

Fifteen years later he was promoted to a kingship and wore a crown made from the captured cannon of the Plevna redoubts.

The crown of Bulgaria has also suffered the indignity of refusal on more than one occasion. When Prince Alexander of Battenberg, after his brief and troubled tenure of the throne, was compelled to resign it, it was offered to Prince Valdemar of Denmark, brother-in-law of the Czar, who declined it with thanks, whereupon a deputation went on a tour of the capitals of Europe with the object of finding a Prince who wouldn't mind accepting a crown. The journey was fruitless; but finally, in 1887, the perseverance of the Grand Sobranye was rewarded, when Prince Ferdinand of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha signified his willingness to take the despised emblems of sovereignty.

These are but a few examples of crowns that have gone a-begging, only to have the cold shoulder of refusal turned on them; one of the most recent cases being that of the Dukedom of Saxe-Coburg, which was refused by the Duke of Connaught for himself and his son before it was accepted by the youthful Duke of Albany.

Diocesan News

ARCHDIOCESE OF WELLINGTON

(From our own correspondent.)

February 3.

The arrangements for the celebration of St. Patrick's Day are in a very forward state. An excellent sports programme, catering for young and old, has been prepared, and no effort is being spared to make the celebration in every respect worthy of the occasion. Bro. J. W. Callaghan has been appointed secretary, and he has with him a strong and active committee.

At the conclusion of their annual retreat the clergy will be given an opportunity of hearing the new organ at the Sacred Heart Basilica. The services of Mr. Cyril Towsey as organist have been secured for the occasion, other first-class artists will contribute to the programme, and a musical treat may therefore be expected. The concert will be open to the public, but for the purpose of helping the organ fund it is probable that a small charge will be made for admission.

A meeting of the old Irish National Federation was held here on Monday evening for the purpose of considering what steps should be taken to remit pecuniary aid to the Irish Parliamentary Party. The chair was occupied by Mr. E. Carrigan. After some discussion it was decided to establish in the city a branch of the United Irish League, formed and conducted on the same lines as the Australian branches. Arrangements were accordingly made for the holding of a larger meeting on Monday next to discuss proposals.

In view of the desirableness of having in our midst some recognised Irish Association, the members of the various branches of the H.A.C.B. Society here have had under consideration for some time the formation of a properly constituted body. I understand that delegates from the Newtown, City, and Lower Hutt branches of the H.A.C.B. Society and the Catholic Young Men's Club are to meet on Wednesday evening to arrange the preliminary steps. No doubt a combined movement will follow, and an association fully representative of the Irish body will be formed.

By far the most interesting event at the annual Catholic picnic is the inter-parish tug-of-war contest for a handsome cup. At the outing on Boxing Day the final result remained undecided, and it was arranged that the Thorndon and Te Aro parish teams should pull off for the championship at a later date. This event, which caused a great deal of local interest and rivalry, took place last week, and resulted in a somewhat easy win for the men of Te Aro. On Wednesday last each member of the winning team was presented with a medal by the Rev. Father O'Shea, to whom at the same time the captain of the team handed the challenge cup, which the Te Aro parish priest will now hold until next year.

At the fortnightly meeting of the St. Aloysius' branch of the H.A.C.B. Society, held on Wednesday evening, the following members were elected to hold office for the ensuing six months: President, Bro. J. Ryan; vice-president, Bro. J. Chambers; secretary, Bro. J. J. Casey; treasurer, Bro. J. L. Murphy; guardian, Bro. D. O'Meara; sick visitors, Bros. D. O'Meara and Jos. Murphy; auditors, Bros. J. W. Callaghan and J. Delany. The election of warden was held over until the next meeting. The ceremony of installing the newly-elected officers was performed by Bro.

E. J. Fitzgibbon, P.P. One new member was elected and another proposed. Bro. J. W. Callaghan has kindly consented to deliver at the next meeting of the branch an address on the rules and conduct of the Society.

Masterton

(From our own correspondent.)

February 2.

Four Sisters of St. Brude's Convent left Masterton on Monday for Pahiatua, where they are to open a school.

Mr. A. R. Bunny, who has conducted the choir at St. Patrick's Church for the last thirty years, has resigned the position.

A concert is to be given at Carterton shortly in aid of the funds of the church. It is expected that the Rev. Father Cahill, who has been on a trip to the Old Country, will be present.

At the half-yearly meeting of St. Michael's branch of the H.A.C.B. Society the following officers were elected for the ensuing term: President, Bro. P. J. O'Leary; vice-president, Bro. E. O'Sullivan; treasurer, Bro. A. Stempa, jun.; secretary, Bro. S. O'Regan; guardian, Bro. J. Broadbury; warden, Bro. A. Kelly; auditors, Bros. B. Chapman and P. O'Leary. Bro. H. O'Leary was appointed a delegate to represent the branch on the Hospital floral fete committee.

DIocese OF CHRISTCHURCH

(From our own correspondent.)

February 5.

The Rev. Father Creed, who has been transferred from Ashburton to Kumara, left for the West Coast last week.

The number of boarders already entered at the Convent of the Sacred Heart in charge of the Sisters of the Missions is in excess of the average for previous years.

At the conclusion of the retreat at the Convent of the Sacred Heart six Sisters of Our Lady of Missions made their profession. His Lordship the Bishop presided, and among the clergy present were the Very Rev. Dean Ginaty, Rev. Fathers McDermott, C.S.S.R., O'Connell, and Peoples.

On Sunday the Rev. Father O'Connell visited St. Mary's, Manchester street, and commenced the work of collecting in the interest of the Cathedral debt liquidation fund in that parish. Darfield will be visited towards the end of the month, and later on the Midland railway works.

The combined Catholic excursion and picnic committee met at the presbytery, Barbadoes street, on last Tuesday evening, the Rev. Father Marnane presiding. The secretary, Mr. E. O'Connor, read the balance sheet, which was adopted, as were also several recommendations of the executive committee regarding the disposal of the surplus accruing from the event held on Boxing Day. It was decided that Master Philip Dwyer be presented with a souvenir in acknowledgment of his heroic action in rescuing two children from drowning at the picnic, and that a suitable present be made to Mrs. Mullins for kind services rendered by her husband at the racecourse, of which he is caretaker. The sincere thanks of the committee and Catholics of Christchurch were passed to the stewards of the Canterbury Jockey Club, and also votes of thanks to the secretary of the committee and secretary of the ladies' committee, Miss Murray. The Rev. Father Marnane congratulated all concerned on the success of the undertaking, and trusted the same enthusiasm would be manifested in regard to future annual gatherings of a similar nature. The balance of the surplus funds were voted equally between the schools of the Cathedral and St. Mary's, Manchester street.

The St. Patrick's Day celebration committee met on last Tuesday evening at the Presbytery, Barbadoes street. His Lordship the Bishop presided, the Rev. Fathers Mahony, O'Connell, and Peoples being also present. Whilst thanking the committee for past efforts his Lordship urged the same energy and co-operation that characterised previous occasions. Nazareth House was very materially helped by the St. Patrick's Day celebration committee by means of the annual entertainment, and the profits accruing from this year's event would be devoted to the same beneficent object. Concluding his remarks, the Bishop paid an eloquent tribute of appreciation to the Sisters of Nazareth for all they had accomplished since coming to the city. It was decided to take the Canterbury Hall for Friday, March 16, for a purely national entertainment, and that the price of tickets should be two shillings and one shilling, with