

WEDDING BELLS

O'GORMAN—FLANNERY.

(From our Napier correspondent.)

St. Patrick's Church, Napier, was the scene of a pretty wedding on February 19, the contracting parties being Miss Emily Flannery, third daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Flannery, of Napier, and Mr. James J. O'Gorman, second son of Mr. and Mrs. James O'Gorman, of Westport. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. W. D. Goggan, who also celebrated the Nuptial Mass. The bride, who was given away by her father, looked charming in a costume of white Persian lawn, with muslin insertion and a white picture hat trimmed with ostrich plumes. The bridesmaid was Miss Gertie Flannery, sister of the bride. Mr. P. L. Foley acted as best man. At the conclusion of the ceremony Mendelssohn's 'Wedding March' was played by the organist, Miss Scott. In proposing the toast of the bride and bridegroom at the wedding breakfast, Rev. Father Goggan referred to the exemplary character of the young couple. The many presents testified to their popularity. Mr. and Mrs. O'Gorman left during the afternoon for their new home in Dannevirke, taking with them the good wishes of their many friends.

Napier

The Theatre Royal (says the 'Daily Telegraph') was splendidly filled on the evening of February 27, on the occasion of a farewell tendered to the Rev. W. D. Goggan, who for the past six years had been pastor of Napier and is now leaving to take up the position of vice-rector of St. Patrick's College, Wellington. The opportunity was also taken by the Catholic community to extend a welcome to their new pastor, the Rev. Father James Goggan.

The short concert programme arranged by Mr. T. St. L. Toner proved highly enjoyable.

At the conclusion of the concert a presentation was made to the departing priest. Mr. W. J. McGrath presided, and seats on the platform were occupied by Very Rev. Dean Smyth, Very Rev. Dr. Kennedy, Rev. Fathers W. D. Goggan, J. Goggan, O'Connor, and Tymons, Messrs. P. Gleeson and J. Higgins.

The chairman said that they had met to bid farewell to the Rev. Father William Goggan and to welcome his successor. Father William Goggan had been with them for six years in Napier, and during that time he had rendered excellent service. Commenting upon the departing priest's work, the chairman said that when he arrived here in 1902 the parish had a debt of £1600, and this had been paid off. Amongst other work which had been done by him was the expenditure of £250 on St. Patrick's Hall, £200 on the interior of St. Patrick's Church, £190 on the Marist Brothers' school, and £350 in making the church's property in Station street one of the most valuable in town.

The Very Rev. Dean Smyth said that the meeting showed that the people had two good virtues—kindness and gratitude. They showed their gratitude to Father William Goggan for all that he had done and their kindness of heart in extending so cordial a greeting to Father James Goggan.

Messrs. J. Higgins and P. Gleeson also addressed the meeting.

Mr. Gleeson, on behalf of the Catholics of Napier, presented Father William Goggan with a purse of sovereigns and the following address, printed on a white satin scroll beautifully ornamented by the Sisters of the convent from a design by Miss McGrath:—

'Rev. and Dear Father,—It is with feelings of respect and gratitude that we, the people for whom you have labored so zealously during the past six years, assemble to bid you farewell, and to wish you prosperity in your new sphere of labor. In briefly reviewing the past, we find ourselves indebted to you for many favors both as priest and administrator of our parish. We sincerely thank you for the fatherly affection and tender solicitude you have shown us. You have on all occasions, without fear or favor, made clear to us the will of the Divine Master in our regard, and have never ceased to spend yourself and be spent in order that you may promote our eternal salvation. As a learned and cultured gentleman, you have reflected honor on the priesthood and us, and have proved yourself to be the true champion of our holy religion, whenever it has been attacked. By your prudence and foresight, you have shown yourself to be a very capable administrator. All this is visible in the splendid properties you have secured for religious purposes. An address such as this will not allow of the

enumeration of all the works of zeal in which you have been engaged; but in your relations with the little ones you have shown yourself the true priest—never failing to stoop to the least and lowest of Christ's flock. All your energy, zeal, and learning were incessantly employed in the interest of our children in their religious and secular education; and in everything that might tend to make them thorough members of the Catholic faith. Remembering, then, all these favors, and remembering also your wise counsels and exhortations for our spiritual life, we assure you, Reverend Father, that we shall ever strive to be faithful to them, and thus prove ourselves worthy of such a pastor as you have been. We trust you shall ever remember us in your prayers and good works, whilst we will do the same for you. In conclusion, we hope you shall have God's blessing for a long life and health and strength to carry on the great and noble work to which holy obedience calls you. On behalf of the parishioners of Napier, we remain, reverend and dear Father, your affectionate children in Jesus Christ.'

Miss Kenny presented Father William Goggan with a purse of money subscribed by the Children of Mary.

Rev. Father Goggan, in reply, heartily thanked his own people for their goodwill to him, and also the citizens of Napier, from the Mayor down to the humblest man, from whom he had received nothing but kindness. He recognised that whether they were Catholics or not they were all children of God and citizens of the State, and as such should respect the feelings and belief of one to the other. In going through life it had always been his endeavor to respect the feelings of every man, from the Oriental to the members of their own race and creed. Father Goggan paid a high tribute to his successor, and said that when the people got to know him they would wish that he (the speaker) had gone long ago.

Very Rev. Dr. Kennedy introduced the Rev. Father James Goggan, and spoke of his work in other centres of the world.

Rev. Father James Goggan said that he had come amongst them as an old man. He hoped to spend many happy days in this beautiful sunny Napier, where his rev. nephew had labored so successfully.

This closed the proceedings, but the opportunity was availed of by many to bid the Rev. Father William Goggan a personal farewell.

Ashburton

(From our own correspondent.)

March 3.

The local branch of the H.A.C.B. Society and the Catholic Young Men's Club approached the Holy Table in a body on Sunday. After Mass the Communion breakfast was partaken of in the Catholic Hall, when there were about 70 persons present. The breakfast was provided by the ladies of the parish. Mr. T. O'Carroll presided, and, in the course of a happy speech, outlined the progress made by both societies since they were started in Ashburton, and hoped that the breakfast would be an annual affair.

The debate, 'Would the Conciliation Board be justified in acceding to the demands made by the Farm Laborers' Union?' was continued at the meeting of the Catholic Club on February 18. Mr. McDonnell led on the affirmative, and Mr. F. K. Cooper in the negative. After an interesting debate a vote was taken, which resulted in favor of the affirmative side by a small majority.

Invercargill

(From our own correspondent.)

March 3.

The annual Catholic picnic was held at Ocean Beach on February 26. The weather was perfect and about 500 persons left for the seaside by train shortly after nine o'clock. A good programme of sports had been arranged for the children. The Rev. Fathers O'Malley and Morkane and several of the committee superintended the entertainment of the children, who had a most enjoyable day's outing. About 200 persons went down by the afternoon train. A number of items for adults came off during the afternoon, and created considerable interest and amusement. After spending a very pleasant day the people returned to town by the evening train.

Messrs Herbert, Haynes, are now making their first grand show of autumn novelties. In all departments are displayed the latest productions from the world's centres of fashion....