

DIOCESE OF AUCKLAND

(By Telegraph from our own correspondent.)

August 9.

Rev. Father Ormond, transferred from Gisborne to the Cathedral parish, has taken up his spiritual work at St. Patrick's.

A cablegram received yesterday announced the death of Mother Mary of the Cross, the foundress of the Australian Sisters of St. Joseph. There are now over 600 Sisters, and in this diocese we are much indebted to them for their scholastic labors.

An incident occurred last night at the departure of the Wellington express train. His Excellency Lord Plunket came down in a beautifully-equipped carriage, and passed through the dense multitude in comparative silence. Following him in another carriage was 'Tommy' Burns, the well-known pugilist. At 'Tommy's' appearance the mighty throng burst into loud cheering, which was heard a long distance off. So dense was the throng that several intending passengers missed the train, being unable to reach the railway carriages through the closely-packed assemblage of humanity.

An uncalled-for and most unjustifiable attack was made upon the Church one evening last week by the Rev. Mr. Gillam, Anglican minister in charge of St. Matthew's in this city. It was at an entertainment in the parish hall on the 'Armada,' when the rev. gentleman referred to current events in Spain, and said: 'Spain was at one time the richest and most powerful nation in the world, but today was decadent, and was sinking lower and lower. This (he added) was the case with every country with which the Jesuits were connected.' Now, an excuse may be reasonably made for an uneducated individual, and upon whom no responsibility rests; but when such unadulterated nonsense as the foregoing emanates from a man occupying a position as the gentleman referred to, who should know better, it is quite inexcusable.

His Lordship the Bishop, speaking at the Cathedral last evening, favored the establishment of a founding home in Auckland. When in New York he visited a founding home and learned that 63,000 children had passed through the hands of the Sisters of Galilee, and, in batches of 50, had been sent to Catholic homes in every part of America. Those children compared favorably in every particular with any children in the States. Let anyone at any time visit our local orphanages under the Sisters of Mercy, and he would be agreeably surprised and delighted. The Church, as far back as 1647, established founding homes, recognizing that children had souls to save as well as bodies to nurture. The St. Vincent de Paul Society were laboring to establish a home, and he trusted its members would receive every encouragement in their meritorious undertaking. His Lordship, in scathing terms, denounced the corrupt practices prevalent in the slaughter of the innocents. In holy Ireland it was a matter for thanksgiving to have large families, for whom God always provided; and in our own diocese, at Puhoi, the Bohemian parents in this respect were like the faithful Catholic people of Ireland. In pagan times mothers were treated as chattels, while recently in China they were deemed unworthy of a name. We have heard much of agitations for women's rights, but those rights were long ago secured for women by the Church. The sermon was listened to attentively by the large congregation present.

The ceremonies in connection with the reopening of St. Mary's Church, Paeroa, took place on Sunday week. The Very Rev. Dean Hackett congratulated Mr. W. J. Towers and his staff on the beautiful work accomplished during the last three weeks in the painting and decorating of St. Mary's. We may state (says a local paper) that the interior of the church during the service was a revelation to occasional visitors. The artistic taste displayed in the graining of the altar and doors and the delicate tints imparted to the walls are well worth seeing. By a happy combination of circumstances Sunday week was the anniversary of Dean Hackett's arrival here to take charge of the district, and his people availed themselves of the occasion to mark the event by the presentation of an address, also to express their gratitude to Bishop Lenihan, of Auckland, for having appointed the Dean to the position of Irremovable Rector of the district of Paeroa. Immediately after the Mass, Mr. J. McCarthy, Mr. E. Jones, and Mr. M. Furlong approached the altar, and on behalf of the Catholic residents of Paeroa, Karangahake, Waikino, and Komata presented the following address, which was read by Mr. J. McCarthy:

