

## A LITTLE MISUNDERSTANDING.

A FUNNY little misunderstanding occurred on board the steamer Golden Age at Port Chalmers on Saturday last. The steamer had been engaged to convey the Governor and those who were with him, including the Hon. the Premier and Mrs Vogel, and His Honor the Superintendent, on board the Mikado, and the Custom House boat was ordered to attend the steamer to take the party from the one vessel to the other. Now the name of one of the crew of the Golden Age happened to be James Fergusson, and when the Custom House boat ranged alongside, the coxswain sang out, "Hi, Jimmy Fergusson, catch hold of this painter." Much to the confusion of the coxswain the response to his call came from an unexpected quarter; the Governor heard the cry, coupled with his own familiar cognomen, and casting ceremony to the winds rushed to the side of the steamer and seized the proffered rope, and then recovering himself without an effort, he quietly handed it to his abashed namesake, who was standing at his elbow.

## JUSTICES DOING JUSTICE.

The following is an instance of the sad amount of ignorance of the way to perform the common judicial duties, on the part of a very large number of J. P.'s. in this colony.

Lately, in the Resident Magistrate's Court, Dunedin, two estimable citizens, whose names appear on the Commission of the Peace, were endeavoring to the best of their ability to administer justice in place of Mr Strode, who has been called upon to take part in the enquiry respecting the wreck of the Surut. The defendant, in a case which was called upon, was charged with having obstructed a highway by erecting a fence across it. Evidence was taken on behalf of the plaintiff, at the conclusion of whose case the Magistrates intimated their intention of delivering judgment. Counsel for the defendant, however, made the happy suggestion that the defendant's case should be heard before any decision should be arrived at. The hint was taken, and an apology was tendered by one of the magistrates for the contemplated irregularity of procedure on the part of the Bench, with an explanation to the effect that the Bench had not been accustomed to deal with cases of that kind.

## CONFIRMATION AT ST. PATRICK'S, AUCKLAND, CATHEDRAL.

(Herald, Dec. 3.)

ON Sunday last St. Patrick's Cathedral was thronged with an unusually large congregation to witness the interesting and imposing ceremony of the administration of the sacrament of confirmation to the large number of one hundred and forty children. At the nine o'clock mass, which was conducted by the Bishop, they had all received holy communion to prepare them for the devout participation in the solemn ceremony which was to take place at the conclusion of the last mass. The unusually large number of candidates, and the graceful manner in which they were attired for the occasion—the girls wearing white dresses and veils descending from wreaths encircling their heads, the boys also being appropriately attired, bearing sashes and other emblems of sodality,—gave an animation to the scene which was at once most edifying and affecting. They were arranged by the members of the Christian Doctrine Society, and occupied that portion of the church immediately in front of the sanctuary. At the conclusion of the mass (the Rev. W. McDonald being the celebrant), His Lordship the most Rev. Dr Croke, vested in stole, mitre, &c., and holding his crozier, preached from the altar a sermon of magnificent eloquence and powerful impressiveness. Considering that it exceeded considerably over an hour in delivery, it would be simply impossible, however inclined one might be, to give within ordinary limits a developed account of it; but suffice it to say, that it was one of great diocesan importance; embracing first the present steadfast religious and Catholic condition of the Auckland diocese; and secondly the means to its steady progress in the future; both aspects being exhaustively treated, and in a manner, with practical force and eloquence, for which the learned and gifted prelate is remarkable. It might, however, be mentioned that His Lordship alluded appropriately on this occasion, in terms of earnest pleasure, to the prosperous condition of the Catholic schools, and enjoined parents to insist on home study of lessons, and regular attendance by their children. He also commended the recent establishment of the Catholic Temperance Society, and spoke most effectively on the question of intemperance. In the course of his remarks His Lordship indicated the various classes of persons to whom respectively the "pledge" is either essential, or who should take it, by reason of the numerous resulting benefits. His Lordship then addressing himself especially to the children, discoursed to them in his wonted manner of happy simplicity, and suited to the occasion in which they were engaged—describing the history and nature of the sacrament they were about to receive, its necessity and efficacy, the preparation requisite for its worthy reception, and finally, by whom and how the ceremony should be performed. After this introductory discourse, His Lordship then and there personally, and, as is customary, interrogated the children (first the boys and then the girls) on their Christian knowledge, and submitted them to a very searching examination in the catechism taught them respectively by the clergy and nuns and the members of the Christian Doctrine Society. They all stood the test admirably. The sacrament was then administered by hands of the Bishop in the usual form, after which, and a slight interval of prayer, the whole of the children proceeded in gay procession to St. Patrick's school-room, where they sat down to a splendid breakfast that was spread for them by the Sisters of Mercy and the members of the Christian Doctrine Society.

