

ON Sunday (writes the Auckland correspondent of the *Otago Daily Times*) a beautiful tablet was unveiled in St. Patrick's Cathedral to perpetuate the memory of the late Monsignor M. Donald, parish priest of Panmure, who died last year. By his death and that of the late Very Rev. Father O'Hara, of Otahuhu, the Catholic community suffered an irreparable loss. Both these esteemed priests labored in the diocese for over 40 years, and the only one of the old regime living is the Very Rev. Monsignor Paul, V.G., who has been parish priest at Onehunga for over 42 years.

SPEAKING at the Presbyterian Synod in Dunedin on Wednesday the Rev. Dr. Waddell said it was 'the duty of the Church of to-day to secure the children for the Church of tomorrow. He was satisfied the Church had not fully understood, or attempted its duty in this direction in the past. It had only been done apparently by a Church which, at any rate, they did not regard as wholly evangelical—the Roman Catholic Church. This was the only Church that seemed to understand the significance of getting hold of its children. We had only to look at the provisions made for them in the churches and schools.'

It has been suggested (says the *New Zealand Times*) that Mr. Seddon's Cabinet should be called 'The Musical Ministry.' At the banquet of the Drivers' Union on Tuesday night the Hons. J. G. Ward, J. Carroll, and T. Duncan raised their voices in song instead of contributing speeches. An apology was received from the Hon. C. Mills for his absence, and it was suggested that he had not yet had time to get up to ministerial concert pitch, and was away rehearsing.' The surprise of the evening was Mr. Duncan's swinging many-versed Irish song, with a chorus. It provoked tremendous applause, and threatens to outdo in popularity even the Premier's 'Wearing of the Green.'

MANY people will learn with regret (says the *Wairarapa Daily Times*) that the Rev. Father Osborne, who has been residing in Masterton for a period of two years, during which time he acted as assistant to Very Rev. Dean McKenna, is about returning to the Old Country, from which he came to New Zealand for the benefit of his health. His many friends and acquaintances, while regretting his departure from a district in which he has made himself so popular, will be glad to learn that his health has much benefited by his sojourn in New Zealand. Father Osborne's place will be taken by Father Hehir, who is just out from Home, and the former will take his final departure from Masterton in a few weeks' time.

RECENTLY I mentioned (writes the London correspondent of the *Otago Daily Times*) that Mr. M. J. McMahon, the New Zealand artist, who is now studying in London, had succeeded in placing with a good firm of publishers a novel written by his brother, Mr. T. McMahon. He now tells me that certain difficulties arose subsequently between him, as his brother's agent, and the publishing firm, which resulted in his withdrawing the novel from them and offering it to Messrs. Fisher Unwin and Co., by whom it was almost immediately accepted on equally satisfactory terms. I notice, by the way, that a short poem by Mr. T. McMahon appeared in the *London Sun* last Wednesday evening, and that Mr. M. J. McMahon is referred in very complimentary terms as a promising artist by another London paper.

RETURNS published by the Defence department, Wellington, dated October 26, show that 71 officers and 1723 men constitute the full strength of the various contingents sent from New Zealand to South Africa. Of these three officers and 39 men have died or been killed. Five officers and 86 men have been invalided home. One officer and 11 men have been discharged. One hundred and forty-two men have joined the police. One man has been dismissed. The death list shows the first contingent to have lost 13 men; the second, 10; third, 2 officers and 12 men; fourth, one officer and four men. The fifth had no death so far. The present strength of the contingents is 60 officers and 1440 men. The estimate includes invalids on their way home. Of the men who joined the police, 23 belonged to the first contingent, 50 to the second, and 60 to the third.

OUR Timaru correspondent writes:—The following pupils from the Convent of the Sacred Heart passed the recent practical examinations held by Mr. Stewart Macpherson, examiner for the Associated Board of the Royal Academy and the Royal College of Music—Senior grade—Eileen Dennehy; Junior grade—Olive Larnach, Nellie Wall. Lower division—Maggie Burns, Essie Bruce; Elementary division—Mary Geaney (honors), Gertrude Clark, Madge Pascal, Frances Clarke. The last-named pupil was taught by Miss Maude Blanford, and the others by Miss E. McGuinness. The result is exceedingly satisfactory, as out of the nine pupils presented from the convent there was not a single failure—a well-merited testimonial to the teachers. The senior pass was gained by a pupil of 15 years of age.

The railway carriages which are being made in America for the Government lines of this Colony will be on what is known as the 'bird-cage' principle, but various improvements are being introduced that will make the lot of passengers much more comfortable than at present. The second class accommodation is to be equal to that now provided for first-class passengers. The first class cars will be beautifully fitted up. One compartment in each will be for ladies only, and in each carriage there are to be two lavatories—one for each sex. Every second class carriage will also have a couple of lavatories. Sixty-three cars have been ordered and some of them are expected to arrive in a month or two. The Railway Department has been advised that excellent progress is also being made with the building of the powerful locomotives which it has ordered from the Baldwin Works, Philadelphia, for use in various parts of the Colony. Twenty-two engines are under order, and the whole of them are expected to arrive in January.

