

to the Bishop by visiting him. Her two concerts here were phenomenally successful, despite the very bad weather. The Press were unanimous in sounding her praises and predicting a great musical future for her, and the public heartily re-echoed this. The reserved seats were auctioned publicly, and brought fancy prices. The concerts were attended by the Bishop and clergy.

Rev. Father Benedict, O.P., last Sunday evening at St. Patrick's, referred to the placing under the foundation stone of an Anglican church in this city recently relics from the old Canterbury Cathedral and old monastery at Lindisfarne, and said if those relics could but have spoken to the large assemblage gathered round the stone they would have spoken of the Sacrifice of the Holy Mass, devotion to Our Lady, and numerous Catholic practices held in ancient days in these venerable buildings. The rev. preacher has been taken to task for 'falsification' of history by an anonymous writer in the local press. When Father Benedict has done with this individual, and any others who may enter the fray, they will know a little more of the history of the Church in the British Isles than they did before.

WAIHI NOTES.

(From our own correspondent.)

May 13.

During the past month Waiki has had experience of two mayoral elections, and has also elected the members of its first Borough Council. The formation of a borough and the starting of road works have been a boon to numbers of working men, as owing to the closing down of several mines employment is difficult to obtain. Indeed the Council have found it necessary to insert advertisements in the Auckland papers warning men against coming to Waiki in search of employment.

There are now 120 children attending the parochial school held in the church. Owing to the lack of accommodation the pupils at present are limited to members of our own denomination, but when the school proper is erected all children will be accepted. It is the intention to have a school built 50 feet by 25 feet, with a tree 25 feet by 25 feet.

'A Hint to Laymen,' in your issue of May 1 is hardly needed for Waiki, as Catholics in this town take a general interest in everything conducive to its welfare. The Rev. Father Brodie is chairman of the Hospital Trustees, and is also frequently asked to preside at other meetings; the president of the Miners' Union is a Catholic, as also the branch secretaries at Waiki and Karangahake, while on all committees connected with the social life of the place Catholics will be found to the fore.

Coronation Carnival, Christchurch.

(From our own correspondent.)

The Coronation Carnival, in aid of the building fund of a new presbytery for St. Mary's, Manchester street, was opened on Thursday evening last by his Worship the Mayor of Christchurch. On the stage were his Worship Bishop Grim s, who presided, the Mayor (Mr H. F. Wigram) and Mrs Wigram, the Hon. C. and Mrs Lawson, the Rev. Father Marnane (chairman of the Executive Committee), a number of the clergy, and a representative gathering of the laity.

Bishop Grimes, who was received with applause, said that they were gathered together in very goodly numbers for a most praiseworthy purpose. Fifteen years ago the clergy of the large and scattered parish of St. Mary's had taken to themselves a residence that bore traces of what he might call, even in this young country, venerable antiquity. Time had not removed those traces, and the building was now almost in the last stage of decrepitude, and not a safe shelter for those who dwelt within its crumbling walls. The clergy of the parish had made strenuous and successful efforts to further the progress of the parish. During the period of fifteen years they had made successful efforts to erect more than one church in the district had erected convents and schools, and now their people, recognizing their devotedness, had started the bazaar, with the hope of aiding in the good work of giving them a better residence, in recognition of their loving services. The principle of faith had moved their generosity, and it was for this reason that he was able to ask the Mayor to inaugurate the work. He wished to express their heartfelt thanks to the Mayor for his presence among them, which was a proof of his broadmindedness and his readiness to favor any cause that was for the welfare of his fellow-citizens, who were his loyal constituents. It was a happy coincidence that the Mayor should begin his term of office by inaugurating a good work, and a no less happy coincidence that in this year he should inaugurate the Coronation Carnival. He would ask his Worship to accept not only the gratitude of those present, but also their best wishes for the year on which he was entering.

The Mayor, who was received with loud and prolonged applause, said that he wished to thank his Lordship very earnestly for his kind remarks, and to assure him of his pleasure at opening his Mayoral career on such an occasion. It had struck him on looking round the building that the work of preparation done by Father Marnane and his willing helpers since the cessation of skating at 11 o'clock on the previous night was a most surprising one. Such effort as theirs deserved success, and would, he was sure, obtain it. He must congratulate the promoters of the bazaar on their happy choice of a name, a name happy not only in its alliterativeness, but also in its expression of the loyalty that filled the hearts of his Majesty's Catholic subjects. He thanked them most earnestly for their hearty expression of goodwill, and he was very sensible of their desire for his success. It gave him great pleasure to declare the Coronation Carnival open.

The Rev. Father Marnane thanked the Mayor and the Bishop for their kind references to himself, and the ceremony closed.

