

the presence of members' lady friends on such occasions. Members' responsibilities had increased by the purchase of a piano for use in the hall, and their best efforts were directed towards raising the amount of the purchase money, with gratifying results so far. The St. Vincent de Paul Orphanage at South Dunedin was not forgotten, as £10 16s was handed to the worthy Sisters as the result of an entertainment. The election of officers resulted as follows:—president, Rev. Father Murphy; vice-presidents, Messrs. Hill and Hally; Management Committee—the officers and Messrs. L. Pastorelli, T. Hussey, G. Foster, and H. McCormack; hon. secretary and treasurer, Mr. John Hally; assistant secretary, Mr. M. Coughlan. A well-merited and very hearty vote of thanks to the retiring executive for their successful labors was carried unanimously. It was decided to give the first entertainment of the session on the evening of Wednesday the 2nd prox. in St. Joseph's Hall. The customary compliment to the chair concluded the business.

On Thursday last an interesting entertainment of welcome was given—in honour of his Lordship Bishop Verdon by the children of the Convent School, Port Chalmers. There were present besides the Bishop Rev. Fathers McMullan, Murphy, and Coffey. At the close of the entertainment an address from the children was read, and a presentation of a handsome marble clock was made to his Lordship.

ARCHDIOCESE OF WELLINGTON.

(From our own correspondent.)

April 21.

The bazaar attracted to Wellington several priests of the Archdiocese, among whom were Father McKenna (Masterton), Father Tymons (Palmerston North), Father Melu (Jerusalem), and Father O'Meara (Pahiatua).

The Easter Carnival is attracting large audiences to the Drillshed, and the building is crowded to the doors every evening. The local papers are loud in their praise of the 'Birth of the Empire' display. The drawing of the art union is definitely fixed for May 2, and blocks and remittances should be in the hands of Rev. Father Lewis before that date.

A meeting of Catholics is to be held in St. Joseph's Church on next Thursday evening, when his Grace will announce the result of his labors and those of Father Ainsworth on behalf of the Cathedral Fund. There are still nine parishes in the archdioceses to be visited, and the canvassing of them, it is considered, will occupy the remainder of this year.

Another record has been established by the members of St. Mary of the Angels' Choir. On Sunday last after Mass the Ven. Archdeacon Devoy made presentations to three members of the choir on the eve of their marriages. They were Miss Oakes, Messrs. Tabor and Thompson. The recipients were the subjects of some very complimentary remarks by the Ven. Archdeacon, who referred particularly to the invaluable services rendered by Miss Oakes during the past 10 years.

After a long illness one of our best-known and most respected Catholic citizens, Mr. J. J. Casey, died on Easter Sunday. For many years he was in partnership with the late Mr. McDonald, and later with Mr. Murray, but for the last few years carried on business on his own account in Cuba street. His funeral took place on Tuesday, and in spite of very disagreeable weather was largely attended. Rev. Father Goggan conducted the service at Karori. It is a coincidence that Mr. Casey died on the anniversary of the death of his partner, Mr. McDonald, while their marriages were celebrated on the same day and at the same time in St. Mary's Cathedral.—*R.I.P.*

It is with very great regret I have to announce the death of Sister Mary Mechtildé (*née* Byrne), of the Wellington Convent, which occurred at Blenheim on Monday afternoon. The deceased nun, who was born in Dublin, came to Wellington in 1881 and was professed in 1883. Sister Mary Mechtildé was well known throughout the Colony as an indefatigable worker on behalf of the children of St. Joseph's Orphanage, and the founding of the institution was due in a large measure to her efforts in collecting funds for the building. A Solemn *Requiem* Mass, sung by Rev. Father Servajeau, was celebrated in Blenheim on Wednesday morning, after which the funeral took place. It is needless to add that the sympathy of the Catholic community is extended to the Sisters in their bereavement.—*R.I.P.*

The Ven. Archdeacon Devoy, S.M., V.G., celebrated Solemn High Mass at St. Mary of the Angels' church, on Easter Sunday, the Rev. Father Moloney and O'Shea being deacon and subdeacon respectively. The choir sang Mercadante's Mass in B, the soloists being—Mrs. F. J. Oakes and Miss Murray (soprano), Misses K. McParland and A. Sandbrook (alto), Messrs. E. Brook and W. Tabor (tenors), and Messrs. T. G. Law and L. Dwan (basses). Ett's 'Hæc Dies' was given as the offertory and the march from 'Athalia' was played by the orchestra at the conclusion of the Mass. In the evening Vespers were sung by the Rev. Father Moloney and the Rev. Father Goggan preached. The music by the choir was again a feature of the service. At St. Joseph's Church Solemn Pontifical High Mass was celebrated by his Grace the Archbishop with Rev. Father Hills deacon, and Rev. Father Clancy subdeacon. Rev. Father Ainsworth was the assistant priest. The choir sang Hadyn's 'Imperial Mass,' Misses Sullivan and McDonald Messrs. Rowe and Pope taking the solos. As an offertory piece Miss Julia Moran played Mascagni's 'Ave Maria' in excellent style. 'You seek Jesus of Nazareth, Who was crucified: He is risen, He is not here' was the text of his Grace's sermon in which he made a special point of the fact that the Resurrection was the greatest of Christ's miracles, proving as it did His Divinity.

NEW ZEALAND: GENERAL.

