

far to forget the impartiality that should adorn his position as to make false and unjustifiable attacks upon any section of the community. When Sir Robert Stout donned the mantle of Chief Justice he ought to have doffed that of the political partisan and done what lay in his power to maintain alike the dignity and the impartiality that are properly due to his high and responsible position. But of late he has been airing his old traditions—perhaps in order to prevent them getting rusty. In an early part of the series of articles contributed by us to the *Otago Daily Times* on the education question, we switched the electric light on to the swarming non-facts and fallacies of that unworthy old whoeze about Catholic schools and crime statistics. It has been a misleading Will-o'-the-wisp for many a year. And it is about time for intelligent people, at least, to sever themselves from its guidance.

DIOCESE OF DUNEDIN

On Sunday next the members of the Hibernian Society will approach the Holy Table in a body at the 9 o'clock Mass at St. Patrick's Basilica, South Dunedin.

There was Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at St. Joseph's Cathedral on Sunday from the 11 o'clock Mass until Vespers. In the evening there was the usual procession.

Among the contributors to the concert in connection with St. Patrick's Day, which takes place in the Garrison Hall on March 18, will be Mesdames R. A. Power and A. C. Orr-Loring, Miss G. Meenan, and Messrs. T. J. Hussey, J. McGrath, and E. Y. Priest. The programme is an excellent one, and is sure to attract a large audience.

DIOCESE OF AUCKLAND

(From our own correspondent.)

March 4.

An entertainment of a very superior order of merit was given on Friday evening by the pupils of St. Patrick's Schools, Hobson street (which are conducted by the Sisters of Mercy) as a complimentary greeting to his Lordship the Bishop on his return to Auckland. The large schoolroom presented a pretty appearance, the decorations being particularly appropriate and artistic. His Lordship was accompanied by Rev. Fathers Meagher, Murphy, Wright, Holbrook, Cahill, Tormey, Dignan, and Rev. Father O'Connell (Toowoomba). At the conclusion of the overture, played by the orchestra under the conductorship of Mr. H. Hiscocks, the pupils of the school sang a 'Welcome chorus.' Misses Phyllis Foley and Mary Sheahan recited, each in turn, a composition in verse in which the characteristics of his Lordship were touched upon, and also the object of his travels, etc. The most pleasing item of the entertainment was the chorus of little children, expressing in song their gratitude to their good Bishop. In the pianoforte solo, Thalberg's 'Home, sweet home,' Miss Denz displayed a thorough knowledge of the instrument, and Miss Taylor gave evidence of careful study and training in her song entitled 'Because.' The violin accompaniments were played by Mr. Harry Hiscocks with artistic feeling. The remainder of the programme consisted of pretty choruses, fancy dances, and instrumental duets. The singing of the different choruses was particularly good.

His Lordship, replying to the expressions of welcome, said that he was extremely delighted to be with the children again, and he heartily congratulated them on their bright and happy performance of that evening. During the past week he had received many proofs of the devotion of his people. The welcome tendered to him on the Monday evening was gratifying in the extreme, and showed how close is the bond of union that exists between Bishop, priests, and people. His Lordship said that the children had offered him a welcome peculiarly their own, and one which he especially appreciated. He gave a very brief account of the Eucharistic Congress, especially of the part in which children took part. He also spoke of his visit to the Holy Father, and dwelt at some length on educational matters connected with this diocese, and especially on the arrangements that were being made to form the nucleus of a fund for the support of the religious teachers throughout Auckland. He complimented the Catholics of the city for the effort they had made to set this arrangement on foot, and said it would give him much consolation to see his different communities of religious suitably supported; so that the work of training the young in ways of truth and holiness might not be handicapped by temporal matters. His Lordship in conclusion again thanked the pupils for their truly worthy tribute, and trusted that the spirit of piety and devotedness, which had al-

ways characterised St. Patrick's children, would bring consolation and joy to themselves and their parents and teachers.

The singing of 'Let Erin remember' brought to a close a very pleasant evening.

