

presided over by the Very Rev. Father Le Menant des Chesnais, S.M., V.G. His Lordship the Bishop, the Very Rev. Dean Foley, Rev. Fathers McDonnell and Leen were present at a subsequent celebration of the occasion.

The various committees for the reception and entertainment of the visiting prelates met on Sunday afternoon to report progress, the Very Rev. Vicar-General presiding. It was definitely decided to have admission to the Pro-Cathedral at High Mass and Vespers by ticket, at a cost of 2s and 1s available for one or both services. On the Monday evening following a conversation in honor of the visitors will be held in the Art Gallery, for which elaborate preparations are being made. The Archbishop of Melbourne will lay the foundation stone of the new cathedral.

On Monday last, in the presence of a large concourse of people, his Worship the Mayor, from the balcony of the Council Chambers, went through the formula of proclaiming the new King, Edward VII. The weather was the reverse of pleasant, but, notwithstanding the dismal nature of things, a good deal of enthusiasm was exhibited and cheers raised. As elsewhere throughout the Colony, two hours' holiday was almost universally observed for the occasion, whilst Saturday was strictly observed as a close holiday on the occasion of the funeral of the late Queen.

Probably the most numerous attended public meeting ever held in Christchurch was that in the Exhibition Concert Hall on Tuesday evening to consider the much-debated question of utilising the power of the Waimakariri River in regard to the requirements of the city. The scheme, locally known as 'harnessing the Waimakariri,' is a most comprehensive one, and judging by the remarks of the various speakers, some of whom were experts, and all enthusiasts, is a feasible and possible of attainment. Electricity is the power sought to be generated, and the effect of this power when utilised in the various ways indicated will, it is expected, entirely revolutionise the existing order of things, and render the place a veritable working man's paradise. The highest expert opinion is to be obtained from America and Europe, and all things proving favourable, no time is to be lost in carrying out the enterprise.

**DIOCESE OF AUCKLAND.**

(From our own correspondent.)

January 31.

The Sixth Contingent departed from this port for South Africa yesterday. As a send-off it was not a success.

The annual synod and retreat of the diocesan clergy is to take place early next month. His Lordship will soon afterwards commence his visitation of the diocese.

The Right Rev. Mgr. O'Reilly leaves for the south this week to assist in the ceremonies at Wellington and Christchurch, where he will represent his Lordship Dr. Lenihan, who is unable to go.

Rev. Father Moore, who, about 12 months ago, passed through Auckland, is at present en route to this diocese from Ireland via the United States and intends to join the ranks of our clergy on arrival.

From every pulpit, almost, in Auckland last Sunday reference was made to the death of her Majesty Queen Victoria. Sympathetic references were made by Right Rev. Monsignor O'Reilly, Dr. Egan, and Father Gillan.

The local branch of the Irish National Federation meets in St. Patrick's Hall to-morrow evening, when it is expected that a sum of money will be passed for transmission to the hon. treasurer of the Irish Parliamentary Fund at Home.

His Lordship the Right Rev. Dr. Lenihan went over to the Takapuna Orphanage last Saturday evening and celebrated Mass there on Sunday morning. The work of building the new church and school on this fine estate has been started. The Bishop is deeply interested in its construction.

The present altar boys and ex-altar boys of St. Patrick's have formed an association. The officers are: President, Master Patrick Keenan; vice-president, Master John Duffin; hon. sec., Master James Ford; hon. treas., Master George Rice; librarian, Master George Lenihan Sheahan. A large number have already joined. Right Rev. Mgr. O'Reilly has kindly allowed the use of St. Patrick's Hall for the weekly meetings.

At St. Benedict's last Sunday special services were held at 11 o'clock for the Catholic members of Auckland's portion of the Sixth Contingent. A large body of the men attended and were addressed very appropriately by the Rev. Father Gillan. Mass was celebrated by the Rev. Father Darby, Rev. Father Gillan being deacon and Rev. Father O'Hara sub-deacon.

The schools of the Sisters of Mercy, Sisters of St. Joseph, and the Marist Brothers open next Monday. The resolution requiring parents to send their children to Catholic schools, which was passed at the synod in Wellington, was read at the Masses and Vespers at St. Patrick's last Sunday. In this matter of attending the Catholic schools there is room for much improvement in and around Auckland city.

An elderly man is required as gardener for the Convent, Nelson.—\*.\*

Tussior, the wonderful cough remedy—sold by all chemists and grocers.—\*.\*

Witches Oil cures pains and aches, neuralgia, headache, sciatica, rheumatism. Price, 2s 6d. Try it.—\*.\*

The enormous output of McCormick machines defies the mental grasp of man. If the machines they manufacture were to issue from the gate of their works (the largest in the world), the spectators would see throughout the working day a McCormick machine emerging at full gallop every thirty seconds.—\*.\*

**Friends at Court.**

**GLEANINGS FOR NEXT WEEK'S CALENDAR.**

(Written for the N.Z. TABLET.)

