

Diocesan News

ARCHDIOCESE OF WELLINGTON.

(From our own correspondent.)

November 30.

Rev. Father Goggan left for Hawera on Wednesday. The Ven. Archdeacon Devoy returned to Wellington on Saturday last from the South.

The annual entertainment and distribution of prizes will take place at St. Mary's Convent on December 11.

Rev. Father Huault, of Meanee Seminary, left by the steamer Westralia to-day for Sydney. It is his intention to remain there.

Rev. Dr. Kennedy, of Meanee Seminary, and Rev. Father Tymons, of Palmerston North, are guests at the Te Aro presbytery. They have come to town for the ordinations.

The Hon. Dr. Grace, M.L.C., Mrs. and Miss Grace who have been on a trip to Europe arrived here on Wednesday, having come out by way of Sydney.

Very Rev. Dean Mahoney spent a few days in Wellington on his return from Hawke's Bay. His health has greatly improved during his short holiday.

Rev. Father Servajeau, of Blenheim, was in Wellington this week on business in connection with the building of the new convent. His Grace Archbishop Redwood will lay the foundation stone on December 8.

The children of the Newtown Convent school are preparing the cantata, 'Red Riding Hood,' which is to be given in the Victoria Hall on December 17 and 18. The children of the Dixon street school are also rehearsing a cantata, which will be given shortly.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament was held at St. Joseph's on Sunday last. Rev. Father Herbert celebrated the last Mass and the choir rendered Weber's Mass in G. At Vespers Father Ainsworth preached to a crowded congregation, the subject chosen being 'Faith.' The members of the various confraternities attended in large numbers at the procession which took place after the sermon. Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament was given by Rev. Father Herbert.

The annual entertainment of St. Frances Xavier's Academy took place at the Exchange Hall on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings, when the fairy operetta, 'The Disagreeable Princess,' was staged. An excellent interpretation of the different characters was given by the following pupils:—Miss F. Moran as the 'Witch'; Miss L. Beare, 'King'; Miss Wardrop, the 'Princess'; and Miss L. Wills, a page. During the intervals instrumental music and dances by Miss Beare's pupils were given. The entertainment concluded with a most amusing farce entitled 'Lot 49.' The characters were taken by Misses F. Moran, Hickey, Rees, Atack, Patterson, and Scabury. Miss Redwood made an efficient accompanist.

The weekly meeting of the Marist Old Boys' Literary Society was held on Monday evening. The Rev. Father Goggan, S.M., presided and delivered a very interesting address on the human brain. The speaker was accorded a very hearty vote of thanks at the conclusion of his remarks. The members decided to hold the final meeting for the current year on Monday week. The entertainment will consist of music, an euchre tournament and ping pong. Refreshments will be supplied and ladies are to be invited. Committees were formed, and the affair should prove a great success. The Old Boys' Tennis court will be officially opened before Christmas. The court is a fine one and should prove of great benefit to the Society. The Old Boys' are much interested in the proposed visit to Christchurch at Christmas. In addition to a debating contest and an indoor-games tournament a cricket match will probably be played in the southern city.

DIocese OF CHRISTCHURCH.

(From our own correspondent.)

December 2.

St. Mary's Catholic Ladies' Club is arranging for a picnic to Stewart's Gully on Boxing Day.

Owing to the cabled announcement concerning the serious condition of the health of his Holiness the Pope the prayers of the congregations were solicited for the Holy Father in the churches on Sunday.

A concert and social were held in the Catholic Schoolroom, Broadfields, on Friday, November 22, in aid of the school funds. There was a crowded attendance. An excellent programme was gone through, and refreshments were handed round by members of the committee, assisted by lady friends.

The speeches made at the meeting on Sunday in regard to St. Patrick's Day celebration were on the whole excellently delivered and the matter evidently well thought out. The proceedings generally were marked with a spontaneity and an enthusiasm rarely witnessed at similar gatherings. More than once well-marked tribute was paid to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul for the excellent social work performed by the members for many years.

A cricket match was played on Saturday between teams representing the Christchurch Catholic Club (Pro-Cathedral) and St. Mary's Cricket Club, resulting in a win for St. Mary's by eight wickets and nine runs, the scores being: Pro-Cathedral, 23 and 25; St. Mary's, 37 and two wickets for 25. For the former side Peat and Canavan batted and bowled in fine style, good form being also shown in favour of St. Mary's by McNamara and Sullivan with the bat, and Hunt in the bowling.

Speaking at the meeting held on Sunday at the St. Patrick's Day celebrations, Mr. G. J. Sellars said, that being present at a National gathering of the kind now contemplated, at Auckland about 12 years ago, he was rather surprised to see among the H.A.C.B. Society brethren a stalwart Maori, who seemed particularly proud of the green sash and sought to be considered an Irishman. Referring to the memorable occasion—about two years ago—when the Right Hon. the Premier was heard to sing 'The wearin' of the green,' Mr. J. Barrett interjected that Mr. Seddon was known to have sung the patriotic and inspiring air '20 years ago.'

