

accorded him a very cordial reception. Monsignor O'Reilly was deeply affected (says the local *Advertiser*) by the warmth of his reception, and the evident satisfaction shown at his return. In the evening he was entertained at a concert in the Catholic Hall, when the following address, signed on behalf of the congregation by Messrs. Joseph M. Foy, H. McDonnell, William Meehan, Daniel Scanlon, Edward Kenny, and C. McPike, was presented to him:—

Dear Monsignor,—We, the parishioners of the Thames, desire to tender to you our congratulations on your happy return to us after an absence of nearly two years, and we can find no words better suited to express the greetings of our hearts on this auspicious occasion than those from the language of Erin, the land of your birth: 'Cead Mile Failte!' Cold indeed would be the heart that could not unite with us to-night in welcoming you; yes, on the one hand, we can look back with joy and pride on the years you have spent in our midst—years of incessant and unwearied labors in the service of the flock committed to your care; and on the other, we have watched with delight your honorable administration during the absence of our beloved Bishop in Europe. No words could depict our joy on learning that the successor of St. Peter, our venerable Pontiff had testified his appreciation of your devotion to the duties of your sacred office by conferring on you one of the highest ecclesiastical honors. Since your departure from amongst us you have, as the representative of the Auckland Diocese, visited many of the grandest cities of the South. You have seen countries favored with more material prosperity than our once golden shore-cities where the faithful have vied with each other in erecting temples of surpassing beauty. From the stately magnificence of the Melbourne and Sydney Cathedrals to the not less beautiful dwelling places of God's glory in our own lands. Yet, after all this, we feel to-night that there is not beneath the Cross of the South a people who could greet you more kindly than those to whom you came so many years ago to be in truth their pastor, guide, and friend. It is this memory of the devotion of almost a life time that prompts us now to acknowledge the debt of gratitude that we owe to you, a debt which we shall ever cheerfully acknowledge, though we can never adequately repay it, and it is our most fervent prayer that you will be left to us for many years to come to instruct us by your teaching and edify us by your example. We tender to you again, dear Monsignor, the assurance of our unalterable attachment, and ask a remembrance in your prayers and holy sacrifices.

In reply Monsignor O'Reilly stated that he felt deeply touched at the cordial welcome accorded him. Personally he felt as though he had arrived at home. His pleasure was great when upon his arrival he saw so many familiar faces, and that pleasure was intensified at the hearty welcome accorded him by parishioners. He returned thanks to them for the address of welcome—a welcome so well expressed by those Irish words 'Cead Mile Failte.' The entertainment provided that evening came as a pleasant surprise to him. Monsignor O'Reilly had a kind word to say to the children, who had taken a prominent part in welcoming back their priest on his return to his parish. He referred to his travels, and spoke of the beautiful edifices he had seen in the southern portion of the Colony. He felt quiet rejuvenated after his holiday, and quite equal to the task of carrying on his work in the future as he had done in the past. It would be his endeavor to promote the Christian education of the children, as his feelings in this connection were stronger than ever. He was pleased to note that the local press advocated the most liberal views in connection with this question, and it was gratifying to note that influential papers throughout the Colony quoted from and approved of the articles appearing in the local papers. He again thanked them for the address, and the cordial welcome they had accorded him.

The following was the programme rendered at the concert:—Overture, Miss N. McDonald; chorus, 'Chimes of Normandy,' children of Convent Schools; address, Mr. Foy; song, 'The two nightingales,' Miss Murphy; song, 'Look back,' Mr. T. Cantley; duet, 'Nocturne,' Miss Gibson; song, 'Island of dreams,' Miss McEnteer; song, 'Eileen Alannab,' Mr. Johnson; duet, 'Life's dream is o'er,' Misses Nolan; recitation, Mr. Cooney; chorus, 'Scarlet and blue,' boys.

DIOCESE OF CHRISTCHURCH.

(From our own correspondent.)

April 8.

The cricket match between St. Mary's Club and the Christchurch Catholic Club, which I alluded to in my last letter, resulted in a win for St. Mary's, Messrs. Hunt and Ormandy being top scorers for the winning team, and Bro. Xavier and Mr. J. Canavan for the other side; the bowling honors also going to the players above named. Refreshments were provided by the ladies of St. Mary's and a most enjoyable afternoon was spent.

At the Choral Hall, on Tuesday evening last, Miss Kate Connell, assisted by Misses Marsden and Graham, and Mr. Hockley, gave a most enjoyable concert to a highly-appreciative audience. Miss Connell was very warmly received, and at the end of her programme numbers were greeted with recall after recall. In her songs 'Tell me my heart,' 'Hush, my little one,' and 'Solweig's lied' (Grieg), and with Miss Graham in the duet 'Lullaby' Miss Connell fully sustained the high reputation which preceded her. As encore numbers she gave the ever welcome 'Killarney' and 'Home, sweet home.' Those who were fortunate enough to be present at the concert freely admit they were afforded a rare vocal treat, and predict a great future for the talented young artist in the musical world.

During Holy Week the Office of Tenebræ was sung in the Pro-Cathedral, the services being largely attended. His Lordship the Bishop presided, there being also present at the various services the Very Revs. Vicar-General, Deans Foley and O'Donnell, Very Rev.

