

guests present at the Jubilee Banquet given by his Worship the Mayor, Mr. W. Reece, on Wednesday evening last in the Exhibition Building. The function was a brilliant one, 600 guests accepting the invitation.

St. Mary's School Hall, Manchester street, was crowded on Friday evening last on the occasion of the annual entertainment given by the pupils of the parish schools, conducted by the Sisters of Mercy. His Lordship the Bishop and a number of clergy were present. The following programme was exceptionally well rendered, after which the Bishop presented the prizes:—Chorus, pupils; pianoforte duet, Misses M. Flynn and L. Joyce; chorus, six boys; pianoforte solo, Miss N. Turner; operetta, 'Too bad,' in which the following took part—Misses Delia Smith, Josie Sweeney, Katie Bernard, Annie Bond, and May Haughey; violin solo, Miss Agnes Nelson; violin solo, Miss Hilda Flynn; pianoforte solo, Miss Maggie Flynn; vocal solo, Miss Buchanan; floral drill, pupils; violin solo, Miss Peggie Bain; chorus pupils.

The prize-list was as under:—

Christian doctrine—Annie Bond, Edward Haughey, Winnie Shaw, Harold Goggin, Olive Main, Fred. Scarf, Louie Langdon, and Grace Haughey.

Good conduct—May Haughey, Michael Flynn, Winnie Shaw, Nellie Brady, Madge Butler, William Shaw, Aileen Mahon, Clare Mullins, Peter Haughey, Kitty McCormack, John Flannelly, and Margaret Barron.

Diligence—Nellie Main, Delia Smith, Henry Haughey, Winnie M'Adams, James Flannelly, Charles Haughey, Mary Brady, Harry Hanly, Leonard Lafferty, Kate Hanly, John Flynn, Smelda Sweeney, Dolly Goggin, Gertrude Delahunt, Jane Hornby, John McCormack, and Emily Ryan.

Regular attendance—Josephine Sweeney, Nellie Main, Henry Haughey, Leonard Goggin, Florence Griffen, Kate Joyce, Frank Sisson, Bertie Murphy, Bertie Bradford, Abner Slack, Robert Lafferty, and Bessie Hawker.

Singing—Delia Smith.

The pupils of the Lyttelton (St. Joseph's) Convent Schools, conducted by the Sisters of Mercy, gave a very successful entertainment last week in aid of their prize fund. The Oddfellows' Hall was crowded, and the programme was exceedingly well rendered. A pretty cantata, 'The white garland,' was performed by Misses Hilda O'Brien, C. Williams, K. Burns, Maggie O'Brien, and A. Davies, and Masters T. Purcell and P. Murray. Miss May O'Brien gave a song, Master T. Brounie played a violin solo, part songs were given by the school singing class, and a united recitation by Misses M. Madden, I. Serra, M. Morris and J. Bozanti. An orchestra of violins played two overtures, the school children sang some choruses, the senior pupils gave a tambourine dance, and the junior ones sang action songs. A farce, 'Mrs Will's will,' was very creditably acted by Misses M. Williams, H. O'Brien, R. Murray, and K. Burns. After an epilogue was spoken by Miss Maggie O'Brien, the entertainment closed with the singing of the patriotic song and chorus 'Zealandia.'

The jubilee of the settlement of Canterbury, so far as the actual day was concerned, fell on Sunday last, the 16th inst., and from a religious point of view was only observed on that date. On the following day, however, the popular celebrations were held. The weather was simply magnificent, and never has the city been more gay or densely thronged. The streets, in every direction, were fairly alive, and the procession, headed by a team of eight oxen drawing a dray containing a number of pioneers in remembrance of early days, was a grand spectacle. The system of street decorations was on a novel and striking scale, and carried out in a lavish manner. The work of preparing for the great occasion had occupied a large and influential committee of citizens for many months, and so well had all arrangements been perfected that every detail passed off without a hitch. Visitors poured in from all parts to witness the celebrations. The Catholic Church was represented in the procession by his Lordship Bishop Grimes, the Very Rev. Father Le Menant des Chesnais, the Very Rev. Dean Foley, and Rev. Father Leen, who were driven in the episcopal carriage. The H.A.C.B. Society made a very effective display, being strongly represented by the city branches, and visitors from Leeston, Timaru, and other centres, having several fine banners emblematical of their association. Celebrations of a minor order have been going on throughout the week, in which the old identities have acted a prominent part.

On Sunday, the 16th, the children of St. Mary's parish, to the number of about 50, made their First Communion, and were afterwards entertained in the adjoining schoolroom at breakfast, which was kindly supplied by the ladies of the congregation. In the afternoon the children reassembled in the church, when the renewal of baptismal vows and acts of consecration to our Blessed Lady and St. Joseph took place. At High Mass the Rev. Father Marnane read the pastoral letter of his Lordship the Bishop on the Jubilee of Canterbury, and also spoke at some length on the position of the Church at the present time and the arduous labors of the early missionaries. At Vespers the Rev. Father Leen occupied the pulpit and delivered a very practical discourse. After Benediction the choir sang the 'Te Deum.'

