

under deep obligations to the Rev. Felix Ciangura who, at the kindly suggestion of the Bishop of Malta, placed time and valuable services at our command during our all too brief stay. Soldiers there were in evidence everywhere—not of the people popular, but proof active and cogent of the yoke of the foreigner—for the dark and classic race that people the rock cling to their own religion, their own soft manners, their own tongue, and affect not at all the habits and speech of the Teuton. Nothing do they lose in the gentle conventions of life, in artistic grace of look and port and manner in cleaving to that native culture—so marked in the children of the Latin faith and race.

The lengthening shadows tell us that our time is up, and the great sun that sat high in golden glory is going down in splendor more glorious still, the dock-yards are vomiting forth their hordes of swartby workmen, the tinkling of the bells fixes our eye on droves of goats invading street and store and house bringing the evening milk, the smart gondolas are waiting at the quays or glancing over the blue waters of the harbor, the sweet bells are pealing the early evening prayer over the roof tops, and the sunlight receding in dim haze gives no longer hope of extending our visit. A word of gratitude to our friend and guide, and we are skimming over the harbor and in quest of the 'Syrian Prince.'

My next letter will recount in brief limits our impressions of Egypt—land of the sphynx, land of bondage-memories and of fleshpots, land of the Menas, the Pharaohs, the Rameses, the Ptolomies—land richest of all lands—so say the Egyptologists—in undying memorials bequeathed by dynasties which rose to lofty eminence in art, science, numbers, culture, while the West still slept, buried in the darkness and shadow of a prehistoric age. Verily, is it well written, that the Wise Men came from the East.

Diocesan News.

ARCHDIOCESE OF WELLINGTON.

(From our own correspondent.)

January 26.

The retreat for the priests of the archdiocese, to be preached by Rev. Father Piquet, begins in St. Joseph's Church on Tuesday.

His Grace the Archbishop of Melbourne is expected to arrive in Wellington on this day week.

The personnel of the local staff of the Marist Brothers has undergone some change this year. Brother Vincent has gone to Australia, the vacancy being filled by the transfer of Brother Alfred from Wanganui, and Brother Alban exchanges places with a Brother from Invercargill.

The amount already received by the treasurers of the Defence Fund in connection with the Stoke Orphanage cases is £230, more than half of which has been contributed in the Auckland and Wellington districts. There are still several lists in circulation, and as the costs of the defence amount to over £700, it is sincerely hoped that sympathisers who have not yet made donations will do so at their earliest convenience.

The Marist Brothers' Old Boys' Association picnic, held in the Railway Department's grounds at the Upper Hutt on Anniversary Day, was an unqualified success. In spite of the numerous counter attractions—a race meeting, regatta, etc.—there was a very large attendance and a highly enjoyable day was spent. The principal event in a long programme of sports, the grand handicap, was won by Mr. P. O'Connor.

By yesterday's mail his Grace the Archbishop received a communication from his Eminence Cardinal Moran stating his inability to be present at the opening of the Sacred Heart Church and the laying of the Cathedral foundation stone. Many previously unforeseen reasons make his presence in Sydney imperative at the present time, the principal one being the convocation of bishops of the Sydney archdiocese, for the purpose of nominating a successor to the late Bishop of Bathurst for the approval of the Holy See.

In view of the fact that the Cardinal will not for the present visit New Zealand, it is unlikely that the foundation stone of the new Cathedral here will be laid on the 3rd of February as was previously intended. I am informed that the statement made last week in reference to the change of site for the Cathedral was due to a misunderstanding, and that the authorities have now no intention of departing from their original purpose of building St. Mary's Cathedral in Buckle and Tory streets.

In consequence of the death of the Queen his Grace the Archbishop postponed his projected visit to Hastings, where he was to open the new convent on Sunday. As soon as the news of her Majesty's illness was received his Grace ordered special prayers to be said throughout the archdiocese for her speedy recovery or happy death. He has now ordered that the churches be draped in mourning during the memorial services to be held to-morrow and will himself officiate at the last Mass in St. Joseph's Church.

WANGANUI.

(By Telegraph from our own correspondent.)

January 28.

By private wire word was received in Wanganui to-day to the effect that Misses A. Doherty, M. O'Connell, M. McCulloch, and Julia Whelan, had passed the Matriculation Examination. These young ladies are all pupils of the Wanganui Convent, and the only candidates presented by the Sisters this year. That they have all been successful is highly satisfactory, and denotes thorough tuition on the part of the devoted Sisters.

WESTPORT.

(From a correspondent.)

A meeting of the members of St. Canice's congregation was held on January 17 to organise a send-off to the Rev. Father Coello, who leaves for Europe early in March. Similar steps are being taken in the outlying parts of the parish.

