

meeting to see at first hand the nature of the work, and become acquainted with those who were laboring in their spiritual and temporal interests. They were most kindly received by his Lordship the Bishop and the Very Rev. spiritual director, who heartily welcomed them and expressed much pleasure at their presence. At the conclusion of the meeting his Lordship the Bishop imparted his episcopal blessing.

Speaking at the general meeting of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul in regard to a communication received from the Ladies' Association in Adelaide, having reference to a suggested aggregation with that at Bologna, his Lordship the Bishop drew attention to the fact that so far as Christchurch was concerned, he secured, when last in Rome, aggregation, on the advice of the authorities in the Eternal City, with the recognised centre as most closely affiliated to the society in its aims, objects, and general methods. After his return full particulars came to hand embodying the rules and regulations, and the rich indulgences attached to membership. The substance of these when announced appeared in the *Tablet*.

At the weekly meeting of the Christchurch Catholic Club, held on last Tuesday evening, the chair was occupied by Mr. Eric Harper (vice-president), and there was a good attendance. Two candidates were nominated for membership. It was resolved to adjourn the ordinary weekly meetings until the first Tuesday in February. Messrs. E. T. Hooper, C. Lafferty, and E. P. McKeown were elected a literary and debating committee. The programme of the evening was a debate on the New Zealand Budget. The following gave their opinions:—The Rev. Dr. Kennedy, Messrs. E. J. Murdock, E. Hooper, M. O'Rielly, C. Lafferty, and O. McNamara. The principal questions brought forward were the Dreadnought gift, increased income tax, defence, freehold and leasehold, tax on racing clubs, surcharge tax, and death duties.

Our respected fellow-Catholic citizen, Mr. A. Hope Blake, has just had published an attractive volume, entitled *Sixty Years in New Zealand*, stories of peace and war, embodying practically his life's literary labors. 'I have been asked (states Mr. Malcolm Ross) to write a preface to this book. It scarcely needs one. The author wears the New Zealand war medal, honorably won, and he has known the colony and its inhabitants for more than sixty years. He is therefore entitled to tell these tales of the early days. As one of the younger generation, I can only say I have read them with keen interest. In some of them, simple as they are, the writers of a coming generation may find the germ of a great story or a fine epic.' The work is intensely interesting and educative, and, with the increasing demand of late years for books relating to early New Zealand, should have a wide circulation.

The many fine chapels of the Cathedral are now nearly all completed. The total number of chapels provided for is ten, and of these nine have been completed and solemnly inaugurated. The most recent is that of the Holy Relics and Holy Face, which on last Sunday afternoon week was unveiled, and Mass celebrated therein on the following Monday morning by his Lordship the Bishop. The Chapel of the Holy Relics is a very beautiful, and in many respects striking, one. Therein is contained the precious and unique collection of 350 relics with which the Cathedral, through the influence of his Lordship the Bishop, is so richly endowed. Among the number are portions of the True Cross, relics of our Blessed Lady, St. Joseph, of all the Apostles, Confessors, martyrs, and virgins duly authenticated and testified to by Cardinals, Bishops, and other ecclesiastics. There are also a facsimile of a nail used in the Crucifixion of our Blessed Lord, which has touched the original one, and a relic of the Blessed Antony Zacharia, presented to the Cathedral in a magnificent reliquary by the present Pontiff, Pope Pius X., and of Blessed Chanel, Proto-Martyr of Oceania. The altar is of white marble, artistically designed, sculptured, and specially constructed. The table is supported by colored marble pillars, the under portion is glass-fronted and enclosed as a repository for relics. From each side of the altar there is an extension in marble upon which also relics in the various shrines may be deposited. Above the tabernacle a facsimile of the Holy Face as miraculously imprinted upon the veil of St. Veronica looks down upon the altar. On a marble pedestal, to the left of the altar and close to the rails, stands a beautiful marble bust of our Divine Lord, sculptured in Rome. The chapel is lighted by two round windows at the top, and by two oblong ones above the altar, of stained glass, and having appropriate figures and designs. The floor of the chapel is carpeted, and is furnished with candelabra, etc., and enclosed in a neat railing.

