

A new church will shortly be erected at Thornbury in the Riverton parish.

Considerable improvements (writes our travelling correspondent) have been effected in the Catholic church at Wyndham within the last few weeks. A vestry and sanctuary have been added to the building. About a month ago an organ was purchased, and the proposal to establish a choir is being taken up with great enthusiasm.

The meeting of St. Joseph's Men's Club on Friday evening took the form of a mock banquet. Toasts were proposed by Rev. Fathers Coffey, Corcoran, Messrs. Corcoran, T. Deehan, H. Miles, D. O'Connell, D. S. Columb) and J. A. Hally, and replied to by Rev. Brother Brady, Messrs. E. Spain, W. Bevis, D. Beard, and A. Cameron (Nokomai). Songs were contributed by Messrs. W. Clarke, H. Miles, D. S. Columb, and J. Haydon, Mr. F. Heley acting as accompanist. Mr. R. Burke also contributed a recitation. The speeches were very good, those of the younger members, who made their maiden efforts, being very creditable. Altogether a most enjoyable evening was spent.

Invercargill

(From our own correspondent.)

August 27.

The usual weekly meeting of the Invercargill Catholic Club was held on August 21. The programme for the evening consisted of a debate on 'Freehold v. Leasehold.' Among the speakers most prominent were the Very Rev. Dean Burke, Rev. Father O'Malley, and Messrs. M. Gilfedder, J. Mulvey, T. P. Gilfedder, J. Collins, T. Kane, and H. Grace. The meeting decided in favor of leasehold.

The first social held under the auspices of this club took place in Ashley's Hall, on Thursday August 16, and was well patronised. The proceeds are devoted to the working funds of the club.

The St. Mary's (Ladies') Club hold their second euehre party and social on the 30th inst., with a view to raising funds for the formation of a tennis-court. The work of fencing, etc., is now in progress. The court is being laid off on the ground adjoining the convent. The Mother Prioress has kindly given the ladies the use of this ground for a term of five years.

DIOCESE OF AUCKLAND

(From our own correspondent.)

August 21.

The local branch of the H.A.C.B. Society celebrates its anniversary in the Hibernian Hall on Monday, September 3.

In last night's 'Star' a very good letter on the 'Concordat' appeared, signed by 'W.H.M.' Onehunga. The editor added a lengthy footnote composed almost entirely of extracts from two lectures delivered before the Royal Institution, London, by Mr. J. E. C. Bodley.

Work by the contractors has been begun at St. Patrick's Cathedral, and, with the near approach of the fine weather, good progress should be made.

At St. Benedict's last Sunday the devotion of the Forty Hours' Adoration was commenced. There was High Mass at 11 o'clock, at which the Very Rev. Father Gillan preached. In the evening at Vespers the Bishop preached on the 'Concordat and the trouble in France.' On Monday evening the Rev. Father Edge, (Ponsonby), preached. The devotions throughout were well attended.

The Right Rev. Mgr. O'Haran, at the request of his Eminence Cardinal Moran, has written to the Hon. J. A. Tole, of this city, asking him as to the prospects for a visit by the Irish envoys, Messrs. Devlin, M.P., and Donovan; how long should be devoted to going through the Colony; how many centres should be visited, etc. Monsignor O'Haran said the delegates were quite willing to visit New Zealand. Mr. Tole has replied giving all the information sought, and strongly advising that the delegates should come across to our Colony.

M. Lebeau, of the Paris University, is at present in Auckland. It appears that each year the University places an amount of money at the disposal of one of its professors, who may take up any subject he wishes, and report thereon to the University. Last year, one of the members chose the 'Social and Domestic Legislation of New Zealand.' M. Lebeau has chosen the 'Social and Political Progress of the Irish Race.' With this object, he spent some months in Ireland, thence he went to the United

States, the Islands of the Pacific and north of New Zealand. Here he has been most diligent hunting up records, interviewing Irishmen, who have risen to position, visiting all classes of the people in their homes, questioning them closely, collecting statistics, and keenly observing all round him. Upon two matters he is most keen and anxious. Firstly, he questions those who were born in Ireland, when they left, and how they have fared since leaving. In conversation with M. Lebeau he told me that he invariably found that the Irishman in Ireland was bitterly hostile to the English Government, but when he resided some years in a self-governed British colony he was much less bitter. With the descendants of Irishmen born in the Colony M. Lebeau is deeply interested. Have they inherited an affection for the land of their forefathers? His views on this point will prove of interest. After spending a little more time in the North Island he goes to Australia, where he spends two months. He bears a letter of introduction from the late Michael Davitt. He knew the great patriot intimately, spent some time with him in Dublin, and gained a great amount of information from him concerning the Irish race throughout the world. When his labors are completed they should form interesting reading.

(From an occasional correspondent.)

August 19.

The Sacred Heart College football team carried off the honors in the secondary schools' competition this season for the first time. They won all matches, except the second against the Auckland Grammar School, no score being obtained by either team in this match. During the season in warmer matches the college team scored 36 points against 3,—their line being crossed only once. The win was most popular, everybody being glad to see the youngest of the colleges coming so rapidly to the front in athletics as well as scholastically. Brendan Lavery, captained the victors in all matches, except the first in which D'Arcy Smith (vice-captain) led the team to victory. The players who deserve special mention for vigorous and effective work are:—The two front-row men, T. McLoughlin and Walter Webb, who hardly ever failed to hook the ball in the scrum; Lavery (captain), great in the line-out; W. White, the best and most untiring back in the colleges, played a brilliant five-eighths game all through the season, and J. McDonald made a most effective and dashing centre three-quarter. Both these backs were great also in defence as in attack. Keeney developed rapidly, and showed great form in the second round, whilst J. Kelly was a safe player and K. Quinlivan made a good and speedy wing three-quarter. Mr. George Tyler, of 'All Black' fame, coached the team, and took a great interest in all the matches. The credit of the victory is in no small measure due to him. The following colleges took part in the competition:—Sacred Heart College (Premiers 1906), the Auckland Grammar School, St. John's College, King's College, and Prince Albert College. These colleges, as well as the University College and the United Southern Colleges' Union, took part in the Secondary Schools' Old Boys' Rugby competition. Here, too, Sacred Heart took the lead, and won every match, and are therefore entitled to the banner. Thus the Sacred Heart College boys made a double win. They are all delighted, not merely that they have won, but that they brought credit to their Alma Mater. The excellent esprit de corps of both teams made their strength in battle. Mr. George Tyler coached Sacred Heart Old Boys' also. Their best players were: W. and E. Deivan, P. Sheahan, J. Mahoney (captain), J. Thornton, and C. Heath.

When the two banners are handed over to the college they, with the silver cup won in the cricket competition, will make a fine group of trophies for the youngest of New Zealand's colleges to show as proof of prowess in athletics. The college scholastic record also for the year is equally creditable to its youth and efficiency. In the junior civil service seven passed; in senior civil service, two; in matriculation two, and in solicitors' general knowledge two qualified.

Rev. Father Hugh Devlin, a well known preacher in Dublin, has arrived at South Melbourne, where he is to stay.

'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.