

Of the others it was found that of the twenty-two men of the Cameron Highlanders seventeen were Scotchmen, nineteen of the twenty-two in the 'Black Watch,' and twenty-two of the twenty-four in the Seaforths. Of the twenty-three Irish Riflemen twenty-one were Irish. All the twenty-three Irish Fusiliers are Irishmen, and fifteen of the twenty-two Irish Guards hail from the Emerald Isle.

A Protestant missionary recently arrived from the Far East, informed a Dunedin audience a few days ago that 'there are 80,000 native Christians in China.' The *Statesman's Year Book* for 1900 estimates that there are 'about 1,000,000 (native) Catholics in the Chinese Empire. But perhaps the lecturing missionary does not regard them as 'Christians.' The same publication credits the various Protestant sects with a total of about 50,000 adherents. Monsignor Reynaud (Vicar-Apostolic of Che-Kiang) in his recent book, *Another China*, estimates the Protestant population of the Empire at 60,000. The most generous estimate—and one which is not generally followed—places the number as high as 80,000. These are divided up among three Episcopal sects, nine Presbyterians, six Methodist, two Baptist, and other minor sects and missionary organisations counting altogether forty-two.

The *New Zealand Times*, commenting on the adjuration which was made by his Majesty King Edward VII., on taking the oath at the opening of Parliament, says:—Cardinal Vaughan's command for a "communion of reparation" by way of set-off to the coronation oath, in which the English Sovereigns are compelled by Act of Parliament to declare that the Sacrifice of the Mass is "superstitious and idolatrous," is perhaps the most dignified form of protest that could be made against a declaration that is obsolete and stupid, besides being insulting to monarch and people alike. Catholics throughout the British Empire have long agitated for the repeal of the law which was passed in order to make the Protestant succession to the throne secure against all intrigue, evasion, or "arrière pensée." It is contended that the oath is now unnecessary; that it is a relic of rank intolerance; that many of those who devised it wished the total suppression of Roman Catholic worship in Britain; and that an enactment breathing the spirit of the seventeenth century is a glaring anachronism in the twentieth.

The following cable message appeared in the daily papers a few days ago: 'The Canadian House of Commons by 125 votes to 19 adopted an address to the King praying for the elimination from the coronation oath of expressions offensive to Roman Catholics.' The expressions referred to are those in which the Sovereign swears: 'I, Edward the Seventh, by the Grace of God, King of England, Scotland, France, and Ireland, Defender of the Faith, do solemnly and sincerely, in the Presence of God, profess, testify, and declare that I do believe that in the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper there is not any Transubstantiation of the elements of bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Christ at or after the consecration thereof by any person whatsoever, and that the invocation or adoration of the Virgin Mary or any other Saint, and the Sacrifice of the Mass, as they are now used in the Church of Rome, are superstitious and idolatrous.' We dealt pretty fully with the subject in a recent issue of the N.Z. TABLET. A protest against this 'relic of barbarism'—as Sir Colman O'Loughlan called it in the House of Commons in 1867—was recently made by the Catholic peers in the English House of Lords. Their protest was, however, disregarded by the Government. In view of the present need of humoring the colonies, more attention will probably be paid to the spirited address of the Canadian House of Commons.

DIocese OF DUNEDIN.

Father J. Osborne, late of Masterton, reached Dunedin on Sunday by the Talune. He left on the following day for his native diocese of Down and Connor, Ireland. Another clerical visitor was Rev. Father Cosgrove, of Dalby, Queensland, who left on Tuesday by the Mararoa on his return journey to Brisbane.

His Lordship Bishop Verdon is at present holding a visitation of the Queenstown parish.

On Sunday, March 17, St. Patrick's Day, the foundation stone of the new convent to be erected for the Dominican Nuns at Milton, will be solemnly laid by his Lordship Bishop Verdon. The sermon at the Mass will be preached by the Very Rev. Mgr. O'Leary. The new convent will be a two-storey building, consisting of 12 rooms and an oratory. The material will be brick, and the cost is about £850.

St. Patrick's Day falling on a Sunday this year the feast of Ireland's patron saint will be celebrated by a national concert to be held in the Garrison Hall, Dunedin, on Friday evening, March 15. An energetic committee have had the affair in hand for some time, and arrangements are now almost completed. The services of some of the leading vocalists in the city have been secured for the occasion, and as the programme will be racy of the soil—consisting of Irish songs, melodies, and recitations—an excellent evening's entertainment may be confidently expected.

