

the Rev. Sydney Smith, was once asked to see an aged and dying dame that was one of the most quarrelsome and stormy-tempered of all his parishioners. She had from the first plagued and blighted the life of her hapless husband and family. When Sydney Smith reached the house, the emphatic old dame had gone to her account, and the bereaved widower, who was a religious man in his way and knew his Bible fairly well, remarked: 'Ah, sir, you are too late! My poor dear wife has gone to Abraham's bosom.' 'Poor Abraham,' said Sydney, with a sigh, 'she'll tear his inside out.' The owners of some hot heads and tongues, whose temper tears their households inside out, may chiefly need, perhaps, a course of tonics or 'temper powders.' All require a course of watchful and prayerful self-control, if they are not to embitter and poison their own lives and the lives of all those whom dire fate associates with them in domestic life.

DIocese OF DUNEDIN

Rev. Fathers Coffey and Howard and a party of lay friends are on a walking tour from Lake Te Anau to Milford Sound.

His Lordship the Bishop administered the Sacrament of Confirmation in Cardrona, in the Queenstown parochial district, in the early part of this week.

On Sunday there was Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at St. Joseph's Cathedral from the eleven o'clock Mass until Vespers, after which the usual procession took place.

The annual retreat of the clergy of the diocese, which will be conducted by the Rev. Father Lowham, C.S.S.R., is to be held at Holy Cross College, Mosgiel, commencing on January 20.

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

An esteemed correspondent points out that for the secular clergy of New Zealand, the feast of the Holy Family should fall on Sunday, January 26, the third Sunday after the Epiphany. Mention of the festival was omitted in the Australian Ordo for January which appeared in our issue of December 26.

OAMARU

(From our own correspondent.)

January 6.

As is the usual custom, Christmas Day was ushered in by the Catholic community with the celebration of midnight Mass, at which a large congregation was present. The Right Rev. Mgr. Mackay was the celebrant, and gave an impressive discourse on the subject of the Nativity. The choir was in strong force, and rendered the music of the Mass in a manner befitting the occasion. During the morning Masses were celebrated at the hours of seven, eight, nine, and eleven o'clock, all of which were attended by good congregations. The Rev. Father O'Neill preached to a large congregation at 11 o'clock Mass, and the choir rendered appropriate music.

WANGANUI

(From our own correspondent.)

January 4.

The teachers from New South Wales, who are making a holiday tour through the Dominion, arrived in Wanganui last Saturday, and on Sunday they made a trip up the river, where they were delighted with the beautiful scenery.

New Year's Eve was wet and cold. In the evening, however, the rain ceased and large numbers of people paraded the business portion of the town until a late hour. Shortly after 11 o'clock the Fire Brigade formed their New Year's procession. The floats were very artistically decorated, whilst the time-honored tableau took the shape of a burning building with a fireman climbing to an upstairs window. Three brass bands discoursed sweet music; and the whole procession was most creditable to those concerned. As the midnight hour approached the procession came to a halt in front of the Post Office. At last the town clock

sounded the knell of 1907. Then arose the tune of 'Auld lang syne' from band and voice, and friend gripped the hand of friend in order to express the best of wishes for the New Year which had just been ushered in. Having thus welcomed the new-born year the people quietly dispersed to their homes.

Several changes in the personnel of St. Mary's choir have recently taken place. Amongst the old members who have recently resigned are two of the officers of the choir—Mr. G. McCulloch, senior, vice-president and librarian, after more than thirty-five years' service, and Mrs. T. Lloyd, organist, who has occupied the position for over twenty-nine years. By Mr. McCulloch's retirement the choir has sustained a severe loss in the truest sense of the word. Not only does Mr. McCulloch still possess a splendid voice, but his punctuality, his fidelity in the discharge of his duties, and his singleness of purpose have been during all these long years a source of edification to the other members of the choir.

OTAKI

(From an occasional correspondent.)

On December 8, the feast of the Immaculate Conception, there were special ceremonies at Otaki. High Mass was celebrated by the Rev. Father Hurley, who was ordained on December 1 at the Meanee Seminary. Rev. Fathers Cognet and Finnerty were deacon and sub-deacon. The music was very nicely sung by the Sisters and Native children, the Rev. Father Schaefer acting as conductor. At the early Mass a large number of boys and girls received First Communion. After High Mass the devotion of the Forty Hours' Adoration was begun with a procession around the church and presbytery grounds. The procession was followed by Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament, given by Father Hurley. At the conclusion of the ceremonies about 150 visitors were hospitably entertained by Fathers Melu and Delach at a dinner in the Native house, which was very tastefully decorated for the occasion. At 3 o'clock there was a renewal of baptismal vows, when an impressive sermon was preached by the Rev. Father Cognet. Afternoon tea was dispensed in the Native house as the sun was sinking over the beautiful sanctuary of the birds—Kapiti Island. Seven o'clock saw us again assembled within the sacred edifice for Vespers, followed by an eloquent sermon by the Rev. Father Finnerty. After Vespers the congregation assembled at the grotto. The night was simply perfect, and the hymns to our Lady in the soft Native voices were indeed something to be remembered.

TEMUKA

(From our own correspondent.)

The Rev. Father Kerley, who has been in Temuka for the last seven or eight years, is about to take a well-earned holiday, and intends visiting Australia.

The Rev. Father Tymons, of Waimate, celebrated the 10.30 Mass on Sunday morning, when he preached an eloquent sermon. He again preached in the evening, when there was a large congregation.

The United Kingdom bazaar, which was opened on Boxing Day, was brought to a close on Monday evening last. The bazaar proved to be a great success. It is not yet known the exact amount that has been cleared, but the balance sheet will be submitted to a general meeting to be held on Thursday evening.

HAWERA

(From our own correspondent.)

Miss Putman is at present making arrangements for the spectacular display in connection with the bazaar, to be held early next month.

Rev. Father O'Dwyer is to be in charge of the parish during the absence of the Very Rev. Father Power, who leaves for Ireland in about ten days.

At the annual meeting of the Hawera Hibernian Society there was a good attendance of members. After the usual routine business the Secretary's report and balance-sheet were read and adopted. The Society has only been in existence 20 months, and during that short time has made good progress. Seven new members were enrolled this year, which leaves the membership at 31. The sick fund has a credit of £42 and the management fund a credit of £18. This was regarded by the members as very satisfactory. The following officers were elected for the next term of six months:—President, Bro. B. McCarthy; Vice-President, Bro. W. O'Donnell;