

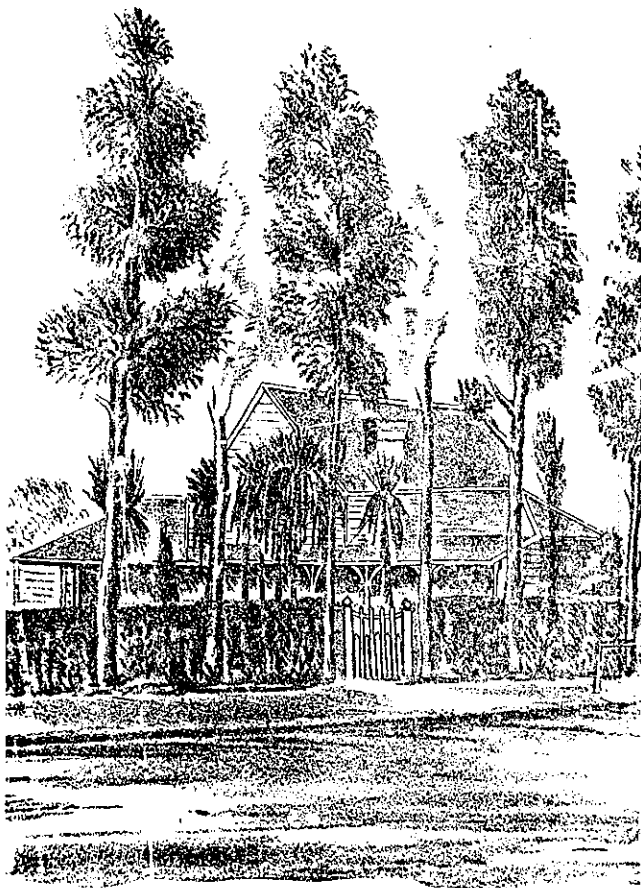
Bay, South Westland, and he was the first priest who had reached this part of New Zealand. Jackson's Bay was an isolated district, and the colonists had few chances of success. The greater number of them left it and settled in Canterbury and in the Wairarapa (North Island). On returning from his mission Father Binsfeld was sent to Christchurch with the intention of visiting the Germans of the neighboring village. It was then that he was sent to Rangiora. He returned one evening from Brakenfield and had to cross the Ashley; on arriving at one of the numerous river crossings he missed the track which was covered with scrub, and found himself face to face with a swollen

### Geraldine

This district, founded in January, 1834, was a filiation of Temuka. The population was principally engaged in agriculture, and the Catholics, who numbered from four to six hundred, were nearly all farmers. Father Keane was appointed P.P. in December, 1883.

### Conditions Generally

At the census of 1882, the total population of Canterbury was 112,182, of which 13,014 were Catholics. The number to-day has greatly increased. The Catholics are nearly all of Irish parentage, and a small number of French, Italian, and Germans.



FIRST PRESBYTERY BUILT IN CHRISTCHURCH.

The centre portion was used as the first church, which was opened on Rosary Sunday, 1860.

river which his horse could not cross. The water was deep and it was impossible to turn his horse. The priest strained himself in trying to hold his horse's head above the water, but the poor animal, encumbered by the carriage, plunged into the river and was drowned. Father Binsfeld succeeded in reaching the river-bank half dead from fatigue. This accident injured his health. In 1882 he was obliged to take a short holiday in Australia.

### Ashburton

Ashburton was dismembered from Shand's Track in 1881 and was confided to the administration of Father Coffey.

Within the last few years, the town having grown considerably, a new church was considered necessary. The foundation stone was laid in January, 1882, and in December the principal nave and the two side aisles, as far as the transept, were finished, and the church opened. The old church is now a boys' school and the schoolmaster resides in the old presbytery.

In the cities the Catholics belonged generally to the working class. They were also represented in commerce, liberal professions, and in high society. Several raised themselves by work and industry to acquire wealth which would have been considered a fortune in France.

Attendance at religious services was easy for those who lived in the town, or villages, where a priest resided, but in the country districts, principally for those whose farms were 5 or 8 miles from the church, this attendance demanded sacrifice. However, they arrived at church on Sundays, some on horseback, some in conveyances, and more on foot; sometimes fasting in order to fulfil their religious duties. In the districts where the priest had three or four churches to officiate at, he said Mass in turn each Sunday and often two Masses when the distance was not too great. The second Mass sometimes did not commence before half past eleven or twelve, and there were often baptisms after-

wards. It was rarely that the priest was able to break his fast before two o'clock in the afternoon. It is, therefore, easy to understand how very tiring the Sundays were for the priests in New Zealand, and often some of them had no horses and were obliged to walk.

Some of the districts in Canterbury have no Catholic schools, because the Catholics are too scattered. All the other districts have one or more schools. Parents are not allowed to send their children to purely secular Government schools except when they are too far away from a Catholic school. Everywhere Catholics are numerous. They have built and furnished schools at their own expense, where their children are educated and receive religious instruction.

## Ecclesiastical Province of New Zealand

### DIOCESAN STATISTICS.

The *Ordo Australasian Catholic Directory* for 1925 gives the following statistical information regarding the various dioceses of the Dominion:—

#### Summary of the Archdiocese of Wellington.

Number of districts, 46; churches, 128; priests—regular 62, secular 51; total 113. Religious Brothers, 29; nuns, 550; colleges, 2; boarding and high schools, 17; primary schools, 56; orphanages, 4; inmates, 469; homes for incurable, 2; inmates, 140; creche, 1; inmates, 30. Total number of children receiving Catholic education in the archdiocese, 9537; total Catholic population of the archdiocese, 61,243 (census 1921), including Maoris; Maori Catholic population, 2071.

#### Summary of the Diocese of Auckland.

Parishes, 51; diocesan clergy, 49; Marist Fathers, 3; Fathers of St. Joseph's Foreign Missionary Society, 22; total, 74; religious Brothers, 23; Sisters, 375; schools (boarding)—for boys 1, for girls 16; superior and primary day schools, 43; teachers, 186; orphanages, 2; home for the poor, 1; hospital and convalescent home, 1. Total number of children receiving Catholic education, 6591. Total Catholic population of the diocese, 49,334 (census of 1921). Catholic Maoris, about 3000.

#### Summary of the Diocese of Christchurch.

Number of districts, 21; churches, 63; priests, 56 (secular 33, regular 23); religious Brothers, 11; nuns, 296; boarding and high schools, 8; primary schools, 29; Magdalen asylum, 1; industrial and preservation school, 1; orphanage, 1; Nazareth House, 1; girls' hostel, 2. Number of Catholics in diocese, 30,000.

#### Summary of the Diocese of Dunedin.

Districts, 24; churches, 71; stations, 45; secular priests, 40; religious Brothers, 9; nuns, 222; boarding schools (girls), 6; boarding school for boys, 1; superior day schools, 6; primary schools, 23; ecclesiastical seminary, 1; orphanages, 2; home for the aged poor, 1; children in Catholic schools, 3163; Catholic population, 25,000.

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