THE Makikihi correspondent of the Timaru *Herald* states that the grain yields are well up to the average. Feed threatens to be very scarce this winter, as the rain came too late to be of much use to the grass. Turnip crops as a rule are a failure. More rain is wanted, as many wells are either dry or very low.

THERE are several very good articles in the April number of *The Austral Light*, among the contributors being his Grace the Archbishop of Melbourne, the Rev. Fathers O'Reilly, Murphy, and Magennis, Rev. Dr. Bevan, Marion Miller, and 'Una Roe.' The illustrations are very fine, especially that entitled 'Noki Me Tangere.'

THE marriage of Miss Kate Donnelly to Mr. John Fraser was solemnised by the Rev. Father Cahill at Mr. T. M'Dermott's residence on April 18 (says the *Bush Advocate*), when a large gathering of friends of both bride and bridegroom were present. The following were amongst those present at the ceremony:—Mr., Mrs., and Miss J. Donnelly, Feilding; Miss Morrissey, Hawera; Messrs. Fraser (2), Napier; Mr. and Mrs. W. Norrell, Pahiatua; and others. The happy couple have the best wishes of their many friends in Dannevirke.

ACCORDING to the Balclutha *Free Press* 'Miss Annett, the Catholic school teacher at Rongahere, who has been subjected to such brutal persecution by some sectarian fanatic during her sojourn there, has received an appointment at Paterson, said to be promotion. The young lady will carry with her the good wishes of the bulk of the Rongahere community, born of appreciation no less of her innate good qualities and teaching ability than admiration for her pluck in sticking to her post in the face of circumstances which most women would have found unendurable.'

GENERAL regret was felt at the announcement of the death of Mr. Richard Direen, who was accidentally killed on the railway at Deborah on the 16th inst. The deceased, who was a railway employé, was travelling from Oamaru to Waimotu by the Palmerston train, and when at Deborah a gust of wind blew his hat off. He alighted from the train to recover his hat, when, it is stated, he was knocked down by an engine that was engaged in shunting. The deceased, who was 41 years of age, was brother of Mr. Andrew Direen of Oamaru, and was born at Clashaveha, Coolough, County Kilkenny.—*R.I.P.*

A CORRESPONDENT writes: The Waihaio Catholics are losing a very old friend in the person of Mr. Lowe, for 10 years schoolmaster at the Waitaki settlement school, who is leaving by the Gothic on next Thursday for Dublin. Previous to leaving the school where he labored so long and successfully, the parents of the children tendered him a social and presented him with a gold pendant and watch key. Mr. Lowe also received from the Education Board a very flattering testimonial in return for the good passes which he has succeeded in obtaining at the Government examinations. We wish him *bon voyage* and success.

THE Premier received advice on Sunday that the Monowai with the Fourth Contingent on board had arrived at Port Natal (Durban), and was to leave at once for East London, about 22 hours' steam from Durban. From East London the men were to go on to Bloemfontein, the capital of the Orange Free State. In a very short time they will be in the thick of the fighting. There is almost direct railway communication between East London and the capital of the Orange Free State. Ten horses were lost on the voyage between Albany and Durban. The Monowai left Port Chalmers on March 24, and Albany on April 3, so that the trip was just made in four weeks.

WE (*Bush Advocate*, April 19) must congratulate the Catholics of the Ormondville district on having such a packed house at their concert last evening, the large hall being full to overflowing. The Rev. Father Cahill occupied the chair. An overture on the piano-forte having been played by Miss Maroney, songs were given by Misses Boyle and Maroney, and Messrs. Curran, Wright, Maycock, Murray, O'Leary, Moran, and Reynolds. Mr. Curran danced several step dances in excellent style, the concert concluding with a step dance by Messrs. Curran and Fitzgerald, accompanied by Mr. Fitzgerald on the violin. A dance took place afterwards which was a great success. Mr. J. Drew made a capital M.C., and Miss Boyle and Miss Maroney played the dance music. Under the able management of Messdames Moran and Skinner an excellent supper was dispensed, and was done ample justice to.

A QUIET wedding (says the *Wakatipu Mail*) took place on Easter Monday, at the residence of the bride's parents, the Gorge Road, Queenstown. The contracting parties were Mr. C. P. Johnston, Government Audit Inspector, and Miss Mary M'Ewen, daughter of Mr. Neil M'Ewen. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. Father O'Donnell. The bride wore a travelling costume of dove-grey cloth, trimmed with cream satin and guipure lace, and a large velvet picture hat. The two bridesmaids were Miss Mamie Walsh and Miss Fitzpatrick, cousins of the bride. Mr. Johnston was attended by Mr. J. C. M'Eride. The groom's present to the bride was a handsome travelling bag and to the bridesmaids brooches set with pearls. The presents were numerous and costly—coming from all parts of New Zealand—as the bride is well known and immensely popular. After the ceremony, the happy couple left for Lake Wanaka, *en route* for Dunedin through the goldfields.

The Auckland Receiving, Forwarding, and Parcel Delivery Agency (Messrs. Simson and Co.) are prepared to forward goods to all parts of the Colony. They are baggage agents for Messrs. Cook and Sons. Parcels intended for town and suburbs delivery should arrive at the office, 4 Commerce street, not later than 4.30 p.m. on all week days except Saturdays when the hour is 12.30 p.m.—*.