

DIOCESE OF DUNEDIN.

Mr. Walter Kirby, the rising young New Zealand tenor, who is proceeding Home next year to place himself under the tuition of Mr. Santley, sang at Vespers at St. Joseph's on Sunday evening.

Miss Drury, of Port Chalmers, who passed in the middle grade Trinity College (London) musical examination, is a pupil of the Sisters of St. Joseph. A pupil of the Sisters of St. Joseph at Arrowtown passed with honours.

On Thursday evening last a social was given by the Rev. Father McMullen in the Foresters' Hall, Port Chalmers, to the ladies and gentlemen who assisted with such conspicuous success at the bazaar held recently in the marine borough. There were about 80 persons present, and the function was an exceedingly enjoyable one.

The handsome new Catholic church erected at Tapanni will be opened on Sunday next, the 17th inst. The occasional sermon will be preached by the Very Rev. Father O'Neill (Milton). In addition to the Rev. Father O'Donnell (Gore), the Very Rev. Dean Mackay, Administrator of the Diocese, and other members of the clergy are expected to take part in the opening ceremony.

The annual entertainment in connection with the distribution of prizes to the pupils of the Christian Brothers' Schools will take place in St. Joseph's Hall to-morrow (Friday) evening. An excellent programme, consisting of competition contests in solo singing, elocution, and gymnastics, will be presented, and considering how creditably the boys acquitted themselves at recent entertainments, an excellent evening's amusement is anticipated.

A concert will be given on Wednesday evening in Mosgiel in aid of the funds of St. Mary's Convent School. A very fine programme is in course of preparation, and the following performers from Dunedin have promised to assist:—Miss Rose Blaney, Miss Mary Blaney, Miss Moloney, Miss A. Marks, Miss Morrison, Mr. Jago, and Mr. Eagar. An interesting *finale* to the concert will be given by the St. Joseph's minstrels, whose performances at various times in Dunedin have been highly appreciated.

In its comments on the production of the 'The Messiah' at Invercargill the *Southland Daily News* says of the singing of Mr. E. Eagar, of Dunedin:—"The most difficult position to fill is that of leading tenor, and so that this exacting part would receive a good rendering the services of Mr. Eagar, of Dunedin, were secured. The visitor is not gifted with a powerful voice, but his interpretation of the music was accurate and the florid passages were well executed, while his sweet soft tone enhanced the delight of the efforts. The récit 'Comfort ye My people' and air 'Every valley shall be exalted,' were received with marks of approbation."

A concert in aid of the widow and family of the late Mr. A. Carter will be given in the Garrison Hall on Monday night. A very good programme, in which Mrs. Hudson, Mrs. J. Coombs, Miss R. Blaney, Miss M. Landells, Miss F. Brewer, Miss K. Moloney, Miss May Donaldson, Miss M. Morrison, and Messrs. A. C. Haulon, J. Jago, E. Eagar, J. McKennah, J. Coombs, F. H. Stokes, and the pupils of the Christian Brothers' School will take part, has been prepared for the occasion. The case is a most deserving one, Mrs. Carter and family of five young children having been left totally unprovided for. It is to be hoped that the organisers of the concert will meet with a generous response to their appeal from the public, who are ever ready to assist in the cause of charity.

The devotion of the Forty Hours' Adoration began at St. Patrick's Basilica, South Dunedin, on Friday morning, when Solemn High Mass was celebrated by the Rev. Father Moloney, S. M., the Rev. Father Ryan being deacon, the Rev. Father O'Donnell sub-deacon, and the Rev. Father Coffey master of ceremonies. On Saturday morning the Rev. Father O'Donnell sang a *Missa Cantata*. At the Solemn High Mass on Sunday the Rev. Father Moloney, S. M., was celebrant, the Rev. Father Kelsch (Tasmania) deacon, the Rev. Father O'Donnell sub-deacon, and the Rev. Father Coffey master of ceremonies. The Rev. Father O'Donnell preached on Friday evening and the Rev. Father Murphy on Sunday evening. The choir, under the conductorship of Mr. G. Neill, rendered the music appropriate to the ceremonies in a finished manner, Mrs. Neill presiding at the organ. On Sunday evening at Vespers Miss Morrison gave a devotional rendering of an 'Ave Maria.' The attendance at all the services was very good.

I N V E R C A R G I L L

(From our own correspondent.)

The General Election is now an event of the past. Southland has shown decidedly that its sympathies are with the Liberal Government, and has returned four good men, three of whom—the Hon. J. G. Ward, Messrs. McNab and Gilfedder—are tried veterans. Mr. J. A. Hanan, the fourth member, had a great victory over Mr. J. W. Kelly, who for years had represented Invercargill. Mr. Gilfedder had a hard fight in the Wallace electorate, but he came out on top with a substantial majority of 198 votes.

An event which is of much importance to the Irishmen of Southland was the annual meeting of the Irish Athletic Society, which took place on December 1, when the following office-bearers were elected:—President, Hon. J. G. Ward; vice-presidents, Messrs. J. W. Ford and T. McGrath; secretary, Mr. W. Hinchey; treasurer, Mr. T. McGrath; directors, Messrs. T. Cavenagh, J. Sheehan, N. Kelly, P. Dunn, J. Shepherd, J. McNamara, F. Downey, N. Moloney, J. Sinclair, J. McEntyre, C. Walls, W. Brettenden, J. B. Ford, W. Murdoch, and W. Nolan.

