

which you supplied to the papers enabled me to know what was laid to my charge, and the *Post* allowed me to blow it to pieces that evening. On the same day, Bishop Sprott was generous enough to say that he accepted my contradiction, yet four days have been allowed to pass without a word from you—the proud engineer of the whole business—by way of apology, withdrawal, qualification, or explanation to the man you had wronged, or to the public you had misled. The people of Wellington are amazed that a leader in a great religious movement should thus show himself blind to what has hitherto been regarded in this country as one of the fundamental obligations of honorable controversy. You have come to us from Australia as the advocate of a special system of religious instruction. As to the merits of that system public opinion in this country is much divided. But there is, I think, something like unanimity among us that some of the controversial methods which you have brought with you might, with advantage, have been left on the other side of the water.

'As you decline to make amends in the usual way, may I ask that you will at least furnish me with a list of the churches, organisations, and newspapers to whom you supplied the defamatory matter, which I have exploded to the satisfaction of the people of Wellington, in order that, to the best of my ability, I may follow it up with the same treatment? And even if this modest boon is denied me may I ask you to remind your executive that their honor is concerned in this business no less than yours and mine, and that they share the moral responsibility equally with yourself if they allow the matter to rest where it is?—I am, etc.,

'A. R. ATKINSON.

'Wellington, August 22.'

Diocesan News

ARCHDIOCESE OF WELLINGTON

(From our own correspondent.)

August 30.

The Catholic Club held a most successful euchre party at St. Patrick's Hall last Wednesday evening.

A social in aid of the school funds will take place in St. Anne's Hall, Wellington South, on Wednesday, September 10.

On last Tuesday evening, the Island Bay parishioners held a very successful social at the Tutanekai Hall, Berhampore.

Very Rev. Father O'Connell, S.M., Superior of the Marist Missioners, celebrated the 9 and 10.30 o'clock Masses last Sunday at St. Anne's, and also preached.

Mr. Bernard F. Pago, the new City Organist, who was selected in England from a large number of applicants, is a Catholic. He has been organist for some years past at some of the Catholic churches of England, his last post being in the Carmelite Church, London. Mr. Pago is married and has two children. His first public recital takes place to-night in the Town Hall.

The Ven. Archdeacon Devoy, S.M., the popular pastor of St. Anne's, Wellington South, celebrated the 36th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood last Sunday, and was the recipient of many congratulatory messages.

His Grace Archbishop O'Shea and the Rev. Father A. T. Herring, S.M., left for the south last evening—the former for Waimate to bless the Waimate church bells, and the latter to Temuka to join the Marist Missionary Staff.

His Grace Archbishop O'Shea celebrated his first Pontifical High Mass last Sunday at St. Joseph's Church, Buckle street, Very Rev. Dean Smyth (Greenmeadows) being assistant priest, Rev. Father Schaefer deacon, Rev. Father Barra subdeacon, and Rev. Father Hurley master of ceremonies. Rev. Father Hurley

preached a fine sermon appropriate to the occasion. In the evening his Grace administered for the first time the Sacrament of Confirmation to a large number of children and adults. The church was crowded, and his Grace preached an eloquent sermon.

Wanganui

(From our own correspondent.)

The members and friends of the St. Vincent de Paul Society (Aramoho branch) paid their second visit to the Jubilee Home on Thursday, August 21. A very enjoyable programme of musical and elocutionary items was given. A special feature of the gathering was the presence of many in fancy costume. At the conclusion appropriate speeches were given by the president and secretary, after which the visitors were entertained at supper by Mr. and Mrs. Allen.

It was a happy throng which crowded the Opera House to overflowing on the occasion of the annual entertainment by the pupils of the Marist Brothers' School. As is the custom, a splendid programme was submitted and was thoroughly enjoyed. The only drawback, perhaps, was that it was somewhat lengthy, even considering the meritorious way in which every item was given. The first portion of the programme was composed of musical items, recitations, tableaux, and marches, in all a good fourteen. Perhaps the best item was the dramatic scene, 'The fall of Wolsey,' the Cardinal being impersonated with much ability by Master Maurice Meehan. He filled the part splendidly. Master Philip Corless acted the part of Cromwell, while Master George Corless represented the regal dignity, King Henry VIII., both acting in a manner which greatly pleased the audience. Where the other items on the programme were so well rendered, it would be invidious to mention more names. The second portion of the programme comprised a drama, 'Tarcissius,' a tale of ancient Rome. In this, too, all the characters were impersonated in a manner which reflected the greatest credit on the youthful actors.

DIOCESE OF CHRISTCHURCH

(From our own correspondent.)

September 1.

His Grace Archbishop O'Shea, S.M., passed through Christchurch on last Friday on his way south. Whilst in this city he visited St. Mary's, Christchurch North. His Grace intends returning to Wellington about Thursday.

The combined Catholic Club and Tennis Club held a very successful social gathering on Thursday evening in the Caledonian Society's Hall. The weather was perfect, and in consequence there was a very large attendance, as a result of which the clubs' stall in the forthcoming bazaar will show excellent results from a monetary point of view. This is the second gathering of the kind that has been held within three months, and the funds are to provide useful furniture for the stall. All the members are working energetically to make the stall the best one in the bazaar.

Every effort is being made to ensure the financial success of the musical recital, kindly promoted by Mrs. Arthur Mead, Mr. Ernest Empson, and other friends, nearly all of whom are non-Catholics, for the benefit of Nazareth House, to be given in the Theatre Royal on next Monday evening. That the concert will be an artistic success is of course a foregone conclusion, as besides the principals a number of the best-known and most popular musicians will participate. By permission of Messrs. J. C. Williamson, Ltd., the 'Bridal chorus' from 'Madame Butterfly' will be rendered, led by Mrs. Mead.

Rakaia

(From an occasional correspondent.)

The school roll now numbers over 60, and it is sincerely to be hoped that ere long the children may have a convenient, up-to-date school.

J. C. Oddie & Co.

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