

the difference between the headlong assault of a vicious enemy and the words of tenderest council of fathers whose hearts overflow with sympathy. Bishop O'Dwyer's haste to fulminate his threats through the Orange newspapers amidst their volleys of K-atish fire, stands rebuked by the calm and sorrowful act of obedience of the Irish Episcopacy "to the commands of the Holy See"; while the fact remains more incontestable than ever that the Decree of the Holy Office was founded upon reasons which the Irish Bishops cannot defend, and is being turned to the political and social prejudice of our nation in a manner for which the Bishops cannot affect to have any feeling but one of consternation and loathing. The Bishops' resolutions impose the necessity of scrupulous reverence in the conduct of the agitation, but supply irrefragable evidence in justification of it. The fact that neither the Plan of Campaign nor boycotting elicits the censure of the Bishops, apart from their dutiful acceptance of the Decree, is in itself too significant to need comment. The Bishops have performed a hard and painful duty in a manner which strengthens their hold upon the Irish Catholic heart; it remains for unbacked Irish Catholic millions now to complete the impression already satisfactorily establishing itself in Rome that the unlucky Decree of the Holy Office was founded on lamentable misapprehension about Ireland, and has wounded to the quick every Catholic instinct, even more than every National instinct of our race.

SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL.

THE annual meeting of the Dunedin branch of this Society took place on Thursday evening, the Most Rev. Dr. Moran, the Rev. Father Vereker, and a number of the members of the Society, and of the congregation generally being present. The lady secretary read the following report and balance-sheet:—

In presenting this report to the honorary members and all who are interested in the work of the above Society, the President has much pleasure in referring to the increase in the number of its members, both active and honorary. The active members have, during the year, numbered 19, and the average attendance at the weekly meetings has been 10. I regret to say that of that number one died during the summer, and that 4 others have resigned, two having left Dunedin. There are at present 261 honorary members, and it is very desirable that this number shall be increased. That God has given His blessing to the poor efforts made by the members in the work of the Society you will all agree, there is not a doubt, and to Him are due our most fervent thanks for the many blessings He has vouchsafed us. The principal end for which the Society is in existence is: 1st. The honour and glory of God and the salvation of souls, as well as the temporal interests of the poor, and to become acquainted with the wants of the poor; and in order to relieve these wants it is necessary to visit them in their houses, and if the visitor goes with that kindly feeling and sympathy which ought to accompany her on such an errand she will very soon find out the most suitable way of giving relief, and of helping to make those trials a little lighter for her poor neighbours. The visiting, therefore, you will see is a very important part of the work to be done by the active members, and a part which may bring comfort to many a poor family. During the past year more than one thousand of such visits have been paid. The hospital is visited regularly twice a week, and during the summer fruit and flowers were taken to the poor sick people there, while during the whole year newspapers and books have been distributed in the hope by such means to make it a little less monotonous for the patients there. It is wonderful how far a kind smile and a cheerful word go to make sick people a little happier. I may here say that the President desires to thank all those kind people who have sent the Society books and papers for distribution; they are always a most acceptable donation.

The Benevolent Institution is also visited from time to time. During the last two months the Society has made arrangements for two of its members to go every Sunday afternoon in order to assist in giving instruction to the poor orphan Catholic children in the Industrial School at Caversham. This is a work which is very important, and ought to be dear to the heart of every Christian, and the Scriptures tell us that they who instruct many to justice shall shine as stars for all eternity. It is a work most pleasing to God, highly beneficial to our neighbours, and also to ourselves, for it will draw down blessings on both. There is also a class held every Sunday for the instruction of working girls who, owing to their various employments, have not so many opportunities for instruction as their more fortunate neighbours. A number attending this class have been prepared for the Sacraments. There have been 5 poor patients sent to the Good Shepherd nuns at Christchurch, and 10 children to the St. Mary's Orphanage at Nelson, and during the year there have been 16 baptisms brought about, where, but for the interest taken by the visitors, many of these poor children might have been deprived of Baptism for a long time. There has also been a marriage brought about when it was desirable that it should be, the Society interesting itself in this sad case.

The President desires to convey the thanks of herself and the members of the Society generally to his Lordship the Bishop, for his generosity to the Society, and also for his kind sympathy in its work also, the thanks of the members are due to Fathers Vereker, Donnelly and Parton, for their kindness and good advice on all occasions when applied to, and their readiness always to co-operate in the work of the Society. We also, while thanking Father Lynch for his uniform kindness and sympathy in many difficulties to be met with, within the course of a year in the work undertaken by the members, wish to express our sorrow and regret, that owing to ill health he has gone from amongst us, and also to express the hope which we all felt that he may soon be restored to perfect health and strength, and soon return to us. We also thank the three firms which have given donations of coal,—the Brunner Coal Company, Kaitangata Company, and Messrs. Martin and Watsn.

During the summer a sale of work was held by which the funds of the Society were beautified to the extent of about £40, which has been a great help in providing comforts for the poor. We gratefully acknowledge the parcels of left off clothing which

have been sent to us during the year. These parcels are always most acceptable.

In some cases needlework has been given to persons desirous of helping themselves; therefore, it was thought wise to encourage this by giving them work to do, and paying them at the ordinary price for work.

The following appointments have been made for the ensuing year:—Assistant, Mrs. Fergusson; Vice-President and Secretary, Miss Tobin; Treasurer, Mrs. Haydon; Wardrobe keepers, Mrs. Barnes and Mrs. Frazer; Buyers, Miss McKay and Mrs. Frazer; Instructor for Industrial School, Miss Horan, with assistant.

List of articles given by Society of St. Vincent de Paul during the year ending July, 1888:—54 dresses, new; 53 do, second; 65 chemises, new; 19 do, second; 69 petticoats, flannel, new; 1 do, do, second; 10 do, coloured, new; 24 do, do, second; 19 shirts, new; 71 do, second; 32 pairs boots, new; 22 do, second; 24 pairs stockings, new; 46 pairs socks, second; 14 bonnets and hats; 20 jackets; 13 pairs blankets; 55 pinafores, new; 5 do, second; 4 ulsters, second; 2 shawls, do; 10 collars, do; 27 pairs trousers; 25 suits of clothes, second; 21 coats, do; 10 vests, do; 39 pairs drawers, do; 2 infant bags lent; 1 brown habit; 11 nightgowns; 2 jackets, new; 61 orders for coal; 152 for groceries, 5s; 47 do do, 2s 6d; 1 do for bag of flour; 1 do do oatmeal; £7 12s 6d given and advanced by Society; Visits, 1,000; number relieved, 329. Nourishment (given in cases of sickness)—soups, jellies, wine, egg, oysters. The active members number 19; 16 were baptised during the year. Instructions are given once a week to working girls. Five were sent to Mount Magdala, and 10 to Nelson School. The Hospital is visited twice a week, the Benevolent Institution frequently, and the Industrial School once a week.

The expenditure was:—Groceries, £67 13s 6d; draperies, £18 19s 6d; coals, £18 9s; boots, £11 17s 10s, blankets, £7 10s; passage money, £8 17s; sundries, £4 12s; board and lodging, £3 19s; bed and bedding, £1 12s; burying the dead, £2 7s 6d; cleaning room, £2 6s; rent, £1 2s 6d; cab-fare, 19s 6d; milk, 15s 8d; books, 12s 6d; paid for needlework, 14s 7d; telegrams, 5s 6d; certificate, £1 2s. Moneys collected, £155 1s 6d; expenditure, £153 14s; balance, £1 7s 6d.

The Bishop said that this report needed no words of his to recommend it to the meeting. It spoke for itself, and an eloquent speech it was which it contained. The statistics it contained, striking as they were, could convey only a very inadequate idea of the amount of labour gone through by the active members, and the great and loving patience of these members to those who had never shared in such labours. There was certainly a great reward in store for them hereafter. He hoped that the Society would continue to flourish, and that the number of active members would be greatly augmented. He availed himself of this opportunity to say that he had endeavoured to induce the Government to give Catholics for a reformatory the same allowance they give to the industrial schools already established in order that they might be able to rear up Catholic children properly as Catholics. They would not impose any additional expense on the country, as the Catholics were prepared to provide building and the necessary staff. But the Government would not consent. He could not understand this, except by supposing that they feared a bigoted outcry in Otago. He believed this was the real reason. But he thought the Government laboured under a misapprehension. His own opinion was that the public of Otago would rather rejoice in seeing neglected Catholic children properly brought up and well-trained, so as to become good and useful citizens.

WANGANUI.

(From an occasional Correspondent.)

July 19, 1888.

A VERY successful effort has just been made by the local branch of the Irish National League to increase the funds available for transmission to Ireland. The effort took the shape of an entertainment which had been in preparation for some weeks past, and which eventuated last night in the Oddfellows' Hall. The programme presented was a varied one, and hit the popular taste, as was sufficiently proved by the applause so liberally bestowed on almost every item. The first part was mostly musical and was rendered in capital style by our leading amateurs, both vocal and instrumental. In the second part two ladies and three gentlemen enacted a side-splitting little farce, entitled the "Area Belle," and interpreted their parts with such skill that from the raising of the curtain to its dropping the audience were in one continuous fit of laughter. During the first part of the proceedings Mr. A. Oliver, one of the vice-presidents of the branch, came forward and thanked the performers for their kind assistance and the audience for their liberal support to the cause of Ireland. He explained in a few words the reason why the League had asked for public patronage and alluded to the good work they intended to do with the proceeds of the entertainment—viz., the relieving the great distress of their countrymen at Home in this the final struggle for constitutional liberty. The audience, which was very large, was not confined to those of Irish birth, but was representative of all nationalities, and, from the manner in which Mr. Oliver's words were received, all present were sympathisers with the cause of Home Rule. Financially, as in every other respect, the affair was a great success, and I believe a good sum will be netted. So many have contributed to the success of the whole proceedings that it would be invidious to particularise.

A West Virginia editor who made a tour of Maine, to personally investigate the working of the prohibition law, says that liquor is openly sold at hotel bars and in many saloons.

Pope Leo has assented to the protection of Catholics by the French in Syria, Palestine, and in other countries of the Levant, in exchange for French concessions in regard to internal religious policy in France.