

with them the fact that he was at too great a distance to be constantly amongst them. He took it, however, that it was a question of their ability as a congregation, and no doubt in time they would gain their desires. No doubt there were many reasons, but they would forgive him if he spoke humorously, and said they reminded him of the visit of an emperor to a certain place, where the residents said they could give him a dozen reasons for not giving him a greater reception, the first of which was that they had no means. When they spoke of priests, he might say that twenty or thirty had offered to come with him to New Zealand. He had not a dozen reasons for not accepting the offer, but he had two. The first was that he had no means, and they could not be brought out without considerable expense, and he did not wish to beg means; and secondly, he did not know the wants of the diocese. It had been his first study on his arrival to ascertain those wants, and for that purpose he should already have visited all parts of his diocese, except the Chatham Islands, very shortly. In fact, he had only to visit one more place at the extreme north of the West Coast, where he had sent a priest to precede him, and should follow shortly. He hoped when he had learned their wants to supply labourers for this vineyard of the Lord. He was pleased indeed to visit the first settlement of the Church, which seemed to him a spot most beautiful and romantic. He regretted with them they had no educational institution of their own and would do his best to try and remedy this want. No educational system could be beneficial that put aside God and the soul. We were put on this earth for a mighty purpose, and the end of creation was to make our souls perfect to meet God. He, therefore, hoped to see their aspirations realised, and all efforts in such a direction would have his hearty blessing—God bless you all!

The Bishop then entered the church, where prayers were said. Some music was excellently rendered by the choir, Mr. Williams conducting. A beautiful "Ecce Sacerdos" welcomed the Bishop, and a very sweet, and plaintive "Tantum Ergo" of Mr. Williams' own composition was most effectively rendered. The Bishop made an address on the objects of his mission from the altar. He dwelt especially on those words of the Credo—"The Communion of Saints"—speaking of the duty of the congregation to "the Church suffering," to help which was one of the objects of his mission. He alluded at length to the forthcoming confirmation and the blessing of the Holy Father and plenary indulgence, which would be conveyed to the congregation on the following day.

The address was a most eloquent one, and listened to with deep attention.

On Thursday morning at 8 o'clock his Lordship celebrated Mass which was well attended. A very instructive discourse was delivered to those about to be confirmed. The subject being the Doctrine of the Blessed Eucharist. There was High Mass at 11 a.m., Father Kickham being the celebrant. Webbe's Mass in A was sung by an efficient choir and Mozart's "Ave Verum" well rendered as an Offertory piece. At the conclusion of Mass the Bishop selecting, for his text, "Thou shalt send forth Thy Spirit," preached a most eloquent sermon. The impressive ceremony of the Confirmation was then proceeded with, forty-seven persons presenting themselves. The Papal blessing was conferred on the whole congregation, who, at his Lordship's request joined him in repeating the baptismal vows. At 7 p.m. the Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament was given by the Bishop. The music of this service which was admirably sung by the choir was composed by the conductor, Mr. Williams, Miss Cullen acted as organist, though the instrument used is quite unsuitable. His Lordship left for Christchurch on Friday morning.

PRESENTATION TO THE VERY REV. FATHER MAHONEY.

(Nelson Colonist, July 6.)

THERE was quite a large gathering at the Presbytery last night, the occasion being the presentation of a birthday gift to the Rev. Father Mahoney. The birthday gift consisted of a remarkably strong, handsome, and well-made set of silver-mounted harness furnished to the order of the subscribers by Mr. F. N. Jones, of Trafalgar-street. The following address was read to the Rev. Father by Master Hunt:—

"To the Rev. W. J. Mahoney, S.M.

"Reverend and Dear Father,—The anniversary of your birthday affords a suitable opportunity for expressing the feelings of high esteem and hearty respect in which you are held by many friends, who, to mark their sentiments, beg your acceptance of the accompanying little birthday gift. It will be the more valued by you because it represents the feelings of so large a number of the congregation, the subscriptions having been purposely limited to quite a nominal sum, so that in these times of depression, all might join without inconvenience. Wishing you many happy returns of the day, and long years of continued usefulness in your sacred calling,

"We are etc. [Signatures.]"

His Honour Judge Broad said he had been requested to say a few words to supplement the address, and he must first of all thank Master Hunt, who had given much time, and taken a great deal of trouble, with much good nature, in collecting subscriptions. As for the harness, it was made on the spot, and was in every way a credit to the maker, Mr. Jones. He hoped Nelson would be represented in this particular kind of manufacture at the Melbourne Exhibition, for he was sure work could be turned out here second to none in this Colony. (Hear, hear.) Every loyal citizen should do his utmost to promote the best interests of the place, and one way of doing that was by making its valuable industries widely known, and by encouraging them. Father Mahoney was a true patriot in this respect—(applause)—all that he could possibly procure in the way of local manufactures for the Industrial Schools he did, and what he could not get in Nelson was, if possible, obtained in the Colony, so that the money paid by the public for charitable aid found its way very speedily back again into the pockets of the Colonial manufacturers

and producers, and those they employed. (Loud applause.) That was the best form in which they could have protection. His Honour concluded by expressing the hope that the harness would prove useful to Father Mahoney in his arduous and self-denying work of piety and mercy, which it was his privilege and joy to perform. It was not easy to express his own feelings, or those of the subscribers for the Reverend Father, and it was best to let one's words be few, because many words might weaken, or seem to weaken, the real strength of the regard they had for Father Mahoney. (Applause.)

