

## Archdiocese of Wellington.

(From our own correspondent.)

January 15.

THERE is very little news to send this week, as there is the usual lull in things, social and political, which succeeds the Christmas holidays. The social horizon is clear, but the physical horizon has been obscured by smoke during the week. Bush fires have been raging all over the country in the Wellington provincial district, and according to the incomplete reports which have been received, considerable damage has been done—homesteads, fences, and other improvements have disappeared before the onward march of the fire fiend. The total loss might not seem large, but to the individual sufferers it means the destruction of years of industry. We all know the hard, laborious struggle which the average settler has to undergo to effect the necessary improvements, and the only ray of hope in his life of toil is the expectation that he might one day be able to see his homestead clear of bush and grassed, and fenced, and a humble dwelling erected thereon, but it disheartens the stoutest pioneer to witness in a few hours the destruction of the labour and self-denial of years. Such has unfortunately been the case during the past week, when bush and grass fires swept all before them in many parts of the district, but more especially in Eketahuna and Pahiatua. In Nelson too there has been considerable loss of property. In many cases human life was in danger, but, fortunately, so far, no loss has been recorded. The unfortunate settlers who have suffered loss will have the sincere sympathy of all, and it is to be hoped that where the damage is beyond the resources of the settlers to repair the generous public will come to their assistance, as they have often done before, when the hand of affliction lay heavily on those who are the backbone of this Colony.

The Very Rev. Father Aubrey, S.M., of Sydney, left for Wanganui this morning to conduct a retreat for the Sisters of the Convent. He returns to Wellington for the purpose of holding a retreat for the clergy of the archdiocese, which commences on the 26th inst.

His Grace Archbishop Redwood is at present visiting Hawera, Wanganui, Jerusalem, and the neighbouring parishes. He is due in Wellington on 22nd inst., where there will be a ceremony of reception and profession at St. Mary's Convent.

The children attending the Hunt schools had their annual picnic at Featherston on Thursday. The trip to and from was very enjoyable, and was thoroughly appreciated by the youngsters. The high wind which prevailed and the thick smoke which hung over the Wairarapa Valley during the week detracted somewhat from the pleasure of the visitors, who had their sports and other forms of amusement in the paddock in front of the Empire Hotel. Among the visitors were the Very Rev. Father Lane, the Very Rev. Father McKenna (Masterton), and the Rev. Father O'Sullivan (St. Patrick's College). Mr. and Mrs. and the Misses Card, assisted in providing for the entertainment of the youngsters, and extended their hospitality to several of the visitors.

The Rev. Father Costello, of Westport, is at present in Wellington, en route for Australia, where he intends to spend a few weeks' holiday.

St. Patrick's College is at present in the hands of the painters and decorators, so that by the time for opening for the New Year, its internal appearance will be considerably improved.

Miss Lottie McDonald, in religion Sister Mary Augustine, has left for Palmerston North with Mother Cecilia and Sister Mary Francis, to take charge of the schools there. Those of my readers who have read the remarks of the examiner for the Associated Board of the Academy of Music and the College of Music (London), after the recent examination here, on the quality of Sister Mary Augustine's voice, will understand that Wellington's loss will be Palmerston's gain.

The Rev. Father Walsh, of Kumara, who has been in the Wellington Hospital for some time, in consequence of an accident to his knee, which he received whilst attempting to stop a pair of runaway horses, is, I hear, progressing slowly, but hopes are entertained that in time he will be able to resume his duties.

## Diocese of Christchurch.

(From our own correspondent.)

ON Thursday last a very interesting wedding, which was witnessed by a large number of persons, took place in the Pro-Cathedral. The contracting parties were Miss Catherine Gargan, who is a sister of Mrs. James Steel of Addington, and the third daughter of Mr. John Gargan of Ballarat, Victoria, and Mr. Laurence Howard, coach proprietor, Sydenham. The Rev. Father O'Connell performed the ceremony and said the Nuptial Mass, at which both the bride and bridegroom approached holy Communion. This was the first marriage which the Rev. Father O'Connell has celebrated. The best man was Mr. Frank Geoghegan, and the bride, who was given away by her brother-in-law, Mr. Steel, looked charming in her dress of cream lustre; the bodice was elaborately trimmed with lace, surah silk and orange blossoms. She wore a tulle veil falling from her wreath of orange blossoms, and carried a lovely shower bouquet. The bridesmaids, who are sisters of the Rev. Father O'Connell, were Miss Mary and Miss Julia O'Connell, and they appeared very pretty in their dresses of cream nuns' veiling and picture hats to match. From the sacred edifice the party drove to the residence of Mr. Steel at Addington, where the marriage breakfast took place. In the garden adjoining the premises a commodious *marquee* had been erected and suitably decorated with evergreens. A good number of guests were in attendance at the breakfast. Amongst them was the

