

ciety. He also strongly warned them against societies condemned by the Church, referring in a particular manner to the dark-lantern fraternity of the Freemasons, who were trying to ensnare weak-kneed or incautious Catholics into their oath-bound association.

The active preparation among the stallholders at the forthcoming Colleen Bawn fete, which is to be held for a week at His Majesty's Theatre, commencing on the 25th inst., augurs well for its success. To provide funds for the furnishing of stalls, a number of social evenings have already been held, with very good results. The ladies of the St. Joseph's Club, who have charge of the refreshment stall, are to the fore with a very nice work of art, which will be disposed of by art union, and the St Clair stallholders are also disposing of another similar valuable work.

After winning the premiership in the Schools' Cricket Association for 1903-4, the Christian Brothers' boys have added yet another laurel to the many already won on the athletic field. In the Otago Schools Athletic Championships, held on last Saturday on the Caledonian Ground, their success has been in every respect highly creditable. In the school events open to all pupils under 16 years of age, 42 medals were awarded, and of these the Christian Brothers' School carried off no less than 21, leaving 21 medals to be distributed among the remaining 19 schools. The Brothers' boys carried off 8 firsts and 9 seconds. The two relay races, to which 8 medals were awarded, were won by teams from the Christian Brothers School. J. Bryant won kicking the football (place kick), and was second in the 220yds flat, 100yds flat, and the long jump for boys under 15; the half-mile flat for boys under 16 was annexed by J. Collins, and Jas. Collins was second in the 220yds flat handicap (open). The 100yds flat (boys under 13) fell to E. Wilkie; the 75yds flat (boys under 10) to J. Ford; throwing the cricket ball (boys under 15) to L. Casey, E. J. Joyce being second, the latter, however, winning the high jump. D. Collins was placed second in the one-mile bicycle race and kicking the football, whilst J. Smith got a similar position in the 100yds flat for boys under 14. In the school teams relay race, 440yds (boys under 13) the winning team consisted of E. Wilkie, W. O. O'Connor, L. Coughlan, and C. Hill, and in the relay race, 800yds (boys under 15), the winners were D. Collins, R. Burke, W. Higgins, and Bryant.

**DIocese of Auckland**

(From our own correspondent.)

April 7.

The church at Devonport, under Rev. Father Meagher, has been enlarged and is hereafter to be known as All Souls' Church. Next Sunday the Bishop is to re-open the church. The Right Rev. Mgr. O'Reilly, of the Thames, will preach on the occasion.

The Northern Railway League, having in mind the private enterprise which carried out the Manawatu line, and now bids fair to do the same for the Waikato line, has issued a circular to elicit public opinion upon the necessity of urging the Government to consent to the extension of the railway to the north of Auckland by means of private capital.

The Sisters of St. Joseph at Newmarket have for some time been at work preparing for a bazaar to aid the convent funds, and last Easter Monday night it was opened in the presence of a large attendance. The hall was tastefully decorated, and the stalls were liberally supplied with works of art, fancy needle work, etc. The proceedings were enlivened by a few musical contributions. The stall-holders were as follow—Misses Mulvaney (3), Peacock (2), Outhwaite, Mesdames Evelt, T. Mulvaney, Peacock, Clifton. Mr T. Mulvaney was hon. secretary.

A result of the publication of the inauguration of the Protestant Defence Association has been an animated correspondence in the daily press, in which the P.D.A. is held up to public odium. 'Truth' goes back to the early days of the Colony, and shows that no Governor out of the number has been a Catholic, of 180 Ministers of the Crown but six were Catholic, in the present Parliament there are three Catholics in the Lower and three in the Upper House, of judges, but one was Catholic, of the S.M.'s now he thinks but one is Catholic, in the local City Council, Harbor Board, and Charitable Aid Board there is one Catholic. In face of these facts, 'Truth' very justly asks, 'What have those defenders (?) to defend?'

