

The only question, therefore, was that of providing, at all events, some portion of the cost of the building. About two years ago he (Mr. Kennedy), had promised to give the sum of £500 towards the establishment of a Catholic Young Men's Club, and two gentlemen who desired their names to be withheld, had promised £500 each. These sums had been placed in the hands of the Rev. Father O'Shea, and the only condition made by the donors was that another £1500 should be raised towards the same object. Some collecting work had been done by the Catholic young men's societies, which now brought the total up to about £2000 cash in hand, and there were a few hundreds more promised. They all recognised the importance of the proposal, and the necessity for the existence of such a hall. Much good work had been done in the little hall at present in use, which had fairly demonstrated the need for increased accommodation. Such a building would find plenty of occupants. It was desired to form a Catholic society apart from the existing societies, but it was not intended to shut out the societies now in existence, for everyone recognised the excellent work they had done. It was thought that the new hall should be dominated by the laity of the Catholic community in Wellington. His Grace the Archbishop had no objection to this course being taken. It was proposed that the society should be registered, and should be conducted on a broad democratic basis; that all male Catholics of the city should be eligible as members on the payment of a very small subscription, so that each member might feel that he had a personal interest in the building of which he would be a part owner. When a sufficient number of names had been enrolled a committee of, say, fifteen would be appointed, including several representatives of the clergy, and that committee would see to the registration of the society. It was suggested that the hall should be a two-storied building, but that and other details could be determined later on.

The Rev. Father O'Shea moved:—'That this meeting of Wellington Catholics affirms that the time has now arrived when the work of establishing a Catholic Club and of providing a Catholic Hall and Club Rooms should be undertaken.' He said the clergy would be quite satisfied to see the whole of the management in the hands of the laity, and indeed they were only too pleased to see such able laymen taking the matter in hand. He saw a great deal of necessity for the establishment of an institution such as that proposed. Young men naturally desired to become members of such associations, and unless Catholic Clubs were provided they would join others. They had provided schools for the children, and they should provide for the rising generation after they left school in the way that a club could make such provision.

Mr. J. J. Devine seconded the motion. He said that the proposal was one which was almost entirely for laymen to carry out. There were probably about 10,000 Catholics in Wellington, and as a community they were well equipped in the matter of churches and schools and they hoped soon to have a Cathedral. Indeed, they had a great deal to congratulate themselves upon, but they greatly wanted such a hall as that proposed, which could be used as a rallying centre where they could meet each other in a social way. It had been said by way of reproach that Catholics stood aloof somewhat from one another, but the possession of such a hall would give them an opportunity of coming together which they never had before; it would be a place where the members could read Catholic literature and discuss matters of mutual interest. They also should have a similar place where Catholic ladies could meet socially and obtain the same literary benefits as this club would afford to their fathers, husbands, and brothers.

The motion was carried unanimously.

On the motion of Mr. A. H. Casey, seconded by Mr. J. W. Callaghan, it was resolved that the following gentlemen should be a provisional committee to draw up a constitution:—Messrs. M. Kennedy, M. O'Connor, J. J. Devine, J. J. Bourke, L. Dyan, E. J. Fitzgibbon, B. Ellis, G. Townsend, B. Donerty, J. W. Callaghan, Colonel R. J. Collins, and Captain J. O'Sullivan.

Mr. E. J. Fitzgibbon, acting secretary to the movement, addressing the meeting, said that although the club was not for the use of the young men only, still it was the duty of the young men on this occasion to make a special effort. He suggested the appointment of a band of 20 young men to pledge themselves to raise £25 each, and in this way realise the balance of funds required.

A committee was afterwards set up to give effect to this suggestion.

I understand that the committee, appointed to frame a constitution and draw up rules, will recommend that all Catholics above the age of 20 be eligible for membership, and that the subscription for the first year, in view

of a heavy initial expenditure, be fixed at £1. This will make the club a democratic one. The next meeting is to be held on Sunday, 29th March.

## Westport

(From our own correspondent.)

March 9.

The death occurred at Auckland on February 28 of Miss Ciss Reedy, daughter of Mr. D. Reedy. The remains were brought to Westport and interred in the Orawaiti Cemetery on Saturday last, the Rev. Father Bergin conducting the burial service. Great sympathy is felt for the parents in their sad loss.—R.I.P.

In order to accommodate the increasing Catholic population in Westport it has been found necessary to enlarge the Church. A fair sum has already been collected for the work, which is estimated to cost £500, and a meeting of the building committee has been called for Thursday next to devise a scheme for raising the balance of the money required.

Given a fine day the St. Patrick's Day celebrations should prove very successful, great interest being taken in the sports' programme. The Irish national concert to be held on St. Patrick's night, judging by the programme, should result in a good entertainment.

## DIOCESE OF CHRISTCHURCH

(From our own correspondent.)

March 15.

The beautiful chapel of the Sisters of the Missions, attached to the Convent of the Sacred Heart, is nearing completion, and is expected to be out of the builders' hands within the next few weeks.

The periodical conference of the clergy of North Canterbury deanery was held last Tuesday at Rangiora. The Very Rev. Dean Ginty, S.M., V.G., presided, and there were fifteen of the clergy present.

Some people have been seized with the impression (said his Lordship the Bishop in conversation with your correspondent) that the Cathedral as a cold building interiorly in the winter. Now this is an absolute fallacy, due to imagination rather than to any actual experience. Experts, both as to material and construction, unanimously agree that the right conditions are that the building is cool in summer and warm in winter. An erroneous impression is evidently formed by some, that because the constituents are stone and materials of a similar nature the Cathedral must necessarily be cold, thus judging by appearance simply. Rightly, however, the very reverse in regard to human comfort obtains.

At the Cathedral on Sunday evening, his Lordship the Bishop delivered the second of a series of Lenten discourses, on the 'Catholic Church in relation to Marriage.' As a preface to the subject his Lordship showed that from the fall of Adam woman was dishonored, and polygamy and divorce were rampant. The coming of our Divine Lord, who exemplified the sacredness of marriage by wedding humanity to Himself and establishing the Church, restored matrimony to its primitive high position, and raised it to the dignity of a sacrament. He went on to show how by Divine legislation the unity and indissolubility of marriage were established. In brief, but forceful, terms he spoke of the evils of divorce, and enlarged upon what woman owes to the Catholic Church and to the Popes.

## Greymouth

(From our own correspondent.)

March 11.

Last Sunday the members of the Hibernian Society united with the members of the St. Columba Club in their quarterly Communion. The members of both societies marched in regalia from the St. Columba Hall to the church, where upwards of 100 men approached the Holy Table. It was a most edifying sight. After Mass the members marched to the St. Columba Club rooms, where the ladies' committee had provided breakfast. Mr. W. H. Duffy (president of the St. Columba Club) occupied the chair, and Mr. P. Deere (president of the Hibernian Society) the vice-chair. The chairman complimented the members of both societies in turning out in such large numbers that morning, and giving practical proof of the faith that was in them. Mr. P. Deere also congratulated the members and urged on the young men of the town the necessity of joining one or both of the Catholic societies. Rev. Father H. McDonnell said he was proud that morning to see

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