

The block plan of the main Exhibition Buildings has now been designed, and the total extent of frontages provided exceeds four miles. This is exclusive of the frontages provided by the machinery hall and of the gallery of the main buildings. The machinery hall measures 300 feet square, and the gallery referred to measures 1600 feet in length. The public will, therefore, have some idea of the extent of ground and the time it will take to visit and inspect the exhibits.

At the Cathedral on Sunday evening his Lordship the Bishop preached for the last time prior to his departure for Rome. During his remarks he gave a retrospective review of the diocese, the subject of his discourse generally being a farewell to his people, and he again referred to the said calamity which had befallen San Francisco. Solemn Pontifical Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament followed, the Bishop being attended by the Very Rev. Vicar-General and Rev. Father O'Connell. At St. Mary's, Manchester street, feeling reference to the San Francisco disaster was also made by the Rev. Father Hickson, and the organist played the Dead March from 'Saul' in memory of the faithful departed.

Before commencing his address at the opening of the new church at Woolston on Sunday, his Lordship the Bishop said they had received during the week the very sad news of an appalling disaster to a fair city of the United States. Thousands upon thousands had been plunged into an untimely grave. Their hearts felt sorrow, and sympathy had gone out to the victims of this frightful calamity, and our prayers for the dear dead, many of our own kith and kin, who without the slightest warning had, whilst in the enjoyment of health and strength, been hurled into eternity. At 9 o'clock on Tuesday next in the Cathedral there would be a solemn Mass of Requiem for the victims of the awful catastrophe. It was somewhat providential, continued his Lordship, that I was not present in the doomed city at the very moment of its destruction. I had communicated with the ecclesiastical heads of the Church, as is the custom, apprising them of my intention of travelling, via San Francisco, and being there at the time since proved so fateful, from this course, however, I was persuaded by my friends to delay another month. The Bishop also referred to the Jesuit Church of St. Ignatius which is reported to be amongst the buildings destroyed.

There was a meeting in the presbytery, Barbadoes street, on last Friday evening of the St. Patrick's Day celebration committee. His Lordship the Bishop presided, and the Very Rev. Vicar-General was present, together with a fair attendance. The secretary (Mr. E. O'Connor) presented the balance sheet of the national concert given on March 16, which showed total receipts to be £126, and after deducting expenses, a net credit balance of £101 10s. which amount the executive committee were asked to at once hand over to the Rev. Mother of Nazareth House for the benefit of that institution. The ladies' committee, the H.A.C.B. Society, and the Catholic Club were especially thanked for the interest displayed in the disposal of tickets. His Lordship the Bishop said he was deeply gratified at the result of the committee's efforts, and none would rejoice more at the success achieved than the Sisters themselves. Whilst explaining that his absence from the concert was under the circumstances unavoidable, he was present in sentiment, heart, and desire. Mr. W. Hoban (chairman of executive) expressed pleasure at the success shown, and eulogised the excellent committee he had at his back, and especially thanked the ladies for their splendid efforts. On the motion of Mr. G. R. Hart a cordial vote of thanks was passed to the performers for their gratuitous services.

### Woolston

(From our Christchurch correspondent.)

The fine new building at Woolston, situated on about an acre of land which was lately blessed and dedicated to school purposes, to which it has since been applied was on Sunday morning last solemnly blessed as a church also by his Lordship the Bishop, assisted by the Rev. Father Galerne, priest in charge of the district. The building was originally designed for church as well as school purposes, and is now fitted up with all the requirements of the former, a beautifully finished altar being the most recent addition. After the dedication ceremony Mass was celebrated by the Rev. Father Galerne. His Lordship the Bishop preached a discourse on the following text from the day's Gospel: 'Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them Peace be to you.' These words, he said, were the most applicable with which to address them, on so

auspicious an event. A few weeks ago the present beautiful edifice was blessed as a school and used exclusively, as such up to to-day. A deputation from among them had waited upon him to have the building dedicated as a church, and so well had they pleaded their cause, that he could not resist their appeal. Therefore the fewness of priests and their many duties had to him been the chief obstacle. Although changed from a school to a church, it would still be a school-church. From time to time the Holy Sacrifice would be offered in their midst; they would have the Real Presence, which would be to them a reason to rejoice and be glad. It would be the house of God—their especial house. The Church (he said) was dedicated to St. Anne, Mother of the Blessed Virgin, and particularly mentioned the munificent generosity of one who had provided the whole outlay on the church building. Special mention was also due to the Very Rev. Vicar-General and the other priests who had taken so deep an interest in it, and asked all these and the zealous people of Woolston to accept this expression of his heartfelt gratitude. He should not be surprised that in the course of time this would be the centre of a new parish, and they were wise in securing sufficient property for extension when a presbytery, convent, and school would be necessary.

The Rev. Father Galerne expressed sincere gratitude to the Bishop for the great favor he had conferred, and when the Bishop returned from the Eternal City the people would show they were not ungrateful. He felt that a long-felt want had now been supplied; the church in their midst would draw many nearer to God and their religion, and be the means of inducing many to return to the Faith of their forefathers.

### Leeston

(From our Christchurch correspondent.)

As the result of an appeal made to the Catholics of the Leeston parochial district by his Lordship the Bishop during a recent visit regarding the raising of funds to pay off the existing liabilities on the Cathedral, the congregations of the districts joined forces on Saturday, Easter Monday, and Tuesday, and inaugurated a grand Easter carnival with the object of raising funds. A bazaar was held in the Leeston Athletic Grounds, and was well attended on all three days. At night the grounds were illuminated by eight arc lamps, installed by Mr. A. E. Brown, of Christchurch. The stall-holders were:—Refreshments, Mesdames T. Holley and F. Holley, and Misses Bohan, Duncan, Greenan, M'Vey, Todd, Cook, and Noonan; fancy work (Southbridge), Mesdames P. F. M'Evedy, M. Twiss, and Riordan; fruit stall (Southbridge), Miss Riordan; fancy stall (Leeston), Mesdames P. O'Boyle and M'Cloy, and Misses L. O'Boyle, M. O'Boyle, L. Fay, J. O'Brien, and N. O'Brien. Besides the stalls there was a weight-guessing competition for a sheep presented by Messrs. Leahy Bros. (Lakeside), a shooting gallery and various side shows.

On Easter Monday his Lordship the Bishop attended and was accompanied by the Very Rev. Vicar-General, Rev. Fathers Richards, Hickson, Mahony, O'Connell, and Galerne. In the afternoon a programme of sports was got off, under the direction of Messrs. F. J. Holley, F. Lill, J. F. Donald, J. F. O'Brien, and R. Young.

The grounds were kindly lent by Mr. Jas. McCormack for the occasion. The arrangements were very perfect, and included an electric radiator, used as a heating apparatus. The glorious weather prevailing throughout Easter week induced a large attendance, and the excellent business transacted was proved, inasmuch that when the time for closing arrived most of the wares exposed for sale were disposed of.

The handsome convent recently erected for the Sisters of Mercy on the river bank at Koongal, was opened a few Sundays ago by the Bishop of Rockhampton.

'The publication of an advertisement in a Catholic paper shows that the advertiser not only desires the patronage of Catholics, but pays them the compliment of seeking it through the medium of their own religious journal.' So says an esteemed and wide-awake American contemporary. A word to the wise is sufficient.

An important notice to Irishmen and friends of Ireland, from the United Irish League, Wellington, appears elsewhere in this issue....

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