

## ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CHRISTIAN BROTHERS' SCHOOLS IN DUNEDIN.

(From the 'Otago Guardian.')

A PUBLIC meeting of the Catholics of Dunedin was held in St. Joseph's Schoolroom on Monday night, for the purpose of devising means to make the necessary arrangements for the reception of the Christian Brothers, who are expected to arrive in Dunedin about the end of the present year. There was a large attendance, including the Right Rev. Dr. Moran and the Rev. Fathers Crowley and O'Leary.

His LORDSHIP presided, and said that no doubt they were all very well aware of the object of the meeting. When Father Coleman went Home last year he received instructions to make arrangements with the Superior of the Christian Brothers to obtain some of them to teach the Catholic schools of the diocese, and to bring them out with him if they were to spare. The Superior-General promised that he would send out four in the course of two years. That period had now elapsed, and he had kept his word. They were under a great obligation to him for having done so, for almost all the dioceses in the Australian Colonies, as well as those in New Zealand, had been making applications for the Brothers for years. They had, therefore, every reason to congratulate themselves upon having had their turn served so soon. Early this year, as soon as he had purchased the house in Rattray-street from Mr. Ramsay, he wrote to the Superior-General, stating that he now had the house, and asked when, and on what terms, he would be prepared to send out the Brothers whom he had promised. He wished to have the terms clearly stated, so that there should be no misunderstanding hereafter. He received an answer through the Superior-General of the Victorian Province, who had received a letter from the Superior-General at Home requesting him to come over to Dunedin to make the necessary arrangements. The Superior-General of Victoria arrived here a few days ago, and had come over to tell him that the Brothers were already upon the sea, and would arrive in Melbourne about Christmas. He (the Bishop) on behalf and in the name of the diocese, undertook the required obligations for the reception of the Christian Brothers, and it would now depend upon the people themselves whether or not they would be here immediately after the commencement of the new year. The terms were these: The diocese shall provide a residence for them, and furnish it plainly, but with nothing which was not necessary. Then he was to undertake to pay their passage to the Colony, and also provide them with a reasonable outfit. Then they were to provide them with sufficiently furnished schoolrooms. All this he had undertaken to do. When the Superior-General saw that the building for the residence of the Brothers was a wooden one, he said that diocese should undertake at some future time to provide a permanent residence, but that it would do very well at present. What they had now to do was to pay their passage-money, and to furnish their house, and build two school-halls. He told the Superior-General of Victoria that the attendance was at present 150, and he replied that, from their experience elsewhere, he considered that it would be necessary to provide accommodation for 200 children. In accordance with the Christian Brothers' mode of teaching, this would render it necessary to build two school-halls, each 40ft. by 30ft. He was a little puzzled as to how to make arrangements for building proper schools, as he did not like to expend money on the erection of anything of a perishable character. Now that they were about to have the Christian Brothers they might look upon their schools as permanently established. He had no doubt but he would get the means to enable him to erect these two school-halls, but they should form a part of a respectable building, which could be finished in accordance with their means and wants in the time to come. He was afraid of erecting a heavy building where the gully used to be, but still, engineering skill might be able to remove any difficulty which may exist in this respect. At all events, the present school-building could be removed there, and the new one erected on its site. They should not, however, place these buildings too close to each other, as at some future time a cathedral would be erected on the same ground, and it would be necessary to so arrange the buildings that the group should not be spoiled. The great difficulty, however, was to get the money, and he hoped that they would not think him unreasonable enough to ask them to give at present all the money which would be required; he knew that it would be impossible for them to do so. What he wished them to do was to arrange some plan whereby they would, in the course of time, be able to raise the funds required. If they adopted that course he would undertake to find a sum of money necessary to give those good Brothers a start which they must get. Indeed, they would not come unless they were put in possession of the appliances necessary for making the schools under their care successful. He wanted, immediately, £600 to pay their passages and to furnish their house, and, also, what would be sufficient to build two school-halls. He proposed that they should contribute a lump sum to meet the most pressing liabilities at once. What further funds would be required might be raised by means of weekly, monthly, or yearly instalments. He did not think this mode of proceeding would be productive of any inconvenience to the congregation. His Lordship then referred to the successful operation of this mode of obtaining funds for the erection of churches in Ireland and elsewhere. They were aware that nothing would be of more advantage than to have their children educated by the Christian Brothers, because they imparted the best secular education which could be given, and under the greatest security. Their discipline was admirable, and they taught those under their care to observe the nicest manners, and make them thorough Christians. They imparted a mercantile and English education which could not be surpassed. The pupils of the Christian Brothers everywhere took the lead. He then referred to the beneficial influence which would be exercised upon the children, and the

