

## WELLINGTON.

(From our own Correspondent.)

April 30th.

THE services for holy week were held at St. Mary's Cathedral, for the Catholics of the entire city, and were carried out with great solemnity, commencing on Wednesday evening with the office of the Tenebrae, which was chanted by his Lordship Dr. Redwood, and the Rev. Fathers Yardin, McGuinness, and Kerrigan, assisted by the Marist Brothers. On Holy Thursday Pontifical High Mass was celebrated by the Bishop, after which were the blessing of the holy oils and the procession of the blessed sacrament. In the evening the Tenebrae office was sung followed by the washing of the feet. The cathedral, the decorations of which are now fully finished, when draped with the emblems of mourning which the church assumes during this holy season, completed a *coup d'oeil* of striking beauty. On Good Friday the Passion was sung, followed by the kissing of the foot of the cross, and the procession of the blessed sacrament from the side to the high altar. His Lordship preached a most earnest and feeling sermon on the various stages of the passion of our Saviour to His death on the cross on Calvary's Mount. During the delivery of the discourse the Right Rev. Prelate was deeply moved, and not a few amongst the congregation shed tears. The usual collection in aid of our Holy Father was made after the sermon. The services were brought to a close on Saturday, by the blessing of the holy water and paschal candle.

On Easter Monday the Hibernian Society gave their annual *fête*, which took the form of an excursion by special train to the Lower Hutt. The members of the society in their regalia, started from their hall in Boulcott-street headed by their brass band, and marched through the main streets to the railway station, and were much admired for their fine turn out. His Lordship Dr. Redwood, with Father McGuinness and a large number of the Catholics of the city proceeded with the excursion. The sports were held in Mr. Parker's large paddock, bordering the Hutt River, and situated about a mile from the railway station, which was kindly placed at the disposal of the society. There was no pre-arranged programme but a series of events were got up and fair prizes offered, which brought forth numbers of competitors. While the athletic members of the society were holding their events in one portion of the ground, others amused themselves in another part with scratch football matches. Small picnicking parties of the elder portion of the excursionists were formed under every bush and hedge, and everybody seemed to be making merry. The band discoursed some very pleasant music during the day. The society are deserving of praise in permitting no intoxicating liquors to be sold on the ground, and for the very efficient manner in which they conducted the *fête*. The sports were brought to a conclusion in time to get back to town by the 5 p.m. train. The proceeds of the excursion after payment of prizes will be applied in aid of the band fund.

On Tuesday, 23rd April, at St. Mary's Convent, a pleasing though impressive ceremony took place, being the religious profession of three young ladies, and the reception into the sisterhood of seven others, who arrived here a short time since, having been brought out from Ireland by the former Rev. Mother of the Convent, who proceeded about two years ago, for the purpose of collecting together a little band of those estimable teachers who in their love for God are so willing to leave behind their happy homes and dearest friends, to scatter the seeds of piety and knowledge amongst the children of the most distant clime. The Right Rev. Dr. Redwood officiated, on the occasion, assisted by the Rev. Fathers Yardin and Kerrigan, and at the conclusion of the ceremony delivered an address appropriate to the occasion.

The quiet little village of Pahautanui, about twenty miles distant from Wellington on the main road to Foxton, on Sunday last, was the scene of an interesting ceremony, and one of a nature alike gratifying to the Roman Catholics of the district as to those of the colony at large, who have the interest of the Church at heart, and wish to see her raising temples throughout the land dedicated to the honour and glory of God. The occasion was the consecration of the new Roman Catholic Church of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, which has been erected by the Catholics of the district, assisted by their neighbours of every denomination, and the ever generous Catholics of Wellington. When it is remembered that the Catholics of the district of Pahautanui are comparatively few and scattered, and mainly composed of the settler class, it redounds highly to their honour, and shows in a most conclusive manner that the spark of their holy religion is far from being dead among them, when they took upon themselves the erection of this church in their midst, and the accomplishment of which has been to them a source of deep-felt joy, as was manifest to the most casual by the ceremony of Sunday last. The building stands upon half an acre of land, purchased for the purpose of a church and cemetery. It is situated in an exceedingly picturesque position about a quarter of a mile from the township, on the side of a gentle slope fronting the sea, with a heavy belt of "forest primeval" for a back ground, from the shades of which the sharp, plaintive note of the tui is poured forth into the fresh atmosphere. On this occasion, when nature seemed to have put on her gayest colours, and directed her minstrels to join in their sweet music with the solemn psalms of the Church, the ceremony of dedication was one the remembrance of which will linger in the minds of those present for some time to come. The building viewed from the exterior, though not an imposing, is still a tasteful and appropriate structure, and reflects great credit on the architect, Mr. Turnbull, who has produced some beautiful designs of architecture for Catholic purposes in Wellington and its vicinity. The new church, which is of the early Gothic style of architecture, is 38 feet in length, 18 feet in breadth, and about 14 feet in height, and will seat about 100 people. It has five windows on either side, with two on either side of the entrance. Above the altar is a large stained-glass window, and a circular one is placed over the main entrance. There is a sacristy attached to the building, with doors leading into the church, one on either side of the altar. With the exception of the altar and sanctuary, which are of a light varnish colour, the interior of the building is not yet completed, but when

this is effected, and the pews and seats varnished, it will add greatly to its appearance. The total cost will amount to about £200, of which £150 has been already subscribed, leaving a debt of £50, which the committee hope soon to have cleared off.

