

WELLINGTON.

(From our own Correspondent.)

January 21.

THE Rev Father Goggan, in the course of his remarks at St Mary of the Angels on Sunday morning last, stated that the proceeds of the penny collection made at the doors of the churches in the city during the last six months amounted to £100. He also pointed out that, if this mode of raising money was persevered in during the next eighteen months, sufficient funds would be raised to defray the expense of building the new schools at Newtown. It is evident, however, that the pence make the pounds, and that this is one of the most popular as well as the easiest methods of raising money.

According to information which I have received from a gentleman in the North, the Catholics residing in the Waitara, having suffered inconvenience for a long time for want of a church in the district, are shortly about to erect one. Subscriptions to a large amount have, I understand, been promised not alone by the Catholic, but by the non-Catholic residents.

Among the arrivals here during the week has been the Very Rev Father Le Menant des Chesnais, the popular and highly-respected parish priest of St Mary's, Christchurch. Father Le Menant, whom I have only seen at a distance, looks very well, and has come up to conduct the retreat of the clergy of the archdiocese. I hope that before he returns again to the City of the Plains he will preach in one of the churches here, for no one, I am sure, would but feel better after listening to one of his learned, eloquent, and impressive discourses. The retreat commenced last Wednesday morning, afterwards the usual conference will be held, to be followed by the annual synod of the clergy of the archdiocese at the Cathedral.

The Very Rev Dr Watters, who has been spending his holidays in the Nelson district, returned to Wellington on Tuesday last in time for the annual retreat.

Mrs Captain Smart believes in putting into practical effect the injunction whereby we are invited to aid the fatherless and the orphan. According to her usual custom, she invited the inmates of St Mary's Orphanage to her pretty residence on the Terrace, on the afternoon of Thursday, so that they may enjoy themselves. It was indeed a pleasant sight, not mixed with sadness, to see these little ones enjoying the outing with as much zest as if they were under the loving care of the best and kindest parents. The pleasure which one felt at seeing so many waifs of society—or in some cases the victims of circumstances—so carefully looked after, and well brought up, from a Christian as well as a secular stand point, was somewhat marred by the knowledge that many of them would have been today living in a comfortable home had not one or other, or perhaps both their parents, set at naught all Christian precepts, all paternal instincts, and having given way to the vile promptings of their ill-governed passions, became outcasts of society, and left their little ones dependants on charity. The children enjoyed themselves at all kinds of games during their stay, their other wants being supplied in a most liberal and generous manner. About eight o'clock a start was made for home, the children to the number of between 80 and 90—and of all ages, from a little dot of three or four to twelve or thirteen years—marching two deep under the superintendance of two of the Sisters. Surely some of our wealthy citizens might take example by the action of this good lady—and instead of wasting dinners and luncheons on people who do not want them and who would be anything but grateful afterwards, and invite those children some afternoon to their places and, thus make nearly a hundred little hearts happy. I am sure the donors would sleep more contented with themselves that night than if they were after dining a couple of dozen cross-grained, dyspeptic, grumbling, aristocrats, whose forced civility at table was very often only a cloak for the ill-natured things which they uttered about each other and their host and hostess on their departure.

Already there is a spirit of briskness prevailing all departments of our political arsenals, which the knowing ones consider betokens anything but signs of peace. Indeed, the adepts tell us that before the end of the next session the disturbing roll of the political drum, summoning men to do or die for their party, will be heard. Already preparations are being made by either side for the conflict, in some cases the captains are chosen, and the men are quietly and actively furnishing up their weapons. The Conservatives will, it is said, put three men in the field, and the other side have at least a dozen aspirants for political martyrdom, who are prepared to do anything in reason *pro sua patria cum* £240 per annum. Since the return of Mr McLean last year, Wellington is considered a safe place for the Government, and hence the reason, I presume, that it is persistently reported that either one or two of the Ministers would like to try their chance here. It is said that already the Liberal Association have selected their champions in the persons of the present Liberal Member, Mr McLean and his predecessor, Mr T. K. Macdonald. This arrangement has naturally riled the Trades and Labour Council

whose opinions were not asked, but who, from their representative character, would be a very important factor in a contest. In fact, I doubt very much if the latter body are not more united and more influential than the former. The latter have, however, postponed dealing with the matter until a public platform is put forward, and then I would not be a bit surprised, I feel confident, if there will not be two real labour representatives put up as candidates. The contest will not be without interest to the Catholic electors of this city.

