

quarters, and avoided all communication with the lepers; nevertheless, after a few months he resigned all claim to the aureola of heroism and chose for himself elsewhere a more agreeable mission-field.

Diocesan News.

ARCHDIOCESE OF WELLINGTON.

(From our own correspondent.)

September 2.

The Rev. Father Melu of Otaki is at present visiting Wellington.

The mission arrangements of his Grace the Archbishop and Rev. Father Ainsworth have been somewhat upset by their being tar-bounded in Wairoa for 12 days. They began their work at Meaneo on Tuesday.

To raise the necessary funds for the furnishing of their stall at the coming bazaar the Children of Mary held a private social in St. Paul's schoolroom on Wednesday evening. Songs were sung by the Rev. Father Hills, Misses Sullivan and Gallagher, Messrs. Ballance, Blith, Gordon, McManaway, and Carr.

A special meeting of the local Hibernian Society was held on Wednesday to consider the advisability of celebrating its silver jubilee. Being an important epoch in the history of the branch, it was thought that a special effort should be made to celebrate it in a suitable manner. An energetic committee was set up to see to the necessary details.

There was Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at St. Joseph's, Buckle street, on last Sunday. A *Messa Cantata* was sung by the Rev. Father Hills of St. Patrick's College, and the Rev. Father O'Shea preached on the gospel of the day. The choir, under Mr. McCardell, sang Haydn's Mass in B flat, the soloists being Misses Sullivan, McDonald, Messrs. Rowe and Haughey.

The annual gathering of St. Joseph's choir this year, took the form of a dance, and passed off most successfully in Spiller's Hall, Boulcott street, on Wednesday, August 23. The committee, which consisted of Misses Rigg, McDonald, Messrs. McCardell, Dix, and Rowe, were complimented for their excellent arrangements, securing for everyone present a thoroughly enjoyable evening.

On Thursday Mr. Kirby, the popular tenor, was entertained by the Hill street choir at the Archbishop's residence. The evening was passed in song, story, and recitation. Advantage was taken of the gathering to make a presentation to Mr. Blith, a prominent member of the choir, who is leaving for Sydney. The Very Rev. Father Lewis made the presentation in a happy speech, and proposed the health of Mr. Blith. Mr. Blith feelingly responded, and concluded by saying that if ever he returned to Wellington he would be once more in the ranks of St. Mary's choir.

The ceremony of consecrating the Right Rev. P. Barnada, Archbishop of Santiago de Cuba, and the Rev. James Blenk, S.M. (who has been appointed Bishop of Puerto Rico), was performed by Archbishop Chapelle of New Orleans on July 2. The Right Rev. P. Verdagner was the assisting consecrating Bishop. The assisting Bishops to Archbishop Barnada were the Right Revs. E. P. Allan, D.D., and F. Behm, D.D., and to Bishop Blenk the Right Revs. G. A. Rouxel, D.D., and T. Meerhaert, D.D. Special interest attaches to Bishop Blenk from the fact of his long connection with St. Mary's College, Dundalk, and his ordination to the priesthood by Archbishop Redwood. Among the many congratulatory letters and wires which he received on the day of his consecration was a cable from his Grace.

(By Telegraph.)

September 4

It was announced at all the Masses yesterday that the *Triduum*, in connection with the consecration of mankind to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, would begin in all the churches of the archdiocese on Friday next and conclude on Sunday.

DIOCESE OF AUCKLAND.

(From our own correspondent.)

August 31.

The H.A.C.B. Society's District Executive and Trustees have now advanced upon first-class freehold security in Auckland the large sum of £2350. This at 5 per cent. is a wise and necessary investment.

Judge Connolly at the sittings of the Supreme Court yesterday, remarked: 'I am afraid it will be a long time before I get a pair of white gloves.' The heavy quarterly criminal calendars amply justify the observation.

The Young Men's Club of St. Benedict's parish held last evening, in St. Benedict's Hall, a very successful gathering. Everything in connection with it passed off well, to the satisfaction of the patrons, and to the credit of the club.

At Hamilton, Waikato, last Friday evening, a most successful concert was given in the Volunteer Hall in aid of St. Mary's Monastery. Although the weather was very inclement the hall was filled. The children's performances were the chief attractions and earned rounds of applause, which were richly merited.

The Sancta Maria branch (female) of H.A.C.B.S. held on Tuesday evening last a social in the Catholic Institute. The weather militated much against the affair, but for all that the hall was filled. The lady officers are to be congratulated upon their untiring efforts in catering so well for those who patronised them.

The Right Rev. Dr. Lenihan writes from London, under date July 28:—'Last week we had very hot weather, and I felt quite knocked up. In the early part of the month I had ten days at

Liverpool. The Bishop and priests there were most kind and attentive. I look forward to another visit there later on in the year. I met Bishop Verdon at his brother's in Liverpool. He was looking very well.'