The office of Tenebrae was held on Wednesday, Holy Thursday, and Good Friday evenings at the cathedral at which his Lordship the Bishop and the Rev. Fathers Patterson, Adm., Kehoe, Benedict, O.P., Duffy, McGuinness, Furlong, Holbrook, and McMillan assisted. On Holy Thursday morning Pontifical High Mass was cele-

brated by the Bishop, after which there was procession of the Blessed Sacrament. Throughout the day and through the whole night the faithful in large numbers made their visitations. On Holy Thursday evening Rev. Father McMillan preached a fine sermon on the Blessed Sacrament. On Good Friday morning the Mass of the Presanctified was celebrated by his Lordship the Bishop. In the evening the Rev. Father Meagher, of Devonport, preached a touching sermon on the Passion of our Lord. At the early Mass said by Father Holbrook on Easter Sunday a very large number approached the Holy Table, and the Children of Mary's choir sang very nicely the appropriate music. High Mass was sung at 11 o'clock by Rev. Father Patterson; deacon, Rev. Father Duffy; sub-deacon, Rev. Father Holbrook. The Bishop, after the first Gospel, addressed the congregation, and wished them all the blessings of Easter, and heartily thanked them for their attendances throughout Holy Week, also the clergy, choir, and collectors. His Lordship preached on the great lessons to be derived from the sufferings and triumphant ascension of our Blessed Lord. At Vespers Rev. Father Benedict preached to a crowded congregation. The high altar was beautifully decorated on Easter Sunday, and great credit is due to Miss Gough and her willing assistants, and also to the choir, who, under Mr. P. F. Hiscocks, rendered invaluable services during the week. At St. Benedict's and the Sacred Heart Churches the services were carried out by the Rev. Father Gillan and the Very Rev. Dr. Egan, O.S.B.

At the Church of the Assumption, Onehunga, on Easter Sunday morning the members of the local branch of the Hibernian Society approached the Holy Table. The Rev. Father Tormey strongly urged upon all the young men of the parish to join the branch, which should be three times its present number. Two new statues will shortly be placed in the church, the funds for which are already assured.

**HOKITIKA**

(From our own correspondent.)

April 8.

On Wednesday evening, April 6, the members of St. Mary's Church committee and the clergy met in the presbytery to wish good-bye to Mr. H. Gribben, one of their number who is leaving for Wellington. Mr. Gribben, who has been for more than thirty years superintendent of the Sea View Asylum, resigned his position at the end of March. During all this time he has been an active and respected member of the congregation and his withdrawal, together with that of his wife and family from amongst us, will be keenly felt. Mr Gribben was also farewelled on Monday night by most of the leading townspeople, who expressed their deep regret at losing such a capable and worthy officer, who has ever made the comfort and care of the patients under his charge his chief aim. He intends taking a trip to the Old Country before finally settling down in Wellington.

On Wednesday (the 6th inst.) Miss C. A. Boland (in religion Sister M. Baptiste) made profession of her vows as a Sister of Mercy at St. Columbkille's Convent. The ceremony was performed by the Very Rev. Dean Martin, assisted by the Very Rev. Dean Carew (Greymouth), Rev. Fathers Leen (Ahaura), Mc Donnell (Kumara), and Aubry (Hokitika). Father Aubry preached a fine discourse suitable to the occasion.

Mr D. Clarke, for the past three years organist of St. Mary's choir, was entertained at the Boating Club Rooms on Thursday evening, 7th April by the combined Operatic and Glee Club Societies, of which he has been an active and valuable member. After Vespers on Easter Sunday the choir assembled in the presbytery and presented Mr Clarke with an address and purse of sovereigns, which had been subscribed by the parishioners in recognition of his services. Mr Clarke leaves early next week for Timaru, where he intends taking up his abode.

**NELSON**

The carnival and fancy fair in aid of the Stoke Orphanage building fund were opened in the Theatre Royal, Nelson, on Easter Monday evening, the building being crowded in every part. The opening ceremony was performed by the Hon. Colonel Pitt, M.L.C., who in the course of a brief speech (says the 'Colonist') alluded to the double purpose to be served by the building to be erected in place of that burned down—it was to enable a good work to be carried on in training and educating lads, many of whom, from the accident of birth, had never had a chance, and it was to serve also as a memorial of that great and good