

St. Mary's, Manchester Street, Christchurch

(From our own correspondent.)

September 12.

On Sunday last his Lordship the Bishop made a pastoral visitation at St. Mary's, Manchester street. Addressing the congregation, his Lordship explained the object and significance of an episcopal visitation. He referred to the great work undertaken and being successfully carried out by the Sisters of Nazareth. Regarding the Cathedral, he urged cheerful and generous co-operation in the work of liquidating the existing liabilities. A Missa Cantata was sung by the Rev. Father McDonald in the presence of the Bishop. At half-past three in the afternoon the Bishop administered the Sacrament of Confirmation to about 120 candidates, among whom were fifteen adults, mostly converts. Before the ceremony the Bishop examined the candidates and explained the nature and effects of the Sacrament of Confirmation, and after the ceremony gave an impressive address, urging a sincere and perfect loyalty to God and Holy Church. In the evening the church was thronged, when there was the impressive ceremony of the renewal of baptismal vows. In an address his Lordship explained the nature of the ceremony, emphasised the need of constant and fervent prayer, and referred to the great feast of the Blessed Virgin they were that day celebrating. He administered the pledge of total abstinence to all those not yet twenty-one until they attain that age. Whilst expressing the conviction that young New Zealanders as a body were abstemious in a remarkable degree, still safeguarding themselves would prevent any possible lapse and enable them to maintain the high standard of sobriety they now enjoyed. All went, with lighted candles, from the church to the presbytery in procession, and the Bishop addressed a few parting words to the assemblage.

NAPIER.

(From our own correspondent.)

September 10.

On September 5 the ordinary monthly meeting of the Hawke's Bay Philosophical Society took place, the business being a triple lecture on the microscope by Drs. Leahy and Henley, and Rev. Dr. Kennedy, of Meance. Dr. Leahy explained the theory of light and the object aimed at in the construction of lenses; Dr. Henley dealt with microscopic plates and their preparation and the method of section cutting, whilst Rev. Dr. Kennedy described the process necessary for developing photographs of microscopic objects for lantern work, and exhibited the apparatus required. At the conclusion of the lecture members and visitors were permitted to inspect some dozen microscopes which were on exhibit, and to make a microscopic examination of a great many slides provided for the purpose.

Rev. Father Goggin returned to Napier on Friday from Nelson, where he had been attending the conference of Stoke Orphanage trustees.

Mr. J. G. O'Connell, who has been on the local staff of the Bank of New Zealand for several years, is under transfer to the Palmerston North branch. His fellow-officers presented him with a handsome travelling bag as a mark of their esteem.

Prior to his departure for England, whither he goes to gain wider engineering experience, Mr. F. Bowler was presented by his fellow-employees of the Vulcan Foundry with a handsome travelling companion as a token of their goodwill.

Golden tip Kozie tea has gained a name for itself as being a fragrant, rich, and pure tea, and consequently its popularity is on the increase, especially among all who know and appreciate a good article.

There is now on exhibition at the Unique Millinery Store, Lower Stuart street, Dunedin, the latest novelties in spring hats and bonnets, at prices to suit all purses. In addition there is a splendid stock of mantles, dress skirts, corsets, gloves, blouses, millinery, etc., of every description. A visit of inspection will convince any of our readers of the excellence of the display....

You turn an extra furrow every round with a Benicia Disc Plough, thus saving a great amount of labor.

It is not what a binder costs, but what it saves, that determines its value—McCormick.

The new McCormick Big 4 Grass Mower is a powerful machine; it has strength enough to cut rushes.

Dr. Fitchett and French Canadians

In a recent issue of the 'New Zealand Times' appeared a vigorous criticism of Dr. Fitchett's letters on Canada by Mr. P. J. O'Regan. The following is an extract:—

But it is his attack on the French Canadians, and incidentally on their religion, that gets on the nerves of any man who knows how unjust his criticisms are, though I admit that his attempt to be impartial is on the whole creditable to a Jingoistic parson who exalts Imperialism into a religious principle. He is evidently perturbed because, the French are increasing rapidly. It is, no doubt, true that the French population owes much of its influence to its marvellous fecundity. In his recent book on 'Canada As it is,' Mr. J. Foster Fraser says that families of eleven and fourteen are common among the French. That fact should, however, be pleasing to anyone who believes that 'the righteous shall inherit the earth.' In these days, when so many people exult in the disgraceful practice of self-extinction, it is curious to find a parson sneering at a people who still revere the natural law to 'increase and multiply and fill the earth.' Would that it were so in British Canada! At the last Anglican Synod in Toronto, the Bishop of Winnipeg deplored the declining birth-rate, and he quoted statistics to show that British supremacy in Canada depended entirely on immigration! Yet Dr. Fitchett tells us that 'the Canadians have wit enough to understand that each new citizen is a new asset.' Who is to be believed? the editor of 'Life,' or the Bishop of Winnipeg? I leave your readers to decide that point. If your contributor were not blinded by religious bias, he would admit that the high birth-rate of French Canada reflects

Credit on the Catholic Church,

which offers uncompromising opposition to practices which degrade marriage to a level lower than concubinage, and which, if persevered in, will bring ruin and disgrace on those who indulge in them. It goes without saying that the task of the statesman is never easy with mixed populations, but it is utterly false to say the problem in Canada is wholly due to the aloofness of the French. In and about Toronto the British population is aggressively Jingoistic, chiefly because they are in a large extent descended from American colonists who crossed the border rather than take up arms when their countrymen rose under Washington. These people have always been ready to remind the French about Wolfe and Quebec, and the French have not been slow to resent their arrogance. Those who have eyes to see, however, know that the French are not so tyrannous as your reverend writer would have us believe. For instance, Montreal has a population three parts French. Yet Mr. Fraser tells us that it is a kind of unwritten law that every second year the Mayoralty shall be filled by a Britisher. Does that argue intolerance on the part of the French, when they might if they chose elect a French-Canadian every year? Why does Dr. Fitchett magnify all that he deems objectionable, and yet pass by a fact like this? He tells us in tones of bitterness that the Canadian-French are intensely Catholic, but he does not tell us that they

Allow Capitation Grants to Protestants

who choose to maintain separate schools. Why is such a telling fact passed over? Dr. Fitchett exults over the freedom enjoyed by these objectionable French-Canadians. What he suppresses is that after the declaration of American Independence it became the settled policy of British statesmen to conciliate the French in Canada. The sincerity of this policy may be gauged from the fact that Catholic Emancipation was not passed in Britain for more than half a century afterwards; but their policy was well rewarded, for when the American war broke out in 1812, the French fought with their British fellow-colonists in repelling American invasion. It is now admitted that the French had real grievances when the Riel rebellion broke out, but it is not generally known that the influence of the Catholic Church was cast against Riel and in favor of British rule. There exists in British Canada to-day a party of whom Dr. Fitchett makes no mention—a party who favor the union of Canada with the United States; but they can find no allies among the French-Canadians mainly because the French realise that they would lose their schools, if such an alliance were brought about. Mr. Foster Fraser has not omitted mention of this fact.