

The M.B.O.B. Association Christchurch

At the 8.15 o'clock Mass on Sunday at the Cathedral (writes our own correspondent under date May 28), the members of the Marist Brothers' Old Boys' Association, and the school cadets in their natty green uniforms, pictured a group of young men and boys that any church or educational establishment might feel justly proud of. Upwards of two hundred approached the Holy Table and afterwards assembled in the Hibernian Hall for the annual Communion breakfast. Sir George Clifford, Bart., (the association's popular president) presided, and among those present were Rev. Fathers Hanrahan and Joyce. Sir George Clifford read a telegram from his Lordship Bishop Brodie expressive of his regret at being unable to attend the function, conveying his heartiest good-wishes, and announcing the appointment of Father Hanrahan as chaplain to the organisation. The chairman then proposed the loyal toast. Mr. J. Ardagh, speaking to the toast of "The Bishop and Clergy," said it was needless for him to eulogise the merits of his Lordship the Bishop and his devoted priests at a gathering of the Marist old boys. With pride and gratitude they appreciate the unswerving support given them. Rev. Father Hanrahan acknowledged with pleasure the enthusiastic way in which Mr. Ardagh's words had been received, and his own appointment as chaplain of the Marist forces. In this latter capacity he hoped to be of much greater service to the organisation than he had previously been. He fully realised (he said) what a great power for good the club was, and the sight of so fine a body of youngmen gave him confidence for the future of the church. Mr. P. J. Amodeo, in proposing the toast "the Marist Brothers," gave an interesting sketch of the foundation of the Order, its steady growth and remarkable work. He showed what an asset to the Church the Marist Brothers and similar Orders were. Speaking in reply, Rev. Brother Phelan, who was received with applause, congratulated the association on the splendid display of Faith witnessed that morning. It cheered him up (he said) to see so many of those who had but recently left school and started out in the grim battle of life keeping to the ideals and teachings of their school. They were making a good start and he urged them on to persevere in the straight way. To Sir George Clifford Brother Phelan extended his own and the M.B.O.B.A.'s deepest gratitude for the generosity he had shown in respect to the proposed club rooms. The speaker very happily referred to the successes of the association on the football field, and urged members to lay themselves out to capture the Evans Shield, awarded for the first time this year for the club winning the most points in football. Brother Phelan reminded his hearers that the principal object of the M.B.O.B.A. was the keeping of the boys to their duties as Catholics, and that if they wished to gladden the hearts of those who spent their lives in the cause of Catholic education all they had to do was to go regularly to their duties. He also complimented Father Hanrahan on his chaplaincy, and assured him of the support of the members. The toast of "Friends and Supporters" was proposed by Mr. A. McDonald, who pointed out the happy position in this respect the club was in. Sir George Clifford, with whose name the toast was coupled, said that on looking round that morning he could not help thinking what an amount of good the association was capable of doing. In it he could see young men of every trade and calling banded together in one grand body which if it lived up to the standard of life set in the school by the Brothers must have a wide, even though unconscious, influence for the making of good citizens. People are influenced more by example than by precept, and he encouraged members to perpetuate the work of the Brothers by giving proof of practical Catholicity, and thus stem the onrush of the flood waters of infidelity and sacrilege. Mr. B. J. McKenna said it was always a matter of deep regret for even one boy or girl to forsake the Faith, and he was full of hope that the members of this organisation would be of good behaviour and aim at the ideals implanted by the Brothers. "The M.B.O.B.A." was proposed by Mr. H. Johnston, and responded to by Messrs. D. McCormick and J. M. Coffey. Mr. Frank Smyth proposed the toast of "The Ladies," and Miss M. Smyth responded. Brother Phelan moved a hearty vote of thanks to Sir George Clifford which was carried by acclamation.

Farewell Social at Leeston

It is a long time since the Catholic Hall at Leeston was so crowded with people as on Tuesday night (says the *Ellesmere Guardian* for May 19), when a farewell social was tendered to Mr. and Mrs. P. J. Eccleton. At intervals in the proceedings songs were given by Misses Kilbride, Harris, and Holley, and recitations by Messrs. Watson and Eccleton.

Mr. E. R. Winter, who presided over the gathering, said that he would call on Rev. Father Creed to make presentations to both Mr. and Mrs. Eccleton. During their six years' stay in Leeston the guests had proved themselves worthy townspeople and staunch members of the Church. The work of Mr. Eccleton during the recent bazaar alone entitled him to the best they could say or do for him. Both he and Mrs. Eccleton had ever been to the front in any work for the good of the Church, or for any good cause whatever.

Rev. Father Creed said that in the departure of Mr. and Mrs. Eccleton from Leeston, the Church and the community at large were sustaining a severe loss. Their good work was so well known that it was needless for him to enlarge upon it. Never a call was made on their services that they did not answer most willingly and enthusiastically. In fact, his old friend Jack had become to them a staff on which they all leaned—sometimes rather heavily—but he took all the burdens smilingly, and asked for more. Their best wishes would go with the guests to their home, and he trusted that although they were going a good distance away, it would not be found too far to admit of them visiting their friends in Ellesmere on some future occasion. He had much pleasure in presenting to Mrs. Eccleton a set of stainless cutlery, and to Mr. Eccleton a wallet of notes.

Messrs. Moriarty and W. J. McEvedy added their tributes on behalf of the Southbridge parishioners, and Mr. S. Johnston spoke of Mr. Eccleton's splendid tact and business capacity, his unfailing courtesy and many little kindnesses in the exercise of his official duties. He wished the guests long life, happiness, and prosperity.

Mr. Owens, on behalf of the church choir, regretted very much the departure of two such staunch members, saying that their places would be hard to fill. Like everything else they undertook, their work in the choir had been marked by devotion and self-sacrifice.

Mr. Eccleton briefly returned thanks, saying that anything he had been able to do for the Church or public was to him a pleasure. He had always tried to act in a charitable spirit to his fellow-man, and had become very much attached to the people of Ellesmere. He and Mrs. Eccleton would always remember the great honor that had been done them that evening and would look back on their days in Ellesmere as the most pleasant in their lives. "For They are Jolly Good Fellows" was then enthusiastically sung.

Supper was provided by the ladies, and the singing of "Auld Lang Syne" concluded one of the most successful gatherings ever held in the parish hall.

Ashburton

(From our own correspondent.)

May 26.

The weekly meeting of the Catholic Young Men's Club was held on last Wednesday evening, the president (Mr. L. J. Ryan) presiding. Five new members were elected. The programme for the evening consisted of musical items, each member being called upon to contribute or else forfeit 1/- to the social fund; the latter did not benefit to a great extent, as practically every member responded.

The winter "at home" socials under the auspices of the club commence on next Wednesday evening.

The fortnightly meeting of the St. Patrick's branch of the Hibernian Society was held last Monday evening, the president (Mr. E. J. Kelleher) presiding. Two new members were nominated, and one initiated by the president. Correspondence was received from the district executive, and dealt with. After business had been concluded members present spent a social hour in cards.

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