

clergy assembled at the railway station to wish him a pleasant voyage and a safe return. Some days previous to his departure, Father O'Reilly was informally made the recipient of two very large money presentations as tokens of the great esteem and affection in which he is held by those among whom he has so zealously ministered. One of the presentations was made by the many warm friends whom he has made among the laity of Dunedin, the other by the parishioners of Oamaru, who still retain a warm affection for him, although several years have passed since he labored amongst them. Father O'Reilly left Auckland on Wednesday morning of this week and joins the Pacific steamer at Suva.

Milton

On Tuesday evening of last week (says the Milton 'Mirror') St. Joseph's Schoolroom presented a very pleasing spectacle, the occasion being a welcome social tendered by the Catholics of Milton to Rev. Father Farthing, who is to have charge of the district during the absence of the Very Rev. Father O'Neill. The schoolroom was tastefully decorated, the work of the Sisters of the local convent, their pupils, and some lady assistants. The arrangements for the function were admirably carried out, and reflected much credit on those responsible for them. Mr. W. Kirby, who presided, in his explanatory remarks with regard to the object of the meeting, said that since the regrettable absence of the Very Rev. Father O'Neill through ill-health the Catholics of Milton were without a pastor, but owing to the kindness of the priests at Holy Cross College, Mosgiel, they had Mass every Sunday. They were pleased to have Father Farthing in their midst, and they extended to him a hearty welcome, and they desired to assure him of their co-operation in every possible way. He hoped Father Farthing's stay would be pleasant, and beneficial to his health, which they regretted to hear was at present not all that could be desired. He, however, thought there was not a great deal to fear in this respect, although it took a very robust person to survive the shock of a sudden drop from extreme north to extreme south. He had survived it wonderfully well so far, said Mr. Kirby, who concluded his remarks by again giving a warm welcome to Father Farthing, who he hoped would be long spared to continue in his good work for the honor and glory of God.

Mr. Moroney said he considered it befitting to meet in this social way, and he could safely say that Father Farthing had already won the hearts of his congregation. Although the Catholic body of Milton was not numerically strong, they were rich in faith and love for their holy religion. They all regretted very much the ill-health of the Very Rev. Father O'Neill, but even in his absence, and far away distant as he was, there could be no doubt he would remember them.

Mr. R. Grealish, jun., said he was very pleased to see such an attendance to welcome their new pastor. There was not a Catholic family in the parish unrepresented. Although Father Farthing was a stranger personally, his work was well known throughout the Dominion, his name being well known through the medium of the Catholic journals. Although they met in harmony that night, it was to be regretted that the sole reason for the meeting of welcome was due to the very serious breakdown in health of their esteemed pastor. Father O'Neill had been for some considerable time a silent sufferer. It was one of his characteristics to conceal his personal suffering, and it was earnestly desired that in his attempt to continue working for their spiritual welfare, he had not menaced his own health beyond a complete recovery.

Messrs. M. Kreft (president of the Hibernian Society) and J. P. Lynch also extended a hearty welcome to Father Farthing.

The Rev. Father Farthing, in replying, said it was difficult indeed for him to find words to express his feelings. He was quite astonished to see such preparations for his welcome in so short a time; it surpassed anything he had ever come in contact with. He could only thank them all for their kindness and welcome. Their pastor told him in Auckland that the place in winter was cold, but that the people were always warm; he could now truthfully confirm this. When leaving Auckland it was with a pang of regret, and he now knew that when his time came to leave Milton there would be an additional pang of regret. He admitted having a particular liking for the young men, and advised all of them in the parish to practise all good virtues; to associate themselves in every public movement; to interest themselves in literature, and especially follow

all the political questions of the day; and to move forward, but never go one step backward.

Between the addresses a very varied and first-class programme was gone through, and consisted of pianoforte selections and duets by Miss Reid and Miss Scanlan; club drill, boy pupils; chorus, 'When through life unblest we rove,' convent pupils; part song, 'The meeting of the waters'; fan dance, Miss Madge Laffey. The gem of the evening was undoubtedly the singing of Father Farthing's four songs with encores. The songs he selected were 'The last rose of summer,' 'Dear little shamrock,' 'Ye banks and braes,' and 'Believe me if all those endearing young charms.'

Invercargill

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

July 19.

The Marist Brothers' boys have won the schools football competition, having gone through the season without a defeat.

The usual meeting of the H.A.B.C. Society was held on July 15. The balance sheet showed the society to be in a good financial position, having accumulated funds amounting to well over three figures. Three candidates were nominated. The society intends to hold a social at West Plains at an early date, the proceeds to go to the benevolent fund.

The Invercargill Catholic Club held its usual meeting on Tuesday evening. The programme for the evening was a mock breach of promise case. The congregation were invited to attend, which they did in strong force. Solicitors, witnesses, etc., having worked up a good case, a very enjoyable evening was spent. The club, having received a challenge to a debate from the Gore Club, will pay a visit to Gore on July 29. The following members will be the Invercargill Club representatives:—Messrs. Mulvey, Morton, Woods, Pound, Sims, and Byrne.

WELLINGTON

(From an Occasional Correspondent.)

July 20.

On Sunday, July 19 (the feast of St. Vincent de Paul) at St. Mary of the Angels' Church the Very Rev. Father Regnault, S.M. (Provincial), preached a very impressive and appropriate sermon on charity, taking for his text, 'A new commandment I have given unto you that you love one another, even as I have loved you.' He said our Blessed Lord was a practical example and illustration of that new commandment. He was perfect charity; His whole life was devoted to charity, and through Him are found all the factors of true charity. Father Regnault then proceeded to deal with the life of St. Vincent de Paul, describing his youth and his great works of charity in after life. St. Vincent was known as the great counsellor of kings and the great adviser of bishops, but he would be always known to posterity as the great friend of humanity, the great friend of the poor. St. Vincent travelled much, and everywhere his preachings filled the hearts of his hearers with the same enthusiasm which he possessed, and the desire for doing something for the cause of the poor. It may be said that the religious offspring of the great saint is as numerous to-day as the leaves of that old oak tree in the hollow trunk of which in the days of his youth he placed a statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and established for himself an oratory wherein he celebrated the first Mass for the poor. The self-sacrificing, high-minded, and virtuous Christians were the men that would save the world. There was work for them if they will take it up. The Very Rev. Father commended the great work being done at the present day by the St. Vincent de Paul Society in their midst, which practice was once more another proof that the Catholic Church was fulfilling its mission of charity in the world, and every meeting of the brothers of this society is another illustration of that divine mission and that divine charity which is illustrative of the words of our Divine Lord, 'Come to Me all ye that labor and are heavily laden and I will refresh you.'

Messrs. W. Strange and Co., Ltd., Christchurch, are having a four days' sale, which commences on July 28 and ends on the 31st inst. Notable bargains are promised during the period. Any of our readers who cannot attend should send for a catalogue.