Father Mahoney said he could hardly find words to express his thanks for the very handsome present, but he was afraid the members of his church were taxing themselves too severely in making such valuable gifts. It was not long ago when he went for a trip they gave him a purse of sovereigns, and now this splendid set of harness. During the thirteen or fourteen years he had been in Nelson, they had, both in the city and country, shown him great kindness, and many outside of their Church had exhibited feelings of respect towards him. To one and all he returned his sincere thanks (applause). The subscribers to the present must have known his weakness for a good horse, and that he liked to see his horse in a good dress. With regard to Master Hunt, he evidently was following in the footsteps of his father, whom Bishop Moran once stated was the most successful collector he ever knew. He (Father Mahoney) could not forget that his labours in Nelson had been under the supervision of his aged friend the Ven. Arch-Priest Garin, who had been a New Zealand colonist for 48 years, and a Nelson settler for 38 years. The Ven. Father, although laid by from active work, assisted them greatly by his wise counsels, and he hoped Father Garin would be long spared to them (loud applause). The harness would be used in the work alluded to by Judge Broad, and every time he used it he would be reminded of their kindness and good-will (applause).

After partaking of refreshment, and enjoying a pleasant chat with Father Garin on New Zealand in 1840 and Nelson in 1850 the gathering separated.

There were also addresses and birthday presents presented to the Very Rev. Father by the convent school girls, and by the St. Mary's Industrial School staff, at Stoke; and an address from the orphans of the institution, now numbering 300 boys and girls.

L A W R E N C E.

(From an occasional Correspondent.)

It is universally admitted that the farmers have never had a worse year than this. The crops were as good as could have been expected but there is no such thing as selling the grain. All the stores and barns are packed full of produce, for which nothing like a price can be got; in fact a buyer can hardly be got at any price. The business people naturally complain of the want of money among the farmers their outstanding accounts being many and large.

Something is expected from the revival in mining circles, which is expected from the numerous companies now being floated to take up properties in different parts of the district. Of course they have to be floated yet; but I think there is little doubt that some of them will go off successfully. That at Waipori, which Captain Pearce is gone home to float, should take well among investors; and, if the report of Dr. Black and Mr. Beal is to be relied on, whoever puts his money into it will strike it rich in the way of dividends.

The Wellman dredge has been shifted up to the Mancherika, where it is said to be doing splendidly.

The Lawrence Athenæum committee met last Thursday evening, when a list of about 200 new books was drawn up; and it was agreed to at once order them from the Home agent. Nothing more has been heard of the Government subsidy to the proposed school of mines, so it may be taken for granted that it has fallen to the ground. From all accounts, Professor Black had no authority for making the overtures he did to the Athenæum on the matter. As an instance of the interest taken by the miners about mineral chemistry, I might mention that of the large consignment of Professor Black's book, "The Chemistry of the Goldfields," placed in the hands of the librarian for sale, not one has been sold to a working miner.

Mr. Barr, C.E., has reported on the practicability of opening the Clutha river for traffic between the Clydevale punt and Beaumont. He estimates the cost at the very reasonable sum of £1145. The benefit of a highway to the interior will be apparent, but I question very much whether the advantages will be so great as some people seem to imagine. In the first place, goods, can be delivered at Beaumont by waggon from Lawrence cheaper than by steamer to Beaumont. Of course there is a class of goods such as heavy mining machinery, coals, and such like, which could be conveyed by water cheaper than by road. The new highway would, no doubt, tend to promote settlement along the banks of the river by giving settlers a cheaper conveyance to market than is at present afforded. In his report Mr. Barr speaks of opening the river as far as Clyde, which, if practicable, would be a very good thing; but I fancy that the mining interest is too strong to admit of the undertaking, as a steamer running up and down the river would seriously interfere with the numerous dredges at work.

A writer in the Newburyport Herald, commenting on the remarkable growth of the Catholic element in that old Paritan town, as manifested by the immense attendance at the Mission lately given in Father Feeling's church by the Paulists, thus sorrowfully accounts for it:—"This comes chiefly from immigration of Catholic families and their greater number of children and from the emigration of Protestant families to other sections of the county and the fact that it has become unfashionable with them to have children born, so that we are burning out at both ends of the candle—fewer are born and more leaving their old homes unto the strangers."