

is one of temperance: but we know, that, for us, temperance is the mother of purity, and that intemperance excites our senses to rebel.

The Second Temptation is to Pride.

Cast thyself down: the Angels shall bear thee up in their hands. The enemy is anxious to see if the favors of heaven have produced in Jesus's soul that haughtiness, that ungrateful self-confidence which makes the creature arrogate God's gifts to itself, and forget its benefactor. Here, also, he is foiled; our Redeemer's humility confounds the pride of the rebel angel.

He then makes the last effort: he hopes to gain over by ambition Him who has given such proofs of temperance and humility. He shows Him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; and says to Him: All these will I give Thee, if falling down thou wilt adore me. Jesus rejects the wretched offer, and drives from him the seducer, the prince of this world; hereby teaching us, that we must despise the riches of this world, as often as our keeping or getting them is to be on the condition of our violating the law of God and paying homage to Satan.

But, let us observe how it is, that our Divine Model, our Redeemer, overcomes the tempter. Does He hearken to his words? Does He allow the temptation time? and give it strength by delay? We did so, when we were tempted, and we fell. But our Lord immediately meets each temptation with the shield of God's word. He says: It is written: Not on bread alone doth man live. It is written: Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God. It is written: The Lord thy God shalt thou adore, and Him only shalt thou serve. This, then, must be our practice for the time to come. Eve brought perdition on herself and on the whole human race, because she listened to the serpent. He that dallies with temptation is sure to fall. We are now in a season of extraordinary grace; our hearts are on the watch, dangerous occasions are removed; everything that savors of worldliness is laid aside; our souls purified by prayer, fasting, and almsdeeds, are to rise with Christ to a new life—but shall we persevere? All depends upon how we behave under temptation. Here, at the very opening of Lent, the Church gives us this passage of the Holy Gospel, that we may have not only precept, but example. If we be attentive and faithful, the lesson she gives us will produce its fruit; and when we come to the Easter Solemnity, we shall have those sure pledges of perseverance, vigilance, self-diffidence, prayer, and the never-failing help of Divine Grace.

#### General Progress.

(Here his Lordship gives a tabulated statement showing the work done in the various parishes during the past twelve months. The total indebtedness of the diocese on January 1, 1904, was £11,592 4s 5d. This was increased during the year by a sum of £5751 12s, making a total of £17,343 16s 5d. The collections for the reduction of this totalled £3902 0s 5d, leaving a debt on the diocese of £13,441 16s. In connection with this increase of debt it is gratifying to know that new properties have been secured, new churches and presbyteries, and better accommodation supplied where needed. His Lordship then gives in detail an account of the various properties purchased, the works that have been carried out, and other information regarding the progress of the diocese during the year. At the Cathedral more accommodation was needed for visiting priests, and Ailsa House, now known as St. Patrick's Hall, has been thoroughly renovated and is now suitable for committee meetings and gatherings. At Avondale an acre of land has been purchased and Mrs. Moriarty has made a gift of an acre and a half of land adjoining. A large allotment, situated at the rear of the church and school, has been secured at Ponsonby. Extensive improvements have been effected in the church at the North Shore, and an excellent house and property secured for presbytery purposes. Improvements have been made in the church at Onehunga, and a commodious church has been erected at Ellerslie. At Onewhero a new church has been built on property given by Mr. Griffin, and a new presbytery is in course of erection at Tuakau on an acre of land given by Mr. Drumgool. The church at Waipipi is being rebuilt. The deeds of an acre of land in Hamilton have been secured, and at Waihou a property of three acres has been purchased for Church purposes. A new presbytery has been built at Waihi, the work carried out in that district during the past four years consisting of a church, convent, school, and presbytery. At Okaihau a new church has been erected on a site donated by Mr. Connolly, and the Mill Hill Fathers have erected new churches at Whangaroa, Keri Keri, and Whakarewarewa. The Rev. Michael Egan has handed over the deeds of a property at Coromandel for the benefit of the Seminary fund. The schools at Cam-

