

MOTHER CHURCH,

and to feel proud of the part which she has had through the course of the nineteenth centuries in the promotion of true progress, happiness, virtue, and freedom (applause). You are all free-born citizens, in bondage to no man; be in bondage only to God, whose service is above all sovereignty. Be manly, be independent, firm, and unbending, but let your faith purify and ennoble your sentiment of manliness. Remember that man's end is not material progress, but a higher one, as we know by the words of one whose wisdom has no equal on earth, the Incarnate Wisdom of God: 'Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His justice, and all things else shall be added unto you.' There is your divine charter. Be men, be true men, but be Christians and saints. For mind is above matter, the spirit above the flesh, virtue above wealth, and heaven above earth. But I have detained you too long. I have been carried away on a congenial theme. I terminate by wishing you happy holidays, and a return to your *Alma Mater* with renewed determination to acquit yourselves well of your duties as students, so that you may one day discharge your duties as men and citizens for the good of your fellowmen and your own eternal welfare (prolonged applause).

Diocesan News.

ARCHDIOCESE OF WELLINGTON.

(From our own correspondent.)

THE pupils of the Convent school, Hill street, will give a cantata early in August.

Miss Kate Williams, conductor of the shorthand classes at the Technical school, and also teacher of stenography at the convent, received by a recent mail a teacher's diploma of the National Phonographic Society.

Advices from Masterton state that the work in connection with the new Bridgide Convent is proceeding apace. During the week the walls have been placed in position, and the roofing timbers are being put on. Should nothing unforeseen happen it is confidently expected the convent will be completed well within contract time and everything ready by the date of the Sisters' arrival.

Notwithstanding the inclemency of the weather the mission given in honour of the Sacred Heart in St. Joseph's Church, Buckle street, during the past week, was very largely attended, and many persons who had not complied with their Easter duty took the opportunity to receive the sacraments.

June 25.

At a meeting of ladies and gentlemen connected with the Cathedral parish, held on Tuesday night, it was decided to hold a 'social' in aid of the parish schools' fund on July 5. A strong working committee was set up, and the enthusiasm displayed by those present augured well for the success of the proposed gathering.

Mr. Robert O'Conner, one of our most prominent citizens, left by the Warrimoo for a trip to Ireland on Thursday afternoon. He was entertained at dinner during the week by some of the principal business men in the city, when very complimentary references were made to his many good qualities, and fervent wishes expressed that his trip would prove enjoyable.

The many friends of Major Collins, accountant to the Treasury, will regret to hear of the death of his mother, which took place at New Plymouth in the beginning of the week. The deceased lady was on a visit to her son in Wellington a few months ago, when she appeared to be in the best of health. On Saturday evening Major Collins received a telegram to say that she was seriously ill. The deceased was relict of the late Captain Collins of 57th Regiment, who saw active service during the Maori War. Mrs. Collins had been a resident of New Plymouth for a number of years, where her amiable disposition endeared her to a large circle of friends.

DIOCESE OF AUCKLAND.

(By telegraph from our own correspondent.)

ON Sunday night despite the inclement weather a large congregation assembled at the Cathedral when the Bishop recited the Rosary explaining between each decade the solemn mysteries of this devotion. The discourse was most instructive and highly appreciated. Being the month devoted to the Sacred Heart, the Bishop referred to, and exhorted the faithful to practise this splendid devotion.

Rev. Father Dawson is expected to return from Wellington this week.

The Auckland Catholic Literary Society approached Holy Communion at the Cathedral on Sunday morning, and were subsequently treated to a sumptuous breakfast at the presbytery, by the chaplain of the Society, Rev. Father Croke, who, after Mass, exhorted the young men of the city to join the Society, and so improve their minds and widen their knowledge.

The committee of the late Centenary Celebration meet shortly to decide in what direction to devote the surplus accruing therefrom. The three principal centres have commemorated ninety-eight locally, and it is desired that Christchurch fall into line, and so complete the success of the New Zealand celebrations.

The Bishop visited Hamilton, then Whangarei, thus completing this year's diocesan visitation.

At St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church on Sunday night, Rev. Mr. Milne paid high tribute to the memory of the late Father Damien, the martyr of Molokai.

The entertainment given at Ponsonby in aid of St. Mary's Convent proved financially successful. The help was much needed, as that confraternity were put to heavy expenses draining property in consequence of adjoining reclamation.

MR. CROTTY'S WILL.

A FALSEHOOD NAILED.

