

OPENING OF A MARIST COLLEGE IN SUVA

On Sunday, August 10, the postponed function of the opening of the new College of St. Felix for the Marist Brothers at Suva took place (says the *Poly-nesian Gazette*). His Excellency the Governor was accompanied by Lady Escott and suite. A guard of honor was formed by the Marist Brothers' School Cadets, and his Excellency was received by his Lordship Bishop Vidal, who handed the silver key to the Governor and thanked his Excellency for attending to perform the ceremony. Among those present on the platform with his Excellency were the Hons. Alexander, Hutson, Scott, Marks, and Turner, Dr. Brough (Mayor), Messrs. L. Brown, Bradney, Greene, Mahaffy, J. J. Davis, and the captain of the Zelee, Mesdames Hutson and Marks, and Miss Alexander.

His Excellency in the course of his address said:—I appreciate very highly the honor which has been done me this day by being asked to open this college. I was very glad to hear his Lordship say that he had not extended the invitation to me merely on account of my high position as Governor, but also on account of the interest I take in the education of all classes of the community. I should like to flatter myself that there is a third reason, and that is because it is well known that I am in sympathy with the excellent work of the Marist Brothers. In time to come, looking back to this day, I shall no doubt be able to call to mind records of success of the pupils of this school, attained not only in school, but in after life. It is the first time I have unlocked the portals of a Catholic college, but, on one occasion, I laid the foundation stone of such an institution. At the town of Belize, the capital of British Honduras, I performed the ceremony of laying the foundation stone of a college, and my hand was then guided by Father Hopkins, now Bishop Hopkins. I then declared the stone well and truly laid, and it proved to be so; and on another occasion I was able to congratulate the masters and boys of the college on eighteen years' excellent work. In the Seychelles, where I held my first Governorship, there was the St. Louis College, which was presided over by the Rev. Brother Sarius, who is still there. There my own son was at school for two years, and I like to think that some of the lessons he has learnt, which must carry him through life, he learnt there. We are told by the local papers that this school cost £3000 to build. The Rev. Father Bourdier, the architect of the school, began his career as a distinguished engineer before Bishop Vidal persuaded him to join the Order. The building is creditable to him and to all connected with it, and to the town of Suva itself. . . . On behalf of the Marist Brothers I thank you all for coming to this ceremony; it must cheer them much in their work. I feel sure you will join with me in wishing both the boys and the Marist Brothers complete and entire success.

Mr. Roger Greene then gave particulars of the expenditure on the college, the total cost being over £3877.

Several other speakers, including the Hon. Mr. Marks, the Hon. J. B. Turner, and the Hon. H. M. Scott, K.C., also referred to the good work of the Marist Brothers in the colony.

Ashburton

(From our own correspondent.)

Rev. Father Hanrahan, of Ross, has been spending a couple of days with his people in Ashburton.

Matters in connection with the local Catholic Young Men's Club are progressing satisfactorily. One of the most interesting and keenly contested debates yet held by the club took place last week. The subject for debate was, 'Is an Elective Executive preferable to a Ministry under the party system?' Mr. E. McSherry led for the affirmative side of the question, while Mr. T. M. Brophy championed the party system. Following the leaders, speeches were made by several of the members—

all the speakers giving evidence of having given considerable thought to the subject. A vote resulted in the chairman (Mr. M. J. Moriarty) announcing a victory for Mr. McSherry's party.

Consequent on her approaching marriage, the members of the Catholic choir and friends made a suitable presentation in the schoolroom, on Monday night last to Miss C. Madden. In presenting Miss Madden with an electro-plated tea service, the Very Rev. Dean O'Donnell spoke in very complimentary terms of the recipient's work as a choir member, and wished her every blessing in her new life. Mr. H. P. Madden, on behalf of his daughter, briefly thanked the Dean for his kind remarks, also the large number of subscribers for their handsome present. Games were indulged in during the evening, Very Rev. Dean O'Donnell and Mrs. S. Madden winning special prizes in the competitions. The following contributed to a musical programme:—Misses K. Nealon, M. Cunningham, C. Madden, and T. Hicks, Messrs. Duncan McDonald, T. M. Brophy, W. J. Cunningham, E. McSherry, T. Purcell, M. J. Burgess, and J. Lennon. Mesdames D. McCormick and Walsh, who kindly superintended the refreshments, provided a much appreciated supper. The singing of 'Auld lang syne' terminated an enjoyable evening.

Cromwell

The pupils of the Dominican Convent, assisted by many past pupils and several of our leading local talent, gave their annual entertainment in the hall on Wednesday evening, and were greeted with an audience which packed the building to the doors. The programme, despite the task of selecting new items year after year, was of a most varied nature, and the success of the nuns in this respect was clearly manifest in all directions. With so many juveniles taking part it would be unjust to individualise; suffice it to remark that the leading figures and assistants in several lengthy items portrayed their parts to perfection, and gave striking proof of the skill and attention of the nuns in the many rehearsals during the last few weeks. A solo by Mrs. Morris, and a duet by Mrs. and Miss Morris were both well received. The accompanists during the evening were Misses Cahill, F. Robertson, and A. Thomas. The proceeds amounted to over £30.

Westport

A large gathering of friends and club members was held at St. Canice's rooms, to farewell one of the members, Mr. J. W. Ahern, of the local P. and T. staff, under orders of transfer to the operating gallery at Oamaru (says the *Westport News* of August 8). During an interval, the chairman, Mr. F. Calnon, mentioned the object of the gathering, namely, to farewell one of their most popular members and to wish him every success. The chairman then called on Mr. Pearce, the club secretary, to make a presentation of a set of military brushes, suitably inscribed, as a mark of the esteem in which their departing member was held. In an appropriate speech, Mr. Pearce referred to the good work the recipient had done in bringing in junior members to the club, and the ready assistance he had always given at their social functions. Mr. Ahern, in reply, thanked the members for their kindly action, and expressed the hope that he would be shortly back again with them. Songs, recitations, etc., completed a very pleasant evening's programme. Mr. Ahern was also the recipient from the P. and T. Hockey Club, of which he had been an active member, of a handsome gold-mounted watch guard, the presentation being made by Mr. Egan, who paid a meed of praise to the good qualities of Mr. Ahern.

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