

their scheme is fatal to its success, and not one of them is game to face a public debate or a controversy on questions of principle. The reason is plain: their agitation is devoid of principle. If that be not the case, then it behoves Mr. Davies to face Mr. Scott's challenge and demonstrate to those of us Protestants who are opposed to State interference in religion, and who are the descendants of men who died at the stake for their faith rather than allow the State to prevail over it, how we can remain Protestants and turn our backs upon the principle contained in the confession of faith as quoted by Mr. Scott. I ask true Protestants in Otago to note the reverend gentleman's reply, or, if he does not reply, to note that fact, and draw their conclusions. We demand from the Protestant clergy who are out in this campaign, and who alone are responsible for the controversies, more than a mere shrug of the shoulder and a contemptuous expression. Either they must face and demolish the Scott, Caughley, and Ashford arguments or stand convicted of inability to do so. They have made the matter an affair of State. They have appealed to the people to take over religion. And the people demand that such an appeal be backed up by a frank and open discussion of the pros and cons, and not by a system of sniping warfare from behind a curtain of ecclesiastical privilege. Protestant ministers are only made like ourselves.—I am, etc.,

J. J. RAMSAY.

'Alexandra, April 28.'

## Diocesan News

### ARCHDIOCESE OF WELLINGTON

(From our own correspondent.)

May 3.

The Rev. Father Jas. Tymons, S.M., who has been on an extended visit to the Old Country, returned by the Moeraki on Wednesday last.

Mr. T. O'Rourke, who has been clerk of the court at Otaki for many years, left on Thursday by the Rotorua for an extended visit to the Old Country.

The Children of Mary, Thorndon, held a euchar party on Thursday evening. The boisterous weather, however, interfered to a great extent with the attendance.

On last Sunday special devotions in connection with the archconfraternity of the Holy Rosary were held at St. Anne's. The Rev. Father Gondringer, S.M., of St. Patrick's College, preached.

Arrangements are well in hand for the schools' social, which is to be held in St. Anne's Hall on May 28. The proceeds are being devoted to the recently established Wellington Catholic education fund.

At the annual meeting of the N.Z. Competitions Society a vote of thanks was passed to the Rev. Father Hickson, S.M., for the valuable services which he has rendered the society since its inception in Wellington.

In municipal politics Mr. J. E. Fitzgerald was re-elected for a seat on the City Council. Mr. W. Perry put up a good fight, but suffered defeat, as also did Mr. D. Moriarty. Mr. Fitzgerald lost his seat on the Harbor Board, and Mr. M. F. Bourke, who was also a candidate, suffered defeat.

The funeral of the late Mr. R. A. Marshall, an old and respected resident of Wellington, took place on Monday, the interment being made in the Karori cemetery. The Rev. Father J. Herring, S.M., celebrated a Requiem Mass at St. Mary of the Angels', and officiated at the graveside.—R.I.P.

The New Century Hall was the scene of a 'send-off social' last Tuesday night to Mr. C. J. McErlean, one of our most popular young Catholic men, on the occasion of his transfer to Napier. A large number of friends were present, and on their behalf Mr. C. Gamble presented Mr. McErlean with a travelling bag.

The school committee elections last Monday brought forth several of our Catholic men as candidates. Messrs.

B. Doherty, J. Hyland, D. R. Lawlor, M. O'Kane, R. Cook, and H. R. Power were returned for Te Aro, Mr. J. Hyland topping the poll. At Mount Cook Messrs. H. A. Parsonage and B. Ellis were successful. At Wellington South Messrs. J. E. Gamble, P. J. Kelleher and O. Goff were returned, whilst Messrs. T. P. Gill and O. Krohn secured seats on the Island Bay committee. At Eastbourne Messrs. F. P. Kelly and R. A. Keenan were elected, Mr. Kelly topping the poll.

### ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY.

The centenary of Frederic Ozanam, the founder of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, was observed by the society in Wellington with due solemnity on last Sunday. At St. Joseph's Church, Buckle street, the members received Holy Communion in a body at the 7.30 o'clock Mass, which was celebrated by the Very Rev. Dean O'Shea, S.M., V.G. In addressing the congregation the Very Rev. Dean reminded them of the day which was being celebrated. In 1813 Frederic Ozanam was born, and proving himself to be a clever scholar he was sent to college, and at an early age was appointed a professor of the University of Paris. It was whilst at the University that he saw the need of the association which he subsequently founded, and which to-day is world wide, and that society is the St. Vincent de Paul Society. He was nettled by the taunts of his fellow-students of the University, who argued that Christianity was no longer doing any good to mankind. He proved Christianity was not dead, and by his efforts he and a few companions founded a society of laymen to look after the poor. Frederic Ozanam proved that one's personal efforts on behalf of the poor produced far greater results than donations. That day therefore the members of the society were celebrating the centenary of their illustrious founder in a most fitting way by receiving Holy Communion in a body, and by holding a special meeting in the afternoon. The Very Rev. Dean impressed on the members assembled to do the work of the society from supernatural motives, and not from a humanitarian standpoint. No work, he said, was foreign to the society—visiting the sick, the hospitals, and prisons, all came within its scope, and there was no distinction in race or creed. It was a matter of congratulation, therefore, for us to celebrate the centenary of such a great and good man. Frederic Ozanam, though but 40 years of age when he died, had shown what a lot can be done in a life so short. He (Dean O'Shea), therefore, appealed to the congregation to take a more active interest in the society, and reminded them of one of Frederic Ozanam's sayings that he wanted to assure his faith pure by works of charity, as many as possible therefore should become active and honorary members. Others, who could not spare the time, could assist by donations, and the wealthy could greatly assist by remembering the society in drawing up their wills. In conclusion, the Dean reminded the congregation of the holy death of the society's saintly founder, who, when passing away, was asked by his confessor whether he had any fears, to which Ozanam replied, 'Why should I fear the God Whom I loved so much during my life.' It was a matter therefore of great gratification that they had such a grand society in their midst, and he congratulated the members on the great work accomplished by the society in Wellington during the past few years, and he wished it every success.

In the afternoon there was a large meeting at St. Patrick's Hall, presided over by Bro. B. Ellis, vice-president of the Particular Council. There were also present the Very Rev. Dean O'Shea, S.M., V.G., Rev. Fathers Barra, Hurley, and J. Herring. Reports from the city and country conferences were read. Wanganui was proving to be a particularly active and live conference, and the report disclosed that a wonderful amount of work had been accomplished. Napier, too, was doing excellent work. Bro. Ellis in addressing the meeting, said he was pleased to see the members taking such an active interest in the centenary of their worthy founder.

The Very Rev. Dean O'Shea also addressed the meeting, congratulating the society on the work accomplished.

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