The interior of the church was beautifully decorated with ferns and evergreens; an archway of the same festooned with creepers glistering with berries of various hues, was erected in front of the entrance. There was a large attendance of the residents of the district of all denominations, besides several ladies and gentlemen from Wellington, the number of whom would be more considerable, had not the morning appeared so threatening. Immediately before the ceremony of consecration commenced the following address was presented to his Lordship Dr. Redwood:

To the Right Reverend F. Redwood, Bishop of Wellington, &c., may it please your Lordship, My Lord, with most sincere pleasure and a depth of gratitude which we feel more than we can express, we, the Catholics of Pahautanui and Porirua, meet here to-day to give your Lordship a hearty welcome. We have been long waiting for an opportunity to feel the presence of your Lordship in our midst, but being few and very much scattered, we had no fit place wherein to meet together and receive your Lordship. By very great exertions and the help of kind friends to whom we express our sincere gratitude, here now stands the building which we ask your Lordship to dedicate to the glory of God, under the title of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Deign therefore to bless it with the rites of our holy Church, and deign also to call down the blessing of heaven upon us, your children, and upon all who have given their generous assistance.

His Lordship expressed his thanks for the very cordial reception accorded to him, and congratulated the congregation on the good work they had accomplished. He tendered his most sincere thanks to all who had in any manner contributed to the work, and invoked upon all of them the blessings of divine Providence.

His Lordship, assisted by Rev. Father Yardin, then proceeded with the ceremony of consecration. The exterior and interior of the church having been blessed, and the altar prepared, the door was thrown open and the congregation entered. In a few minutes every available seat was occupied, while many were happy in obtaining standing room. After the gospel, the Rev. Father Yardin read a list of the contributions towards the erection of the church, amounting to £150, besides which presents of vestments and altar ornaments had been made and promised. He thanked them all for their generosity and in particular those of other denominations who had lent a helping hand. At the conclusion of the Mass, the Bishop having assumed his canonicals, preached a most eloquent and logical sermon, which was listened to throughout with the most devout attention, taking his text from the 1st chapter of John, "Behold the Lamb of God; behold Him who taketh away the sins of the world." This was the great mission of Jesus Christ, who had died on the cross to expiate the sins of the world—and of the Catholic Church, His representative upon earth—which was to efface the sins of men in this world. No more appropriate words could be chosen to illustrate the mission of the Catholic Church than those words of St. John. He had come there to be useful to them and to instruct them, and not for the purpose of making a show. Men of the world said that the aim of the Catholic Church was to make a show. The object of the Catholic Church did not aim at making a show. Wherever she went she was great, and whatever she did must make an impression. It was in spite of herself that the Catholic Church made an impression, and it was solely on account of her greatness. Her object was to rescue the souls of men from sin and bring them into the friendship of God, so that one day they may praise Him in heaven. The whole aim of the Catholic Church was to do away with sin, and she would rather prevent one mortal sin from being committed in this land, than, for instance, she would cover all New Zealand with railways, or have all its cities properly drained, or see the prosperity of all the nations of the universe. The mere material misfortunes or good fortunes, of the world, were as nothing in the eyes of Jesus Christ, compared with sin. Jesus Christ did not come into the world to tell men how to secure riches or become great, but to take away sin and show men how to save their souls. That was the mission of Christ and of His Church. His Lordship said He was there to instruct; and then, at great length, and in the plainest terms, pointed out the nature and different kinds of sins and transgressions against God, and showed with what base ingratitude man treated God, who had done so much for him and without whose benefits man could not for a moment exist. Some men of the world contended that there was no hell. The existence of an eternal hell of material fire is expressly mentioned in scripture, wherein it is described as "everlasting fire," "unquenchable fire," and compared to an undying worm; it was also consonant with reason. It was but rational that the soul, having used nature to rebel against God that God should use nature, and one of the elements of nature, fire, to punish. But even if fire were absent, there was an undying remorse which would consume the soul. His Lordship concluded by thanking those who had assisted by their contributions towards the erection of the church, reminding them that a small debt still remained, and towards the payment of which he trusted they would all contribute according to their means and the dictates of their conscience. He invoked the choicest blessings of heaven to attend them and theirs in all their undertakings. A collection was then made which realised the sum of £18.

After Mass, the sacrament of confirmation was administered by his Lordship to one young girl, after a full explanation of the nature of the sacrament.

The Bishop, with the Rev. Father Yardin and a number of gentlemen from Wellington, were entertained at an excellent dinner at Hillon's hotel, by the members of the committee, Messrs. Mulhenn-Goldfinch, Nash, and Murphy, who are deserving of the highest commendation, for the very satisfactory and efficient manner in which everything entrusted to them was carried out.

"THE wake scene" in the "Shaughraun" was received with dead cats and rotten eggs in New Orleans. It is quite time; if no other way can be found to remove the lying burlesque, a few bad eggs from the gallery can be judiciously used.