

editor, it is still faithfully and successfully carrying out the designs of its illustrious founder. The TABLET is now undoubtedly one of the best written and most useful religious papers in the colonies. It may be read with profit by young and old. It deserves your support, and I sincerely hope that it will be introduced into every home and read by every Catholic family in this diocese.

Beloved brethren, abound in works of piety and charity, and thus make up in some degree for the relaxation that has been introduced into the law of fasting and abstinence. The charity of the Catholics of this diocese has been abundantly proved during the past twenty-seven years. The churches and schools that have risen up during those years were erected at the cost of many sacrifices. The calls upon your resources have been numerous, but you have responded with the utmost generosity to every appeal. Continue to give as you have given in the past and God will reward you abundantly. Let no ungenerous diffidence in the goodness of God cause you to falter in your good work. Teach your children to give alms. Teach them to rely on the promise of Him who said, "Give, and it shall be given to you" (Luke vi, 38). Bequeath to your children that generous spirit which you inherited from your ancestors. Encourage them in their early years to make pious offerings, in order that in after years they may not depart from the ways of their fathers. "A young man, according to his way, even when he is old he will not depart from it" (Prov., xxii, 6). Repeat to your children that beautiful exhortation which the aged Tobias addressed to his pious son. "According to thy ability be merciful. If thou have much give abundantly; if thou have little take care to bestow willingly a little, for thus thou storeth up to thyself a good reward for the day of necessity. For alms deliver from all sin, and from death, and will not suffer the soul to go into dark ness" (Tobias, iv., 8-11).

I will ask you, beloved brethren, to bestow your Lenten Alms his year principally upon the Orphanage at South Dunedin. The main building of the Orphanage—a substantial brick building 100 feet long and 30 feet wide—has been erected at a cost of £1583. A laundry and other necessary adjuncts will bring the total cost to about £2000. As the Orphanage will not merely supply a local want, but is destined to afford relief to destitute children from every part of the diocese, we may reasonably expect that all the Catholics of the diocese will contribute towards it. During the past years you were unwilling to allow buildings erected for religious purposes to remain encumbered by heavy debt. Let our good Catholics now unite in endeavouring to clear off the debt incurred in the erection of the Orphanage, so that the devoted Sisters of Mercy, who have undertaken the charge of it, may commence their arduous work unhampered by any previous obligation. By contributing towards it you will help to rescue many poor innocent children from destruction. The prayer of the orphan will pierce the heavens; it will reach even to the throne of God, and will plead for mercy on your behalf.

In conclusion I again exhort you, beloved brethren, to sanctify the Lent by self-denial, prayer, almsdeeds and other good works. Recite the Rosary daily, meditate frequently on the Passion of Our Redeemer, and prepare to receive your Divine Lord worthily during the Paschal time. We know not when we may be summoned to render an account of our stewardship. Make good use, therefore, of the grace that is now given to you. Oh, receive not the grace of God in vain. "Behold, now is the acceptable time; behold, now is the day of Salvation" (II. Cor., vi., 2).

"The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the charity of God, and the communication of the Holy Ghost be with you all" (II. Cor., xiii, 13).

✠ MICHAEL VERDON,  
Bishop of Dunedin.

Dunedin,  
Feast of St. Agatha, 1898.

The following regulations for Lent are made in virtue of faculties granted by the Apostolic See:—

1. Flesh meat is allowed at dinner on all days in Lent, except Wednesdays and Fridays, the Saturday in Ember week (March 5) and the Monday in Holy week.
2. On Fasting days a little refectio is allowed in the morning and a collation in the evening, at which (except on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday) butter, cheese, and milk, in moderation, may be used.
3. Eggs may be used at dinner on all days except Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.
4. Lard and dripping may be used as a condiment at dinner on all days except Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.
5. Fish and flesh meat cannot be used at the same meal during Lent.
6. The kinds of food that are allowed at the chief meal to those who are bound to fast, are allowed at all meals to those who, though not bound to fast, are bound to abstain.
7. There is neither fast nor abstinence on Sundays in Lent.
8. St. Patrick's Day (Thursday, 17th March) does not come under the law of fast and abstinence.
9. In virtue of faculties given us by the Apostolic See, we authorize priests having care of souls, and confessors to grant to the faithful such further dispensations as may be deemed necessary according to the circumstances of each case.
10. Persons not twenty-one years old, as well as those advanced in old age, and all those who are unable to fast on account of sickness or hard labour, etc., are exempted from the general obligation of fasting.

