

Diocesan News

ARCHDIOCESE OF WELLINGTON

(From our own correspondent.)

August 9.

Special Coronation services will be held at the Church of the Sacred Heart to-morrow, when his Grace the Archbishop will preach a sermon suitable to the occasion.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament was held at St. Mary of the Angels' on Sunday last, when the Rev. Father Galerne sang the 11 o'clock Mass. Haydn's Imperial Mass was efficiently rendered by the choir, the soloists being Mrs F. J. Oakes, the Misses Ross and McParland, and Messrs Oakes, Brookes and Seivers. The orchestra was led by Signor Baffa, and Mr Oakes conducted. Crowded congregations attended the services.

The annual social of St. Joseph's Choir was held at the Druids' Hall on Tuesday evening last, and proved as enjoyable as those of former years. Rev. Father O'Shea, president of the choir, Fathers Herbert, Galerne, and Mahony were present. For those not dancing a variety of games was provided, the music for the dancing being supplied by Miss Hawthorne. To the honorary secretary, Mr J. Fraser, and the committee a word of praise is due for their untiring efforts in looking after the enjoyment of their guests.

At St. Joseph's Church on Wednesday last the marriage of Mr Gilbert Hoskins to Miss Minnie Hamilton, both well known in local circles, was celebrated by Rev. Father Moloney. The bride was attended by her two sisters, the Misses Nellie and Edith Hamilton, and Miss Hoskins, sister of the bridegroom. Mr Henry was best man, and Messrs Claude and Horace Hamilton were the groomsmen. The bridesmaids received gold rings as gifts from the bridegroom, and the wedding presents were numerous and costly. The honeymoon is being spent in Christchurch.

DIOCESE OF CHRISTCHURCH.

(From our own correspondent.)

August 11.

The Pro-Cathedral Conference of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul met on Wednesday evening last for the election of officers for the ensuing year. All those who held office last year were re-appointed with the exception of the secretary, a position to which Bro. W. S. Malaquin was elected in place of Bro W. Fox, retired. The ladies' association in connection with the Society are to meet next Sunday afternoon in the presbytery for the election of new members and officers.

At the Monastery of the Sacred Heart, Barbadoes street, on Wednesday last, his Lordship the Bishop celebrated Mass at 7.30 a.m. and at three o'clock in the afternoon received into the Order of Our Lady of Missions and invested in the black habit five novices who had fulfilled their term of probation. The Very Rev. Father Le Menant des Chesnais, V.G., Very Rev. Dean Foley, and Rev. Fathers McDonnell and O'Connell were among those present.

The Coronation celebrations may be said to have commenced in this city on Friday, when 7000 children attending the various town and suburban schools (including the Catholic schools) were entertained in the Canterbury Hall and each presented with a souvenir. Those chosen to address the children on the occasion were the Mayor and the Catholic and Anglican Bishops. His Lordship Bishop Grimes, who was loudly cheered on rising to speak, said that they were like the chosen of God, of whom they read in Scripture. As chosen children of a part of the British Empire, they were gathered in thousands to rejoice with millions of loyal and devoted subjects throughout the world. They were there to give vent to their feelings of gratitude and delight. The nation had gone through a trying ordeal, and was now calmly hopeful for a bright and prosperous future. At this time he would remind them of the need for prayer to God. They must humbly beg Him, 'by Whom kings reign and law-givers decree just things,' to pour down His greatest blessings on their Majesties that their reign might be long, peaceful, happy, and glorious.

What was in reality the first official act performed by his Worship the Mayor in regard to the Coronation was the placing in position on the facade of the Cathedral one of the massive fluted pillars in commemoration of the event. The ceremony was commenced punctually at 10 o'clock, at which time a large crowd of interested sight-seers had gathered on the site. Music was provided by Derry's private brass band. The New Zealand ensign floating in the breeze from the highest pinnacle of the elevated hoisting crane. On a raised platform were grouped the Mayor and Mrs. Wigram, Bishop Grimes, Very Rev. Father Le Menant des Chesnais, V.G., Dean Foley, Rev. Fathers Hyland, Marnane, Cooney, McDonnell, and O'Connell, members of the executive committee, a representative of the contractors, the clerk of works, a few workmen and others. Bishop Grimes gave a brief address. He explained the object of the gathering, expressed sorrow at the illness of the King, but rejoiced at the fact that his Majesty would now be crowned in the great Cathedral erected by our ancestors centuries ago. The Mayor and his gentle consort had attended that day to place in position the shaft of one of many columns in the new Cathedral, which, when completed, would compare in height with the highest of the buildings fronting High street. Briefly describing the Cathedral, he said that elaborate precautions had been taken to cope with anything in the nature of a panic. The Mayor, some time ago, had marvelled at what the Catholic people had done in regard to the work connected with churches, schools,

