

variance with good morals and the respect which is due to persons in constituted authority? The man who would seriously promulgate such a form of oath would be laughed to scorn as a crank. But the difference between it and the coronation oath, by which the King is now obliged by law to offer insult to the deepest feelings of his Roman Catholic subjects, is only one of degree. In essence and principle they are the same. This coronation oath is a relic from bigoted times. It is a startling anachronism which, but for the abnormally long reign of the Queen, would have been ended long ere this. It places an unwarranted stigma upon 11 millions of our Roman Catholic fellow-countrymen. Why, of all the multitudinous religious beliefs which are entertained and preached by subjects of the British Empire, should theirs be the only one singled out for this public reproach and studied dishonor? They have given to our common country generals, admirals, judges, statesmen, governors of colonies. Their blood has been lavishly poured out in defence of and for the advancement of the State. They form the bulk of the population of Ireland, and in every walk of life, and in every function of citizenship, they discharge their duties with the same zeal, loyalty, and patriotism as their fellows who profess other religious creeds. There is no reasonable excuse for the longer retention of that antique coronation oath. It is foreign to the spirit of the age, and must go.

In an interview with a representative of the *Catholic Press*, Cardinal Moran, after having referred to the words of the Coronation Oath, said: 'Since these words were adopted Mohammedans have become an integral part of the Empire in England and elsewhere, and yet in the coronation oath there is no insulting reference to the Mohammedan creed or to the Hindoos or other pagan subjects. Catholics are singled out, and their religion foolishly insulted on such a solemn occasion as the coronation of the Sovereign, and they cannot tolerate it.'

A writer in the *Auckland Herald* says in the course of a vigorous letter upon the subject: 'To put the matter briefly, we are told that Protestants are justified in forcing the King's conscience and compelling him to be a Protestant whether he likes it or not, simply because the Protestants are in the majority, and they have put themselves to a great deal of trouble and expense in obtaining power to enslave the King's soul, and to make him barter his liberty of conscience for the luxury of wearing a crown. As to the argument founded upon the Protestant majority, it vanishes into thin air when we remember that they are in reality only a very trifling minority of the new King's subjects, being only 70,000,000—as against 330,000,009 of non-Protestants. If the King's religion must be that of the majority I fear that King Edward VII. can be neither Protestant nor Catholic, nor indeed a Christian of any color, but just a Mohammedan, a Buddhist, or an idolater or pagan of some sort, since these kinds of people constitute the vast majority of his subjects. Again, if the Protestants of former times went to a great deal of expense and trouble in doing a manifest wrong by forcing the King's conscience and degrading their monarch to the condition of a gorgeously upholstered puppet, instead of a King who could call his soul his own, are the enlightened Protestant Christians of the present day justified in perpetuating the enslavement and degradation of his person—merely because their less enlightened and more bigoted forefathers set them this evil example?'

## Diocesan News.

### ARCHDIOCESE OF WELLINGTON.

(From our own correspondent.)

His Grace Archbishop Redwood has been the victim of an attack of rheumatism and is spending some time at Rotorua.

The addition of a number of Sister Agnes's pupils just made to the Sacred Heart Church choir, Thorndon, should prove a great acquisition to that body.

The Very Rev. Father Keogh, rector of St. Patrick's College, will sing High Mass on St. Patrick's Day at St. Joseph's Church, Buckle street, and will preach in the evening.

The last mail brought news of the Ven. Archdeacon Devoy, Provincial, from Dublin. At the time of writing he was in excellent health.

Rev. Father S. Mahony, of St. Patrick's College, is to replace Father Ainsworth in the work of accompanying his Grace for the purpose of preaching missions and collecting throughout the archdiocese for the new Cathedral.

Miss Kate Connell, one of Sister Agnes's most promising pupils, is touring New Zealand with a concert company of her own prior to her departure for Europe. A farewell concert at the Opera House is to be given next Thursday evening. She has met with a warm reception in the northern towns, where she has had most successful concerts.

Given good weather on Saturday week there should be a good attendance on the Basin Reserve at the sports to be held by the St. Patrick's Day Celebration Committee. Splendid entries have been received for the different events. A valuable cup, presented by Mr. Payne, a well-known citizen, is to be added to the list of trophies to be competed for. The Garrison Band has been engaged for the day. In the evening a national concert for which some of Wellington's best talent has been engaged will be given in the Opera House.

On Saturday last three of the Marist Brothers were making oxygen for experimental purposes when an explosion occurred, resulting in their being thrown to the ground and more or less injured. Brother Alfred, whose injuries are more severe, was burned about the face and his left eye severely injured. Brother Aiden received an ugly wound on the arm, pieces of the retort being blown into the flesh above the elbow, and Brother Borgia was

rendered temporarily deaf. Dr. Collins was in attendance in a few minutes after the accident happened. He was very much exercised lest Brother Alfred would lose his sight, but is now satisfied that no permanent injury will result. It will be fully a month before Brother Alfred will be able to leave his room. The others, Brothers Aiden and Borgia, are about their work as usual.

