

damage was done in the neighbourhood of Barcelonette. The agricultural lands of the Department were only partially saved by the construction of enormous and costly defensive works and the systematic re-planting of trees, grass, etc. The work is still going toilsomely on. There is a melancholy abundance of such-like examples of the destructive effects of the policy of using axe and fire on a vast and reckless scale, and neglecting to make adequate provision for conservation and re-planting. The detailed report presented last month by the Wellington Land Board to the Government on the subject of forest conservation shows how relatively little has been done in the matter over a great part of the North Island. The rest of the Colony is probably in no better case. Government needs waking up on the matter. An American authority upon the subject says—and his words apply with equal force to New Zealand—that 'the care of the national forests is a provision for future generations, for the permanence over vast areas of our country of the great industries of agriculture and mining, upon which the prosperity of the country ultimately depends. A good Forest Administration would soon support itself, but it should be organised in the interests of the whole country, no matter what it costs.'

DIocese of DUNEDIN.

From a letter received by a well-known Dunedin resident from his son in Ireland we learn that the former students of Clonliffe College, Ireland, and the Irish College, Rome, were making great preparations to give his Lordship Bishop Verdon a suitable reception on his arrival in Ireland. His Lordship had been Rector of both these institutions.

Our Southland correspondent writes:—A concert in aid of the convent building fund will be held at Gore in September, and a number of convent pupils and others are already preparing to take part. I am informed that the proceeds of the Catholic concert at Mataura amounted to over £10, which sum will be devoted to the liquidation of the organ debt.

A progressive euchre tournament was the programme for the last meeting of the Dunedin Catholic Men's Social Club held on Friday evening, and it proved very successful. A capital contest resulted in Messrs C. Delany and S. Columb tying for first place, the latter eventually winning in the play-off. Mr. Deehan presented the prizes, taking occasion to mention that a splendid programme was being arranged for next Friday, and that on the following Friday the members would entertain their lady friends. Members can obtain tickets on application to the secretary.

The Rev. Father Murphy, in announcing at the eleven o'clock Mass on Sunday at St. Joseph's Cathedral, that the Christian Brothers' Schools would reopen on Monday, urged upon parents the necessity of seeing that their children attended school regularly and punctually. He also spoke strongly on the practice of Catholic parents sending their children to the State schools, and thus endangering their faith. It was the bounden duty of Catholic parents to see that their children were brought up in a knowledge of their religion, and it was evident this would not be the case if they were sent to schools where the name of God was not mentioned. Parents, he said, had a very great responsibility in regard to the proper bringing up of their children, and unless they discharged this as they ought, they were imperilling their own and their children's salvation.

TIMARU.

(From our own correspondent.)

July 24.

His Lordship Bishop Grimes will arrive here on Wednesday next, July 26. He will administer the Sacrament of Confirmation on the following Sunday.

A large number of people assembled at the Theatre Royal last Wednesday, July 19, to take a 'Trip to Palestine' under the care of the Very Rev. Canon Franklin, as lecturer, assisted by Mr. Charles Knight as exhibitor of the lantern views. Canon Franklin, having made three visits to Palestine, has an intimate acquaintance with the scenes, the pictures of which were thrown on the screen, and with historical and legendary references and personal experiences he gave a highly interesting lecture about the country. Appropriate songs were sung by ladies and gentlemen of the choir. Among the pictures were photographs of paintings of sacred subjects by the Old Masters, and the incident which each represented was briefly dealt with. Altogether a very enjoyable evening was spent.

PALMERSTON NORTH.

Last evening (says the *Manawatu Standard*, July 14), a concert was held for the purpose of celebrating the birthday of the Rev. Father Patterson. This has been customary since his advent into Palmerston North. Mr. F. Aisher took the chair, and in an excellent speech, congratulated the rev. gentleman upon his birthday and referred in complimentary terms to the success that had attended his labours as their priest for 14 years. During the evening Messrs.

Gamble, Brophy, Henley, Hanlon, and Aisher contributed songs, after which refreshments were handed round by the members of the Children of Mary. At the conclusion of the concert a presentation, consisting of a large silver coffee-pot, was made to Father Patterson on behalf of the congregation, and the Children of Mary presented a massive silver case for oil stock. The rev. gentleman, in responding, thanked them for their valuable and handsome gifts and congratulated each in his parish for steadfastness in their faith and for the manner they have at all times worked with him. It should be satisfactory to them to know their church was free from debt, and as for their religious duties he said they would well compare with any parish in the Colony, of which they could justly be proud. Their co-operation in all good works was satisfactory and pleasing to him.