studious tendency which would be created in them on their seeing men laboring day after day for no other object than that of doing good. This, he said, would be a most powerful sermon. When their work would be accomplished, he would then earnestly exhort them to erect a church, as the present one was too small. But it was much more pleasing to God to raise up the living Church, and give to their children a good education, which would fit them for the life to come, than to exhaust their resources in the erection of a material church. As they could only do one thing at a time, he had tried to accommodate the congregation by having three masses said on each Sunday. They had already a good school for their girls, and it would now be the same in regard to their boys. In a few years they would have boys reared up able and willing to aid in the building of a church worthy of their religion and their faith. Let them, then, do what they could to give the Christian Brothers a fair start in their midst, and provide them with sufficient schools, and they would work out their own destiny. He then mentioned that he had last year received a letter from Rome urging him to establish a seminary here, but he had been unable to do anything in the matter, as he had no place available for it, or a spare priest to teach it. The Superior-General of Victoria had, however, under the circumstances, and seeing that the object in view was education, consented that the Christian Brothers here might receive boarders. They imparted an excellent English education, including mathematics. The only branch which they did not teach was classics. As their residence was near his, he could supply this deficiency by appointing a priest as professor of Latin and Greek for such as wished to learn these languages. He would then have a seminary under the best auspices, which was the thing of all others he desired most.

Mr. F. MEENAN said that after the clear explanation given by the Bishop, the least they could do was to try and assist him as far as they could. They were under a deep debt of gratitude to him for his exertions in the cause of education here. As a father of a family, he would do all he could, and would now move that a subscription-list be opened.

Mr. MOYLAN seconded the motion, which was put and carried.

Mr. J. CONNOR proposed, and Mr. F. MEENAN seconded—"That a committee be appointed to solicit subscriptions, and that the gentlemen so appointed ask the members of the congregation willing to subscribe to give their names and the amount of their subscriptions at St. Joseph's next Sunday, and on the following Sundays if necessary." Carried unanimously.

A committee having been appointed, a vote of thanks to the Bishop for presiding concluded the proceedings.

## PIUS IX. AND HIS FAMILY.

WE take the following translation of an Italian letter from one of our foreign exchanges:—"I am at Sinigaglia, and, as you may well suppose, I do not forget to make use of the opportunity thus afforded me of collecting all the facts concerning the early history of the Holy father which yet remain in this place. The palace of the Mastai family is noble in its elevation, but very simple within. It is built in red brick with marble steps before the entrance, and is five stories high, with five windows to each. The room in which Pius IX. was born is on the second floor, and is tenanted by his sister-in-law, the Countess Vittoria, who is the same age as the Pontiff. In ascending the staircase a Madonna may be seen, before which burns a lamp with which the Pope replaced an old one last year. On the first floor, in the chapel, is a beautiful painting of great value. Here the youthful John Mary Mastai used to attend Holy Mass, and here he offered the Holy Sacrifice twice after being raised to the Holy See. The house of Count Jerome, father of Pius IX., passed to his eldest son, Count Gabriel, who was a benefactor to the city. After his death Count Louis, his son, who married a Countess del Drago, became the proprietor. Outside the Capuchin gate, on the left of the fountain raised by Count Gabriel, may be seen a modest little cottage, in the niche of the wall of which, stands a Mater Dolozosa with the following inscription in Italian—"MDCCCXLVI. Learn, O passer by, that, within this cottage, my mother, Marianna Chiavani, gave suck to Pius IX., P. O. M., and me, Dominic Governatori. Oh, if the dear old lady were alive, what a consolation! what a feast this would be for her." The foster-brother of Pius IX. still lives, his health is robust, and he works as a laborer in the fields as Pius IX., himself works in the fields which God has given him to cultivate. The tomb of the Mastai family is in the Church of St. Mary Magdalen, before the altar of St. Anthony of Padua. The inscriptions bear the following record: 'John Mary, great grandfather of Pius IX., lived 73 years. Hercules, his grandfather, 93 years. Jerome, his father, 83 years. His mother, 89 years.' As for his three brothers, Joseph died at 76 years, Gabriel at 83, and Gaeton at 89 years of age. The latter restored the Church of St. Magdalen, and left a legacy to the hospital for the support of ten men and ten women in perpetuity. This longevity, which is a privilege of the Mastai family, ought to inspire us with a great confidence. Pius IX. will be yet, we hope, for a long time preserved to the Church."

WHAT BECOMES OF OLD BANK NOTES.—Bank of England notes are never re-issued, but when paid in for gold they are at once cancelled. They are then preserved for seven years, so that inquiries relative to forgeries or frauds on which the notes may throw light may be answered. The stock of paid notes for seven years numbers 91,000,000, and fil's 18,000 boxes, which if placed side by side would reach three miles. Pile the notes one on the other, and the pile would be eight miles long. Join them end to end, and you will have a ribbon 1,500 miles long. Arrange them side by side, and you may more than cover Hyde Park with them. Finally, their original value was over £3,000,000,000 sterling, and their weight more than 112 tons.