

them he was deeply indebted for advice and assistance on many occasions. He was launching out in a new line without knowing what was before him, but he would go away fortified with the knowledge that he went with the best wishes of his fellow practitioners. He would always endeavor to do his duty, both as a practitioner and as a New Zealander. Mr. P. Miller, as chairman of the Hospital Trustees, and Dr. Batchelor, also spoke in terms of high eulogy of Dr. O'Neill. On behalf of the officers of the institution Mr. Burns presented Dr. O'Neill with a handsome spirit-flask; and Mr. Miller, on behalf of the matron and nurses, with a combined pocket-book and case-book. For both presentations the doctor returned suitable thanks. Dr. De Lautour said during the last two years while it had been his privilege to visit the institution he had noticed the excellent work Dr. O'Neill had done, and also the very great tact which he had displayed in the discharge of his duties. He was sure that the doctor would do as much credit to his profession in South Africa as he had done to himself in Dunedin. The proceedings were closed by the hearty drinking of the health of Dr. O'Neill, with musical honors. On Tuesday morning a handsome silver-mounted travelling case was presented to the popular young doctor by Mr. Morkane, on behalf of the medical students, some 60 of whom were present. They, as well as his relatives and a large concourse of friends, were present at the railway station to bid him good-bye on his departure by the northern express on Tuesday morning. Hearty cheers were given for Dr. O'Neill as the train steamed out of the station.

CARDINAL MORAN AND THE COMMONWEALTH CELEBRATIONS.

THE facts of the shameful blundering by the Lyne Ministry in connection with the Commonwealth celebrations—to which we referred editorially in our last issue—are told as follows by the Sydney *Catholic Press* of January 5:—

The absence of his Eminence the Cardinal from the procession on Tuesday was one of its most conspicuous features. The reason why was asked by everyone. He was not present either at the swearing-in ceremonies, and although his Grace Archbishop Carr, of Melbourne, and several bishops were in Sydney, not one member of the Catholic hierarchy took part in the official celebrations.

This was all the more extraordinary, people said, as his Eminence had taken a very prominent part in the federal movement, and the movement had had the assistance of all the archbishops, bishops, and priests of Australia.

On Wednesday his Eminence explained the reason.

'It is merely an illustration,' he said, 'of the weakness of the Government. I intimated to the Government from the commencement that if they wished me to join in any of the proceedings I should get the position to which I was entitled. Regarding that position, there can be no doubt, as the Home Government officially communicated to our Governor-General the order of precedence, in which the Cardinal is allotted the place of honor in precedence to the Protestant Archbishop. This official list has been communicated to the Premier, Sir William Lyne, and he read it over to me himself.'

'It was under such arrangements that I accepted the invitations which were officially forwarded to me. But late on the night of Monday last the Premier sent for my private secretary, and intimated that the committee of management had awarded precedence to the Protestant Archbishop, that he claimed such precedence in all social functions, and that the Government did not see their way to upset the committee's arrangements. Under such circumstances I of course took no part in the procession, or at the banquet, nor shall I take part in any other social function until my due position is recognised.'

'But,' we said, 'Sir William Lyne stated in the Press that the order of precedence was fixed by the Governor-General himself. We read that in the *Telegraph*.'

'The Governor-General expressly intimated to me that he had nothing whatever to do with the matter of the procession, and that the whole responsibility for it devolved on the Government of New South Wales,' replied the Cardinal.

In the course of further conversation the Cardinal said the Catholic Bishops were not invited. Invitations were sent to Wesleyan ministers in Perth, but the Catholic Bishop was not invited. Three or four ministers in Hobart were invited, but the venerable Archbishop got no invitation. It was the same in the southern colonies.

A Cardinal gets precedence everywhere, including the English court. In Lord Jersey's time it was decided in the case of two dignitaries of the same position, precedence should be given according to seniority. Such is the case in Canada and Ireland, where Catholics are in the majority.

We may add that his Grace Dr. Carr, Archbishop of Melbourne, refused to take any part in the proceedings on Tuesday because he considered that an insult was offered to the Catholic body, and the same course was pursued by the Bishop of Goulburn, Dr. Gallagher.

On Wednesday night the Cardinal dined with the Governor-General, and on Friday his Eminence and Archbishop Carr and the visiting Bishops will present a federal address from the Hierarchy of Australia to Lord Hopetoun at Government House.