The report of the Chief Inspector of the Education Board on the annual examination of the Marist Brothers' School is evidence that education, with religion as its fundamental subject, suffers nothing thereby. In a lengthy and highly satisfactory report, Mr. T. S. Foster wrote: 'In this school a large amount of useful work has been done, more especially in the essential subjects, and a very creditable measure of success has been achieved. The classes are under good control, and oral answers are expressed in good form. In Standard VII. the boys work at Junior Civil Service subjects, and receive additional teaching after school hours. In Standard VI. a considerable

amount of work has been done, and of it the more capable members of the class show a very satisfactory knowledge. Reading is fluent; spelling good; writing, drawing, and recitation satisfactory; while under the head of nature study lessons in agriculture have been given. The satisfactory response made to tests applied in these classes (Standards V. and IV.) shows that their educational needs have received careful consideration. Reading is fluent, carefully phrased and articulated, and well understood. Writing is carefully taught; composition ranges from satisfactory to good; spelling, arithmetic, and drawing are satisfactory; and geography has been well mastered.' With regard to Standards III. and II., the inspector reports:—'The teacher of this large group (68 boys enrolled) has skilfully and energetically risen to the responsibility attached to the care of so many pupils. He has devoted much thought to the selection and application of good methods, and his efforts have been rewarded with a corresponding measure of success, the general average of attainment being highly commendable. Standard I. is a good class, taught on approved methods, and showing a sound knowledge of the most essential subjects. The preparatory class is well forward with the work indicated on the programme; most of the pupils are fluent readers. On the whole, in the school the schemes of work are suitable, and for organisation the classes are conveniently grouped, and the test of classification and thoroughness of teaching is exemplified in the fact that fifteen pupils were presented for the Sixth Standard certificates, and all but two were successful.'

### Lyttelton

(From our Christchurch correspondent.)

The Very Rev. Father O'Sullivan, S.M.A., preached morning and evening at St. Joseph's Church, Lyttelton, on Sunday. He intends delivering a lecture illustrated with lantern views of Palestine and Ireland in the local hall about the beginning of February.

The Brothers of St. Joseph's Conference, Society of St. Vincent de Paul (Mission to Catholic Seamen), with a view of augmenting the hall building fund, intend having a booth near the wharf on New Year's Day on the occasion of the annual regatta for the sale of confectionery, fruit, and light refreshments, and hope to be well patronised by their numerous friends and well-wishers.

### Ashburton

(From our own correspondent.)

At the last weekly meeting of the Catholic Young Men's Club the president (Mr. Frank Pritchard) occupied the chair. The evening was devoted to a 'Spelling Competition,' which was won by Mr. T. M. Brophy.

The Rev. Father Dignan, son of Mr. T. S. Dignan, local manager of the Bank of New Zealand, is at present on a holiday visit here. During his brief stay here he will assist the Very Rev. Dean O'Donnell.

### DIOCESE OF AUCKLAND

(By Telegram from our own correspondent.)

The Holy Family Confraternity meets in the Cathedral every Tuesday evening. Rev. Father Ormond on the last two evenings lectured on the Catacombs. To-morrow night the discourse will be on St. Francis Xavier.

His Lordship the Bishop, accompanied by Rev. Father Holbrook and Rev. Brother George, left on Saturday by motor car for Te Awamutu, over one hundred miles from Auckland, and were met on arrival by the Rev. Father Lynch and the parish committee. On Sunday morning the new church was solemnly dedicated at 11 o'clock. Before the ceremony began his Lordship explained to the assemblage the meaning of the ceremony, and at its conclusion Mass was celebrated by Rev. Father Holbrook. A special choir from the surrounding parishes sang appropriate music. The occasional sermon was preached by his Lordship. The Bishop administered the Sacrament of Confirmation to twenty candidates. Rev. Father Lynch, on behalf of himself and of his parishioners, presented the Bishop with an address of welcome and purse of sovereigns. Mr. Warren is the architect of the new church, which cost over £300. The parishioners were fortunate in securing four acres of land at a cost of £200. While there his Lordship was the guest of Mr. and Mrs. Jackson.

A social gathering of the Marist Brothers' Old Boys' Club was held to-night in the club room. There were present his Lordship the Bishop, Rev. Fathers Edge, Holbrook, Wright, Doyle, Williams, Carran, and Rev. Brother George. A presentation of a purse of sovereigns to Mr. Cyril Mahon, who has resigned the hon. secretaryship of the club, was made by the Bishop, who eulogised the services of Mr. Mahon. Rev. Fathers Holbrook, Edge, Brennan, Brother George, and others also bore testimony to the good work done by the retiring secretary. Mr. Mahon replied, and said that to have merited the esteem of Bishop, priests, and members was sufficient recompense for all he had done for the club. Another presentation was made by his Lordship to Mr. McCabe, on the occasion of his marriage. A fine musical programme was gone through, Mr. P. Clarke, musical director, acting as accompanist.