## HAWKE'S BAY.

THE 'Napier Telegraph,' in describing the examination of St Mary's School, Napier, says:—"Previous to the prizes being awarded, Mr Rearden the able and energetic master of the boys' school, made a few vigorous and kindly remarks to his pupils, telling them that the school

to which they belonged had earned a character for being the best in the province; the prizes that would be given them were awarded to those who had worked the hardest during the year. Since the last annual examination, many boys had gone into the world, and were occupying situations of trust, and were maintaining by their conduct the honor of the school in which they had been educated, and also the high characters they had earned when in that school. Major Withers then presented the prizes, saying to each boy a few appropriate words. The prizes, consisting of a handsome collection of books, included three special gifts, two of which had been given by W. Colenso, Esq., for the best letter writers in the upper and lower classes, and the third to be awarded to the boy who had learned his lessons best throughout the year.

## CATHOLIC INTERESTS IN AUCKLAND.

YOUR "own" correspondent will no doubt keep you well posted up in what relates to Catholic interests, and other public affairs of colonial interest here. I may say generally, that Catholicism gets on swimmingly here; could not do better hardly. The Cathedral fund now amounts to a large sum; and I hope ere long to see a stately and graceful Catholic Temple adorning this city of Auckland; a city which for picturesque beauty is perhaps unrivalled in any part of the world. The convent of the Sisters of Mercy and their handsome little church adjoining to it, already add not a little to the beauty of our town. Our good and ever active Bishop has purchased a modest "palace" near the convent, and paid for it too. The grounds and building command probably the finest view among the many fine views in the town or vicinity; and he is getting the property improved with great taste. It must be borne in mind that we have raised our cathedral fund out of our poverty and not out of our abundance. We have not the rich cattle-squatters and other millionaires, but there are a few "lucky diggers" among us, and only a very few. If we are not good Catholics it will be no fault of our Bishop and his clergy. There is one thing that keeps us back, I believe, more than anything else, and that is the prevalence of intemperance among us. Not that in this respect we are worse than our neighbours, and probably we are something better—our young men especially. A finer or better behaved class of youths generally, the town does not contain. This in part, I believe is owing to the Catholic Literary Institution, and the Christian Doctrine Society. The latter has been lately established among us under the Bishop's auspices. It has a good though yet small library attached, where Catholics and enquiring Protestants may find many books of a useful kind. Talking of enquiring Protestants, I was glad to see a pretty good sprinkling of Protestants in our Cathedral last Sunday evening. Whatever the motive which brought them there, the conduct of some who sat immediately before me was most reverent and edifying. This is not at all times the case when Protestants come to a Catholic church. There have been whisperings of a coming Auckland Catholic Total Abstinence Society. The subject is full of difficulties at all times. It may not be "opportune" to attempt to establish such an institution among Auckland Catholics at present, however much it may be needed; yet when so many in public as well as in private are working to seduce Catholics into intemperance or at least into wasteful and unnecessary expenditure of their hard earned wages on drink, to the great injury of themselves, their frugal wives and innocent children, it does seem almost a duty to form some public Catholic institution which should at least protest against such seductions, and try cautiously, yet openly, to work in an opposite direction. But any Temperance Association among Catholics can only hope for success in so far as the clergy take the lead. To them we of the laity naturally look for instruction and guidance in matters of that sort. They will no doubt act for the best. We can hardly take up a newspaper but we find the account of some fatal accident or sudden death through drink. Many of the unhappy victims are Catholics. The idea of any member of the Catholic Church dying "a sudden and unprovided death," is inexpressibly painful to every Catholic heart. This consideration alone if there were no others, should induce all good Catholics, I think, to co-operate in the formation of some public temperance league, which should undertake a spirited crusade against the worst of public enemies—drink. To Christendom in modern times, drink is a far more terrible enemy than ever the Moslem was in bygone ages. I hope yet to see many temperance "crusaders" in Auckland "the cross" to use Cardinal Wiseman's words, "not in their hearts only, but on their garments too." A badge of total abstinence is often a passport to good employment and good wages. It is notorious that total abstainers as a rule are the best and most trustworthy men—in railway duty especially.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

TO THE EDITOR.

SIR,—Your readers will perhaps take some interest in the following little anecdote illustrative of the working of the Government system of education in this Province. I give the tale exactly as 'twas told to me, premising that the source from which I had it precludes doubt as to its authenticity. A little boy, receiving instruction in the Government school at Kuapoi, in the Province of Canterbury, gave, to the persons who repeated the words to my informant, the following as the substance of part of a lecture; we will suppose on "sacred history," by one of the teachers in that school:—"Martin Luther was a very good Catholic priest. He looked into the Bible and could not find where it was written that the Pope could open and shut hell and heaven. A bishop made wafers and said it was the body of Christ, and then he took wine and said it was the blood of Christ." The boy, on being asked why he did not say that all that was false, replied he was afraid of the cane. He was afterwards questioned by my informant, to whom the words, taken down from the boy's lips, were reported, when he repeated not indeed the *ipsisima verba*, but the substance of them.—Yours, Mr Editor,

CATHOLICS:

Christchurch, New Zealand, 5th January, 1874.