

consists of a large epergne for the dinner table with two candelabra to correspond. The epergne, which is about 2ft in height, stands on a mirror glass plateau set in solid silver. On the mirror glass are four small water lilies for the legs of the epergne to rest upon. Under a canopy, and resting on the base of the epergne, is a miniature tram car on rails. The canopy is surmounted by demi-lions rampant and shields bearing the crest and motto of the Graces 'In Grace After.' There are four fluted arms with scroll brackets ornamented with the shamrock. On each bracket and also on the top rests a handsome engraved and embossed detachable dish. On shields at the base of the epergne are engraved the family crest, monogram, and the following inscriptions:—'To the Hon. Dr. Grace, C.M.G., M.L.C., M.D., from his co-partners in the Wellington City Tramways on the close of their business relations by the sale and transfer of the tramways to the Municipality. In remembrance of his many services to them and of their deep regard and esteem for his high personal character. October 1, 1900.' The candelabras are about 16in in height, and have four sconces, each on patent brackets, ornamented with the shamrock. On shields at the base of the candelabras the Grace crest and monogram are engraved. The three articles weigh over 200oz of solid silver. They are the largest and most complete solid presentation service ever made in the Colony.

DIOCESE OF AUCKLAND.

(From our own correspondent.)

October 4.

An entertainment is to be given this evening by the best of our local talent at the Star of the Sea Orphanage, Ponsonby, in aid of that institution.

In my last letter I referred to the probability of the early purchase by St. Benedict's parish of a piece of property adjoining St. Benedict's Hall. The property in question has been now bought through the instrumentality of the Rev. Father Gillan, and Messrs. Brophy, Casey, Jones, and Beehan, with the full concurrence of his Lordship the Bishop. It is intended as soon as possible to erect a convent thereon for the Sisters of St. Joseph.

Mr. J. J. A. Callaghan, who up to last evening was vice-president of the local branch of the H.A.C.B. Society, has resigned the office owing to his departure for Wellington. The president of the branch, Bro. Jas. Stead, on behalf of the members, presented him with a beautiful silver matchbox, suitably inscribed, and also cigar and cigarette holders. Several of the members spoke in eulogistic terms of Bro. Callaghan's services to the branch and to the whole Catholic community. Bro. Callaghan replied in feeling terms, thanked them for their kind expressions towards him, and expressed regret at leaving Auckland. St. Benedict's Young Men's Club presented Mr. Callaghan with a fine walking stick, and the Catholic Literary Society with an umbrella.

The Auckland Catholic Literary Society's entertainment at St. Benedict's Hall last evening was a huge success. The big hall was packed to the doors. The entertainment consisted of two parts, the first vocal and instrumental and the second part was taken up with a comediatta, 'Daisy of Ours,' an original piece by the president of the Society, Mr. H. Gray. It was a capital production. Great credit is due to Mr. Gray and the members of the Society. The following was the programme—Overture, orchestra; song, Mr. A. J. Dobbs; song, Miss Lily Thompson; recitation, Mr. H. Herbert; song, Miss Maud Donovan, violin solo, Mr. H. Tutacka; song, Mr. J. W. Ryan; guitar solo, Miss Lily Barker; song, Mr. D. Weir, accompanist, Miss Annie McIlhenny. The following took part in the play—Messrs. H. Gray, W. J. Nolan, C. P. Stichbury, J. Hickson, T. Frost, H. Gray, H. C. McCoy, R. Levi, F. J. O'Meara, M. Foley, Herbert, Donnelly, and E. McCoy, and Misses M. Nolan, Hickson, McCoy, Foughy, and Gray.

His Lordship the Right Rev. Dr. Lenihan has issued a Pastoral Letter which will be read next Sunday in all churches throughout the diocese. It deals principally with the great necessity of a further supply of priests. His Lordship says: 'The requirements of the diocese are now becoming so great, that a division of the parishes must ensue. So immense are some of our districts, that it is impossible for the priests in charge of these to devote the necessary attention required by the members of their scattered flocks.' His Grace the Archbishop of Cashel, our former Bishop, we are told, has already given to the President of Thurles College to help the Auckland Mission the munificent sum of £1,100. The Right Rev. Dr. Browne, Bishop of Ferns, was most kind in placing a bursar in his College at our disposal. An eloquent appeal is then made for support for the Provincial Seminary at Dunedin. Feeling reference is made to the loss by death of the Rev. Father Luck O.S.B., the Rev. Father M. D. O'Hara, and the Very Rev. Mgr. McDonald. 'They were men of great virtue, lofty in spiritual matters, earnest in their duty, and models of priestly conduct, and their loss is a calamity to the diocese.'

The Very Rev. Father Power, of Hawera, is at present in Auckland, and is the guest of the Rev. Father Patterson, of Panmure. Father Power has just returned from Sydney, where he attended the great religious functions recently held there. He speaks in the most eulogistic terms of the imposing ceremonies which he witnessed in the New South Wales capital. He says that his Eminence Cardinal Moran, though 70 years, is a marvel in the way of mental capacity and physical endurance. The work which the Cardinal got through during the great gathering was really wonderful. On last Sunday evening Father Power delivered a most excellent discourse in St. Patrick's Cathedral on 'Our Blessed Lady.' He showed that devotion and love of Mary were practised and advocated by the greatest intellects. From time immemorial it had been so. In our own times Froude, Lecky, and Ruskin bore testimony to the great influence devotion to Mary exercised upon the Catholic nations of the world.