Notwithstanding the very cool weather prevailing—too cool for summer—our hospital is filled to inconvenience. I would not like to predict what would be the result if we experienced a hot, dry summer. There seems to be a great want of energy and spirit amongst our public men here, perhaps it is that they are too much engrossed in their own affairs, and cannot devote as much attention to their public duties as is necessary. About this time last year the city got an unenviable reputation for its insanitary condition, which was caused by the rotten and dilapidated state of the sewers. Because our late Governor did not choose to live on the confines of a fever bed, he became extremely unpopular, and anyone who would publish anything derogatory to the health and cleanliness of the capital would be looked upon as a foe to its welfare. Nothing has been practically done since then to remedy the evil. It is true that the citizens have sanctioned a drainage loan, but goodness only knows when it will be available for the carrying out of the work. In the meantime, nothing has been done to make provisions for any influx of illness, which would be naturally expected during the summer with our fearfully imperfect drainage system. The trustees say they cannot legally raise money for the extension of the building, and the Government are reluctant to assist, as they consider that such aid from the consolidated fund would be only the forerunner of countless appeals from the various hospital boards of the Colony. But the question which has been partly solved by the promise of partial assistance by the Government, has been hung up for a long time, whilst the unfortunate sufferers are either denied admission to the institution altogether because of its being overcrowded, or are huddled promiscuously into apartments, irrespective of whether they suffer from infectious diseases or stand in need of an operation, with a probable chance of an attack of erysipelas. The poor are the sufferers, having to live in the most unhealthy part of the town, and having to use food occasionally which is infected with the germs of disease. The contributing districts in the country object to give more than what they are justly expected to, according to the numbers in the institution from their localities. Any person who has studied the economic system under which we live now-a-days in this Colony knows that the main idea of the squatter class is: Keep the masses cooped up in the towns, and not to encourage the working-man in any way to settle in the country. Under these circumstances it is neither just nor fair that the greater part of the burden of maintaining and extending of charitable institutions should be thrown on the town population. But still this does not relieve the Wellington Hospital Trustees of the onus of not having brought the question of insufficient accommodation more prominently before the public during the winter months. It is to be hoped in the case of the poor and suffering humanity now that they have got the funds the alterations will be carried out as quickly as possible. The *Post* is exceedingly wrath because a gentleman of light and leading in this city, who had been lately in London, called into the office of the Agent-General for the purpose of seeing out evening paper, but found it not, its place being usurped by organs of the right colour—in fact, the whole of the papers were of one colour. This was one of the most unlikely things that Mr Perceval would be guilty of, for he is one of the most unprejudiced men a person could meet in this respect. One would be almost inclined to believe this gentleman to be a myth, were it not that the *Post* returns to the charge and places infinite trust on the word of its informant. There was one part of the statement evidently incorrect, for the *Otago Daily Times* is quite satisfied that copies of that journal have been regularly filed in the Agent-General's office. Whilst the *Times* of this morning asserts that the Government, in mailing papers to the Agent-General, the greater number of those sent are hostile to the Ministry. The *Post* can scarcely charge Mr Perceval with being such a violent partisan as to stoop to the very undignified action of suppressing what little information was sought concerning the Colony through the papers filed in his office. The Opposition papers are decidedly hard set to find a peg whereon to hang a charge against the Government.

The pilgrimages to Rome on the occasion of the Pope's jubilee will begin January and will be received by his Holiness February 15, 16 and 17. All will attend the jubilee Mass on February 19.

DEAFNESS PERMANENTLY CURED.—A Gentleman who cured himself of Deafness and Noises in the Head, of many years' standing, by a new method, will be pleased to send full particulars, with copies of testimonials, etc., for two stamps. The most successful treatment ever introduced. Address, HERBERT CLIFTON 51, Upper Kennington Lane, London, S.E.