PANMURE.

Panmure was *en fete* last Tuesday evening (says the *Auckland Star*, July 13), the occasion being the recurring anniversary of Monsignor McDonald's birthday. The gathering took place in St. Patrick's Hall, when about 220, including children, assembled. The pupils under the careful training of their teachers, Miss McDonald and Miss Hogan, had prepared a short but very interesting programme for the occasion, and acquitted themselves very creditably. Miss Elsie Gavin, supported by two of the younger pupils, Miss Kincaid and Miss Malone, read an address in a distinct and very feeling manner, and presented a number of well-selected and useful presents from kind friends and well wishers to Father Walter, who replied in a few well chosen and touching sentences. During the evening light refreshments were handed round by the teachers, when a very pleasant chat concluded the happy function. The address was as follows:—'Dear Father Walter,—Once again the 11th of July has come round, and it is with more than ordinary delight that we, the little children of St. Patrick's School, Panmure, wish you, dear Father Walter, many, many happy returns of the day. The present we are about to give is not what we would like to give you, but we know, dear Father Walter, that it is not the value of the present that you look at but the spirit in which it is given. We hope that Divine Providence will allow you to remain with us for many years to come, and also that your health may be spared to you, as we know nothing would grieve you more than that of not being able to attend to your duties; you never allow weather to keep you from them no matter how severe it is; and now, dear Father Walter, wishing you many happy returns of the day, we remain, your devoted children of St. Patrick's School, Panmure. Signed (on behalf of the school children), Elsie Gavin.'

WEDDING BELLS.

DONNELLY—O'REGAN.

A marriage which attracted no little attention was celebrated at St. Patrick's Church, St. Bathans, on Wednesday the 19th inst., the contracting parties being Mr. Felix Donnelly, third son of Mrs. E. Donnelly, Black's Hotel, Ophir, and Miss Sarah E. O'Regan, eldest daughter of the late Mr. J. O'Regan, St. Bathans. The ceremony was performed by the Very Rev. Father Sheehan. The bride, who was given away by her brother Mr. P. O'Regan, wore a very becoming costume of white cashmere with the usual wreath and veil. The bridesmaid was Miss Nora O'Regan (sister of the bride) who was dressed in fawn cashmere, with hat to match. Mr. Daniel Donnelly, (brother of the bridegroom) was best man. After the ceremony the wedding party adjourned to the residence of Mr. P. O'Regan, where the wedding breakfast was laid. The newly-wedded couple were the recipients of a large number of presents from their many friends. Mr. and Mrs. Donnelly left in the afternoon for Dunedin where the honeymoon was to be spent, taking with them the best wishes of a large circle of friends for their future happiness.

KOCH—MALAGHAN.

A large congregation assembled in St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Queenstown, on Tuesday last (says the *Lake Wakatipu Mail* July 21) to witness the marriage of Mr. W. H. Koch, Glenorchy, and Miss Sara Malaghan, second daughter of the late Mr. T. Malaghan, (one of the earliest settlers of the Otago goldfields). The church was prettily decorated and the ceremony was performed by the Rev. J. O'Donnell. A Nuptial Mass was celebrated to honour the occasion, it being the first marriage solemnised in the new church. The bridegroom was attended by Mr. P. T. Malaghan. After the ceremony the party returned to the residence of the bride's mother, where they were entertained at breakfast. The happy couple then left by the boat for Invercargill, *en route* for Dunedin, where the honeymoon is to be spent. A number of costly and useful presents were received by the bride, who was a universal favourite.

Mr. S. McDonald, of the City Boot Palace, Dee street, Invercargill, calls special attention to his stock of first-class boots and shoes made in his own workshop. Customers will find a large variety of goods to select from.—*.*

Mr. P. Burke, formerly of the Cafe de Paris, has taken over Tattersall's Hotel, Christchurch. This hotel has just been thoroughly renovated and refurnished, and patrons may rest assured of receiving every attention. Mr. Burke has spared no expense in fitting up Tattersall's in a manner which will meet with the approval of the public, and his long experience as a host is a guarantee that nothing will be left undone to ensure the comfort of his guests.—*.*

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