Rev. Father O'Connell, and for a short time, the Vicar-General, who facetiously proposed the health of the bride and bridegroom. He also proposed the health of the Rev. Father O'Connell, to whom the bridegroom is a first cousin, and after these several other toasts, also the "Press" and the "Ladies," were proposed and duly honoured. In the evening the party re-assembled in the *marquee*, where they entertained themselves with music and other amusements until a late hour. The wedding presents were handsome and valuable, and the following is a list of them and of their donors:—Mrs. P. McGill, a silver butter dish and tray cloth; Mrs. W. Heyward, silver pickle fork and tongs; Mr. W. Pinnis, an unique pair of salt cellars; Mrs. M. Kavanagh, an afternoon tea table; Miss K. Rowe, a work-basket; Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Kelly, a cheese-dish; Mr. and Mrs. Lye, a set of Doulton ware jugs; Mrs. H. Hill, a jug and basin; Mr. F. Geoghegan, a pair of vases; Mr. and Mrs. Smith, a duchess table-cloth; Mr. and Mrs. D. Campbell, a dozen Irish linen handkerchiefs; Mr. and Mrs. Taylor, two China figures; Miss K. Murphy, a hand-mirror; the Rev. Father O'Connell, a very pretty crucifix; Mr. and the Misses (2) Hoban, a set of glove and handkerchief boxes; Miss Nohelty, of Ashburton, a lamp; Mrs. Nohelty, of the same place, a bird and cage; Mrs. Howard, sen., some handsome articles of furniture.

The matter of removing St. Aloysius Hall is occupying the serious attention of the Vicar-General, and on Sunday last the following circular was distributed at the various services at the Pro-Cathedral:—"The want of a public hall for the purpose of meetings, entertainments, etc., has long been felt in the parish. Up to the present time, the boys' school has been used, but the building is not always available without disorganising the classes, or causing a large amount of work in shifting partitions, re-arranging the seating accommodation, and so forth. It is generally conceded that the time has arrived for providing a public hall which shall meet all requirements of the parish, whether meetings of various societies, or concerts, entertainments, prize-givings, or any other form of meeting which tends to promote sociality amongst the Catholics of Christchurch. Such a hall, if built, might cost £700, a sum that would take a long time to collect, after the many calls made on the parish for the necessary additions to the other parochial buildings. There is, however, no need to erect a new building as the parish already possesses a hall in every way suitable, capable of holding an audience of 500 people, but to render it of use to the purpose mentioned it requires moving from the place it now occupies to one more central. Before removal, which will cost probably £130, a debt on the hall amounting to £120 must be paid off. It is estimated that £150 will be sufficient for the work of removing the hall and re-erecting it near to the parochial library. Unless this can be done shortly, the hall will have to be sold at a very great sacrifice. To obviate this loss, a committee has been formed of all the members of the Catholic Literary Society, and also of the Old Boys' Association, to devise means to raise the money required, and the executive of this committee has worked out a scheme which will be placed before a meeting of the parish to be held in St. Joseph's schoolroom on Sunday, January 23rd, at 3 p.m. It is to be hoped that the meeting will be largely attended, not only by the men but also by the ladies of the parish, as their valuable co-operation in this work is generally desired.—STEPHEN CUMMINGS, S.M., V.G."

With much regret I record the death of Mrs. Mary Taaffe, wife of the late Mr. Bartholomew Taaffe, at the advanced age of ninety-three years. The deceased lady has only survived her late husband, who died in October last, aged eighty-five years, a little over two months. She was born in the town of Bellary, County Derry, Ireland, and was the only daughter of Mr. James Irwin, a miller in that town. She arrived, accompanied by her late husband, in Canterbury about twenty-eight years ago in the ship *Blue Jacket*. Since her advent into the province she has resided in this city, or in its environs, and in every place was respected for her many good qualities, and especially for her kindness and attention to her poorer neighbours. For some years back and up to the time of her demise she has lived with her widowed daughter, Mrs. J. M'Gilligan, in Wilson's Road, Opawa. About two years ago she met with a serious accident, which, for the most part, confined her to her bed. But in spite of this misfortune and her great age, all her mental powers remained unimpaired up till the end. She died on New Year's day last, and was attended in her last illness by the clergy at the Pro-Cathedral. On the occasion of her funeral, which took place on the Tuesday following, the Rev. Father Rafferty said in the Pro-Cathedral a *Requiem* Mass for the repose of her soul, and the Vicar-General officiated at the grave. She was interred in the Linwood public cemetery, and in the grave wherein rest the remains of her late husband. Mrs. Taaffe leaves to mourn her loss four married daughters and a great number of grand and great grandchildren.—R.I.P.

Gaol Preferred to the Workhouse.—At Darwen Sessions Thomas Atkinson, who a short time ago attempted suicide, was charged with sleeping out. A constable said he found the prisoner nearly starved to death in an outhouse in Suddellside. The Chairman—Will you go to the workhouse? Prisoner—I'd rather go to gaol. The Chairman—You can have your choice. Prisoner—Then I'll go to gaol. The Chairman—Very well, fourteen days.

MYERS AND CO., Dentists, Octagon, corner of George street. They guarantee highest class work at moderate fees. Their artificial teeth give general satisfaction, and the fact of them supplying a temporary denture while the gums are healing does away with the inconvenience of being months without teeth. They manufacture a single artificial tooth for Ten Shillings, and sets equally moderate. The administration of nitrous-oxide gas is also a great boon to those needing the extraction of a tooth. Read [ADVT.]