The members of the Catholic Literary Society believe in the development of the body as well as the mind. In pursuance of this principle, and under the patronage of the Very Rev. Dean Burke, they built for themselves a fine, well-furnished gymnasium and formed in connection with it cricket and football clubs. These have

been so successful that they decided to go a step further and to hold a sports' meeting on December 6. They engaged the Queen's Park and, although the General Election took place on the same day, the sports' committee have every reason to feel gratified with the result. A large number of trophies and medals were donated by the leading people of the town. Competition was open only to members of the Society. The principal winners were: 100yds and 120yds champion race, L. Morton; 120yds hurdles and 220yds race, P. Reynolds; one mile and 440yds race, and Irish jig, T. Grace; throwing the stone and hammer, A. Maher; high jump, J. Crawford; long jump and hop-step-and-jump, P. Scully. Besides these there were a number of smaller events, all of which were well contested. On Thursday evening the Society held a small social gathering at which the Very Rev. Dean Burke distributed the prizes.

THE BISHOP OF DUNEDIN IN EUROPE.

A PLEASING RECORD OF SUCCESS.

A LONG and cheery communication has reached Father Murphy, Administrator of St. Joseph's Cathedral, Dunedin, from the Right Rev. Dr. Verdon. It is dated Dublin, October 29, and contains a record of his Lordship's travels and labours in the interests of his diocese. We learn from it that after landing in Ireland, Bishop Verdon proceeded to Maynooth just in time to see 80 students of that famous Alma Mater of the Green Isle raised to the priesthood. He afterwards, by special invitation, conferred Holy Orders in the great foreign missionary college of All Hallows at Drumcondra, Dublin. His next visit was to the Irish College, Paris. His Lordship has met with gratifying success in connection with two of the chief purposes of his visit to the Old Land—namely, securing a supply of priests for the needs of his diocese and for making an early start with scholastic work in the fine Ecclesiastical Seminary which his prudence and foresight has secured for the training of secular priests for the whole of New Zealand.

Among the new subjects secured by his Lordship for the diocese of Dunedin are the following: Two promising young priests—Fathers Hearn and Geary—who were ordained in St. John's College, Waterford, in June, are now on their way to Dunedin, having left by the Austral the week previous to that on which the Bishop, wrote. They are expected in Dunedin within the next few days. On November 10 two other young priests, from Thurles College took steamer for Dunedin. As they intend to make a stay at Naples and Rome on their outward journey, they are not expected in Dunedin till the new year. At his old college of Clonliffe—of which, by the way, his Lordship was for many years President, and where his memory is still held in affectionate remembrance—he secured another student, whose ordination is fixed for Christmas. He, and probably another young priest as well, will accompany his Lordship on his return journey to Dunedin. In June next year two other students will be ordained for the diocese of Dunedin, the one in St. John's College, Waterford, the other in St. Patrick's College, Maynooth.

An announcement which will be received with much pleasure by the Catholics of the Colony is conveyed in his Lordship's letter. It is this: that the Ecclesiastical Seminary will be opened as soon as he returns to Dunedin. This happy consummation is now not many months off, as his Lordship, who is now in Rome, expects to sail from Naples by the Omrah on February 25, and to arrive in Dunedin early in April. We may state that, by his Lordship's instructions, the furnishing of the Seminary will shortly be proceeded with. The opening of the new Seminary will be one of the most marked of the many evidences of the fast-growing life and energy of the Catholic Church in New Zealand, and should in due course once and for all settle the perennial difficulty hitherto experienced of finding a constant and assured supply of labourers for the Vineyard of the Lord in this young land.

Bishop Verdon reports a fine summer and a very abundant harvest in Ireland. He likewise writes in terms of grateful enthusiasm of the generous hospitality extended to him on all hands both in America, Ireland, and elsewhere during the course of his travels—especially from the Archbishops of New York, Philadelphia, and Dublin, and by his many old friends among the secular and regular clergy. Altogether his Lordship's letter is a pleasant record of successful achievement not alone for his own diocese, but, in the matter of the Seminary, for the whole of New Zealand.

A MUNIFICENT DONATION.

(By telegraph, from a Wellington correspondent.)

It was announced some time ago in the columns of the N.Z. TABLET that Mr. Sydney Johnston, of Waipawa, had donated the sum of £500 to the Wellington Cathedral Building Fund. By the last mail from Home there came to hand a subscription of £500 for the Sacred Heart Basilica, Wellington, from Miss Johnston, now residing in England. Miss Johnston is a sister of Mrs. Grace, the Hon. O. Johnston and Messrs. Walter and Sydney Johnston, a family noted for their munificence to the Church in Wellington.

The Omrah, which arrived in Sydney in the early part of December, brought two priests from the old country for the Australian mission—the Rev. Father V. Peters, for the diocese of Maitland, and the Rev. Father Shanahan, for the diocese of Sandhurst. Two Sisters of the Sacred Heart for the Rose Bay Convent of that Order also arrived by the Omrah.