

The Catholics of the Ellesmere district intend to celebrate St. Patrick's Day with a sports gathering, and have secured the Leeston Recreation Grounds for the purpose.

The Very Rev. Father Le Menant des Cheneais accompanied by the Rev. Fathers O'Brien and Robinson, of the Archdiocese of Melbourne, went north by Monday evening's steamer.

The Christchurch Catholic Club intend to re-open the weekly meetings in about a month's time with a social gathering to which lady friends of the members will be invited.

Members of the Eighth Contingent approached the Holy Table at the Church of the Sacred Heart, Addington, at 8 o'clock Mass on Sunday, which was celebrated by the Very Rev. Dean Foley.

The Rev. Father George Mahony, of Nelson, now on a visit to Christchurch, is the guest of the Rev. Father Marnane at St. Mary's, Manchester street, and preached the sermon at Vespers on Sunday.

There was exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at the Pro-Cathedral from High Mass on Sunday. At Vespers there was a crowded congregation, when the Rev. Father Galerne preached an impressive sermon on the "Word of God." The usual procession incidental to the first Sunday of the month followed, and was taken part in by a large number of members of the various sodalities, confraternities, and the H.A.C.B. Society.

At the Church of St. John the Evangelist, Leeston, a solemn Requiem Mass was celebrated on Tuesday last (the anniversary of his death) for the repose of the soul of the Very Rev. Dean Chervier, S.M. Owing to temporary indisposition, his Lordship the Bishop was prevented from being present. The celebrant was the Rev. Father Richards; deacon, Rev. Father Regnault; sub-deacon, Rev. Father Cooney. Other members of the clergy present were—Rev. Fathers Marnane, Aubry, Bowers, McDonnell, Kerly, and Very Rev. Dean O'Donnell.

The Very Rev. Dean Foley, who has undertaken the onerous duties of collecting for the Cathedral building fund, is making a house to house canvass, as time and circumstances permit, for promised subscriptions. His Lordship the Bishop is most anxious that the building operations should not be interfered with or suspended for lack of the necessary means, and, together with the Very Rev. Dean, who has proved himself so devoted to the work, hopes that all who have promised donations will make an effort, not to say a sacrifice, to be prepared with their contributions when called upon.

The executive committee of the St. Patrick's Day celebrations met in the parochial library on Tuesday evening last, Mr. W. Hoban presiding. Mr. P. Burke was elected treasurer. A letter was read from the Right Hon. the Premier according his patronage to the event, offering sincerest congratulations on the inauguration of the scheme for providing the city and district with a home for incurables, the suffering and distressed, and wishing the movement every possible success. Various donations were acknowledged, and a sum of money voted to the ladies committee for the purchase of articles suitable for the purposes of a sale of work, etc., which the ladies intend to hold in marquees at the fête. Reports were received from the hall, sports, and children's sports sub-committees, the two latter submitting programmes of events which, with a few minor suggested alterations, were adopted. Mrs. Stratz (president) and Mrs. A. Mead (secretary) were elected to the executive committee, and reported the progress being made in the disposal of tickets, and other duties undertaken. The meeting adjourned until Tuesday next.

There has been much newspaper criticism regarding the fitness of Mr. Wilson Barrett's drama, the 'Sign of the Cross,' to be considered a religious and moral play. Be this as it may, however, Mr. Barrett stated in a speech addressed to the audience, after the second performance in this city, that his desire in writing and producing the play was actuated by motives of religion and morality. Speaking of critics both here and elsewhere Mr. Barrett said:—"They did not deny the originality and power of the play, but they said it was bringing forward religion as a subject for discussion on the stage, and that religion had no place on the stage. My answer to that objection was that if religion had no place on the stage, then morality had none, because the highest form of morality was religion." Continuing with many pointed remarks Mr. Barrett said that what was seen and heard on the stage was a great power for good or evil, and that which was thoroughly bad when heard not only tended to corrupt the mind of the one who heard, but would be taken outside the theatre and repeated to such an extent that moral havoc was wrought in the souls of numberless individuals.

DIocese OF AUCKLAND.

From our own correspondent.)

January 30

Our parish schools re-open after the long vacation next Monday.

Rev. Father Gillan, of St. Benedict's, is expected to return from the South this week.

Rev. Father Mulvihill, Gisborne, on last Sunday assisted the Very Rev. Monsignor Paul, V.G., at Onehunga.

Rev. Father Ganly, of Melbourne, arrived in Auckland from Sydney by the Warrimoo last Sunday. While here he was the guest of the Bishop. Father Ganly went South on Monday via the West Coast.

Rev. Father O'Connor, of Gisborne, preached at St. Patrick's last Sunday evening to a large congregation. The subject was 'Prayer.' The rev. preacher related many instances where the power of prayer wrought wonderful results. The discourse throughout was highly instructive.

