

## DIOCESE OF CHRISTCHURCH.

(From our own correspondent.)

June 5.

Preparations are being made for an operatic concert and dramatic entertainment to be held on the 26th, at which the art union in aid of the Pro-Cathedral parish funds will be drawn. The prizes, numerous and valuable, are now displayed in St. Aloysius Hall, and may be inspected at any time on application to the Vicar-general.

The closing scenes of the recent Early History Carnival in the Opera House were performed on Monday, May 29, when the goods remaining over were, at mid-day, submitted for sale by auction. In the evening a very large audience assembled at an excellent entertainment, contributed to by leading vocalists and instrumentalists of the city, the most popular items, selected from the carnival programmes, being also repeated. At the close of the concert the Rev. Father Mahoney, from the stage, publicly expressed his thankfulness to all who had helped in the event just terminating so successfully. Although the balance-sheet has not yet been presented the profits of the carnival, clear of all expenses, exceed £500. The art union was drawn at the close of the entertainment.

On Thursday last, the feast of Corpus Christi. Masses were celebrated in the Pro-Cathedral at six, seven, and nine o'clock, and in the evening there were Vespers, sermon, and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. On Sunday within the octave of the feast, the patronal one of the Pro-Cathedral, the church was tastefully decorated with banners, statues, &c., the sanctuary, high and side altars, presenting a pleasing aspect with a profusion of choice flowers, pot plants and candles, effectively arranged. At three o'clock in the afternoon a procession, consisting of the various confraternities, the children, and members of the congregation, took place in the adjoining convent grounds, in which a pretty altar had been erected. The monstrance was borne by the Very Rev. Vicar-general, supported by the Rev. Fathers Coffy and Richards, under a canopy carried by four Marist Brothers, the whole affording a devout and imposing spectacle. After Benediction in the open air the procession returned to the church, where Benediction was again given. A sermon suitable to the occasion was preached by the Very Rev. Vicar-general. The weather was beautifully fine, in fact, the only really sunshiny day for several weeks.

## NELSON.

## OPENING OF A MUSEUM AT STOKE ORPHANAGE.

YESTERDAY afternoon (says the Nelson Colonist, June 2) a number of citizens and residents in the neighbourhood assembled at the Stoke Orphanage to witness the opening of the new museum building in connection with that institution by his Grace Archbishop Redwood. The boys, to the number of between 140 and 150, were drawn up in lines in front of the entrance to receive his Grace, and the band, under the leadership of Mr. Leaper, was playing in front of the main building. About three o'clock the company assembled in front of the museum building, which is situated to the left of the main building.

The Very Rev. Dean Mahoney expressed his satisfaction at seeing so many present. He said he believed that, although his Grace had been 26 years a Bishop, he had never before been asked to open a museum. He acknowledged their indebtedness to the benefactors who had helped them to procure the building. He referred to the time he started the Orphanage, when he had not more than £20 in cash, and what the institution had grown to, owing to the zealous labours of the Brothers, and the kindness of their many friends. He felt sure the Brothers joined him in sincerely thanking all their benefactors. He then handed the key to his Grace, and requested him to open the building.

Archbishop Redwood said he had great pleasure in being present, and in performing the pleasant duty required of him. He had always taken a great interest in the orphanage. He said Bro. Latus had long desired to have a museum, and he congratulated him upon the realisation of his hopes. His Grace spoke of the value of a museum in enabling the boys to study Nature, also man. He eulogised the good work the Brothers were engaged in in training the lads to become creditable and useful members of society. He acknowledged the assistance given by Mr. John Tinline, Mr. C. Y. Fell, Dr. Roberts, and other benefactors to the institution. He said the museum would be found to contain many things of interest already, and he hoped it would prove a source of profit and increased happiness to the boys. He had great pleasure in declaring the museum building open.

His Worship the Mayor and Mr. C. Y. Fell also addressed the assembly, referring to the valuable services rendered by the late Father Garin, also to those of Father Mahoney, Bro. Latus, and his colleagues in caring for the boys, and training them for lives of usefulness, thus not only conferring a benefit on the boys, but doing a good work for the Colony. They each wished the Brothers God's speed in their noble work.

The visitors on entering the fine building were surprised to see such a valuable collection of exhibits of all descriptions. The building, which is 50 feet long, 20 feet in width, and 18 feet in height, is well finished throughout, and reflects great credit on the builder, Messrs. Leaper Bros. Bro. Latus, now there is such a suitable building to place them in, would be pleased to receive specimens and objects of interest for the museum. Among the many valuable exhibits in the building one we think deserves special mention, and that is the fine collection of various grass seeds.