All who have arrived at the years of discretion are bound to go to Communion within Easter time, which in this diocese commences on Ash Wednesday and ends on the octave of the Feast of St. Peter and Paul.

A collection for the Seminary Fund will be made on the first Sunday in Lent, where a priest officiates, and in other churches as soon after as possible. The collection for the Pope will be made in each church on some Sunday before the end of September next, and for the Aborigines and Holy Places on some convenient day.

The clergy are requested to read this pastoral from the several altars as soon as possible, and to cause a copy of it to be placed during Lent in a conspicuous place in their respective churches.

## Diocesan News.

### ARCHDIOCESE OF WELLINGTON.

(From our own Correspondent.)

At High Mass at St. Mary of the Angels on Sunday last the Rev. Father O'Sh. said that tenders were being called for the erection of a select school in connection with the primary school now being conducted by the Sisters of Mercy. He said it was originally intended to enlarge the present school, but it was found that the municipal by-law required that such a building should be erected in brick. As this would entail considerably more expense than if put up in wood, the idea had to be abandoned. The good Sisters then generously came to the aid of the Very Rev. Father Devoy, by placing at his disposal a piece of land at the rear of the present school, and on which a wooden building can be erected. The plans and specifications were prepared by Mr. James O'Lea, architect, and a tender has now been accepted for the proposed building at a cost of about £440. The building will be of two storeys and will have a ground area of 44ft. by 24ft. On the ground floor will be a class room 23ft. by 18ft., a dining-room 14ft. 6in. by 14ft., a kitchen 14ft. by 8ft., and a music-room 14ft. by 12ft. In a commodious porch by which the first floor is to be approached, lavatories will be fitted up for the use of the children, whilst the sanitary arrangements and ventilation are to be on the latest and most approved principle. The building, when completed, will be a decided addition to the schools of the city. The funds for the carrying out of the work will, it is expected, be raised by a part of the proceeds of the carnival which is to be held by the Hibernian Society on St. Patrick's Day, and the forthcoming bazaar, which is to be held during Easter week.

The Rev. Father McKenna of Masterton, has purchased a block of land of about two acres, close to the Catholic Church, for the purpose of erecting a convent thereon for the Brigidine nuns, who are to take over the charge of the parish schools about the beginning of next year.

A very enjoyable social was held by the Juvenile Hibernian Society in St. Patrick's Hall, on Wednesday evening. A plentiful supply of refreshments was provided by the committee who had charge of the arrangements, and during the evening the time passed pleasantly with games and vocal selections, the latter being contributed by Brothers J. Hyland, W. Stratford, F. Murphy, J. Stratford, L. Gosling, T. Segrief, etc.

The forthcoming Parliamentary Election is the principal topic of conversation in the Empire City. The vacancy has, no doubt come as a surprise on the Liberal party, and consequently it has found them unprepared. Whether the Opposition had an inkling of it I cannot say, although it looks as if they knew something was in the wind, to judge by the manner in which they have concentrated their forces and selected their champion. The Opposition have selected a strong man, on whose behalf others with strong claims have retired. The Government need a strong man, who will have the support of the whole Liberal community. Had Mr. N. Reid, senior partner of the firm of Turnbull and Co., merchants, consented to stand in the Liberal interest, he would possess many of the qualifications necessary to insure success. Next to him comes Mr. Kirk, solicitor, Mayor of Petone, who will very probably be the recognised champion of the Government. Of course there will be other aspirants for parliamentary honours.

### DIOCESE OF CHRISTCHURCH.

(From our own Correspondent.)

ON Tuesday last a meeting of the executive committee of the Catholic Hall Fund was held. The Vicar-general presided. It was reported that subscriptions were coming in satisfactorily, and hopes were expressed that the required amount would be in hand by March 17. On the strength of the report received, it was decided to immediately call for tenders for the removal of St. Aloysius' Hall. On Sunday afternoon last another well attended meeting, both of ladies and gentlemen, took place in St. Joseph's Schoolroom to arrange definitely for the removal of St. Aloysius' Hall, also for the due celebration of the coming St. Patrick's Day. The Vicar-General presided. The Rev. Father Rafferty, also the Rev. Father Marnan, the latter accompanied by a number of his parishioners, were likewise present. The Very Rev. Chairman explained the object of the gathering, the great need of a place of meeting in the parish, and that by St. Patrick's Day the hall would be in its future position and ready for use. A fair sum of money will be necessary to remove the hall. The Vicar-General stated that he had received a very

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