

Tuesday last being the anniversary of the Right Rev. Dr. Lenihan's natal day his former parishioners at Parnell entertained him in St. Bonaventura's Hall, which was nicely decorated and well filled. On the Bishop entering the building the orchestra played the 'Marche aux Flambeaux.' The choir of St. John the Baptist's, under the able conductorship of Miss Annie Lorrigan, rendered the 'Magnificat' (Millard) and 'Laudate' (Father Kehoe) in good style, assisted by an efficient orchestra. Other items were song, Mt. Tobit, songs, 'Carmena,' Miss Annie Lorrigan, duet from 'La Favorita,' Rev. Father Kehoe and Miss Coleta Lorrigan; song, 'The Carnival,' Mrs. Blakie. After the musical programme the Rev. Father Kehoe on behalf of the parishioners read an address in which they tendered his Lordship their most hearty congratulations on the forty-second anniversary of his birthday, and wished him many happy returns of the day. It was unnecessary to say how pleased they were to welcome his Lordship once more amongst them, after his return from his visit to the illustrious Pontiff who now fills the Chair of Peter. On behalf of the Ladies of the committee they begged to present his Lordship with a little souvenir of the present occasion, and in conclusion wished their beloved Bishop a long life, success and prosperity. His Lordship, in reply, said he felt great pleasure in being in the midst of his old flock, where he had spent the happiest days of his life. He congratulated them on the many improvements effected, notably their enlarged church and the fine choir to which all listened to with pleasure that night. He thanked them heartily for their kindness and remembrance of him. Refreshments were then given round, the Bishop meanwhile mixing and conversing with the people, renewing old acquaintance. The function was brought to a close with all singing 'Auld lang syne.'

The Mother-Provincial of the Little Sisters of the Poor has been visiting Auckland on her periodical tour of inspection of the homes for the aged poor under the care of the good nuns of that charitable Order. She was much pleased with the neatness and order which prevail in the institution and the contented and happy appearance of the old people. The inmates presented her with an address of welcome, and were deeply affected by the tender and comforting words of the good Mother-Provincial in her reply. The Little Sisters are anxious to acknowledge the liberal help afforded by all denominations towards the support of their charges, and offer their thanks to the charitable donors. But the Sisters are sorely hampered for the want of space, and are much distressed at having to refuse the touching appeals made to them by many worthy applicants, who wish for a quiet home where they would be cared for by the kindly-hearted Sisters, who devote their whole lives to the comforting of God's aged poor. They appeal therefore, to the charity of the people of New Zealand for the means to build a more spacious and up-to-date Home, so that they will be able to give shelter, food, clothing, and hospital accommodation to the old pioneers who, in their vigorous days, toiled and suffered many hardships. Surely, then, the younger and wealthier portion of the community will not turn a deaf ear to the appeal of the Little Sisters of the Poor. Help them to build a larger Home for poor, worn-out humanity, so that they will not be compelled to refuse admission to so many heart-rending cases.

DIOCESE OF CHRISTCHURCH.

(From our own correspondent).

September 17.

At the annual meeting of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, held last week, his Lordship Bishop Grimes was elected vice-president.

As showing a steady advance in the diocese tenders are being invited by the architects, Messrs. Collins and Harman, for the erection of a church at Cheviot.

There was a good attendance at the usual weekly meeting of the Christchurch Catholic Club, held on Tuesday evening last. Mr. E. O'Connor (vice-president) occupied the chair, and a very pleasant evening was spent in games and other pastimes.

To the members and friends of St. Mary's Catholic Club, at their usual weekly meeting held on Tuesday evening, the spiritual director, the Rev. Father Gallais, gave a most interesting lecture on 'Missionary labors in the Fijian group,' including the personal experiences of the rev. lecturer, who spent several years on the islands. The narrative of Father Gallais was both instructive and entertaining. Mr. A. J. Malley (president) occupied the chair.

On Thursday evening last, in St. Mary's Schoolroom, Manchester street, a very successful concert was given under the auspices of St. Mary's Catholic Club in aid of the piano fund. Songs were contributed by Miss Daisy Samuels (who was encored), and Messrs. J. Sellars, Hempson, and F. V. Alexander. Amongst other items of a well arranged programme was an Irish jig danced by Mr. J. H. O'Callaghan, a recall being complied with.

The result of the theory of music examinations in connection with Trinity College, London, lately received, again places the students of the Sisters of Our Lady of Missions and Sisters of Mercy well to the fore. The following are the successful passes at the Barbadoes street Convent High School:—Senior honors—Katie Picken, 77; Margaret Cassidy, 69. Senior pass—Mary Gabriel O'Connor, 61. Intermediate pass—Olive Wilson, 92; Margaret Coakley, 75; Sabina Mullen, 73. Junior division—Constance Parsonson, 98; Ethel Baker, 97; Clara Morkane, 96; Mary O'Halloran, 95; Annie Gordon, 92; Vernie Young, 90; Dorothy Restell, 87; Elsie Perkin, 87; Gladys Bell, 71.