A highly successful bazaar was held in Westport during Christmas week with the object of reducing the debt on the parish. The opening ceremony was performed by his Worship the Mayor, Mr. James Scanlan. In point of artistic display the function far outclassed any previous affair of the kind in this district—a fact due in great measure to the valuable aid rendered by the Sisters of the local convent, as well as to the whole-souled efforts put forth by the ladies of the congregation. The net proceeds will total about \$250. The following is a list of stalls and ladies in charge:—'British Isles,' Mesdames Power and Lawson; 'New Zealand,' Mrs. H. Pain and Miss Reedy; 'South Africa,' Mrs. Jamieson; 'Australian Commonwealth,' Miss Sherlock and Mrs. Tee; refreshment stall, Mrs. Hennessy; Christmas tree, Mrs. Sproule. The thanks of the congregation are due to the Sisters of Mercy for their artistic work, to the stallholders and their indefatigable assistants, also to Mrs. Lock and Mrs. D. O'Deill, two of the promoters, who rendered valuable service.

DIOCESE OF CHRISTCHURCH.

(From our own correspondent.)

January 28.

The Diocesan clergy assemble next week for the annual retreat, which is to be conducted by Very Rev. Father Boyle, C.M.

The Convent High Schools re-open to-day (Monday) and the Parish schools, including those at Halswell and Addington, on Tuesday.

A committee has been formed at Lyttelton, acting under the Very Rev. Dean Foley, for suitably receiving and entertaining the illustrious ecclesiastics who are expected for the ceremonies in connection with laying the foundation stone of the new cathedral. Their arrival in port is timed (if possible) for Friday morning, February 8, and the festivities will include, a reception, luncheon, trip round the harbor, and other little social functions which time and circumstances will permit. By the 7.15 p.m. train the visitors will leave for Christchurch where a reception on a grand scale is contemplated. A meeting of the general and sub-committees was held in the boys' schoolroom on Sunday afternoon last, his Lordship the Bishop presiding, with the Very Rev. Father Le Menant des Cheneais and Dean Foley and Rev. Father Marnane in attendance, when detail matters were considered.

When the news was received in Christchurch on Wednesday last of the death of her Majesty Queen Victoria places of business were almost with one accord closed for the day and in many instances over the next also. The change from the bustle of the street traffic, hurrying footsteps, and incessant buzz of conversation to a subdued and comparatively noiseless city, all in the space of one short hour, was simply marvellous. Flags were immediately hoisted at half-mast, great bells tolled out their doleful notes, shops, workrooms, and factories poured out their thousands to join the already fast accumulating throng. The mournful intelligence was discussed in hushed accents, and soon the streets were deserted; it seemed as if some great calamity had fallen upon the people. At devotions in the Pro-Cathedral on the evening of the fateful day feeling reference was made by his Lordship the Bishop to the loss the Empire had suffered, and at Vespers on Sunday the Bishop again addressed the congregation on the subject of the nation's bereavement, the church being crowded to excess. Taking his text from Proverbs, chapter 8, verses 15-16—'By Me kings reign and law-givers decree just things: By Me princes rule and the mighty decree justice.' His Lordship paid a most eloquent tribute to the great ruler that is now no more, and concluded by referring to the successor on the throne of England, his attributes, and the loyalty of Catholics to him, which was so lovingly bestowed on his Queen mother, and finally recited the beautiful prayer of the Catholic ritual for princes and rulers and, in accord with the altered circumstances of the hour, substituting the name of the new King. Immediately after the memorial address Miss Funston, the organist, played the Dead March in 'Saul.' The pillars and pulpit of the Pro-Cathedral were shrouded in black with white bands and crosses. At the main entrance there was a large framed picture of her late Majesty draped in mourning, whilst many of the congregation wore symbols emblematical of the sad occasion. St. Mary's Church, Manchester street, was also draped in mourning, and memorial services were preached in the morning by the Rev. Father Gallais and in the evening by the Rev. Father Marnane.

SHAND'S TRACK (LINCOLN).

(From our Christchurch correspondent.)

The distribution of prizes to the children attending the parish school of Shand's Track took place on Friday, January 18th, and was presided over by the Rev. Father Richards, pastor in charge. An excellent entertainment was given by the pupils on the occasion, consisting of choruses, tambourine drill, Highland dance, hornpipe, and other pleasing items by the girls, and dumb-bell drill, etc., by the boys. The efforts of the children to please their friends and visitors were fully appreciated, whilst their general demeanor and evident advancement in the acquisition of useful knowledge reflected the highest credit on their painstaking teacher, Miss McLachlan. In his examination report the Inspector, Mr. Baldwin,