The St. Patrick's branch of the H.A.C.B. Society was honoured at its ordinary meeting held recently by the presence of a number of visiting brethren. These included Bros. O'Brien, P.P., and Nolan, of Hobart; J. Hyland, P.P., of Wellington, P. Mahoney, of Timaru, and J. Noonan, of Boston, Mass., U.S.A., a member of the American order of Hibernians. A very hearty welcome was extended to the visitors, and warmly reciprocated. Much interest was centred in the American brother, who spoke with reference to matters of mutual importance to the two Societies. Opinion was freely expressed that it would be conducive to the well-being of Hibernians if the two bodies were amalgamated, which it was hoped ere long would be the case.

A picnic, organised by the Marist Brothers for the boys attending the Pro-Cathedral parish school, took place on Monday last, and proved a most enjoyable outing. A special tram leaving town at 10 o'clock conveyed the party to Sumner, where, in the pretty ground surrounding the church, amusements of various kinds, races, etc., were held. An adjournment to the beach was made in the afternoon, where the seaside attractions were indulged in, the return journey being made about 6 o'clock. A particularly pleasant day was spent. Among those present at the picnic were the Very Rev. Father Le Menant des Chesnaia, Very Rev. Dean Foley, Rev. Fathers McDonnell and O'Connor, the teaching staff, and some of the children's parents. An abundance of refreshments was provided by friends and dispensed by a number of young ladies. Prizes won in the sports were distributed by the Very Rev. Vicar-General next day.

What was described as an 'Emerald Night' was given by the H.A.C.B. Society in their hall, Barbadoes street, on Thursday evening last, in aid of the branch's benevolent fund. There was a large attendance, the building being entirely filled. Among those present were his Lordship the Bishop and a number of the clergy. The hall was prettily decorated with greenery, a fine Irish flag adorning the back of the concert platform. The officers of the Society were most attentive in regard to the pleasure and comfort of their patrons. The first part of a very enjoyable entertainment consisted of a choice musical programme, after which refreshments were handed round by a number of young lady friends. A feature of the event was a number of novel and interesting competitions, which proved most entertaining. The committee are worthy of the greatest commendation for the manner in which the affair was carried out, and are to be congratulated on the success attending their efforts.

TIMARU.

A few much needed showers of rain fell during the week. The land is so parched, however, that much more is needed to produce any appreciable effect.

Miss E. McGuinness was very successful at the professional examination held in Christchurch lately under Mr. Mistowski. Through her time being so occupied, Miss McGuinness could only spare one week for preparation under Mr. Lund, of Christchurch, and yet she was successful in carrying off with honors the A.P.T.L. degree (Associate Pianiste of Trinity College, London), which letters she can now append to her name. Miss McGuinness can rely on the congratulations of her many friends.

The following names appear amongst the successful candidates at the Trinity College local centre examinations recently held here under Mr. Mistowski, Mus. Bac. Oxon.:—Pianoforte Senior: Missie Fitzgerald (Miss Fitzgerald, teacher), Patricia Geaney (Miss Darcy, Orari), Beatrice Knight, and Olive Larnach (Miss E. McGuinness). Intermediate: E. Burke (Miss Darcy). Junior: J. Harrison (St. Joseph's Convent, Temuka). Preparatory: J. Alexander, B. Lawry, and C. Maben (Miss Fitzgerald), S. Austin, and M. Tarrent (St. Joseph's Convent, Temuka), J. Lawler and J. Symon (St. Joseph's Convent, Waimate).

The production of the comic opera, 'H.M.S. Pinafore,' at the Theatre Royal, Timaru, on Thursday last by a Temuka amateur company in aid of the funds of St. Joseph's, Temuka, was well attended despite unfavorable weather. The cast of characters was the same as previously reported, with the exception of 'Little Buttercup,' entrusted to Miss Wells, of Christchurch, Miss Quinn, of Temuka, being unable to take up the character owing to family bereavement. The Timaru audience fully endorsed the approval shown at Temuka and Geraldine. Miss McGuinness, as 'Josephine,' never appeared to more advantage, and at the close of her first solo was the recipient of a number of bouquets. Her acting and singing contributed much to the successful interpretation of a most difficult role. Miss Wells, of Christchurch, made an ideal 'Little Buttercup.' As 'Cousin Hebe,' Mrs. Fairburn, of Temuka, scored a great success by her natural acting, and was throughout one of the most pleasing and consistent performers. As 'Sir Joseph Porter,' Mr. Duncan MacDonald, Timaru, was in his element, and for an amateur his impersonation of the dignified 'ruler of the Queen's navy' was a highly creditable performance. Mr. Flyger, Temuka, as 'Ralph Ruckstraw,' and Mr. Heatley as 'Captain Corcoran' were each very successful, while 'Dick Deadeye' (Mr. Levens, Temuka) created great amusement with his inopportune philosophy, etc. The choruses were augmented by the sisters, cousins, and aunts of 'Sir Joseph' and 'the sober men and true' of 'Captain Corcoran.' An orchestra of over 12 performers, under the baton of Professor