

bad press was not spread everywhere, and that, therefore, the antidote of the good press was not equally necessary. We are no longer in those other times, we are in the times of to-day, and to-day it is a fact that the Christian people is deceived, poisoned, destroyed by bad newspapers. In vain will you build churches, give missions, found schools—all your works, all your efforts will be destroyed if you are not able to wield the defensive and offensive weapon of a loyal and sincere Catholic press.

And (says 'Rome') 'the journalist describes how the Pope grew animated, as he spoke, how, with a characteristic movement of his shoulders, he showed his compassion for the people who fail to comprehend the importance of using the press on behalf of the Church, how his bearing recalled the spirit of sacrifice that animated Cardinal Sarto, Patriarch of Venice, in his efforts to support his paper, "La Difesa", of which he used to say: "If nothing else were left me, I would sell my pectoral cross rather than permit this necessary work to fail."

## DIOCESE OF DUNEDIN

The Right Rev. Mgr. Mackay (Oamaru) has been appointed Administrator of the diocese during the absence of his Lordship the Bishop.

A meeting is to be held in Invercargill on Sunday for the purpose of making arrangements for welcoming the Very Rev. Dean Burke on his return from Europe.

The Rev. Fathers Hunt and Campbell, C.S.S.R., began a week's mission in St. Patrick's Church, Lawrence, on Sunday. Rev. Father Lowham, C.S.S.R., is conducting a series of missions throughout the Queenstown parish. Rev. Fathers McDermott and Creagh, C.S.S.R., are conducting missions in the Milton parish.

A meeting was held in St. Joseph's Hall on Tuesday evening for the purpose of forming a committee to make arrangements for the holding of the usual concert on St. Patrick's night. The Rev. Father Coffey, Adm., presided, and a committee and the necessary sub-committees were appointed. Mr. W. P. Rodgers being elected secretary.

J. P. Hastings, M.B., (F.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.), who proceeded to London last year to continue his medical studies, returned to his home in Dunedin on Tuesday morning. While in London, Dr. Hastings took the opportunity of calling on Mr. Joseph Devlin, M.P., who showed him through the Houses of Parliament, where he had the pleasure of meeting Mr. T. P. O'Connor, M.P., and several members of the Irish Party. Mr. Devlin referred to New Zealand in high terms of praise and spoke enthusiastically of its people and the warm-hearted manner in which he was received by them during his recent tour, and requested Dr. Hastings to convey his very kindest regards to the many friends he had made during his brief visit. Dr. Hastings spent some time visiting the interesting places of Ireland and Scotland, prior to his departure for New Zealand.

The funeral of the late Sister Mary Philip Hughes, O.S.D., who passed away at the convent, Queenstown, took place on February 6. There were Requiem: High Mass and Solemn Office in St. Joseph's Church. Rev. Father O'Donnell (Queenstown) was celebrant of the Mass, Rev. Father Hunt (Cromwell) deacon, and Rev. Father McMullan (Ranfurly) subdeacon. The cantors at the Office were the Rev. Father O'Donnell and Rev. Father O'Reilly (Dunedin). A sermon appropriate to the occasion was preached by the Rev. Father Murphy (Riverton). In addition to the priests mentioned there were also present Rev. Fathers M. Ryan and Buckley (Holy Cross College). The remains were interred in the Queenstown Cemetery.

The Wellington Harbor Board has authorised the prosecution of works during the current year to cost altogether nearly £120,000. The chief item is £43,000 in connection with King's wharf and stores.

Under the will of the late Mr. C. T. Browne, notice of whose death appears elsewhere in this issue, the following Wellington charitable institutions benefit:—The Sisters of Compassion, £100; Sisters of Mercy, £100; the new Cathedral, £100; the Marist Brothers, provided they open a school in Newtown, £50; St. Joseph's Orphanage, £50; Society of St. Vincent de Paul, £50; Newtown parish, £200 (to be administered by the Rev. Father Ainsworth). A sum of £50 has been left to the Rev. Father Ainsworth for Masses for the repose of the soul of the testator.