convents and charitable institutions. There was only one explanation, and that was the spirit which animated the people, whose generosity led them to make many great sacrifices. He stated that the contract price for the building would be £40,000, that, when a start was made, there was in hand about £10,000, and that since then there had been received in cash and promises £26,000. His Lordship gave a few illustrations of the remarkable sacrifices made by members of the church for the sake of the new building. He said that two gentlemen, when the work was commenced, gave a donation of a thousand guineas each, representing the earnings of a life-long labour. Some of the Bishop's illustrations had a rather humorous side. A short time ago, when he inaugurated a new scheme of collection, two gentlemen went to him and said:—'We do not drink much, but do a good deal of "shouting." We will neither drink nor "shout," and the money hitherto spent in that direction will be given to the weekly collection.' Another gentleman, who did not drink or "shout," relinquished a luxury in the shape of a pipe, in which he had indulged. Ladies had foregone new bonnets, and new suits of clothes, to assist the movement, and one gentleman who had given a generous donation had said that had he been in Christchurch when the work was started, he would have mortgaged his land to help to raise the contract price from £40,000 to £50,000, or £60,000. He heartily thanked the Mayor and Mrs. Wigram for attending.

The Mayor said that those who had the privilege of visiting the cities of Europe would realise the influence exercised by old temples on the people. That was due not only to a wealth of outward architecture, but to the associations. In this Colony, young as it was, there were good traditions in respect to the early pioneers who came to conquer the wilderness here. That stage of the Colony's history had been passed, and the people were now building great cities and doing all that could be done to push forward another period. When New Zealand became Old Zealand it would be recognised more than ever that those who came here in the beginning had brought with them some of the gentle culture and art of the Old Country. He heartily congratulated Bishop Grimes on the figures he had used to show what had been done by members of his Church in respect to the work of the Cathedral. They were very marvellous figures, considering that they applied to a small community. His Lordship had great reason to be proud of the result. He declared the Coronation columns to be well and truly laid.

The Mayor laid the shaft of the column on the left hand side next the door, Mrs Wigram that on the right, and Bishop Grimes the second on the right.

Later on his Lordship planted a Cathedral Coronation oak in the ground in front of the library, saying he hoped that future generations would find under its spreading branches shade and shelter.

The services in the Pro-Cathedral on Sunday were of a most impressive nature. Special reference to the Coronation was made at the earlier Masses. At 11 o'clock there was Pontifical High Mass to implore the Divine blessing on the new reign. His Lordship the Bishop was celebrant, the Very Rev. Vicar-General assistant priest, Very Rev. Dean Foley deacon, Rev. Father O'Connell subdeacon, and Rev. Father McDonnell master of ceremonies. The Bishop preached and also read the 'King's message to his people,' and in laudatory terms emphasised the truly Christian nature of the Monarch's words which he said breathed the true Catholic spirit. The message, continued the Bishop, was full of prayer, gratitude, and recognition of a power infinitely greater than any earthly sovereign. The music of the Mass was Gounod's 'Messe Solennelle.' Mr H. H. Loughnan conducted and Miss Funston was at the organ. The soloists were Misses Bowler and Bryant, Messrs Schwartz and Beveridge. At the offertory Gounod's 'Ave Verum' was sung and at the conclusion of the Mass Webber's 'Domine Salvam . fac.' There were Solemn Vespers in the evening, at which the Bishop preached on 'Crowning of kings in olden and modern times,' basing his remarks on the text, 'Fear God, honor the king.' During the course of his sermon he, with considerable warmth, refuted the oft-repeated fallacy of disloyalty on the part of the Irish people, and quoted numerous notable instances where they had conclusively proved that their loyalty to the throne was second to none. If opposition to iniquitous laws and tyrannical government could be termed disloyalty, then certainly they were so; but what part of the British dominions would be otherwise under such unwise and unjust treatment. To the Crown of Great Britain they were and had always been the most loyal of all subjects. The Bishop also paid an eloquent tribute to the greatest of all leaders of the Irish nation, the illustrious Daniel O'Connell. After Vespers a trio was sung by Misses Bowler, Bryant, and McGill. At Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament the Bishop officiated, the assistant priests being the Very Rev. Vicar-General and Very Rev. Dean Foley. The 'Te Deum' was sung in thanksgiving for the King's restoration to health. Messrs Schwartz and Beveridge gave a splendid rendering of Rossini's 'Tantum Ergo,' the accompaniment being brilliantly played by Miss Funston; and as a recessional the 'Hallelujah Chorus,' from the 'Messiah,' was played by the organist.

A bazaar to liquidate the debt remaining on the Hornby Church (St. Michael's), the foundation stone of which was laid about three years ago by Archbishop Redwood, was opened in the Midland Company's salerooms on Tuesday last, and continued on the following days. A very attractive programme of musical and other items was given each evening, and excellent business was done at the various stalls. There is little doubt that when the net results are known the existing liabilities, about £40, will have been paid off. There was a large gathering at the close of the bazaar, including the Rev. Fathers Marnane and McDonnell. Among those who have been prominent in the undertaking were Mrs E. Mullins (hon. sec.), Mrs Cahill, the Misses Poff, Courts, Roden, and Mr M. Ryan.