• I extract the following essential points from the Inspector's (Mr. J. Baldwin, head master of the Sydenham School) report of the examination lately made by him of the schools of the pro-Cathedral parish. From this it will be very plainly seen that the devoted Sisters are doing all, and even more than could be reasonably expected of them under existing circumstances. In handing

in his general report the examiner writes to the effect that the work reflects great credit on the staff, especially considering that the schools have been opened only about nine months since the last examination. In the Convent High School there was a marked improvement since the last examination. Taking the standards (Government school basis) individually there were 16 pupils sent up, and all passed in Standard VI.; in Standard V., 16, and all passed; in Standard IV., 15, all passed; Standard III., 8, all passed; Standard II., 7, all passed; Standard I., 4, all passed. Including the very young children not enumerated above, of 66 pupils presented there was not a single failure. Mr. Baldwin furthermore adds:—'The drawing throughout the school was on the whole good. The singing and drill are very satisfactory. A great deal of time and labor must have been spent in the needlework, which in my opinion is excellent. The general behaviour of the children throughout the examination was very good.'

The Convent parish school (girls) passed a very satisfactory examination, especially if the scanty school accommodation and the irregular attendance of some children are taken into consideration. Of 138 children on the roll 134 were in attendance, and of this number about a dozen failed, this being easily traceable to irregular attendance. The singing and drill were reported very satisfactory, and needlework excellent. The general behaviour of the children throughout the examination was all that could be desired.

The Sacred Heart school (mixed), Addington, passed 'a very satisfactory examination, and reflected credit on its teaching staff considering the difficulties under which they have to work. On the day of examination the general behaviour of the children was all that could be desired. The children below Standard I. appear to be receiving satisfactory instruction. Failures in the standards are generally due to irregular attendance a fact which can easily be seen when out of a school of 69 pupils three only failed. The children's needlework was examined by Miss Baldwin, who reports that the sewing throughout the school is very good.'

'This is my first examination of St. Agnes's school (mixed), Halswell, and on the whole it has passed a very satisfactory examination. Miss Baldwin reports the needlework as good. The infants appear to be receiving suitable instruction, and the general behaviour of the children during the examination was good. In the face of obstacles (which are here enumerated) the teachers are to be congratulated on the amount of success attained. There are 40 children attending this school and all who are of the required age passed their respective standards.'

NORTH LOBURN.

(From an occasional correspondent.)

A very successful concert in aid of the Catholic Church was held at North Loburn on Friday, September 7. The items on the programme were given principally by ladies and gentlemen from Christchurch. Miss Katie O'Brien, of Lyttelton, sang 'Barney O'Hea' in a pleasing manner, for which she was recalled. Later on she gave 'Espanita,' being again encored. Miss G. Duncan sang 'Just one girl,' repeating the last verse for an encore; and with her sister contributed a duet, ' Cousins,' which was greatly appreciated. Mr. A. Young, brother of Mr. Farquhar Young, of Dunedin, gave a fine rendering of 'Off to Philadelphia,' and for an encore number a new version of 'The wearing of the green.' He also contributed 'Sons of the sea' in a very capable manner. Mr. R. Petersen supplied the comic element, singing 'In the pale moonlight,' 'Gallery and boxes,' 'I'm another,' and concluded with a recitation, 'Christmas in the workhouse.' Needless to say, Mr. Petersen's contributions were well received. Mr. J. Power contributed a vocal selection and danced a sailor's hornpipe, doing justice to both. Mr. Downing also gave a song and Miss Fitzgibbons sang 'Kathleen Mavourneen.' The concert was concluded with a tableau by Misses Dalby (2) and Misses Anderson (3). Mr. O. Gillespie acted as accompanist in a very efficient manner. The performers were entertained at supper by Mrs. Fitzgibbons. The net proceeds amounted to about £20. The Rev. Father Hyland, who accompanied the party to Loburn, did everything in his power to make the outing an enjoyable one.

GREYMOUTH.

(From a correspondent.)

September 14.

On last Sunday some members of Pollard's Opera Company favored the choir with their assistance at High Mass, when Farmer's Mass was rendered, the noble work being done full justice to.

Mr. D. Sheedy was again returned unopposed to the Municipal Council. Mr. Sheedy is a very active member of our municipal body, and brings a practical mind to bear on all matters that crop up in the Council Chamber, where his services are most valuable to the ratepayers.

The Catholic Club is progressing fairly well. It is, however, lamentable to notice the number of young men who take not the slightest interest in literary matters, nor, indeed, ever look at a good book. Indeed, the days of reading seem to have departed. Even those educated in college and from whom better things were expected, appear to be devoid of any literary taste whatever. Hence it is found that they know very little of what has occurred in the world, and less of what is going on around them.

That portion of the church set aside for the choir has been greatly enlarged, and is now ready for the erection of the new organ, which should reach here shortly. The Organ Committee deserve the sincere thanks of the Catholics of the parish for the efforts they have and are still making to provide our handsome