

WANGANUI NOTES

(From our own correspondent.)

May 29.

Castlecliff had a fancy dress evening on May 12, the prize for the best fancy dress (American Flag) being won by Miss Zita Tracy. It was a very successful and enjoyable evening—euchre, supper, and dance. Mrs. O'Sullivan, one of our good workers at that end of the parish is, unfortunately, ill in hospital just now. We all hope she will soon be better.

Gonville held its second social on May 24, everyone working so hard beforehand selling tickets that, when the evening came, the hall was packed and emergency tables had to be brought in. Gonville blazed the trail here last season for good prizes, and as they intend keeping the reputation they have earned, those who patronise the euchre parties are sure of a good evening. The ladies' first prize was won by Mrs. Benson (a bag of sugar), and the gentlemen's first—an order for goods—was won by Mr. Kruse. It is going to be a "points' prize" season, as last, with the promise of something really good at the long finish. The working committee this winter is a mixture of old and new members—Mesdames Connor (2), Gordon, Burrell, and Messrs. L. Fromont (secretary), Markham, Rains, Baker, and Burrell.

Reception of Children of Mary on Sunday night during devotions, thirty girls receiving their medals and cloaks. It was quite an evening in Our Lady's honor—Rosary, sermon by Rev. Father Reardon (Jerusalem), and, as is customary at these receptions to sing the "Ave Maria Stella" and the Magnificat," these were sung by the choir and the congregation. We do not often get the old hymns and never the psalms as we do not have vespers, and it was quite a relief to remember them well enough to join in. On Tuesday evening the Children of Mary had a social, just to themselves in the Lodge room at the Villa Maria. About thirty girls came along for a couple of hours to chat, play games and cards, sew, knit and have supper before going home. We have great hopes of getting the Children of Mary and other girls interested enough in each other to make these informal evenings happy, and, certainly, this week's one was quite successful and pleasant.

Monsignor Coffey Memorial Fund

Contributions to the Monsignor Coffey Memorial Fund have been received from the following:—Mornington (per Miss Scannell), £2 7s 6d; J. R. M. (Lawrence), £5; Mrs. Gleeson and Mrs. Rice, £3; Mr. F. Dunn, £2; Mrs. (Capt.) Hankey, Mr. John Carroll, Mrs. Cameron, and Mr. Patrick Sheehan each £1; Mrs. Sullivan, Mrs. Stuart, Mrs. Lynch, Miss Hartstonge, Mr. P. Merchant each 10s; Miss Hand and Miss McQuillan each 7s 6d; Mrs. Muirhead, 5s.

Further contributions may be forwarded to Rev. Father Foley (Treasurer) or to the Secretary, N.Z. Tablet Co., Ltd.

CORRESPONDENCE

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by our correspondents.]

FOOTBALL AT ASHBURTON.

TO THE EDITOR.

Sir,—In your football notes in last week's issue, when reporting upon the local Old Boys—Celtic match, we were disagreeably surprised to note reference to a certain prominent player playing for our opponents. The comment was in the nature of a thinly veiled sneer, and in all the circumstances of the case, in very bad taste. The player in question was asked to play for the Celtic Club, but had definitely promised to play for Old Boys weeks before coming to this district, having been a member of that club a few years back before the Celtic Club was formed.

We strongly resent the remarks made by your correspondent when criticising an individual, and as a club we trust you will publish our disclaimer of any association with the slurring reference made to this player.—I am, etc.,

J. F. MCCORMICK,

Hon. Sec. Celtic Football Club.

Ashburton, May 28.

Faithful Irish Exiles

Pioneers of the Faith in Many Lands

(By MAGDALEN ROCK, in the *Catholic Herald*.)

Saint Patrick came to Ireland in 432, and in the next century Columba, led by remorse or by the missionary spirit that to the present seems characteristic of the Irish race, left his own loved land to found the famous monastery of Iona, from which Scotland and Northern England were brought and re-converted to the knowledge of the true God. Irish bishops governed the See of Lindisfarne; an Irish monk founded old Melrose; Adamnan, the biographer of Columba, is among the best Latin writers of the Middle Ages.

Towards the close of the same century, Columbanus departed from Bangor, with twelve companions, to found Luxeuil and Bobbio; the memory of Saint Gall survives in Switzerland, where a canton bears the name of one of the most earnest of Columbanus's disciples. Saint Frigidian was Bishop of Lucca for twenty-eight years of work and miracles; Livinus died a martyr in Flanders in 633; Saint Fiacre, who flourished about the same time, founded a monastery near Meaux, in France; Saint Fursey, whose visions gave Dante inspiration, died venerated by all in 648, after founding a monastery in East Anglia, and a more enduring one at Lagny, near which Saints Folian, Gobban, and Decuil died in the odor of sanctity.

Irish Saints and Scholars.

Saint Arbogast was Bishop of Strasburg in 646, and another Irish saint, Cathaldus, ruled in far-distant Taranto; Fridolin the Traveller founded monasteries in France and in the islands of the Rhine; Saint Virgilius, whose scientific opinions startled the world, was Bishop of Salzburg in 785, and another, Dicuil—the Geographer—flourished about the same period, and is said to have visited Iceland.

Saints Donatus and Andrew are the pride of Fiesole, as Saint Rupert and Marianus Scotus are of Ratisbon; Clemens and Albinus delighted the scholars of the court of the great Charlemagne, while the wonderful learning and eccentric genius of John Scotus Erigena, who combined scholastic and mystical theology, drew on him praise and blame.

When religious persecutions ceased in Ireland poverty drove the Irish across the seas to be a new Order of missionaries. The names of Quin, Carroll, Hayes, Murphy, and Casey are amongst those of the Jesuit missionaries who labored in the seventeenth century in Maryland and Virginia; among the signatories of the Declaration of Independence are fourteen Irishmen; thousands of Irish soldiers and hundreds of Irish commandants fought both in the War of Independence and the Civil War, and nearly one-half of the Presidents of the United States were of Irish descent.

The Irish Exile's Mission.

The mission, however, of the modern exiled Irish has been the building up of the Church in other lands. It would be a weary task to essay to detail what the poor exiles of Ireland have accomplished in this respect. From the time of the first Bishop, John Carroll, of Baltimore, to the present there is not one single diocese or archdiocese in the wide extent of the States but has been governed by men of Irish birth or of Irish descent. The constant arrival of the exiles, driven from their country by unfair treatment, by famine, and by necessities of many kinds, have provided the congregations which supply the clergy to minister to their spiritual welfare. In 1908 there were nine archbishops and forty-eight bishops of Irish birth or descent governing the territory of the Church in the United States. The same race has furnished the cardinals to the Church in the States. The renowned Bishop Spalding has written: "No other people could have done for the Catholic faith in the United States what the Irish people have done. Were it not for Ireland Catholicity would be feeble and non-progressive in England, Australia, and America." The number of Irish priests who have toiled in America through the last two centuries cannot be computed.

The Irish transported to the convict establishment in Botany Bay, in Australia, were not criminals. Most of them had been convicted on the grounds of religion or

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