## DIOCESE OF DUNEDIN.

The close of the nineteenth century will be marked by special religious ceremonies in St. Joseph's Cathedral. At midnight on Monday next, the closing day of the century, the *Te Deum* will be solemnly sung in thanksgiving to the Almighty God for all the blessings bestowed by Him upon the Church during the course of the century. The *Veni Creator* will next be sung, to implore the Divine blessing upon the century which shall then have just opened. This will be followed immediately by a Pontifical High Mass, during which the Blessed Sacrament will be exposed. The solemn functions will conclude with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

The Rev. Father Keogh, S.J., of Melbourne, arrived in Dunedin, on Monday, for the purpose of conducting the annual retreat for the Dominican Nuns and the Sisters of Mercy.

The entertainment given a few weeks ago by the lady members of St. Joseph's Choir was repeated in St. Joseph's Hall on Wednesday night of last week, when there was a capital attendance. The audience were highly pleased with the various items, and showed their appreciation by frequent applause.

## DIOCESE OF AUCKLAND.

(From our own correspondent.)

December 19.

The local Press, with one solitary exception, and that in a half-hearted, halting fashion, is ominously silent over what for months it facetiously dubbed 'the Stoke scandal.'

Rev. Father Henry, from the Sydney archdiocese, is at present here conducting a Retreat for the Little Sisters of the Poor.

The Rev. Father Kehoe has gone for a fortnight's holiday for the benefit of his health, and during his absence the parish of Parnell will be served by one of the priests from the cathedral.

At St. Patrick's Convent Schools to-day a presentation of prizes was made by his Lordship the Bishop and a beautiful exhibition of work was shown which reflected the very highest credit alike upon the Sisters and their pupils.

An exhaustive criticism appeared in Saturday's *Herald* of Marie Corelli's latest work, *The Master Christian*. It is by 'an occasional correspondent.' It treats it in very uncomplimentary terms as 'the dearest, dullest, book it was ever my misfortune to read.'

Plans for the enlarging of St. Benedict's Parochial School have been completed by Mr. T. Mahoney, architect, and tenders for the same are due at the end of the present week. The school, when completed, will be taken over by the Sisters of St. Joseph.

A meeting in connection with St. Patrick's Day celebration was held in the Marist Brothers' Schoolroom last Sunday afternoon. The Right Rev. Mgr. O'Reilly was in the chair, and there were also present Rev. Father O'Hara from St. Benedict's and a representative gathering from the four city parishes. It was decided to hold the demonstration in the Domain Cricket Ground on Saturday, March 16, and the national entertainment on the evening of Monday, March 18. The committee decided to meet again early in January.

At St. Patrick's Cathedral last Sunday at the early Masses and also at High Mass the Right Rev. Mgr. O'Reilly, in referring to the Stoke trials, denounced in scathing language the action of a large section of the Press and public throughout the Colony and members of Parliament in their treatment of the cases while they were still *sub judice*. The morning paper gave a condensed report of the Monsignor's remarks and that very day a Protestant clergyman, in charge of one of the leading churches in the city, called at St. Patrick's presbytery to congratulate the Monsignor upon his outspokenness, and to express his deep sympathy with the Catholics of the city and Colony generally in the bad treatment to which they had been subjected. He denounced the unreasoning bigotry displayed and deplored it and said: 'I shall, on next Sunday, refer to the matter from my pulpit.'

## MARIST BROTHERS' COLLEGE.

The annual picnic and sports of the Marist Brothers' boys took place at St. Helen's Bay on December 13. On arriving at the bay the boys indulged in various amusements. The committee lost no time in starting the sports, and very soon the much coveted prizes were being closely and earnestly contested. The following were the events, with the winners:—College championship: P. Keenan 1, D. Rowles 2. College handicap: P. Langton 1, W. Lees 2. Civil Service class: A. McGuire 1, A. Staunton 2. Half mile open: W. Hogan 1, A. McGuire 2. High jump: J. Hendry 1, A. Staunton 2. Long jump: D. Rowles 1, P. Keenan 2. Half mile walk: W. May 1, T. Fields 2. Manx race: May and Rowles 1. Under 13 years: C. Little 1, G. Mann 2. Swimming handicap: P. Hynes 1, T. Fields 2. Consolation stakes: E. Grace 1, D. Bechan 2. Swimming race, No. 2: J. Finnerty 1, J. Hendry 2.

As the minor events were taken first a lull in the proceedings ensued, during which all repaired to the refreshment rooms of Mr. O'Leary, when ample justice was done to the good things provided. Brothers Basil, Edward, and Jerome were in attendance, and paid special attention to the wants of each. The Rev. Fathers Corcoran and O'Carroll paid a visit to the grounds, and remained during the afternoon. A meeting of the Education Board, convened by his Lordship the Bishop, prevented the other city priests from attending. A very enjoyable day was passed, the boys returning back to Auckland about 7, some tired, some disappointed, some jubilant, but all pleased and grateful to the Brothers for the pains they took to ensure that nothing was wanting that could contribute to their pleasure and amusement.

The following day the Right Rev. Mgr. O'Reilly paid a visit to the school to distribute the prizes. The Director, Brother Basil, in thanking him for his kindness in coming to preside, spoke highly of the demeanor and diligence of the boys. A good spirit prevailed among them, their obedience and respect were gratifying, their love of study and desire for knowledge were marked features in the year's work, and, what was of far greater importance, the religious and moral tone of the school had been excellent.

Monsignor O'Reilly said it was always a great pleasure for him to come among them, and on occasions like this to distribute the prizes to the successful competitors. He was glad to hear the Brother Director speak so highly of the boys, from personal observa-

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