On Monday last the marriage of Miss Isabel Poll, eldest daughter of Mr. G. Poll, of Thorndon, to Mr. Wilfred Scale, eldest son of Mr. William Scale, of Collingwood, took place. The Rev. Father Holley performed the ceremony. Owing to a late bereavement in the bride's family the wedding was very quiet. The bride was attired in a silver-grey costume trimmed with white silk, and was attended by her sister, Miss Ethel Poll who wore white. Mr. Medcalf acted as best man, and the bride was given away by her brother, Mr. C. Poll. The honeymoon is being spent in the Wairarapa district.

The reception of Miss Isabel Keenan, of Auckland, took place in St. Mary's Convent chapel last Sunday afternoon. The ceremony was performed by Very Rev. Father Lewis, V.G., assisted by Rev. Father Holley. Miss Keenan's train-bearers were Misses Harnett and Bunny. Very Rev. Father Lewis, addressing the postulant, took for his text, 'If thou wilt be perfect, sell what thou hast, give to the poor, and come follow Me.' He said these words were addressed to the young man in the Gospel by our Divine Saviour and on this occasion could be applied to one about to become a religious, the spouse of Jesus Christ, and spoke of the great grace bestowed on her destined to so high a calling. Concluding, he congratulated the postulant, summarising the words of St. Bernard, who said a religious lives more purely, falls more rarely, rises more quickly, advances cautiously, rests more calmly, dies more confidently, and is rewarded more munificently than they to whom the grace of a vocation is not given. The young novice's name in religion is Sister Mary Agatha. The friends and relations were entertained at the convent after the ceremony.

The Rev. Father Kreymborg, from Tanpo, is at present in Wellington on business connected with an educational matter, the conduct of which appears to cover a grave injustice to Catholic Maori children. The late Hon. McLean bequeathed a scholarship at Te Aute College to Maori boys, and a Catholic in Father Kreymborg's district was this year the successful candidate. At the college mentioned which, by the way, is a purely denominational institution, in no way connected with the State, students, besides attending usual Church of England services held there, are, I am informed, compelled to study a course of Anglican doctrine, and for this reason Father Kreymborg endeavored, unsuccessfully, I regret, to have the scholarship transferred to St. Patrick's College, so that the boy might receive the benefit of instruction in the faith he professes. The Government annually makes grants in aid, about £20 each I believe, towards the higher education of native boys showing a special aptitude, and Father Kreymborg naturally expected that such a grant would in this case be available to a boy who by public examination has proved himself especially worthy of such a concession. In this, also, he has been disappointed. Further efforts on his behalf are being made, but in any case the boy's parents are decided that he shall attend St. Patrick's College, where he began studies this week.

### PALMERSTON NORTH.

(From our own correspondent.)

March 8.

The few Palmerstonians who attended the Connell Concert Company's concert last evening struck a real treat. In the opinion of those who heard her she gives promise of developing into one of the first singers in this Colony. Miss Kate Connell, of Hawera, was trained at St. Mary's Convent, Wellington, and received the Royal Academy gold medal for singing ability a little more than a year ago, and is now raising funds for the development of her rich voice in Europe. This alone should give our Catholic readers at least sufficient impetus to go and hear her wherever she may touch on tour. Mr. J. Higham, her manager, is to be congratulated on the success he has hitherto met in such a worthy cause.

The all absorbing topic in town is at present on the annual grand concert and social in connection with the festival of St. Patrick. It will this year take place on Monday, the 18th inst., in Theatre Royal. With such artists as Mrs. W. P. Kendeil, Misses M. Hickley, Rose Rush and M. Scanlon, and Messrs. Arthur Bennett, J. Bett, W. Gamble, F. Dallow and T. Rodgers success is guaranteed, and the public may look forward to a real treat. I understand the influential committee have restricted the items to purely national items and songs.

### N A P I E R.

On Sunday evening, March 3, notwithstanding the inclemency of the weather, there was a large congregation at St. Patrick's, and the Very Rev. Dean Grogan preached on the subject of 'Transubstantiation and the new King's oath.' Amongst the congregation were many Protestants, Dean Grogan, taking for his text the words of the institution of the Blessed Eucharist from St. Matthew's Gospel, said, of the many serious news we have received from Home of late, not even excepting the demise of the late esteemed Sovereign or the appointment of her successor, none was so serious, so far reaching or concerned Catholics so much as the 'Oath of Accession' with which the new monarch, Edward VII., has inaugurated his reign, if the cable message be reliable. The other news only prove the instability and changeable nature of things earthly, whilst this news attacks the supernatural and encroaches on the domain of God