

The ranks of the clergy of the diocese have been strengthened by the advent of the Rev. Father McGarrac, who arrived in Auckland during the early part of last week. He is to be stationed at St. Benedict's.

Much pleasure was felt in Auckland when the news came to hand that the District Board of the H.A.C.B. Society was to be retained here. The Auckland representatives of the society at the Dunedin meeting are to be congratulated on the success that attended their efforts to retain in our midst the Executive of the Society in New Zealand.

The committeemen of both the sports and concert, to be held in connection with the St. Patrick's Day celebrations, are making great preparations therefor, and it is to be hoped they will be rewarded for their labors by large attendances. The leading musical talent of the city has been secured for the concert, and it is rumored that Mr. M. Roseingrave (the famous Irish champion) will participate in several of the athletic fixtures arranged for the day's proceedings.

The first week of the mission given by the Passionist Fathers at St. Benedict's was brought to a close on Sunday, when all the children of the parish made a renewal of their baptismal vows. Immediately after this, a mission, to last two weeks, was commenced for the adults. At 11 o'clock, Solemn High Mass was celebrated by the Rev. Father Augustine, the Rev. Father Benedict acting as deacon and the Rev. Father Hilary as subdeacon. The Rev. Father Hilary preached on the text, 'Behold, now is the acceptable time; behold, now is the day of salvation.' In the evening a large congregation assisted at Vespers, when the Rev. Father Augustine preached on 'The Infallibility of the Pope.'

### SOUTHLAND NEWS NOTES.

(From our own correspondent.)

The list of the successful candidates at the recent Civil Service examinations under the Dunedin heading deprives Southland of getting its share of the honor in one case. I refer to that of Master John Delargey, son of the popular host and hostess of the Commercial Hotel, Waikaiti. The candidate was for some time a student of the Christian Brothers' School, Dunedin.

The members of the Wyndham Catholic Literary Society are to appear before the public shortly in the rôle of a dramatic company. Rehearsals and other preparations are being carried on with enthusiasm.

A concert is to be held at Waikaiti on the 15th inst., in aid of the funds of the newly appointed Riversdale parish, and promises to be a huge success.

The health of Mr J. A. Hanan, M.H.R., Invercargill, is at present far from robust. The honorable gentleman left last week for the lakes, where he intends to sojourn a short while.

Orepuki is destined to become a populous place. The Shale Company are applying for a large number of extra workers, and a consignment of 300 girls is being brought from Scotland to work at the company's establishment.

The residents of the Winton district are much exercised over the fact that few of the parliamentary grants voted last session have been expended, and of course the votes will lapse after the 31st March—the close of the financial year. No doubt the fault lies with the Lands Office, where much dilly-dallying is being done since the Hon John McKenzie gave up command.

### PRESENTATION TO DR. McILROY.

A pleasing ceremony took place on Monday evening (says the Greymouth Star, February 27), when the members of the Brunner Catholic Choir and their friends met in the schoolroom to bid farewell to their late conductor, Dr. McIlroy. The worthy doctor was the recipient of a handsome pipe case inscribed, containing two pipes, one silver mounted, and a tobacco pouch suitably inscribed. Mr. T. Heslin made the presentation, and in a happy speech spoke of the many good qualities of the doctor, and of the loss the choir would sustain by his departure. Dr. McIlroy suitably responded. The function took a social form. The Rev. D. Malone and the Rev. E. E. Kimbell, and several other friends and admirers of the departing guest were present, among whom was Dr. Jas. McBrearty, who was kindly welcomed as the successor of Dr. McIlroy. Items were contributed by Mr. T. Moore (on the phonograph), songs by Miss McDonald, Messrs. T. Moore, M. Johnstone and Dr. McIlroy, Mr. F. Heslin giving a fine baritone rendering of the 'Sleeping Camp.' The Rev. D. Malone officiated as chairman and the Rev. E. E. Kimbell with his much appreciated and masterly touch supplied the instrumental part of the programme. The meeting closed with the sweet strains of 'Old Lang Syne' after justice had been done to the good things provided by the ladies, so that altogether Dr. McIlroy leaves Brunner with a host of good wishes from all directions and quarters.

We learn from a correspondent that besides the above, Dr. McIlroy was the recipient of a beautifully illuminated address, accompanied by a massive gold chain with a greenstone pendant in shamrock form, from the citizens of Brunner. The address, which was of a very flattering nature, was signed by Mayor Russell, Messrs. Alison (mine manager), H. Coppersmith (president of the medical association), T. Franklin (secretary of the medical association), Joseph Noble, and 10 other leading citizens of Brunner on behalf of the residents of the district among whom the doctor had labored so zealously during the past four years, and whom he now leaves with the best possible credentials. Dr. McIlroy is an old St. Patrick's College boy, and leaves here to take charge of the Ross Hospital.