The entertainment programme was then proceeded with. The first item was the grand march of stallholders, assistants and children, numbering over 200, under the direction of Miss Lowe. The participants were dressed in the costumes representative of their stalls, and made a beautiful picture, especially noticeable being the young ladies in Highland costume, and a number of very diminutive Lancers clad in khaki. While the march was in progress a tableaux, representing the 'Coronation Court,' was staged. The King, the Queen, and the noble courtiers were dressed in lavish style, and the scene was a very beautiful piece of realism. After the grand march came a number of attractive dances. A wreath dance was very cleverly danced by a number of young ladies, as were a Scotch dance and a pretty peasant dance, and some little boys went through a lancers' exercise in good style. Miss Alice Saunders danced a shuffle hornpipe and an Irish jig very gracefully, and Miss Millicent Jennings gave a clever exhibition of club-swinging and a fascinating skirt dance. Scotch and peasant dances were given very effectively by several young ladies.

The Woolston Band played selections during the early part of the evening, and also provided the music for the grand march, while an efficient orchestra attended to the second part of the programme.

The management and those assisting certainly deserve very great credit for the way the building was arranged in so short a time for the purposes of the carnival. The northern half of the huge building is devoted to the bazaar, the stalls being ranged along either side. Then comes a clear space in front of the stage, situated at the southern end. The stalls, eight in number, are lavishly decorated in attractive colors, well calculated to draw the attention of the passer-by to an inspection of their contents, comprising almost everything, both useful and ornamental. The fair stall-holders are most assiduous in their attentions to the prospective buyer, and their efforts are indeed worthy of success. The stalls, however, form only a part of the whole. The pillars along the sides of the hall have been tastefully adorned with evergreens, palms and flax, and the ceiling is gay with strings of flags. The stage, also, is bright with beautiful chrysanthemums, that give pleasing variety to the attractive scene. The work of transformation was so complete that it is almost incredible that it should have been performed in less than 24 hours.

On the following Friday and Saturday evenings there was a change in part of the programme, when five tableaux, representing scenes in a 'Mid-summer Night's Dream,' arranged by Mrs Deamer and Mrs Mead, were given with brilliant success. On Saturday afternoon there was a matinee performance. The attendance so far during the season has been very good, and the business done satisfactory.

The Young King of Spain,

ALFONSO XIII. is at first sight (says a writer in a contemporary) a delicate lad—thin, pale and of nervous appearance. Some say he has inherited the constitutional infirmity of his father, others that his appearance is something he shares in common with all the men of the House of Hapsburg. During the manoeuvres held at Carabanchel some months ago the young King remained seven hours in the saddle without exhibiting any symptoms of fatigue, and his personal staff noticed that even a prolonged canter did nothing to weaken his voice. When the day's work was over he was as unimpaired as he was at the beginning. This is excellent news for Spain as far as it goes, but it does not go far enough. It is almost inevitable that the young King should have the seeds of consumption in his blood, and Madrid is notoriously the worst city in Europe for people with a tendency to lung trouble.

A strong, healthy King can give the land the period of repose that will enable it to develop its internal resources, find occupation for its growing population outside the corrupt world of officialdom, outgrow Carlism, and become once more a Power to be reckoned with. The reverse of the picture is not pleasing. An invalid director of State, whose various factions are like an unruly horse that must be ridden on the curb, cannot fulfil his duties, and if anything happens to him the Princess of the Asturias would become Queen of Spain, and her husband, Carlos de Borbon, Prince of Asturias, would become King Consort. Against such a development the old inquiet elements in Spain would rise up again. The possibility of it is said to have brought Senor Sagasta into temporary opposition with the Queen Regent when the question of the marriage was first mooted.

Alfonso XIII. will be entirely dependent, for some time at least, upon the advice and guidance of the people who have the power in their hands to-day. They say in Madrid that Government will be largely in the hands of the Queen-mother, Senor Sagasta and the Duke of Tetuan, descendant of the Red O'Donnell of Ulster. The last-named statesman is an adherent to a Conservative regime that accepts neither the absolutism of the Carlist programme, nor the somewhat watered conservatism of Senor Silvela; he refuses all office, and will not reconcile himself to any compromise. He is an unlightered statesman none the less, and will place his best efforts at the disposal of the Queen Regent, who has always succeeded in attracting to her service the most sustaining elements in the country. With statesmen who desire no more than the progress of Spain, and a mother whose life has been marked by most rigid devotion to duty, the young King will start upon his work well equipped. It will be well for the country if his advisers succeed in impressing upon him the necessity of refraining from experiments of every sort. Spain's partial recovery has been due to her wise handling by statesmen who have been rather unjustly deemed opportunists.