WE learn from the Melbourne *Advocate* that the will of the late Mr. Crotty, of mining fame, has aroused the anger of those who view with jealousy or fear the advance of the Catholic Church in Victoria. The *Southern Cross* went so far as to state that 'such a will was impossible outside the bounds of the Roman Catholic Church. It likewise stated in effect that the testator was forced into the will by the threats of a priest at the dying bed of Mr. Crotty. The extract in print given by the *Advocate* shows a depth of rancour which we certainly did not expect from the *Southern Cross*.

The *Advocate* very properly remarked that the statement of the *Southern Cross* 'maliciously unjust to both the living and the dead. If the journal did not want to be unjust it could have obtained the following information without much trouble. That this particular will was made in December, 1896, before Mr. Crotty—who was in the best of health at the time—left Victoria for London; that no priest was present when the will was drawn up, or other person than the deceased and the drafter; that the drafter of the will remonstrated in reference to the provision for Mrs. Crotty, and was asked, 'Are you drafting your will or mine?' that Mrs. Crotty was her husband's companion in England, and that Mr. Crotty, had he so desired, could have had another will drawn up before he died in England.'

ST. PATRICK'S COLLEGE FOOTBALL TEAM IN CHRISTCHURCH.

(From our special correspondent.)

ON Wednesday, 15th June, the St. Patrick's College team left Wellington by the popular s.s. Rotomahana on a visit to the Cathedral city to play the Boy's High School and Leeston Clubs. Dr. Watters, Rector of the College, and the Rev. Father Hills, one of the masters, accompanied the team. After a splendid passage, during which they met with every kindness at the hands of the officers of the steamer, the travellers reached Lyttelton and proceeded to Christchurch by the 7.20 a.m. train. On arrival at the City Hotel they were waited on by the captain and members of the High School team.

That afternoon the team was driven to the High School, and subsequently, after donning their football attire, the two teams were driven to the North Park, where the match was to be played. A great crowd (estimated at 2,000, and including a number of ladies) was present. An evenly contested and exciting game left the St. Patrick's College team victors by 6 points to 5. Mr. J. Collins, of Christ College, acted in the responsible position of referee. For the College McEvedy scored a try and kicked a goal from a penalty kick. For the High School Byrne scored and Gibbs registered the major points.

After the game afternoon tea was dispensed to the two teams by the lady friends of the High School boys at the High School. Mr. Bevan-Brown, the head-master, welcomed the boys, and the Very Rev. Dr. Watters thanked him for his words of kindly welcome.

At the invitation of the Linwood Club the teams spent the evening in the club's rooms, and much admired them. On Friday afternoon the boys were the guests of the High School in a drive to Kaiapoi, where they were courteously shown over the Woolen Mills. On Saturday afternoon the Rector brought the team to Sumner for a drive, and on that night the two teams were the guests of the Linwood Football Club at a social in their rooms. The kindness and courtesy of the club was much appreciated.

The boys are never tired lauding to the skies the attention and kindness they receive from Mrs. McNamara, of the City Hotel.

A CRATER OF VESUVIUS.

A RARE DISPLAY.

A PORTION of the southern wall of the crater of Vesuvius fell in on the 9th of May. The falling debris (says the *Daily News*) blocked up the vents from which issued the gaseous vapours, and the previous strong explosions almost ceased. Then, on the night of the 15th, professor R. V. Matteucci saw a sight which he believed no one had ever seen before. 'The mass of debris,' he says, 'occupying the bottom of the crater was rendered, here more, there less, incandescent by the heat from the lava beneath. Here and there numerous little flames, about 6ft. high, varying in colour from blue to green, escaped from amid the rocks. In the centre the bottom of the crater was more active. From an aperture in the completely red-hot debris a colossal column of flame forced its way with enormous violence, and a roar like that of breakers on a rocky shore. This gigantic tongue of flame rose to a height of some 200ft., and was of a general yellow tint, with occasional flashes of red and violet colour, and sometimes intense blue. The beautifully-tinted jet of flame has to my knowledge never been observed before in a volcano. It was apparently owing to the kindling of the large quantity of combustible gases which had been imprisoned by the falling in of the crater. People have often thought they saw flames issuing from the summit of Vesuvius, but the light was always owing to the reflection from the lava below in the globes of smoke rising above the crater. The actual jet of incandescent gas observed by me on the night of the 15th April is, I believe, the only one observed on Vesuvius.'

"BLUE BELL" OATMEAL

Is again in the Market, and may be obtained from all Grocers.

WHOLESALE FROM

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