DIOCESE OF CHRISTCHURCH.

(From our own correspondent.)

October 8.

About forty members were in attendance at the last meeting of the Christchurch Catholic Club, when a very pleasant social evening was spent. Mr. E. O'Connor, vice-president, occupied the chair.

His Lordship the Right Rev. Dr. Grimes returned from Sydney on Saturday last, and presided at an important meeting of the diocesan committee in the pro-chapter on Sunday afternoon, when a great deal of business was transacted.

St. Mary's Catholic Club met on Tuesday evening last with a good attendance of members, when an interesting and well-sustained debate took place on the relative merits of national and international exhibitions. Mr. A. Smith, vice-president, occupied the chair.

On Sunday last (Rosary Sunday) the annual collection in aid of the diocesan charities was made at all the services, the proceeds, as on former occasions, to be devoted to the requirements of Mount Magdala Asylum. It being the first Sunday in the month there was Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from High Mass until after Vespers, with the usual procession. His Lordship the Bishop preached to a crowded congregation.

The children of the Pro-Cathedral parish in considerable numbers made their First Communion on Sunday. His Lordship the Bishop, who was celebrant, addressed them on the nature and purport of this, the great event in their young lives. The girls were attired in white with wreaths and veils, and the boys wore white sashes. Their behaviour was most edifying, betokening the careful training they had received from their devoted teachers. After Mass the children were marched to St. Aloysius' Hall, where the ladies of the congregation had made elaborate preparations for their breakfast, and subsequent entertainment. At three o'clock in the afternoon they assembled in the church, and again in the evening to take part in the procession.

Signor Borzoni has now in hand the instruction of the young ladies who are to take part in his great spectacle, entitled 'England's call to her Empire,' to be produced in connection with the carnival opening on November 2. The erection of the buildings for the purposes of the carnival is nearing completion. The rehearsals, etc., are meanwhile being held in St. Aloysius' Hall. At a meeting of ladies and members of the committee, held on Monday evening last, it was decided that there should be ten stalls, these being named and allotted by ballot as follows:—'Canada,' Children of Mary; 'England,' Mrs. O'Connor; 'Egypt,' Mrs. Ivess; 'New Zealand' (North Canterbury), Lady Clifford and Mrs. Lance; 'Scotland,' Mrs. Stratz; 'South Africa' (St. Mary's), Mrs. G. Harper; 'Australia,' Misses White; 'Ireland' (Convent stall), Miss Keily; 'West Indies,' Mesdames Mahar and O'Reilly; 'India,' South Canterbury ladies.

In his report of St. Mary's parish schools, conducted by the Sisters of Mercy, the examiner writes as follows:—'The school has passed a very satisfactory examination, especially in the upper standards. On comparing the work with that of last year, I find a very great improvement has been made in some of the subjects.' After summarising the various test subjects, he goes on to say: 'The singing and drill are satisfactory, and the needlework, as far as I can judge, is good. The general behaviour of the children during the examination was all that could be desired.' Taking the various standards we find the results as follow—In Standard VI., nine pupils were presented and all passed; in Standard V., 15 passed out of 17; in Standard IV., 25 passed out of 28; in Standard III., 26 passed out of 29; in Standard II., 25 passed out of 28; in Standard I., 17 passed out of 20. Taking the grand total of 131 pupils presented there were only 14 failures. The examiner, Mr. J. Baldwin, headmaster of the Sydenham School, says in conclusion: 'Taking into consideration the fact that the school has been opened only about nine months since the last examination, the staff is to be congratulated on the very satisfactory work done during the year and the great improvement shown in some of the subjects.'

DIOCESE OF DUNEDIN.

For some time the Dramatic Club in connection with the Dunedin Catholic Literary Society have been rehearsing Boucicault's famous Irish drama, 'The Shaughraun,' with the object of producing it in the Princess Theatre on Wednesday evening, October 24, the proceeds to be in aid of the funds of St. Vincent de Paul's Orphanage, South Dunedin. The members of the club are leaving nothing undone to make this one of their best efforts. New dresses and new scenery have been procured, and the piece will be staged in a manner which will leave little to be desired. The performers have already acquired a degree of proficiency that augurs well for a most successful production of this mirth-provoking play. It now remains for the public to show their appreciation of the self-sacrifice and generosity of the club by extending to the performance their most liberal patronage. It is unnecessary to remind our readers of the laudable object for which it is to be given. The work performed by the Sisters of Mercy at South Dunedin is well known. The scope of their labors could be greatly extended were it not for lack of funds, and it is to assist them in a small way that the Dramatic Club have undertaken this task. Apart altogether from the object, the performance will be well worth the generous support of the public, who may rely on having a good evening's amusement.

A meeting of St. Joseph's Ladies' Club was held on Wednesday evening, when there was a large attendance of members. His Lordship the Bishop and the Rev. Fathers Murphy and O'Malley were present. Great interest continues to be taken in the gymnastic class, Miss Mouat making good progress with her pupils. During

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