Father Ginaty, Rev. Fathers Chastagnon, Marnane, Goggin, Dunham, Regnault, Tubman, Price, Hyland, Gallais, Richards, Galerne, Higgins, Cooney, McDonnell, Bowers, and Kerley. On Wednesday evening the Lamentations were sung by Fathers Price, Galerne, and O'Donnell. On Thursday morning the customary services took place, and in the evening Fathers Galerne, Cooney, and Richards chanted the Lamentations. The church was quite filled on Good Friday morning. The Passion was sung by Fathers Bowers, Galerne, and O'Donnell, the sermon being by his Lordship the Bishop. After the adoration of the cross, during which offerings were made on behalf of the holy places in Palestine, Mass of the Presanctified was celebrated. A relic of the true Cross was exposed throughout the day for the veneration of the faithful. At 3 o'clock in the afternoon very many attended the devotions of the Stations of the Cross, the various stations being recited by the Bishop from the pulpit. In the evening the Office of Tenebræ was continued, and on Saturday morning the ceremonies appropriate to the occasion were celebrated. The sermon was preached on Thursday evening by the Rev. Father Price on the 'Blessed Sacrament,' and by the Rev. Father Tubman on Good Friday on the 'Passion.'

During the three nights of the Office of Tenebræ the choir rendered valuable assistance for which they were complimented and publicly thanked by his Lordship the Bishop. They gave the Psalms and Lamentations from the Ratisbon plain chant, and the responses etc. from De Vico's 'Tenebræ.' This is most beautiful music and the conductor (Mr. H. H. Loughnan) took infinite pains in the setting and rehearsal of it. The task was an arduous one and every credit is due to the conductor especially, the organist and choir for the really excellent manner it was rendered.

At the earlier Masses on Easter Sunday in the Pro-Cathedral large numbers approached the Holy Table. Pontifical High Mass was celebrated at 11 o'clock by his Lordship the Bishop, the Rev. Fathers Galerne and McDonnell being deacon and subdeacon respectively, and the Very Rev. Father Le Menant des Chenaais assistant priest. The Pontifical and Episcopal blessings were imparted by the Bishop, who also addressed the congregation. The music was Gounod's 'Messe Solennelle,' capably rendered by the choir, the soloists being Mrs. A. Mead, Miss Pender, Messrs R. Hayward, and McKay. The 'Hæc Dies' and 'Victima Paschali' (Eti) were rendered as an offertory piece. Mrs. Mead sang Mascheroni's 'Ave Maria,' with cello obligato by Mr. H. H. Loughnan. Mr. Loughnan also played one of Goltzman's beautiful cello solos and conducted, Miss Funton presiding at the organ. At Vespers the church was crowded to excess. His Lordship the Bishop officiated with the same assistants as at High Mass; he also preached a most impressive sermon on the words, 'Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth: He is risen.' It being the first Sunday in the month the usual Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament during the day and procession after Vespers took place, followed by Benediction. The church was tastefully decorated under the supervision of Mr. F. Geohagan, and the high and side altars by the ladies of the Altar Society, the result of their devoted labors being most effective. After Vespers the choir were entertained by the Bishop and clergy at the episcopal residence.

INTERCOLONIAL.

The gross receipts in connection with the St. Patrick's Day celebration in Sydney were over £900.

Mr. P. Connelly, headmaster of the Leichhardt public school, Sydney, has been appointed inspector of State schools.

The building known as the Academy of Music, and formerly the Salvation Army Barracks at Williamstown, has been purchased for the Catholic Church by the local pastor.

The Very Rev. Father Keating, S.J., is returning to Australia. He will succeed Very Rev. Father John Ryan as Rector of St. Francis Xavier's College, Kew.

His Eminence Cardinal Moran laid recently the foundation stones of a new church and presbytery at Moamans, near Sydney. The church contract price is £1168, and the presbytery will cost £852. The subscriptions received at the ceremony amounted to £200.

The Rev. Father Lane, of Flemington, was entertained recently by the members of the Mansfield branch of the Hibernian Society, and presented with a beautifully-illuminated address and gold cross. The rev. gentleman whilst in the district established a branch of the Hibernian Society, which is now in a very flourishing condition.

The Right Rev. Dr. Corbett, Bishop of Sale, arrived at Melbourne on March 27, on his return from a visit to Rome. Bishop Corbett was met at Port Melbourne by the Coadjutor-Bishop of Sandhurst and the Very Rev. Dean Phelan. The distinguished party were driven in the Archbishop's carriage to the palace, Eastern Hill. Subsequently Dr. Corbett left for his episcopal seat, where an enthusiastic public welcome home awaited him.

The Right Rev. Dr. Kelly, Bishop of Geraldton, has returned to his diocese after an absence of a year in Europe. His Lordship was accompanied by the Rev. Fathers Walter and White and the Rev. Brothers John and Augustine of the Pious Society of Missions, whose destiny is the aboriginal mission at Beagle Bay. On his arrival at Geraldton Bishop Kelly was presented with an address from the laity, which was read by Mr. Drew. Mr. R. D. Hutchinson, M.L.A., on behalf of the people, presented the Bishop with a purse of sovereigns. In the course of his reply Dr. Kelly gave an interesting account of his travels.

The first founding hospital in Victoria will be opened shortly by the Sisters of St. Joseph. The Archbishop of Melbourne has secured what is described as a beautiful mansion known as 'Kerrlands,' situated next to Broadmeadows Railway Station. The