

Mr Frank McLean, son of Mrs McLean, formerly, and for a number of years housekeeper at the Presbytery, Barbadoes street, is now second engineer of the new steamer 'Beira,' and is visiting Christchurch. He served his apprenticeship with Messrs John Anderson and son of the Canterbury foundry.

Corporal-dispenser W. J. Burke, son of Mr P. Burke, of Christchurch, who went to South Africa as a member of the bearer corps with the eighth contingent has just returned home.

The Very Rev. Dean Foley returned during the week after a sojourn of two months at Akaroa. Whilst in charge there, he visited all the outlying settlements of the Peninsula and collected a considerable sum towards the Cathedral building fund, and established the weekly-contribution scheme. On behalf of his Lordship the Bishop he installed the Rev. Dr. Kennedy in charge of the district, and departed with the best wishes and appreciation of the people for his efforts during his stay in the parish.

TIMARU.

(From our own correspondent.)

The celebrations on Coronation Day in Timaru were a great success. A monster procession was held representative of all classes, trades, friendly societies, etc., in the community. While tableaux, banners, and trade representations were most effective, and were witnessed by thousands of people. One of the most interesting items in the procession was a representation of Ireland, designed by Mr W. Grieve and carried out by a committee of ladies and gentlemen under his supervision. A waggon drawn by two powerful horses was decorated by a framework of evergreens closely woven in netted wire completely surrounding the vehicles, and various mottoes—'Erin-go-bragh,' 'God Save Ireland,' etc., with designs of shields, harps, and shamrocks—were worked out in gold on the dark green background. The tableau on the top of the vehicle, where a suitable stage and throne were erected, was one of the best in the procession. Erin (Miss Annie Dillon), dressed in a costume of white trimmed with green and gold, seated on a throne and leaning on a harp, was the centre piece, the steps of the throne being occupied by little girls in white holding lyres and wands, while the corners were filled by four young maidens representing Art, Agriculture, Industry, and Literature. The colors used in the various costumes were confined to green and white and gold, and the effect of the grouping was very pleasing. A mounted guard of honor accompanied the vehicle representing Robert Emmett, Henry Grattan, and two Irish squires. The representation of Robert Emmett (Mr B. J. McKennah) in full military costume, as shown in the popular national illustrations, was easily recognisable. Mr McKennah is to be complimented on the manner in which he studied the character in every detail of dress, his physique aiding him considerably, the representation being undoubtedly one of the most attractive in the procession. As Henry Grattan, Mr M. McKennah was an ideal Irish gentleman, and, with dress and wig, looked the character all over. Messrs M. Flannagan and P. Sullivan were splendid representations of the rollicking Irish country squires, and completed a quartette of Irish gentlemen rarely represented in typical detail in New Zealand. Miss Dillon, as 'Erin,' won golden opinions, and the various other figures in the tableau filled their positions admirably. A magnificent pair of draught horses, generously decorated and lent by Messrs Forgan Bros, gratis, was harnessed to the tableau, and proved most tractable in all the noise and excitement, being skilfully handled by Mr P. Kane, who undertook the responsible position of driver. The Hibernian Society, headed by the Rev. Father Tubman and the president (Mr J. Leary) followed the tableau. Unfortunately, a strong north-west squall made it necessary to take down the society's banner. The gathering numbered about seventy members, which was the highest number of representatives of any single friendly society in the procession.

After the procession the members returned to their rooms, when refreshments were handed round and votes of thanks were passed to all who helped in making the celebration a success, special votes being passed to Miss Annie Dillon (Erin) and Mr W. Greene and G. Venney (artists), Messrs B. J. and M. McKennah, M. Flanagan, and P. Sullivan. Speeches were given by the president, Mr Leary, the Brothers Shea, Fitzgerald, Kane, and Donnelly. Special mention, however, should be made of Misses McKenna and Mara, who with a bevy of assistants made all the costumes, also Messrs P. and J. Mara, P. Kane, A. Collins, J. Connor, J. Leary, and J. Sullivan, on whom fell the lion's share of the preparations, and Mr T. Harney, who went to much trouble in supplying evergreens. Father Tubman acted as chairman of committee; P. Kane, treasurer; and M. H. Dennehy, secretary.

The election of officers of the local branch of the Hibernian Society for the ensuing quarter resulted as follows:—President, Bro. J. Leary; V.P., Bro. Thos. Donovan; treasurer, Bro. J. Sullivan (re-elected); secretary, Bro. J. Fitzgerald (re-elected); warden, Bro. Doyle; guardian, Bro. Cox; sick visitors, Bros. Flannagan and O'Conner.

DIOCESE OF AUCKLAND.

(From our own correspondent.)

August 8.

It is with regret I have to announce that Mr John O'Reilly, brother of the Right Rev. Mgr. O'Reilly, is dangerously ill with typhoid in the local hospital.

