

and schools. Stalwart men bear immense statues of the different stages of the Holy Via Crucis, conspicuous among them being the Calvary, the Sépulchre, and the most touching 'La Madre Dolorosa' Our Lady of Sorrows. There she is in a recumbent position pierced by Seven Swords. As her Divine Son on Calvary, His Sepulchre and Our Lady follow, every one kneels. Engraved on her pedestal are those beautiful and sublime words in Latin: 'O vos omnes qui transitis per viam attendite et videte si est dolor similis sicut dolor meus': Oh! all ye who pass by the way attend and see if there be sorrow like unto my sorrow.' The Spaniards have an indescribably innate devotion to Our Lady, at all times of the year,—but their love is strongest on this day of her Seven Dolours. The procession passed, the soldiers fall in and march quietly back to barracks. The populace go home sad but impressed with the solemnity of the day which ends with Tenebrae. Holy Saturday sees the transformation from death to life, as it were, notified by the ringing of church bells, the booming of cannon and the reversion by the military of their arms to their ordinary position.

(To be concluded next week.)

Diocesan News

ARCHDIOCESE OF WELLINGTON

(From our own correspondent.)

The Provincial Chapter of the Marist Order is to be held here on Wednesday next.

The Catholic young men of the city will hold their general Communion on the first Sunday after Easter.

The Very Rev. Father Clune and Rev. Father Macdermott, of the Redemptorist Order, are to open a mission at Parnell to-morrow. Fathers Bannan and Lowham are at Greymouth.

All arrangements are now in train for the bazaar to be held in the Skating Rink during Easter week to aid the new parish of Muritai, under the care of the Fathers of St. Patrick's College. One of the chief attractions of the bazaar will be the grand marches and fancy dances, for which some seventy or eighty girls are now being trained by Miss Barbara Putnam. A very fine and effective spectacular display is promised. The Wellington Physical Training School has kindly arranged two displays that should prove interesting and attractive. For one evening the pupils of St. Joseph's Convent, South Wellington, are arranging a concert. The bazaar will not be wanting in side-shows. The opening will take place on Saturday, the 30th instant, and the bazaar will be open for seven nights. The lady stallholders and the committee are all working hard to achieve success.

WANGANUI

(From our own correspondent.)

A member of St. Mary's Catholic Club, Mr. Edgar H. McDonald, was successful at the Wanganui Regatta, when he won the maiden sculls, and with Mr. R. Norman appropriated the maiden double sculls.

It is with sincere regret I have to record the death of Sister M. Clement, which took place on Friday, March 15, at the Convent of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Nazareth. Sister M. Clement (Miss Annie Daly) was born in Bathurst, Australia, and came to New Zealand eleven years ago, her mind already made up to become a Sister in the local community. Soon after entering the convent the deceased Sister caught a severe cold which caused not a little anxiety. When the case was brought before the late Dr. Connolly, who then attended the convent, his decision was that there was some danger of consumption setting in. However the Sisters were hopeful that her age, with good care, would save her. With a disposition naturally kind and gentle she was a great favorite with the children, as well as with the Sisters and all those who made her acquaintance. A few months ago her health showed signs of breaking up, and notwithstanding the care she received from the Sisters, Sister M. Clement kept gradually sinking, until she passed away at the early age of 30 years.—R.I.P.

DIOCESE OF CHRISTCHURCH

(From our own correspondent.)

March 18.

The billiard tournament at the Catholic club rooms is exciting keen competition, and some close games have resulted.

The Catholic Club members have signified their intention of taking charge of the side-shows at the forthcoming carnival in aid of the Cathedral debt extinction fund, and intend introducing several novelties.

The annual conference of the Federated Catholic Young Men's Societies will be opened on Easter Saturday in the Catholic club rooms, Barbadoes street. The visiting delegates and members of the local club will approach the Holy Table in a body on Easter Sunday.

Among essay writers at a recent Exhibition contest several pupils of the Sisters of the Missions were prominent. For those under 16, Miss Grace O'Malley secured second place, and for those under 13, Miss Nellie Cronin was second, and Miss Minnie Rattray highly commended. Miss Nellie Dwyer, daughter of Mr. Sub-Inspector Dwyer, and a former pupil of the Sisters of St. Joseph at Wanganui, has secured a number of awards in connection with various competitions at the Exhibition, including one gold and three silver medals in shorthand, typewriting, and commercial correspondence. At the recent examination and presentation of awards at Miss Digby's Commercial School, Miss Dwyer secured the first prize (gold medal) in typewriting, and also the first prize for commercial correspondence (including transcription of shorthand notes, spelling, and longhand writing). This talented young lady, who is worthy of congratulation, is also a gold medalist in scholastic competitions, and now occupies a position in the office of the Commissioner of Crown Lands, Christchurch.

The quarterly general meeting of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, under the Particular Council of Christchurch, was held in the Presbytery on last Monday evening. His Lordship the Bishop presided, the Very Rev. Vicar-General (spiritual director) was present, and a large attendance representing the Cathedral, St. Mary's (Manchester street), and St. Joseph's (Lyttelton) Conferences, and the Association of Ladies of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul. The president welcomed in the name of all present his Lordship the Bishop on his return to the diocese. His Lordship replied in appropriate terms, gave an interesting resume of his observations during his travels, having an interest to the members of the society, and expressed great gratification at the life and energy displayed in the cause of charity, and especially in the work of extension. Whilst in Rome, he had secured the recognition of the Ladies of Charity associated with the society, who henceforth would share in the merits and indulgences so profusely granted to the world-wide organisation. Among the good works to be accomplished, and which he was pleased to know occupied a large share in their laudable endeavors, was the dissemination of good Catholic literature. In this regard he once again eloquently advocated the claims of the 'N.Z. Tablet,' a journal of which all are justly proud. If, continued his Lordship, our opponents would only condescend to go to the 'Tablet' for reliable information, the opinions they form would be very different indeed. The 'Tablet,' said his Lordship, ought to be in the homes of far more of our people than it is. In Australia recently he was told by an eminent prelate that it is the most interesting periodical he knows, and if outside the Colony we had such favorable comments of our only Catholic journal, expressed in so emphatic a manner, we then should appreciate it more. The Very Rev. Vicar-General also spoke on the same subject. An amount of correspondence from the Superior Council and elsewhere was dealt with, and satisfactory reports were received from the various Conferences.

The religious celebration of the festival day of Ireland's patron saint was rendered more appropriate, and from a ceremonial point of view of greater solemnity owing to the fact of the festival falling this year on Sunday. Emblems of the nationality of most of our people were conspicuously displayed, and the fervor with which the day was celebrated showed conclusively that interest in the feast day of the great Apostle of Ireland, far from waning, is, year by year, growing more pronounced. In all our churches special reference was made to the occasion, and at Vespers in the Cathedral an eloquent panegyric of St. Patrick was preached by the Very Rev. Father Le Menant des Chesnais, S.M., V.G., in the presence of a large congregation.