The retreat for the clergy closed last Friday morning, and the majority of the priests left for their respective parishes on the following day. On Monday last, at the church at Lake Takapuna, the retreat commenced for the Fathers of St. Joseph, and was conducted

by the Very Rev. Father Benedict, O.P. It will conclude tomorrow.

Mr. James O'Brien, J.P., and Mrs. O'Brien leave for Ireland on a visit next Tuesday. The members of the Sacred Heart Church and the Native Association and friends of Mr. and Mrs. O'Brien have made their presentations. I will forward an account of the proceedings in time for your next issue.

The Bishop, by cable last Friday, received word that the Rev. Father Kehoe had, in Sydney, successfully undergone a most painful operation. News of this came ere the priests of the diocese on retreat had dispersed, and a cable was at once sent across by them to their suffering colleague hoping for his speedy recovery and return to his flock.

The controversy in the morning paper concerning the birth and origin of the Anglican Church, "as by law established," still waxes warm. The anonymous correspondent, "Owen Murry," is upon the right track, and with an array of historical records shows that "Our early British Church" was really in existence, but was as widely different in all its essentials from the Anglican Church of to-day, as are the torrid and arctic zones. Quite an avalanche of opponents has gathered round "Owen Murry," but the latter tackles them in turn.

His Lordship Dr. Lenihan left for Dunedin on a business visit last Tuesday. Captain James Breen, of the White Star liner Delphic, cordially invited his Lordship to go down the coast with him as far as Lyttelton, calling *en route* at Napier, where a stay of two days will be made. Dr. Lenihan readily accepted the captain's kind offer and left as stated above. Captain Breen has expressed a desire to visit Meance, and while in Hawke's Bay the Bishop and he intend going out to see the Marist seminary. Last Saturday evening Captain Breen was the guest of the Bishop at the palace.

In conversation Captain Breen informed me that the Delphic was more expeditiously, and cheaply docked, cleaned, and painted in the Calliope dock, Auckland, than she had been in London. An idea of what is used on this 8,000 tonner may be understood when it is known that it took one ton of red, and one half ton of black paint to paint the outside of her hull alone. With a slight alteration in the floor, which the Harbor Board will carry out at once, the Calliope dock will be enabled to take in each of the 13,000 tonners, Athenic, Celtic, and Corinthic, now building for the New Zealand trade by the White Star line.

WAIHI NOTES.

(From our own correspondent.)

January 27.

The news that the Cabinet had approved of Waihi being incorporated a borough was received with great pleasure.

Owing to arrangements not being completed, the opening of a Catholic school has been postponed till after the Easter holidays.

The solemn opening of the new church by his Lordship the Bishop will take place on April 20, the Feast of the Patronage of St. Joseph, although the building will be completed and in use about the end of February.

The Minister of Mines has induced the County Council to put the various works for which Government grants have been given in hand at once, so as to absorb some of the surplus labor. Between 200 and 300 men (mostly married men) are now employed on the works.

The Commission to inquire into the objections of the Thames Hospital Board against the erection of a separate institution at Waihi commences its sittings at Paeoroa to-day, after which it sits at Waikino and Waihi. The Commission consists of Rev. Father Brodie (elected by the Waihi petitioners), Mr. Nepean Kenny (elected by the Thames Hospital Board), and Mr. R. S. Bush, Warden (chairman).

The new Catholic Church at Gladstone was opened on January 19 by the Right Rev. Dr. Higgins. After blessing the church his Lordship celebrated High Mass. In his address he said the dedication of the church was only a continuation of the celebration which took place on the shore of Port Curtis 300 years ago, when De Quiros planted the cross on the beach and called for a blessing from God on the new land. Gladstone district has recently been taken over by the Marist Fathers from Sydney.

It is not at all unusual to hear people speak slightly of 'patent' medicines, but the enormous demand for them throughout the whole of the civilised world is in itself proof that they are regarded generally as one of the necessities of life. The majority of housewives would consider themselves as wanting in their duty if they did not have at hand those remedies which experience has taught them to use in cases of emergency, and nobody will venture to question the wisdom of this. Among the remedies which no household should be without is EVANS'S WITCHES' OIL, an invaluable cure for rheumatic complaints of every description, which has proved itself to be unequalled both as an embrocation and an internal medicine. In the case of sprains, strains, bruises and all kinds of surface wounds, to which, as mothers will know, children are particularly liable, the application of the oil to the parts affected will ensure a speedy and complete cure, while attacks of mumps, quinsy, sore throat and every sort of ache can be successfully treated through its agency. The preparation is a certain remedy for inflammation of the bowels, lungs or any part of the body, and as these are complaints that require immediate attention, a bottle of WITCHES' OIL in the house will prevent serious if not fatal consequences. Sold at all chemists and storekeepers throughout the Colony at 2s 6d and 4s 6d per bottle and Messrs Kempthorne Prosser and Co., agents.—.