## DEPARTURE OF BISHOP VERDON FOR EUROPE

### A FAREWELL SOCIAL

When it became known a few days ago that his Lordship the Bishop was about to pay the customary visit 'ad limina' to Rome, it was decided by the Catholics of the Cathedral and South Dunedin parishes that the Bishop should not be allowed to depart on his extended travels without some manifestation of their respect and esteem. At a meeting held in St. Joseph's Hall in the early part of last week, and at which the Rev. Father Coffey, Adm., presided, it was decided to entertain Dr. Verdon at a conversazione, which was considered the best way of giving the people an opportunity of saying good-bye to his Lordship prior to his departure. A committee of ladies and gentlemen was appointed to make the necessary arrangements for the function, which came off in St. Joseph's Hall on Monday evening. On entering the building one could see at a glance that the committee had been very busy in the interval, as the hall was very tastefully decorated, the stage being particularly attractive. Long before the time appointed for the commencement of the proceedings the hall was crowded, and the arrival of his Lordship, who was accompanied by the Right Rev. Mgr. Mackay (Oamaru), Very Rev. Mgr. O'Leary (Lawrence), Rev. Father Lynch (Palmerston-South), the clergy of the Cathedral, South Dunedin, and Mosgiel, was the signal for long continued applause. The early part of the evening was devoted to a musical programme of exceptional merit. The first item was contributed by an efficient orchestra conducted by Mr. W. T. Ward, and consisting of Misses G. Meenan, Ward (2), McCallion, Messrs. Miles (2), Ward, O'Brien, Poppelwell, and Deehan. Songs were given by Misses G. Meenan, N. Hall, Mrs. Power (with violin obligato by Mr. Power), Messrs. P. Carolin, J. McGrath, and Poppelwell, and a pianoforte duet by Misses S. and N. Hall. Later on in the evening the orchestra gave another much appreciated selection. The accompaniments during the evening were played by Misses S. and N. Hall, Drumm, Poppelwell, and Mr. Vallis.

At the conclusion of the musical programme the Hon. J. B. Callan, M.L.C., addressed the meeting. He said he desired to congratulate the various performers for the fine musical programme just given. They were all aware of the object of the gathering that evening, which was for the purpose of bidding his Lordship the Bishop good-bye, a happy voyage, and a safe return to his diocese. He believed that his Lordship would prefer to leave quietly, but the parishioners thought otherwise. Instead of presenting him with a printed address, he (Mr. Callan) had been asked to say a few words of farewell on behalf of the laity. He believed that on his return his Lordship would be bombarded with something more substantial than words (applause). His Lordship was not going to Europe for the purpose of pleasure; he was not going to see new countries and new people; he was going home on the business of the diocese. He believed that his Lordship would far rather have remained here attending to his business than to have to travel over sea and land for 13,000 miles in the interests of the diocese. It is a rule that every Bishop must make periodical visits to Rome, and it was in accordance with that rule he was leaving them for a time. It was one of the duties of his Lordship to report on the state of the diocese, and what sort of people he exercises ecclesiastical sway over. He did not know what his Lordship would say about his people, but from his characteristic kindness he would be disposed to think that his Lordship would make the best of them (laughter). To vary the words of the poet, he would be 'to our virtues very kind, to our faults very blind.' When speaking of his own labors in the diocese since his arrival here his Lordship need not be backward. Among the many good works carried out by him three stand out prominently—the St. Vincent de Paul Orphanage, the Home for the Aged Poor, and the College for the training and education of students at Mosgiel. Anyone who visits the orphanage at South Dunedin cannot fail to be impressed with the admirable work which is carried on in that institution. There the waifs and strays are taken in hand and brought up as nice children. They are trained, and grow up useful citizens of the Dominion. The name of the Home for the Aged Poor speaks for itself. In that home many a poor fellow in his old age, after years of hard work, finds himself cared for and tended by the good Sisters. The work of Holy Cross College belongs more to the future than to the present time; as years go by its usefulness will become more apparent. In conclusion he felt he was speaking the sentiments of the whole of the diocese in wishing his Lord-