

is to train the fingers so thoroughly on the Clavier that when they go to the piano it will be easier and more natural to produce good effects than bad ones. Wishing to advance with the age in musical and educational matters generally, the Sisters have adopted the Virgil Practice Clavier, and it is expected that large numbers will avail themselves of this opportunity of learning this, the most excellent method of pianoforte playing.

WEDDING BELLS.

SMITH—EATON.

A matrimonial alliance between members of the families of old settlers invariably occasions more than ordinary interest. This was particularly noticeable on Thursday, January 15 (says the 'Kaikoura Star') when the marriage of Mr. George Smith, third son of Mrs. W. D. Smith, to Miss Johanna Eaton, second daughter of Mr. G. Eaton, took place at the Church of the Sacred Heart. The edifice was thronged with well-wishers of the contracting parties, the assemblage including representatives of all denominations here. The Rev. Father Golden performed the ceremony. The bride, very becomingly attired, was escorted by her brother, Mr. John Eaton, in the absence of her father, who was indisposed, and she was attended by Miss N. Eaton as bridesmaid. Mr. Frank Smith acted as groomsmen. After the ceremony the happy couple and a host of friends repaired to the residence of the bride's father, the departure from the church being a most enthusiastic 'send-off' for the gallant 'Sixth Contingenter' and his bride. Some 130 friends partook of the wedding breakfast, which was a capital sample of Irish hospitality. The after proceedings were of an exceptionally joyous character, dancing and song being indulged in for some hours. The health of the 'bride and bridegroom' was fittingly honored with music and cheers, while the highly esteemed mother of the bridegroom and the equally respected and genial father of the bride were accorded musical honors. The numerous and costly presents were much admired.

OBITUARY.

REV. FATHER MACKINTOSH, PARNELL.

A press message received from Auckland on Monday reported the sudden death of the Rev. