

instantly said to her, "which of these paths leads to the Sarbo?" "Sarbo!" replies the villager, "I know the way, it is my village, come and I will bring you to it," and he reached the village shortly after. It was then that the eyes of Carluccio were opened. How could this young lady, so gentle so modest, so elegantly dressed, be travelling in the wood? How could she have guessed his embarrassment and answered his thought? How could she foresee what was to happen to him, and represent to him so accurately the woman, the load she was carrying, and the place where she was going? "No, no," said he to himself, it has not been mere chance, it is St Philomena herself that I have seen, and who has extricated me from the difficulty I was in." During several days, Carluccio seemed almost beside himself, his heart was filled with a particular love and devotion towards his celestial guide.

Now, I think I could fill many pages with similar examples, but I hope the above may be enough to inspire your pious readers with tender devotion towards St Philomena, so that they may have a claim to her protection in time of need.—I am, etc.,

E. PERTUIS, S.M.

## CHRISTCHURCH.

(From an occasional Correspondent.)

THURSDAY, July 19, marked an epoch in the history of our city. At the invitation of Mr Jas Nelson (who, by the way, is one of the warmest supporters in Christchurch of any movement concerning the welfare of that dear "Land of Shamrocks"), a number of gentlemen assembled in the Hibernian Hall to consider the advisability of forming a branch of the Irish National Federation. The meeting was a very representative one and a great amount of enthusiasm was displayed by all present. The chair was occupied by E. O'Connor, Esq., J.P. Mr Nelson explained the object of the meeting, and a number of letters and telegrams were read from the leaders of the movement in Auckland and Wellington congratulating Mr Nelson on the steps he was taking and explaining the object of the I.N.F. and the rules and manner of working. After a number of those present had discussed the question and expressed their opinions, it was unanimously decided that the time was nigh when a branch of the Irish National Federation should be established in Christchurch, and all present pledged themselves to do all in their power to further the cause and assist in relieving the wants of our down-trodden brethren in the Old Land and help them to gain what is their lawful right—namely, a Parliament on College Green. It is intended shortly to call a public meeting of all sympathisers with the cause of Home Rule and to start a branch on a sound footing. Thursday night's meeting reflects great credit on the convener, and clearly proves the fact that the national spirit is not, as some may erroneously imagine, on the wane. I trust that ere long South Canterbury and Otago will follow suit and that we shall soon have a branch of the Federation in every possible place in the South Island.

It is always a pleasure to us to see our co-religionists advancing up the ladder of fame. The powers that be have lately conferred an honour on our esteemed church secretary, Mr E. O'Connor, by promoting him to the position of Justice of the Peace. A better choice could, I think, hardly be made, for few men could be found more conscientious or impartial than our esteemed ex-schoolmaster. I am quite sure I express the sentiments of all who know him when I express the hope that he may live long to enjoy the newly-acquired honour.

A very pleasant gathering took place recently in the meeting-room of the League of the Cross, the object being to bid good-bye to one of the most popular members of the League; Mr Fred Evans who is about to commence his studies for the priesthood. Mr Evans is a recent convert to Catholicity, and during his short sojourn in Christchurch, has by his genial and unassuming manner, endeared himself to everyone with whom he came in contact, and carries with him the best wishes of all who know him, for a successful career in the new sphere of life to which God has called him. Rev Brother Joseph on behalf of the League presented him with a handsome volume of the life of Leo XIII. After several of the members had expressed their feelings on Mr Evans' departure, light refreshments were handed round, and several songs and other musical items were contributed by the members.

The Literary Society is progressing rapidly, one of the best meetings held for some time was on Tuesday 17th, when a Parliamentary debate took place. Rev Father Bell made a very efficient Speaker, and Mr J. J. Wilson as Premier introduced a Bill to provide an old age pension fund by means of a progressive income tax. After a very warm debate, during which time the Bill was subjected to some severe handling from the Opposition, the Bill was rejected by a bare majority.

The following is the invitation alluded to as issued by Mr Nelson:—"14 William street, Christchurch, July 14, 1894.—Dear Sir,—I have been requested by some active workers of a prominent branch of the Irish National Federation in one of our northern cities to allow myself to be the humble medium of communicating their branch's desire to their fellow-countrymen dwelling in Christchurch

and its surroundings. That desire is to establish, in this city, a branch of the Irish National Federation. It has also been suggested, as, indeed, was also clearly apparent to myself, that the most effectual way of bringing about the desire is to place the matter in the hands of a few well-known, ardent sympathisers and staunch supporters of Ireland's cause. Your name, sir, occurs to me amongst those of gentlemen most likely to give that prudent counsel and strong assistance which will lead to a successful binding together of our countrymen here, for the purpose of adding to that great volume of an exiled children's demand on behalf of their parent country for justice, which may be delayed if Britain's rulers are allowed to think that a little disorganisation amongst our people's leaders at Home has caused apathy in the old cause to grow and spread amongst the great Ireland abroad. It is obvious to all of us who have followed the old country's political events of late years that the Irish national movement has reached that climax which makes it incumbent on Irishmen in this Colony not to leave a break in this part of the world's wide circle of Irish influence—that influence which should be ready when needed to centre itself on the deliberations of those who, sustained by prejudice alone, persist in blocking the way to Ireland's glorious but natural destiny—self-government. Such organised Irish opinion abroad has its peculiar use in helping to abate the distractions which may arise amongst the leaders of Irish thought at Home. The establishing of a branch here will confer on us the privilege of having our voices heard amongst those healing messages from afar. The colonies are on the eve of a visit from that very distinguished Irishman, Michael Davitt, and the existence of an Irish organisation here will afford a ready opportunity for discussing his arrival and the nature of his reception in this city. Trusting, for many reasons, of which I have striven to give a few, to have the pleasure of your presence at a meeting to be held at the Hibernian Hall on Thursday, July 19.—I am, dear sir, yours faithfully, JAMES NELSON.

## NAPIER.

(From our own Correspondent.)

July 24, 1894.

AT Vespers in St Mary's church on Sunday evening last, the Very Rev Father Grogan paid a high compliment to the Catholics of Wanganui. The previous Sunday evening he had the pleasure of preaching in that town, and he was edified by the large number of people that attended all the services. The church also possessed a beautiful choir. He was surprised at the number of men that attended. There were about 3,000 Catholics less in Wanganui than in Napier, the latter place having a total of something like 1,400. He therefore advised the Catholics of Napier to try and attend church better than they were in the habit of doing.

This week, the *Hawke's Bay Herald* trotted out the yarn about Father Lambert having left the Catholic Church in America. Thanks to the N.Z. TABLET for information contained in that journal a month or so back, a correspondent was enabled to write to the *Herald* and prove that the priest who had severed his connection with the Church, was not the Father Lambert who made the keenest, clearest, most logical, and masterful answer to the American agnostic, Ingersoll, in a series of open letters published about two years ago. The *Herald* is rather late in publishing this falsehood, considering it had been published in one of the Dunedin papers some time back, and had also been exposed in the TABLET, but I suppose the Napier editor only just dropped across it, and being an attack on the Catholic Church, he could not for the life of him, miss the opportunity of having a "shy" at the ancient Church. The above is another instance of how the Catholic Church is slandered and misrepresented on every possible occasion by her enemies, and it further shows the necessity of Catholics subscribing to the TABLET, which generally gets on the track of these vilifiers and exposes their garbled accounts before they have time to do any harm.

I regret to learn from Wairoa, that Mr C. Harmer, who has resided in that township for a quarter of a century, is seriously ill. He has recently been received into the Church, and Father Kerrigan left last week to give him the last rites.

The Harbour Board held a meeting on Monday last, and decided to appoint Mr Napier Bell and Mr Maxwell to report on the damage done to the breakwater. It seems strange that Mr Maxwell should be chosen, he not being an engineer. I do not know whether his experience as a Railway Commissioner will enable him to give satisfaction to the Board, but it seems that is his only qualification for the position. A rate of  $\frac{1}{2}$  in the £ having been struck on rateable property, taxpayers are anything but pleased with the present state of affairs. Mr Carr, the engineer to the Board, estimates that it will cost about £4,000 to repair the damage done by the recent gales.

It has been ascertained that most of the 40,000 Hebrews in Jerusalem are extremely poor. They live in caves and cellars, fever stricken, blind and consumptive.

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