Very Rev. Dean Hackett,—We the Catholic residents of Paeroa, Karangahake, Waikino, and Komata, having heard that his Lordship the Bishop of Auckland has recently proclaimed the district of Paeroa an Irremovable Rectorate

and appointed your Reverence our first Irremovable Rector, desire to thank the Bishop for the honor he has conferred on us by raising the district in which we reside to such a prominent position in the diocese, and by giving you to us as our first Rector. Already you have ruled and watched over us during the last fifteen years, which have been to us years of spiritual gain and progress in church work. We have not failed to recognise in your Reverence all the qualities which combine to produce the zealous pastor, the true friend and faithful worker in the cause of the people. The convent, school, and churches you have erected during your residence in this district are monuments to your labors, whilst the high esteem in which you are held not only by members of your own flock, but also by those belonging to the different creeds on the goldfields is a sure guarantee that in all your future undertakings our united help shall never fail you. In conclusion, we pray that God may grant you health and length of years to labor amongst us, and that Heaven may ever bestow its choicest favors and blessings on you. Signed on behalf of the Catholics of the district of Paeroa.

In reply, the Dean said he was not surprised at the presentation of an address; he had heard all about it the previous week in Auckland—one has to go from home to hear news. He thanked Mr. McCarthy for the address, and was pleased to find that he did not carry out the wishes of many friends on the goldfields, as he (the Dean) had to appeal that morning to all present on behalf of the expenses incurred recently in connection with the decoration of St. Mary's Church. On the occasion of his silver jubilee, the Dean remarked that Mr. McCarthy, on behalf of the people of the district, presented him with 102 sovereigns.

Before the congregation dispersed, a collection was taken up for the liquidation of the debt incurred in the renovation of the church, with the result that the sum promised will be nearly sufficient for the purpose.

AN AUSTRALIAN RELIGIOUS ORDER

DEATH OF THE FOUNDRESS OF THE SISTERS OF ST. JOSEPH

A cable message received on Monday conveyed the sad intelligence of the death of the Mother-General of the Sisters of St. Joseph of the Sacred Heart (Mother Mary of the Cross), the foundress of the Order, who passed away at the Mother House, Sydney, on Sunday afternoon, in the sixty-seventh year of her age. The Order was instituted in South Australia in 1867, during the episcopate of the Right Rev. Dr. Shiel, by the deceased religious, assisted by the Rev. Father Tennyson Woods. The late Mother Mary of the Cross (known in the world as Miss Mary McKillop) was born in Victoria of Scottish parents. She was the eldest of a family of four children, three of whom embraced the religious life. One of her sisters entered the Convent of the Good Shepherd, Abbotsford, but died some years ago. Another sister (Miss A. McKillop) lives in Sydney. Her only brother, Rev. Father Donald McKillop, S.J., was well known for his missionary labors among the blacks of the Northern Territory of South Australia. Mother Mary of the Cross had many difficulties to contend against in the early days of the Order, but her remarkable zeal, devotion, and business capacity enabled her to overcome these, and after a few years branches were established in the other Australian colonies and in New Zealand. At present the Order has flourishing orphanages, houses of providence for the poor, and schools in the archdioceses of Sydney and Melbourne, in addition to convents and schools in the diocese of Armidale, throughout South Australia, and this Dominion. Other communities following the same general rule but independent in their organisation have been formed in Bathurst and elsewhere. The Sisters of St. Joseph have convents and schools at Meeanee in the archdiocese of Wellington; at St. Benedict's, Surry Hills, Newmarket, Matata, Newton, Paeroa, Rotorua, Tokaanu, Whangarei, and Northern Wairoa in the diocese of Auckland, at Temuka, Kerrytown, and Waimate in the diocese of Christchurch, and at Port Chalmers and Arrowtown in the diocese of Dunedin. From this it can be seen the Order has made remarkable progress since its institution a little over forty years ago.

About six or seven years ago, owing to excess of work, the Mother-General's health failed, and she was ordered to Auckland for a change and rest. Whilst on a health visit to Rotorua she had a paralytic stroke, and since then has been an invalid, though in full possession of her mental faculties and able to transact all the business of the Order. Since June her condition was such as to cause the greatest anxiety, and for a few weeks prior to her death it was evident to the community of the mother house that the end was not far off. She was conscious to the last, and passed away peacefully in the presence of the community and fortified by the rites of the Church.—R.I.P.