The name of Rev. Father Holbrook was inadvertently omitted from the telegraphic report of the welcome to his Lordship the Bishop in the Cathedral.

The adjourned annual meeting of the N.Z. District of the H.A.C.B. Society was held on Wednesday evening, March 3, Bro. E. Dane, D.P., in the chair. All the district officers were present. His Lordship Bishop Lenihan and Rev. Fathers Meagher, Holbrook, and Wright, and Rev. Bros. George and Fergus were also present. The election of officers resulted as follows:—Bro. P. J. Nerheny for the fourth time was elected district president; Bro. C. Mulholland, vice-president; Bro. W. Kane, secretary (re-elected); Bro. M. J. Sheahan treasurer (re-elected); Bros. Jas. Smith and J. B. Stead, auditors (re-elected). Before retiring from office Bro. Dane, on behalf of the Society, presented Bro. P. J. Nerheny with a beautiful silver inkstand, and in doing so laid great stress upon the great work done in several offices by Bro. Nerheny for the Society. Bro. Nerheny replied at length, and said it was a pleasure to work for the Society. It grieved him to see so many of their young Catholics in the ranks of other societies. The motion brought forward by the Wellington delegate—a consolidated sick fund—had his strong sympathy, and as far as he could assist he would never rest satisfied until it was law. The newly-elected officers were installed by P.D.P. Bro. Dane, after which each one of them returned thanks for the high honor and confidence reposed in them.

His Lordship the Bishop, on rising, was warmly greeted. He had listened (he said) with interest and delight to the proceedings, and was gratified at the progress of the Society. He would do all in his power to further and foster its interests. He recognised the good work it was doing. He was pleased to see that the Society was affiliated to the Ancient Order of Hibernians, of which Mr. J. Devlin, M.P., was president in Ireland. He (the Bishop), at Mr. Devlin's request, spoke on behalf of the Society in Scotland during his recent visit. He was pleased to see such a good attendance of the young men of the Old Boys' Club present, and hoped that the benefits arising from such visits would be helpful to both organisations. His Lordship concluded by imparting the Papal Blessing bestowed by his Holiness upon all those societies which worked in the interests of the Church.

At the conclusion of the business of the meeting the musical branch of the Marist Brothers' Old Boys' Association contributed a capital programme, which was much enjoyed by all present. At an interval refreshments were handed round. The meeting concluded with three hearty cheers for his Lordship the Bishop.

On Friday evening in the club room, Hobson street, a cordial welcome was extended by the members of the Marist Brothers' Old Boys' Club to his Lordship the Bishop. There were also present Rev. Fathers Meagher, Holbrook, Wright, Brennan, and Williams. Rev. Brother George (president) occupied the chair. The room was tastefully decorated, the club's colors, blue and white, predominating. The first toast was that of 'The Pope and King,' proposed by the Rev. president. Mr. W. E. Hackett proposed 'The Chaplain of the Club, Rev. Father Holbrook,' and in doing so expressed the hope that his Lordship would permit Father Holbrook to remain chaplain, though he was at present stationed in the country. To Father Holbrook the club's existence was due. Father Holbrook, in reply, said that he felt genuine pleasure in being present to join in the welcome to the Bishop, to whom the club was so much indebted. He hoped that he would again be placed near to them, and if the Bishop in his wisdom so desired it they and he would be greatly pleased.

Bro. George proposed the toast of the evening, 'Our Guest, his Lordship Dr. Lenihan.' He said they welcomed their Bishop back again, and in no part of his diocese would he be more heartily received than by the members of the club. They all knew his services to the club. In prosperity and adversity, his Lordship had been their true friend. The very rooms in which they were now assembled were theirs by permission of the Bishop and through his generous assistance. During his Lordship's absence from them he was always remembered by the members, who were glad to see and welcome him back again, and hoped that God would long spare him to his diocese in which his labors had been so signally successful.

His Lordship in replying said he had spoken before many gatherings since he left here and on his return, and he confessed that this was the first occasion on which he felt so moved that he could not, when he stood up, speak