'At the last moment,' said his Eminence to a representative of the *Freeman's Journal*, 'the Government refused to recognise the precedence given me. It was only at nine o'clock on Monday night the Government intimated to Dr. O'Hara that the Protestant Archbishop claimed precedence, and that the Government did not see its way to interfere with the arrangement, as the committee had approved of it. I intimated I could not under these circumstances take part in the procession or the State banquet in the Town Hall. The matter of precedence,' he added, 'had been already decided by

Mr. Chamberlain, Secretary of State for the Colonies. The Governor-General received a formal list, and after the Chief Justice the Cardinal takes precedence and the Protestant Archbishop comes next. The blunder was the act of the committee, but the Government had approved of it.' We might point out, says the *Freeman*, that at State functions at Government House his Eminence is given the place approved of by the Home Government, and at the levee given by the Governor-General on Wednesday evening, at which the Cardinal attended, Lord Hopetoun, who can afford to rise above petty political intrigues and local jealousies, did not depart from the procedure which has been clearly laid down by Mr. Joseph Chamberlain.

Sir Henry Parkes and Mr. Wise (says the *Catholic Press*) paid high tributes to the labors of the Cardinal in the cause of federation; his labors, Mr. Wise said, are scarcely second in importance to those of Sir Henry Parkes himself; and he was fighting for the national cause when Mr. Lyne was opposing it. An insult from a man like the State Premier on such an occasion is therefore most untimely and unfortunate.

NEW ZEALAND: GENERAL.

ON last Thursday morning an unusual visitor made an early morning call on Lyttelton Harbor—to wit, a large whale. Few people noticed it, and no attempt was made to interfere with it.

We understand that the Hon. Dr. Grace, M.L.C., together with some members of his family, is about to take an extended tour through America and Europe. We wish the distinguished medico a pleasant trip and a safe return.

THE Acting-Premier has received a telegram from a prominent resident at Rotorua stating that there is general satisfaction in the district at Mr. Donne's (the newly-appointed tourist traffic manager) report dealing with the grievances in connection with the new regulations at the sanatorium.

WARDER SCANLON, who for the last 12 years has been connected with the Wellington Gaol—a capable and popular officer—has been specially selected to take charge in the capacity of Acting-Gaoler of the tree-planting operations at Rotorua.

A CORRESPONDENT, in writing to the *New Zealand Times* on the question of the remarkable anomalies in school teachers' salaries, states that there are at present over 80 certificated female teachers teaching in the Wellington district, each controlling an average of 80 pupils, who are only receiving £12 a year. In one case, the correspondent says, a girl was teaching for five years before she received this sum.

THE *Grey-mouth Evening Star* of January 5 has the following paragraph—'The Rev. Father Ainsworth will leave for Europe on Monday the 14th instant. He will, during his sojourn, visit many of the capitals of Europe, and as a colonial will take the opportunity of seeing as much of the old world as he possibly can. We wish him a pleasant voyage and speedy return. As he is a careful observer an account of his travels will be well worth listening to.'

TROOPER HARRIS, of the Woodville district, has written a letter to the *Woodville Examiner*. In the course of it he says:—'Every corps in South Africa that I have seen, reckon that they are the smartest and best fighters. So they are, if one could believe what the Generals say. After every fight the corps are formed up, and the General pulls their legs for about a quarter of an hour.' This (says the *N.Z. Times*) is one thing that has hitherto not been very frequently referred to in the letters written by our troopers.

A SHARP frost was experienced over a considerable area in Southland on Friday evening. On inquiry we (*Southland Daily News*) learn that potatoes have suffered severely, in some cases completely cut down. It is feared the damage to crops is extensive, in which case the price of potatoes this year will be high. Wheat, which was only just coming into flower, will also suffer materially. In the districts most affected the ground was quite white in the early morning, and, as the sun came out strongly, the worst results happened.

THE annual picnic in connection with the Sisters of Mercy Orphanage, Nelson, took place at Wangamoa Flat on Tuesday of last week. Various games and races were carried out under the direction of Father G. Mahony, which were kept going almost the whole day, and the unanimous verdict of the children was that they could not have spent a happier day. Just before starting for home they were drawn up in line by the Very Rev. Dean Mahoney, and that gentleman called for three cheers, which were very heartily given, for those who had so kindly contributed towards the picnic, and also for those who had assisted otherwise.

PROGRESSIVE New Zealand is evidently exciting some attention at the other side of the Pacific. One of our contemporaries says: Attracted by information regarding New Zealand supplied to an Illinois paper by the Hon. W. T. Jennings, M.L.C., a large party of Americans, numbering about 100 families, are inquiring through Mr. Jennings what inducement in the way of providing unworked land will be given by the Government to enable them to form a special settlement in New Zealand. The matter has, says the *Wellington Post*, been brought by Mr. Jennings under the notice of the Acting-Premier (Hon. J. G. Ward).

THE phenomenally heavy rain which fell in the Ashburton district on Thursday and Friday (says the *Press*) has done a lot of damage to crops in various parts of the district. Some of the wheat and oats in the Ashburton Forks, Wakarua, and Willowby districts, which promised very heavy yields, have been laid quite flat, and, as one farmer put it to our correspondent on Saturday, the crop has the appearance of having been rolled with a heavy roller. The rain which fell in Ashburton on Thursday afternoon was by far the heaviest experienced for years.