His Lordship the Bishop delivered a panegyric at St. Patrick's last Sunday evening on his illustrious predecessor, the late Archbishop of Cashel.

At the Thames last Sunday evening the Right Rev. Mgr. O'Reilly alluded to the death of Dr. Croke in most feeling terms, and eulogised his work as a prelate and a sterling patriot.

Active preparations are going on for the forthcoming bazaar in the Cathedral parish, and some really fine artistic work will be shown.

The Cemetery Board has let a contract for the removal of the gorse which has accumulated in the Symond street cemetery. With the advent of spring the Board contemplates carrying out several improvements.

His Lordship the Bishop and Rev. Father Corcoran visited the French warship Zeles the other day and were courteously welcomed by the captain and officers. The crew lined up and saluted as the Bishop stepped on the deck. The captain afterwards visited the Bishop at the Palace, Ponsobny.

The annual social organised by the ladies of St. Patrick's parish in aid of the presbytery debt came off in the Hibernian Hall last Tuesday evening, and was a decided success. The hall was prettily decorated, and the committee worked with a will and made their guests thoroughly welcome. The tables were nicely laid out and loaded with good things. Quite a large number of spectators were seated on the stage. Rev. Father Patterson, Adm., and Rev. Father Buckley were present.

The Rev. Father Gillan preached last Sunday evening at St. Benedict's on the various ceremonies observed in the coronation of Kings. Placing as most probable the rite found still in the Roman Pontifical as the foundation of all Christian 'hallowings,' he stated that since the Coronation of the Emperor Justin by the Pope at Rome in 525, the sanction of religion became an essential element in the recognition of a sovereign by Christian people. The oldest English form of the Coronation service dated from the Pontifical of Egbert, Archbishop of York, A.D. 737, although it was certain the Celtic nations 'hallowed' their Kings some 200 years before that date. Egbert's rite received embellishment and considerable amplifications as time went on, and the fourteenth century service books represented to us the highest form of Coronation ceremonial. The lecturer drew a picture of the various ceremonies there prescribed, and showed how many of them are retained to the present. The anthems sung in the present Anglican service, he said, had been chanted for centuries in the old language. The change of religion in the sixteenth century brought necessarily some modifications and omissions, but the mediæval form was followed in the Coronation of the Stuart Kings. The Coronation order, arranged by Dr. Compton for William and Mary, in which the novelty of handing a Bible to the monarch was introduced, had been followed in all subsequent crownings. With the great preparations for the crowning of our present King some few weeks ago, and with the advanced appreciation of ritual by persons holding high positions, it was not improbable that the ceremony of crowning King Edward VII. would have been unequalled in splendor since pre-Reformation days, but now, most likely, owing to the regrettable illness of the King, much may have to be omitted. Yet with all the curtailment the ceremony will be one of great national interest, and has a special significance for a Catholic, who, although regretting those far-off days when an English sovereign, in union with St. Peter's See, received from a Catholic Prelate that efficacious anointing and that salutary blessing which, the speaker said, the Catholic Church had alone the power to bestow, would not be behindhand in acclaiming, as of old, 'May the King live for ever. Amen. Amen.' Or, as we say to day, 'God save the King; God save the King.'

Blarney Castle.

BLARNEY is four miles northwest of Cork. The village is situated on a rivulet of its own name and is surrounded by beautiful scenery:

But it is Blarney Castle and its groves, celebrated in song and poetry, that attract so many tourists. This famous castle is outside the village a short distance; it stands on a low hill, and looks out on a field or park that is used as a public pleasure resort.

Blarney Castle is many stories in height, and the very topmost cornice is the world renowned stone, that, according to time honored belief, imparts to those that kiss it a peculiar style of eloquence or great skill in the use of complimentary terms.

There is an interesting bit of legendary lore connected with the stone. About the middle of the fifteenth century, so the legend runs, Cormac McCarthy, the builder of the fortress, chanced one day to save a queer old woman from drowning. Deeply grateful to her gallant rescuer, the old woman offered him a tongue so eloquent that his influence over mankind, friends and foes, should be irresistible.

To obtain the wonderful gift of eloquence she instructed McCarthy to climb to the top of the castle and kiss the specified stone. He unhesitatingly followed her instructions, and the moment he kissed the stone he became 'golden mouthed,' as the woman had promised.

Ever since that day people have been anxious to kiss the Blarney stone. To do so, however, is a feat not easily accomplished, for the stone is at the bottom of the cornice. The cornice is seven feet deep, and projects three feet beyond the main wall. Some years ago it dropped out, but was at once put back in place and secured to the cornice by means of two heavy iron rods.

Blarney Castle once belonged to the Earls of ClanCarthy. Taken as a whole the castle is at the present day in a good state of preservation.

At this season everybody is liable to Coughs and Colds. Avoid all danger by taking TUSSICURA.—*.*