been said at a collection for the temple, "Enough, Enough."

His Lordship, assisted by the Rev. Fathers Le Petit and Hyland, then laid the foundation stone. In the stone, which is a handsome one presented and inscribed by Mr. S. McBride, of Timaru, were inserted hermetically sealed copies of the local papers, *N.Z. Tablet*, coins of the realm, and a parchment inscribed with the names of the present King, Pope, and Bishop of the diocese.

In the meantime the collectors were busy, and at the conclusion, before pronouncing the solemn blessing, his Lordship announced that the amount gathered had reached the splendid total of £80. He thanked most sincerely on behalf of the devoted parish priest and himself, all who had contributed, particularly their non-Catholic friends, who had always been most generous in their help. This amount, with the £200 already collected by the Rev. Father Le Petit, makes a respectable sum in hand for the work.

Special mention must be made of Messrs. W. Barry, M. Coughlan, and J. O'Connor, for the self-sacrificing assistance they have given towards bringing matters to their present position.

The Rev. Fathers Tubman and Smyth (Timaru) and Rev. Father Fay (Temuka), also assisted during the afternoon.

CATHOLIC CLUBS

QUEENSTOWN.

(From the club correspondent.)

There was a fair attendance at the usual weekly meeting of the St. Joseph's Literary and Debating Club, held in the schoolroom on May 18. The business of the evening was a debate, 'Should Catholic schools receive State aid?' The debate, which was most interesting, went in favor of the affirmative by five votes to one. Some very good speeches were given by both sides, but the supporters of the negative were outclassed by their opponents. The programme for next Thursday is composition papers by Mr. F. Fitzpatrick and Mr. J. McNeill.

OAMARU.

(From our club correspondent.)

May 22.

The winter session of St. Patrick's Club was opened last evening under most auspicious circumstances, when the club rooms were crowded by a happy and enthusiastic gathering of members, lady friends, and visitors. The president, Mr. John Cagney, in a characteristically happy speech, welcomed the ladies and visitors on behalf of the club, and wished each and every one a very enjoyable evening's recreation. Progressive euchre was then entered into with vim, and an exciting tournament occupied the young people for a couple of hours. The ladies' first prize was won by Mrs. J. Saunders, and the gentlemen's by Mr. Jas. Molloy, and in presenting the trophies the president complimented the winners on their consistent play. Consolation prizes were awarded Miss Suie Cooney and Mr. Jas. Cooney, jun. An unlimited supply of light refreshments was then dispensed and much appreciated. The evening's enjoyment was greatly enhanced by some delightful items. Mr. Saunders sang 'Idle words,' and in response to an undeniable encore gave 'The maid of Malabar.' Mr. Barry, in his usual good style, recited 'The game of life,' and as an encore a typical Australian poem. Mr. Jas. Roxburgh sang 'The lighthouse bell,' and received a well-merited encore. The president expressed his great pleasure at seeing such an immense gathering present at the club's invitation, and hoped it would be a forerunner of many equally successful nights at the club during the session. The united singing of 'Auld lang syne' and cheers for the performers closed a capital evening's amusement. The arrangements were in the hands of Messrs. Birss and Collins, and could not have been improved upon.

GORE.

(From the club correspondent.)

May 20.

The Gore Catholic Young Men's Club opened the session on Monday, May 1, when there were about thirty members present. The following officers were elected:—President, Very Rev. Father O'Donnell; vice-presidents, Rev. Father Tobin, Dr. McIlroy, Messrs. D. L. Poppelwell, O'Kelly, K. O'Connor, and R. Ferris; executive, Messrs. Francis, Green, Bailey, Hoffman, and Sweeney. The meeting was very enthusiastic. The weekly meeting of the club was held on Monday, May 15, when a large number of members were present. The business for the evening was that every member should either deliver a speech, sing a song, or give a recitation. Rev. Father Tobin opened with a short address, and good speeches were made by Mr. Francis ('Travel'), Mr. P. Daly ('Catholic Schools'), Mr. T. Daly ('The benefits to be derived from Catholic clubs'). Recitations were given by Messrs. Lynch, Wells, and P. Sexton. The business for the next meeting will be a question-box.

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