The latest issue to hand of the *W. A. Record* states that on 4th of February three young ladies received the Holy Habit of St. Dominick, at the Dominican Convent, Greenough (W. A.). The reception ceremony was performed by the Very Rev. Father Ryan, Administrator of the Diocese, assisted by the Rev. Father Clune, C.S.S.R. An impressive address was delivered by the Very Rev. Eather Ryan. The ceremony closed with Benediction of the Most Holy Sacrament. The young ladies who received the Dominican Habit are Miss Minnie Ross, of Dunedin, N.Z., who took the name of Sister Mary Anthony; Miss Annie Byrne, of Oamaru, N.Z. (Sister Mary Anastasia), and Miss Kate Kenny (Sister Mary Catherine of Siena). Miss Kate Kenny is the eldest daughter of Mr. James Kenny, of Geraldton. The young lady, who has been long preparing for a religious life, entered the Greenough Convent and commenced her novitiate last year.

The retreat conducted by the Very Rev. Father Boyle, C.M., for the men of St. Joseph's Cathedral parish, was brought to a close on Sunday evening. The attendance during the week at the various services was very good, and the retreat was in every respect a great success. A large number joined the mens' branch of the Confraternity of the Sacred Heart, the weekly meetings of which have been arranged for Tuesday evenings. At the early Masses on Sunday an unprecedentedly large number of the congregation—especially men—approached the Holy Table. In the evening there was a renewal of baptismal vows, and the Rev. Father Boyle in concluding his discourse, the subject of which was 'Prayer,' took the opportunity of congratulating the men of the parish on their regular attendance during the retreat.

DIocese OF CHRISTCHURCH.

(From our own correspondent.)

March 4.

The Rev. Father Galerne, S.M., has been transferred to the Pro-Cathedral parish, his place at Temuka being filled by the Rev. Father Kerley, recently ordained.

The Rev. Father Leen left last week for Kumara to fill the position vacated by the Rev. Father Cooney who, it is understood, is to take charge of Lyttelton.

Mr. P. J. Nolan, assistant sub-editor of the *Christchurch Press*, who has been appointed to a position on the *New Zealand Times*, was presented during the week by Mr. W. H. Triggs, on behalf of the literary staff of the *Press* with a copy of Groves's *Dictionary of Music*, and with a gold pen bearing a suitable inscription by Mr. G. R. Hart, on behalf of the reporting staff of the same journal. Reference was made to the high esteem in which Mr. Nolan was held by the members of both staffs, and to the efficient manner in which he had discharged the duties of a difficult position.

The weekly meetings of the Christchurch Catholic Club were resumed on last Tuesday evening. Mr. E. O'Connor, vice-president, occupied the chair. There was a very good attendance and four new members were nominated. The principal business of the meeting was the discussion of a proposal to secure, and suitably furnish, club-rooms in a central position in the city, a sub-committee being appointed to carry out the wishes of the members. The Rev. Father McDonnell (who takes a most active interest in the Club), Rev. Bros. Arthur and Charles, were amongst those present.

Master Edward Boland, of Darfield, a pupil of the Marist Brothers' school, was successful in passing the recent Junior Civil Service examination. On behalf of the director (Bro. Arthur) and the teaching staff the Very Rev. Vicar-General presented Master Boland with a handsome gold watch as a reward for diligence and application to study, this being a prize offered by the Brothers to the most successful pupil. Miss Catherine A. Boland, a pupil of the Sisters of Mercy, Darfield, was also amongst the successful candidates. At the same examination two pupils of the Sacred Heart Convent High School, Barbadoes street, Misses May Byrne and Gertrude Adams, also secured passes.

A well-attended meeting of the parishioners of the Pro-Cathedral and St. Mary's, Manchester street, was held on Monday evening last in the Marist Brothers' schoolroom to arrange for fittingly celebrating St. Patrick's Day. The Very Rev. Father Le Menant des Chesnais, V.G., presided, and amongst those present were the Very Rev. Dean Foley, Rev. Fathers Marnane and McDonnell, and Bros. Arthur and Charles. A good deal of enthusiasm was exhibited in the business for which the meeting was convened, and it was decided to celebrate the anniversary of Ireland's patron saint by arranging a grand national entertainment in the Canterbury Hall, Exhibition Buildings, at a low charge of admission so as to enable everyone so disposed to be present. Any surplus accruing is to be divided between the parish schools. Various sub-committees were formed to carry out the celebration.

At the last meeting of the North Canterbury Hospital Board, Dr. Morkane, of Dunedin, who was for some time acting as assistant house surgeon, received a permanent appointment to that position.

On the arrival of the H.A.C.B. Society delegates by the express train on Monday last from the recent district meeting at Dunedin, they were met by members of the local branches and entertained at supper in their rooms, and spent a very sociable time. During a brief interview I had with the District President, Bro. D. Flynn, he expressed himself in eloquent terms regarding the exceptional treatment and hospitality extended to the delegates wherever they visited. He felt convinced that the sentiments he personally expressed would be fully endorsed by every member at present visiting the South Island, and all would cherish the happiest recollections of the unexpected attention paid them. Bro. Flynn seemed particularly pleased with the opening of a new branch at Waimate at which some of the delegates assisted, and on the whole thought the