

Presentation to Father Howard.

On Friday evening a meeting was held in St. Patrick's Schoolroom, Oamaru, for the purpose of saying good-bye to the Rev. Father Howard, who had been transferred to Milton, and presenting him with a tangible expression of the appreciation of his labors whilst in the district. The news of Father Howard's transfer to Milton (says the *North Otago Times*) had been received with regret in all parts of the parish.

Mr. Cagney presided over the meeting, the attendance being very representative. In opening the proceedings the chairman said he was thankful for having conferred on him the honor of being in the chair, an honor doubly great that evening on account of the respect in which Father Howard was held. It was unnecessary to state their object in being present. The meeting was a fruitful one because it was their opportunity to show the esteem in which they held their guest. They had lost him for a while. He had been in Oamaru for six years or so, and during that time his work had spread its roots into every house in this part of the Dunedin diocese, and that evening it had burst into a luxurious growth, and was bearing its fruit. The Rev. Father Delany would, however, make an excellent substitute for him. They all believed that Father Howard would not be long in making friends in his new district. Should he ever return to Oamaru he would be received with open arms.

Mr. G. Leslie, in a pleasant little impromptu, endorsed what Mr. Cagney had said, and though not a member of his Church, he would say that he was very sorry when he heard that Father Howard was going to leave. He hoped he would be sent back to them again, and in that he was expressing the wishes of many.

Sergeant O'Grady said a more popular though a young priest he had not met in the Colony than Father Howard. Apart from his manner, which had endeared him to many, his kindness of disposition and his knowledge of the wants of the people had made his ministrations most valuable. The poor of the parish had in him lost a good and liberal friend. Milton was a large and prosperous parish, and to go there was promotion to Father Howard. He wished him success and many friends in his new parish.

Mr. O. R. Wise said Father Howard was the sort of man who made men better than they are.

Mr. P. Corcoran said he was sorry that their guest was going away, and hoped he would be as popular in the south as he had been here.

Rev. Father Delany added his testimony to Father Howard's worth, which everyone in the parish had also expressed to him privately. He hoped to be like Father Howard, and if he succeeded in that he would have a certain amount of confidence that his work would be successful indeed.

Mr. J. B. Grave added his word to what had been said, and so did Mr. Watson.

With a pleasant little homily, Mr. Cagney presented to Father Howard a substantial purse of sovereigns, amid cheering.

The Rev. Father Howard thanked the speakers for the kind things they had said of him, which he felt rather expressed what he should be than what he was. The generosity of their gift was quiet in keeping with that ardor of faith which had raised in Oamaru such a fine lot of buildings as the Catholics had. When the means of the people who had done all these things were remembered it was the greater testimony to that ardor of faith. He had always been so warmly and cordially received by the members of the Church in the parish as to make him feel how warmly he was regarded everywhere. He was glad to see some Protestant friends present, whom he had met in his hours of relaxation. In visiting the homes of the poor he had seen many proofs of their charity. The very soul of Christianity consisted of the spirit of charity. He thanked them for their many kindnesses, and much respect paid him during the years he had spent in Oamaru, years he would ever remember as most happy. He again returned thanks for the kind references to himself, and for their handsome gift. He warmly commended to them his successor, Father Delany.

Music was contributed by Miss Ford and Mr. Ford, and recitations by Mr. P. J. Duggan and Mr. Ford.

Mr. William O'Brien in Sydney.

MR. WILLIAM O'BRIEN, M.P., was entertained at a banquet at Fern Bay, Sydney, on Sunday, December 22, when there was an attendance of about 200 ladies and gentlemen. After the banquet an open-air meeting was held when Mr. O'Brien addressed an assemblage of about 1500 persons. Apologies for non-attendance at the banquet were read from his Eminence Cardinal Moran, his Grace Archbishop Kelly, the Very Rev. Dean O'Haran, and Rev. Father Walshe (P.P., Maclean). The chairman apologised for the absence of Mr. P. E. Quinn, M.L.A., who had met with an accident. Mr. O'Brien was accompanied by his wife. Dr. McCarthy presided.