bridge, Panmure, and Howick have been placed under the care of the Sisters of the Mission, who have opened convents at the first and last-named places. Missions have been given during the year in thirteen districts, at the close of which the Sacrament of Confirmation was administered to 497 candidates. The golden jubilee of the priesthood of the Very Rev. Vicar-General, Monsignor Paul, occurs in August next, and it has been decided to celebrate the event in a worthy manner, a committee of clergy and laity having been set up for this purpose. The Sisters of Mercy have opened branch convents at Te Aroha and Gisborne, and the schools at these places are under their charge. There is now every prospect of establishing the fund for the infirm clergy of the diocese on a satisfactory footing by rating each parish annually at an amount specified in this pastoral.)

Arrangements are now being made with the Redemptorist Fathers (continues his Lordship) to carry on a series of missions throughout the diocese. To carry out these successfully it is absolutely necessary that a census of each parish should be taken, so that the missionaries as well as the priest in charge may have some idea of the numbers of Catholics in each district. At the close of each mission the visitation of the parish will be made and the Sacrament of Confirmation will be administered by the Bishop, and I shall expect a complete return of the census of each parish at that time.

You will arrange for the Forty Hours' Adoration at some convenient time during the year.

In a Decree Urbis et Orbis dated 17th June, 1904, an Indulgence has been granted to all who recite the prayer, 'Cor Jesu Sacratissimum, Miserere nobis,' after Mass, and while this is not of obligation, the Sacred Congregation of Indulgences has stated in a letter of August 19, 1904, that the Holy Father exhorts all priests to recite this simple invocation. You are therefore authorised and exhorted to say this prayer: 'Most Sacred Heart of Jesus have mercy on us' after the prayers at the end of low Mass.

During the year 1904 some of our priests left us, but we have been reinforced by seven others.

Death has seized upon Mother Paul, of the community of the Sisters of Mercy, Ponsonby, who was so well known for her virtue and admirable qualities. For several terms she held the position of Rev. Mother, and helped greatly to preserve that spirit of piety and charity for which the community is so well known. She had hoped to celebrate her golden jubilee in 1904, and preparations were being made for this, but God called her to Himself. I also have to record the death of Brother Mark, the director of the Marist Brothers' College, whose lamentable death occurred so suddenly in November last. His loss is keenly felt not only by his community and the pupils of the college, but by all who came into contact with him. May God have mercy on the souls of our departed.

Please read the Lenten Dispensations (a copy of which accompanies this Pastoral) to your people on Quinquagesima Sunday, and place the copy afterwards in the porch of your church.

Given from Bishop's House, Ponsonby, on February 25, 1905, and appointed to be read on Quinquagesima Sunday. The collection for the Diocesan Fund (to meet the expenses of the Bishop in travelling throughout the diocese) will be made on the first Sunday of Lent or following Sundays.

✠ GEO M LENIHAN.  
Bishop of Auckland.

The ladies of Dunedin are respectfully invited by Messrs. Park, Reynolds, and Co., auctioneers, to pay a visit of inspection to their spacious sale room, which has been converted into a show room for the display of a large stock of carefully selected and most choice Irish linen goods. These goods are direct from the Belfast factories and are introduced by Mr. J. P. Murphy, of that city. As is well known Belfast is the centre of the Irish linen trade, and the goods now on view, amongst which are some of the very choicest productions of the celebrated looms, make an exhibition which should prove highly attractive to householders and the public generally. These goods were intended for and shipped to South Africa, but the continued depression in trade in that country caused the manufacturers to forward them on to New Zealand, and that portion intended for Dunedin is comprised in this sale. The collection is an unusual one both as to quality and quantity due to this circumstance. As it is to be absolutely unreserved it will be particularly advantageous to those who are seeking really first-class goods. A visit will satisfy any judge that the goods are of a class that is but seldom met with in the ordinary trade. Sale commences on Thursday, 16th, at 2 o'clock....