

On Wednesday evening a very successful social gathering was held in the Alexandra Hall under the auspices of the Children of Mary. The attendance exceeded expectations, considering the unpleasant weather. Several of the local clergy attended. All present expressed themselves thoroughly satisfied with the arrangements made for their enjoyment by a hard-working committee of which Miss M. Boyce was secretary.

The quarterly meeting of the St. Vincent de Paul Society took place last Sunday at St. Anthony's Church, Brooklyn, and, in spite of the very boisterous weather, was very largely attended, all the city conferences being represented. The meeting was presided over by Bro. Martin Kennedy, K.S.G., and among those present were the Very Rev. Father O'Shea, V.G., and Rev. Father Venning, S.M. Reports from the various conferences in the circumscription were received, and disclosed that good work had been done.

The recently-elected committee for the Te Aro parish have lost no time in formulating a scheme for the reduction of the parish debt and for the completion of the schools. The smallest weekly or monthly contribution will be received, and envelopes for the purpose will be distributed to those willing to assist. Mr. J. J. L. Burke (president of the H.A.C.B. Society) has been appointed secretary to the committee.

The concert organised to raise funds for the recently-formed Drum and Fife Band, in connection with St. Anne's Cadets, will take place at St. Thomas' Hall on Tuesday evening. The band will appear for the first time in public under the conductorship of Mr. F. L. Dean, the well-known bandmaster. Judging by the enthusiasm of the committee, a very successful entertainment is anticipated.

On Thursday Messrs. Hazleton, Donovan, and Redmond were, with some friends, the guests of Mr. George Winder at a luncheon he gave in their honor at the Royal Oak Hotel. In the afternoon they accompanied Mr. Winder to his beautiful home at Maranui, where they spent a pleasant afternoon.

The menu cards for the banquet tendered to the Irish envoys by the Hibernian Society last Thursday evening were very artistic. The front bore a shamrock leaf in which the photos of Messrs. Hazleton, Donovan, and Redmond were placed. These cards have been retained by many as souvenirs of the Irish envoys' visit, and a good number obtained the autographs of the envoys on the cards which made them more valuable.

St. Vincent's Cadet Corps celebrated the anniversary of its foundation by a dinner in Godber's rooms on Wednesday evening. The function, which was a great success, was attended by the members of the corps in full force, and by some 20 visitors. Mr. E. J. Fitzgibbon spoke at length on the improvement made by the corps since its foundation. The shooting medal presented by ex-Captain McNamara was won by Lance-Corporal C. Tandy, who was very popularly received by his comrades.

The Irish delegates—Messrs. Redmond, Hazleton, and Donovan—have often remarked upon the warmth of the welcome which has been accorded to them in New Zealand. This was reflected in the cordial send-off which they were given on leaving for Sydney by the Manuka on Friday evening. Standing on the wharf were some 300 or 400 friends and sympathisers, including Sir James Carroll, Mr. Martin Kennedy, Rev. Father Hickson, and representatives of the Hibernian Society. As the gangway was taken in the clarion notes of a cornet began the refrain of 'Say au revoir, but not good-bye,' which was at once taken up by the crowd and sung lustily. Following this the cornetist broke into 'Come back to Erin,' which was also sung by the impromptu choir on the wharf. Then, as the steamer began to back away, they sang 'Killarney,' 'God save Ireland,' 'Auld lang syne,' and finally 'God save the King.'

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DIocese OF CHRISTCHURCH

(From our own correspondent.)

July 31.

The ordinary fortnightly meeting of St. Patrick's branch of the H.A.C.B. Society was convened for last Monday evening. After passing sick pay to fifteen members, the meeting was adjourned out of respect to the memory of the late Bro. Edward O'Connor.

At the combined meeting of the Arch-Confraternity of the Blessed Sacrament in the Cathedral on last Tuesday evening, the Rev. Father Creagh, C.S.S.R., addressed both divisions which were very largely represented. He expressed the great pleasure it gave him to have the opportunity of speaking to them, and which was much enhanced in witnessing the remarkably large number now associated in the confraternity.

Members of the Marist Brothers' Old Boys' Association (to the number of 150), school cadets (70), and senior cadets (40) paraded and marched to the half past nine o'clock Mass at the Cathedral, where they approached the Holy Table. The Very Rev. Father Price, Adm. (spiritual director of the association) was celebrant. After Mass the whole company, together with representatives of other Catholic societies, assembled at breakfast in the boys' school.

The following extracts regarding the recent examination of the Marist Brothers' School are taken from the report of the Inspectors of the North Canterbury Board of Education: 'This school presents substantial courses, and in a considerable portion of the programme the results are very creditable. The pupils are thoroughly interested, and under examination made good use of their opportunities. Responses were for the most part well rendered, and gave evidence that subjects had been intelligently taught. A cadet corps has been established, and military drill and physical exercise form a part of the regular routine. Order, discipline, manners, and behaviour are good. The members of the staff seem generally anxious for the welfare of the school, while the headmaster, who has recently taken charge, gives evidence of considerable teaching and managing ability. In the upper classes (VI., V., IV.) oral work is mainly good, while the written tests were for the most part satisfactorily attempted. Individual cases of careless work will require attention. The lower classes respond well in oral work but show weakness in written work.'

Death has been startlingly busy in our midst of late. First we had, a few short weeks ago to deplore the demise of the Very Rev. Dean Ginaty, and last week that of Mr. E. O'Connor, Church secretary of the Cathedral, and Mr. T. E. Taylor, M.P. for Christchurch North, and Mayor of the city, all three of whom were on the platform at the recent meeting of the Irish envoys, and apparently in the full enjoyment of health and vigor. Nothing short of consternation was occasioned in the city at the death of Mr. Taylor. He was one of the best-known men in the Dominion, and certainly crowded more strenuous endeavour into a comparatively brief life than any other man in this country. Mr. R. Hazleton, M.P., who became a warm personal friend of the late Mr. Taylor, wired from Wellington, on the eve of the envoys' departure, the following message of sympathy to Mrs. Taylor:—'Shocked beyond expression at tragic news of the death of your distinguished husband. Feel it as a personal loss. My colleagues join me in offering you our sorrowing sympathy.' Christchurch has never before witnessed any sight approaching that of the funeral of the late Mr. Taylor, on last Sunday afternoon, which demonstrated beyond any possible doubt the intense affection felt for him. He was indeed the idol of the people. His Lordship Bishop Grimes and Catholic community were officially represented at the funeral by the Very Rev. Dean Regnault, S.M. (Provincial), and Very Rev. Father Price, Adm.

In paying a tribute to the memory of the late Mr. T. E. Taylor, M.P., in the Cathedral on Sunday, the Very Rev. Father Price, Adm., said: 'To-day Christchurch mourns the loss of her chief magistrate. It was his endeavour to fulfil, in the most complete manner he was able, his duty as Mayor of this city, which