In addressing the open-air meeting Mr. O'Brien said that he had been told by Mr. Dillon and others who had visited Australia that the men and women of Irish birth and parentage in this land were amongst the truest and most faithful adherents of their cause to be found anywhere. His chief difficulty in speaking to them was that he had so much to say that it was hard to make a selection, but he took it that he was not far wrong in saying that the thing of all others about which they desired to hear was that the Irish people were again united. He could say, without an atom of doubt or reserve, that Ireland was once more a United Ireland, and that her unity was one which was going to stand the test of time. He would not say this if he were not convinced that, as far as

human things could be certain, they might dismiss from their minds any apprehension that a state of dissension would ever again divide the hearts of Ireland's true and generous sons. Those who were ranged on opposite sides during the great conflict of 1890 were now united, and were standing shoulder to shoulder again for Ireland. At the last general election young men who were strangers to the old bitterness and recriminations came to the front, and the people were now just as much afraid of dissension as the people of Sydney were of bubonic rats. As to the genuineness of the union, he would point out that for many years the people could not be brought to subscribe anything for the funds, but in the last 12 months, since the new union had come about in the new Irish party, the people had subscribed £10,000 to the general election fund, over £10,000 to the parliamentary fund, and over £5000 to the general purposes of the United Irish fund. That made more than £25,000 given by the people themselves in 12 months. It was only three years ago that the three sections of the Irish party were spoken of in the English House of Commons with contempt and ridicule, and with a great deal of refined Saxon sarcasm about the Kilkenny cats. It was supposed that the three factions had only to be left to themselves, when they would tear one another; but now it was the one united party in the House of Commons. The other parties were like the Kilkenny cats, and those animals had been transformed into naturalised English citizens. The unfortunate Liberal party had become so divided and leaderless that it had practically thrown up the reins of Opposition and given them into the hands of the Irish members. The Unionist majority was torn by dissension, and the only thing on which it was united was alarm at the Irish party. Now the Government were proceeding to waste one-half of next session in framing laws to gag the Irish members for wasting the other half. He, however, did not fear their efforts at gagging. Then again, there was the talk of reducing the Irish representation in the House of Commons—in defiance of the Act of Union. He did not fear that either. The cause of Ireland did not lie altogether in the number of members so much as the individuals composing it. If they were going to cut them down to 60, or even 40 members, those members would still champion the cause of Ireland. Home Rule would come sooner or later—perhaps sooner; the English people would beg them to take it; and he was not going to say that the people would be satisfied with the Home Rule of Gladstone. They might want something more. There was already such a change of feeling in Ireland that the landlords were agitating for the abolition of landlordism. The people would not be satisfied until they saw the Government purchasing the rich lands in the centre of Ireland for the use of the Irish people, where they could place a sturdy peasantry upon the soil, and he hoped the tide of emigration would be stemmed until that was brought about; while for the laboring classes the cottage homes system would be brought into existence in all parts, as it had already been brought about in parts of their country.

As Mr. O'Brien sat down hearty cheers were given for him.

Diocesan News

ARCHDIOCESE OF WELLINGTON.

(From our own correspondent.)

January 4.

The retreat for the priests of the archdiocese begins on the 22nd of this month.

Rev. Fathers Clancy and Bowden have gone on a short holiday to Auckland.

The examinations for the scholarships granted annually at St. Patrick's College will be held on the 14th of this month.

Rev. Fathers Colgan and Morrough left on Wednesday for the south, the former preaches the retreat to the Nelson nuns and the latter to the nuns at South Dunedin.

A deputation from the Marist Brothers' Old Boys' Association have waited on his Grace the Archbishop and presented a petition praying that on the return of Very Rev. Dean Grogan to Napier Rev. Father Goggan will be again stationed in Wellington. The petitioners state that by Father Goggan's transfer 'they lose one from whom we have at all time received much good, and to whom we are all, as Catholic young men, greatly indebted, while the absorbing interest Father Goggan has taken in our welfare has made him nigh indispensable to us.' The petition was signed by nearly all the members of the association at present in Wellington. His Grace, I am informed, received the deputation very graciously and promised that the petition would have very careful consideration.

The marriage of Miss Josephine Halpin, eldest daughter of Mrs. Halpin, and a popular member of St. Joseph's choir, to Mr. J. N. Beckinsale, of Bing, Harris and Co., was celebrated in St. Mary of the Angels' on Boxing Day. Rev. Father Holley performed the ceremony. The bride was dressed in soft Indian tucked muslin over a silk lining, handsomely trimmed with insertion, and wore a hat to match. She was attended by her sister, Miss Maggie Halpin, who wore a holland costume. Mr. T. P. Halpin, of Napier, gave the bride away, and Mr. Magnus acted as best man. After the ceremony the guests were entertained at afternoon tea at Mrs. Halpin's residence. The honeymoon is being spent in Christchurch and Dunedin. The presents, which included three cheques, were numerous and handsome.

The marriage of Mr. T. P. Butler to Miss Mary Aloysius Leydon, the eldest daughter of Mr. Thomas Leydon, of Tinakori road, took place at the Church of the Sacred Heart on Boxing Day. Great interest was taken in the event, as