## Friends at Court.

### GLEANINGS FOR NEXT WEEK'S CALENDAR.

- March 10, Sunday.—Third Sunday in Lent.
- " 11, Monday.—St. John of God, Confessor.
- " 12, Tuesday.—St. Gregory the Great, Pope, Confessor, and Doctor of the Church.
- " 13, Wednesday.—St. Matthew, Apostle.
- " 14, Thursday.—St. Fintan, Abbot.
- " 15, Friday.—The Five Wounds of Our Saviour.
- " 16, Saturday.—The Holy Winding Sheet of Our Saviour.

ST. FINTAN, ABBOT.

The distinguished Abbot Fintan, surnamed Munnu, was one of the family of Niall, and son of Failchan and Feidelmia, natives of the north of Ireland. The date of his birth is not given, but it appears that an early age he was placed at the school of Bangor, under St. Comgall, and that afterwards he studied at the school of Kilmore-Deathrib which Columbkille is supposed to have governed for some time before his departure for Ireland. His chief instructor appears to have been Sinell, son of Moynacur, with whom he remained 18 years, perfecting himself in learning and religious observances. He also spent some time at a place now called Kilfinnan, in the County Limerick; thence he went to a place called Coonah, in the same county. Between these places Fintan passed his early years—a model of good conduct and piety.

The reputation and sanctity of the monks of Iona, under Columbkille, had made such an impression on him, that he resolved to join their community, in order to lead a life of greater sanctity in the quiet retirement of their monastery.

In order to carry out his good intentions he set out for Iona. St. Columbkille had died a few days before his arrival and was succeeded by Baithen. To him, therefore, Fintan applied to be received into his community. Baithen questioned him as to his family, studies, conduct, and the like. Fintan modestly answered him, and humbly requested to be admitted as a monk. Baithen having heard his story, replied: 'I thank God that you are come to this place; but this you must know, that you cannot be a monk of ours.' Fintan, much afflicted at this refusal, asked, 'Is it that I am unworthy of being one?' 'No,' answered Baithen, 'but, although I should be very glad to keep you with me, I must obey the orders of my predecessor Columba, who, before he died, said to me, in the spirit of prophecy: 'Baithen, remember these words of mine, immediately after my departure from this life, a brother, who is now regulating his youth by good conduct and who is well versed in sacred studies, named Fintan, of the race of Mocu-Moi, and son of Failchan, will come to you from Ireland, and will supplicate to be reckoned among the monks. But it is predetermined by God that he is to be an abbot, presiding over monks, and a guide of souls. Do not, therefore, let him stay in these islands of ours, but direct him to return in peace to Ireland, that he may there establish a monastery, in a part of Leinster not far from the sea, and labor for the good of souls.' The pious young man shed tears when he heard this, and returned thanks to God, and said that he would follow these directions. Colgan states that before he went to Leinster, in accordance with the injunction of Columbkille, he spent five years at a monastery he established at a place called Teachelle, in the district of Heli (Ely O'Carrol), in Munster, and that he subsequently founded a monastery at a place named after him, Teach-Munnu (the house of Munnu), now Thagmon, in the County of Wexford. He wrote a work in favor of the Irish custom of observing the Easter festival, which led to a warm controversy between himself and St. Lasarian, Bishop of Leighlin, which is thus related in his life: 'On a certain time there was a great council of people of Ireland held in the White-field (Synod of Leighlin), between whom there arose a controversy concerning the order of celebrating Easter; for Lasarian, Abbot of Leighlin, who presided over 1500 monks, defended the new order, which was then lately sent from Rome, while others adhered to the old form. But St. Munnu (Fintan) did not immediately appear at this council, though everyone waited for him. He stood by the older order. He came to the council the same day before evening. Then St. Munnu said to the Abbot Lasarian, in the presence of all the people: 'It is now time to break up this Council that every man may depart to his own place. In our contention concerning the time for celebrating Easter, let us dispute briefly, but let us give judgment in the name of the Lord. You have three options given you, O Lasarian; let two books, one of the older order and one of the new, be cast into a fire, and let us see which of them shall escape from the flames; or let two monks, one of yours, another of mine, be shut up in a house, and let the house be set on fire and we shall see which of them shall escape unhurt; or let us both go to the sepulchre of a dead monk and raise him to life, and he will show us which order we ought to observe in the celebration of Easter.' To which Lasarian answered, 'We will not proceed to judgment with you, because we know that if you commanded the Mountain of Marge to be changed into the White-field, and the White-field to be removed to the place where the mountain stands, that, on account of your infinite labors and great sanctity, God would immediately do this for your sake.'

From this it would appear that St. Fintan was revered by his brethren for his great sanctity and miraculous power. It seems that he also soon after saw his error in the observance of the Easter festival according to the manner of the Irish Church, and adopted that of Rome.

St. Fintan was far advanced in years when he died, at his own monastery, on the 21st of October, 635, leaving after him a distinguished reputation for sanctity and perfection in piety and godliness.