- February 10, Sunday.—Sexagesima Sunday.
- " 11, Monday.—St. Telesphorus, Pope and Martyr.
- " 12, Tuesday.—Commemoration of the Passion of our Lord.
- " 13, Wednesday.—St. Gregory II., Pope and Confessor.
- " 14, Thursday.—St. Agatho, Pope and Confessor.
- " 15, Friday.—St. Martina, Virgin and Martyr.
- " 16, Saturday.—St. Gregory X., Pope and Confessor.

**SEXAGESIMA SUNDAY.**

The second Sunday before Lent, and roughly reckoned the sixtieth day before Easter.

**ST. TELESPHORUS.**

St. Telesphorus was Pope from 127 to 138, being successor to Sixtus I., and died a martyr in Rome under Hadrian. He instituted the practice of saying three Masses on Christmas Day.

**ST. GREGORY II.**

St. Gregory II., Pope, was a man of rare virtue and equally renowned for learning and administrative ability. He rebuilt the ruined walls of Rome, and restored the monastery of Monte Cassino, which, 140 years before, had been destroyed by the Lombards.

**ST. AGATHO.**

St. Agatho, Pope and Confessor, was born at Palermo, Sicily. His legates presided at the Sixth Ecumenical Council (Constantinople) which condemned Monothelism, in the year 680, and which had assembled at the request of Constantine IV. (Pogonatus), to whom the Pope had written a remarkable letter to refute the new heresy.

**ST. GREGORY X.**

St. Gregory X. was Pope from 1272-1276. No sooner had he ascended the Apostolic Chair than he summoned the Fourteenth Ecumenical Council, which met at Lyons, in 1274. The declared objects of the Council were: succor to the Holy Land, the reconciliation of the Greek Church, and reformation of morals. The Council opened with great solemnity, the Pope himself officiating. For the succor of the Holy Land, a tenth of all ecclesiastical revenues was voted for six years. In the fourth session, the re-union of the Greek Church with the Latin was solemnised; and the Council, besides, passed 32 canons regulating the discipline of the Church, and providing for the reformation of morals. Also a new constitution providing for the speedy and concordant election of a Roman Pontiff received the approbation of the Council.

Religion is simply the way home to the Father. There is energy of moral suasion in a good man's life, passing the highest efforts of an orator's genius.

One of the hardest weeds to uproot is selfishness. Nothing can do this but 'the expulsive power of a new affliction.'

If instead of a gem or even a flower, we would cast the gift of a noble thought into the heart of a friend, that would be giving as God's angels must give.

There is only one person in the world to whom we may be severe. There is one who deserves it, and on whom we may vent all our severity, and that person is our own self.

Frank explanations with friends in case of affronts sometimes save a perishing friendship, and even place it on a firmer basis than at first; but secret discontentment always ends badly.

The best that is in a man is his real self. In the future for man beyond this world it is the good that is in him that will live. The other side of him is on this earth; it is that he will leave behind him.

Dogmatic truth is the key, and the soul of man is the lock. The proof of the key is the opening of the lock; and if it does that, all other evidence of its authenticity is superfluous, and all attempts to disprove it are absurd in the eyes of a sensible person.

The colored sunsets and the starry heavens, the beautiful mountains and the shining seas, the fragrant woods and the painted flowers—they are not half so beautiful as a soul that is serving Jesus out of love, in the wear and tear of common, unpoetic life.

Because conscience ceases to remonstrate and remorse to torment, men think the exemption permanent. They do not know that at any moment, in some unforeseen emergency, this abused faculty of the soul may spring into renewed life. This elemental power, this primal endowment, can no more be permanently dissociated from the soul than heat from fire.

It is a sublime moment in any man's career when, rising to the full dignity of his manhood, he utters forth his whole personality in complete, glorious self-attainment and self-surrender in the prayer, 'Thy will be done,' for in that prayer he dedicates himself wholly to the doing of God's will of righteousness, to a lasting warfare with evil in all its phrases and forms, and with all the energy of which he is master, reinforced by the eternal strength.

A really sublime moment is that when the last ray of light breaks in upon the soul and marshals into a single group all the scattered, disconnected truths there. There is such a vast difference between the moment which follows and the moment which precedes this one, between what we were before and what we are after, that the word grace has been invented to convey the idea of this magic stroke, of this light from on high. I fancy I see a man groping his way blindfolded; the bandage is gradually withdrawn; he has a glimmering of daylight, and at the moment when the hand kerchief falls he stands in the broad sunlight.