The stage Irishman, I regret to state, has been disporting himself, despite all the denunciations of the TABLET and other Catholic papers, at a recent Catholic entertainment in Auckland. And his grotesque mode of speech and meaningless gyrations, both so foreign to Irishmen, were, sad to relate, loudly applauded by a considerable section of the large audience.

A first-class concert was held at the Oddfellows' Hall, Howick, on Wednesday night (says the *Auckland Star*, August 28) in aid of a resident of the village, Mr. P. Smith, a married man with a large young family, who had been laid up with a bad leg for some months past. Monsignor Macdonald presided, and addressed the large audience with one of those cheerful and kindly speeches for which he is so noted and popular. A very full programme was submitted to an appreciative assembly, and well rendered by the Misses Myles, Roberts, Olphert, and Andrews, Messrs. Absolum, Bower, Harris, Rainger, Trice, Teague, and Brennan. The music was supplied by Mrs A. Muluire and Mr. William Brady. After the concert a dance was greatly enjoyed. We understand the concert will result in £20 being handed to Mr. Smith.

The half-yearly meeting of the New Zealand District Board of H.A.C.B. Society was held last evening in the Catholic Institute, District President Bro. John Patterson in the chair. All the other district officers were present. The officers report dealt with several matters of interest, notably that of the position of the Charleston branch, the defunct Paeroa branch, and the president made special reference to the next A. M. meeting, hoping it would be held in Dunedin. The balance sheet showed a credit of £3,900 odd pounds. The funeral expenses for the half year had been exceptionally heavy, viz. £110, but for all that the credit balance for the half year was £85. The incidental fund, though strict economy had been practised, was very low. The report was adopted. The president would like to witness more activity throughout the branches, and this could very easily be accomplished by the individual efforts of members. The Registrar, in reply to a letter from the executive, stated that the Friendly Societies Act did not prevent societies from obtaining possession of freehold property, but advised great care in the matter. It was carried that the E.D. of Melbourne be asked to set up a committee to inquire into and report upon the financial status of the society as a whole. It was decided to make a general levy upon every member in the New Zealand district to aid the Charleston branch. P.D.P. Nerheny moved that the next A.M.M. be held in Dunedin. Bro. D. Flynn (Hastings), thought that in view of the lowness of the incidental fund it would be unwise to incur the expense. Upon a division the motion was lost. The executive were requested by the Auckland delegate, President Bro. A. Wright, to fix a general communion Sunday throughout New Zealand, on which day branches would approach the altar. To Bro. M. J. Sheahan a past district president's collar was presented by the district president, who referred in eulogistic terms to the recipient, P.D.P. Nerheny, D.S. Kane, and P.D.P. Flynn (Hastings), also added their high testimony. D.T. Bro. Sheahan suitably acknowledged the gift, and said he would ever treasure it, and hoped in the future to so work in the interests of the society to deserve it. The Wellington branch gave notice of motion for next meeting that 'the headquarters of the Society be removed to Wellington'; New Headford branch that, 'presidents of branches be empowered to remit fines, when imposed by said presidents.' Officers for next term were nominated:—President, Bro. D. O'Sullivan; vice-president, Bro. M. O'Sullivan; secretary, Bro. Kane; treasurer, Bro. M. J. Sheahan; auditors, Bro. Kane and Stead.

DIOCESE OF CHRISTCHURCH.

(From our own correspondent.)

September 4

The Forty Hours Adoration will commence in the Pro-Cathedral on the 15th inst.

His Lordship the Bishop makes his episcopal visitation to, and commences his mission in the Ashburton parish next Sunday week.

The Rev. Father Higgins is at present replacing the Rev. Father Marnane at St. Mary's, Manchester street, during the latter's temporary absence on the West Coast.

The Eucharistical Letter of his Holiness Pope Leo XIII. on the consecration of mankind to the Sacred Heart of Jesus was read at the High Mass in the Pro-Cathedral on Sunday.

The Rev. Father Marnane, of St. Mary's, Manchester street, left overland on Tuesday for Greymouth to be present at the silver jubilee celebrations of the Very Rev. Dean Carew.

The Rev. Father Aubry, of Leeston, and the Rev. Father O'Connell, of Waimate, who had effected some time ago a brief interchange of duties, have now returned to their respective districts.

On Sunday next the annual charity sermons in aid of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul will be preached in the Pro-Cathedral at High Mass by the Very Rev. Father Le Menant des Chesnais, V.G., and in the evening by the Rev. Father Goggin, S.M. Special musical arrangements have been made for the occasion.

His Lordship the Bishop returned to the city on Tuesday evening from the south, leaving again on the following Friday morning for Geraldine, where on Sunday last the episcopal visitation of the parish was made, and a mission by his Lordship and the Very Rev. Dean Foley began, which is to be continued during the present week.

[Our correspondent's account of events in Timaru, Greymouth, and Pleasant Point are covered by reports published elsewhere from the centres referred to.—Ed. N.Z.T.]