The band played a number of selections during the afternoon, which were greatly enjoyed. Light refreshments were provided for the visitors, and his Worship the Mayor proposed the health of Brother Latus and his colleagues, which was enthusiastically received. Archbishop Redwood wrote the following memorandum in the visitors' book:—"June 1, 1899. This day will be ever memorable in the annals of this noble and successful institution, as the one on which his Grace Archbishop Redwood, in the presence of a large number of the most distinguished citizens of Nelson and its neighbourhood, solemnly opened the new museum, and wished it a long career of ever-increasing prosperity." The signatures of the visitors followed. All present were pleased with the institution and its surroundings.

## RECEPTION OF ARCHBISHOP REDWOOD.

There was a very large attendance on the evening of May 31, in St. Mary's Hall, Nelson (says the Colonist), when a social and concert were held in connection with Archbishop Redwood's and Father Ainsworth's visit to Nelson. The Very Rev. Dean Mahoney, in presiding, expressed the pleasure he felt on seeing such a large audience present, who, he was sure, had come not only to enjoy themselves, but to welcome his Grace the Archbishop and Father Ainsworth. There were old associations connecting his Grace with St. Mary's. They were sorry they had not the Archbishop present at the opening of the hall, but were pleased now to see him present, and no doubt later in the evening his Grace would make a few remarks. Among the performers at the concert was the Rev. Father Ainsworth, who sang 'The admiral's broom,' and on being most enthusiastically recalled his fine voice was heard to even greater advantage as he sang 'Father O'Flynn.' The audience were not satisfied until the reverend gentleman reappeared and sang over again a portion of the song. Later on he gave 'The Holy City,' and as an encore piece, 'I'm off to Philadelphia.' His Grace Archbishop Redwood said that, looking on the audience as an assemblage of friends, he had consented to give them a violin solo. He had consented also because where some of them were sitting that evening was the spot where he first began to play the violin in 1851. He would not play them anything elaborate, but would play them an old melody 'Home, sweet home.' He did so, and received a most enthusiastic encore, when his Grace played an exquisitely sweet Italian melody, which was received with rounds of applause. At the conclusion of the concert Archbishop Redwood addressed the audience. He said that when an elephant was made to dance a polka, the people applauded greatly, not because the elephant danced well, but because the people wondered at an elephant being able to dance, and he thought the same applied to his violin playing. He had extreme pleasure at being present, and felt flattered at seeing so large an audience to welcome him and his associate. He esteemed the mark of their good feeling. In 1851, he and Mr. George Bonnington, the successful chemist, were the first boarders at St. Mary's. He first tried to play an accordion; next a flute which required too much breath; next a flageolet, with which he was more successful; and after that he got Mr. George Bonnington to give him some instruction on the violin, and afterwards took lessons from Mr. Charles Bonnington. While he was pursuing his heavier studies for years he lost sight of his violin, but after he became a Bishop he took to his violin again to while away his cares. He most heartily congratulated Father Mahoney and the congregation of St. Mary's on obtaining such a splendid hall. He hoped it would be a source of much enjoyment to them. In concluding, he thanked His Worship the Mayor and Mr. Graham for the kindly references made by them to himself when the hall was opened.

## The Catholic World.

**ENGLAND.—Outdoor Services in London.**—It is reported that Rev. Father Green, who is attached to the Church of the Guardian Angels, Mile End, London, proposes to inaugurate a series of outdoor services on Sunday evenings after the conclusion of the church service. At these services the principles of temperance will be inculcated, together with instruction in Catholic doctrine.

**Maundy Thursday in Catholic Countries.**—Maundy Thursday, (says the Newcastle Chronicle), is a great day in Catholic countries, but little observed by English people. Maundy comes from the obsolete word *mandu*, a command, and refers especially to the command given to the disciples to wash one another's feet as an act of humility—an injunction that is, more or less literally, still carried out by the Emperor Francis Joseph in Vienna. Although no English sovereign has performed this ceremony since James II., it was certainly carried out at Whitehall by the Archbishop of York, as Lord High Almoner, so lately as 1731, and at the same time there were distributed to forty-eight men and forty-eight women—forty-eight being the King's age—meat, drink, and money.

**An Ancient Catholic Survival.**—At Westminster Abbey on Holy Thursday, the Royal Maundy, (says the Catholic Times), was duly distributed. The distribution is an ancient Catholic survival dating from 1363, when Edward III. was 50 years of age, and has been maintained uninteruptedly through Protestant ages down to the present. The Monarch mentioned instituted the customs of distributing alms to as many poor persons as he was years old, and it has been observed by all his successors on the English throne. The Queen being now 80 years, that number of poor persons received purses, each containing between £5 and £6. Formerly the Maundy was distributed in clothing and food, now it is invariably in coin, contained in two purses, one in lieu of clothing, the other in lieu of food.