The 'old boys' of St. Patrick's College, Wellington, will read with pride how nobly a former student led his men against the Boers at Otoshoop. Trooper Rusden of the Fourth Contingent

(Wellington Section), in a letter published in the *New Zealand Times*, says:—We were mounted, Bob Collins in command, and went down the hill-side, over rocks, through trees, and across the flat at full gallop. As soon as the Boers saw us coming they turned their fire on to us and the bullets fell like hail around us. We raised the cry 'Come on, New Zealand,' and rode like the very devil. We were lucky enough to reach the foot of the hill without a man or a horse being struck. Arriving there, we dismounted and climbed the hill; the Boers retreated about 200 yards to a ridge, and the firing was fast and furious on both sides. Shortly after this, about 5 p.m., Bob Collins was shot through the wrist. It was now getting dusk, and the Boers retreating, the firing ceased for the night. We retired to our horses and lay down to sleep.

THE Canterbury Jubilee Exhibition was opened on Thursday by his Excellency the Governor. The Right Hon. the Premier, and the Hons. Walker and Ward were present. Speeches were delivered by the President of the Industrial Association, Lord Ranfurly, the Premier, and the Mayor of Christchurch. Although a large number of visitors had arrived in Christchurch for the ceremony, still it fell short of that which was anticipated. In all there are over 3000 exhibits, including 500 drawings and paintings, 350 specimens of writing and illuminating, 300 of photography, 280 of carving and modelling, 900 of needle-work, and 103 essays for the prize competition. Two collections of coins are valued at £150, and a fine display is made of South African curios. It has been decided that the Jubilee memorial shall take the form of a bronze statue of her Majesty the Queen, to be erected in Christchurch. Upon the four sides of the stone pedestal will be raised figures, representative of the pioneers; the industries of the province; Canterbury, in her Jubilee year, sending forth her sons to fight for the Empire; and the names of the Canterbury 'boys' who have fallen in South Africa. Another memorial of the Jubilee of the province is the Agricultural and Industrial Hall, Manchester street, where the Exhibition is being held. It has been erected at a cost, including the money paid for the site, of £25,000.

OBITUARY.

MRS. FITZGERALD, ADDISON'S FLAT.

Death has once more claimed its victim from our small community (writes a Hokitika correspondent). After a long and painful illness Mrs. Fitzgerald, wife of Mr. Fitzgerald, of Addison's Flat Westport, and daughter of Mr. and Mrs. P. Ward, of 'The Garden of Eden,' Ararua, passed away peacefully early this morning (All Saints' Day). It is less than three short years ago since Miss Mary Ward, then a hale and hearty young woman, was married to Mr. Fitzgerald, and proceeded with her husband to his home in Addison's Flat; but death having marked its victim proceeded with relentless strokes to undermine her health till at last recovery seemed hopeless. Seeing that it was a matter of a few weeks at the most when death might claim its victim, it was decided to remove her to her father's home at Ararua that she might there receive all the care and attention that fond parents and a loving husband might bestow. For the last month Mrs. Fitzgerald had been at her father's home hovering between life and death, and early this morning she breathed her last, fortified by the rites of the Church. Mr. and Mrs. Ward and Mr. Fitzgerald have the deep sympathy of all in their sad bereavement.—R.I.P.

INTERCOLONIAL.

Ireland (writes a Melbourne correspondent) still maintains her glorious title of the 'Island of Saints and Scholars.' What would Australia have done were it not for the fact that a perennial stream of devoted young Irish Levites has never ceased to flow from Ireland during the past 50 years and more? As in her infant years she sent out bands of missionaries to all parts of Europe, so now, at this the close of the nineteenth century, her prolific seminaries are giving of their best and noblest to the Australian missionary field. The Orient liner, *Ophir*, which berthed at this port the other day, had no fewer than 21 priests on board for Australian dioceses. For Melbourne and Ballarat: Rev. Fathers J. Norris, Lennon, O'Dwyer, Lonchan, J. Hurley, Power, A. Waldran, and Kerin. For Sydney: Rev. Fathers T. Barry, M. Cahill, Cashman, Colgan, M. Forde, J. Gowen, T. Hehir, T. Jones, P. Milligan, F. O'Dwyer, J. O'Leary, M. Sherin, and J. Rohan.

A number of priests for various parts of Australia arrived recently at Adelaide (says the *Southern Cross*) were the Very Rev. P. O'Dwyer, O.C.C., late Prior of the Carmelite Order at Kinsale, Ireland, and the Revs. J. Cogan and F. O'Reilly, of the same Order. Father O'Dwyer, who comes out as pro-provincial of the Carmelites in Australia, is known in South Australia, having been stationed at Gawler in 1893. He subsequently went to Melbourne, and from thence to Rome, and finally to Ireland, where he was appointed Prior at Kinsale. Father O'Dwyer will remain at Gawler for some time, but his final destination is Melbourne. Fathers O'Reilly and Cogan, who are visiting Australia for the first time, will be stationed at Gawler. Another passenger by the same steamer was Father Sherin, a nephew of Archbishop O'Reilly, whose destination is Sydney.

The foundation-stone of the new convent for the Good Shepherd nuns at Abbotsford, Victoria, will be laid on next Sunday. The contract has been let for something over £26,000. The buildings already in use have cost something like £77,000. The convent at Abbotsford, which is beautifully situated at a bend of the Yarra River, is the third largest of its Order in the world, and in fact of

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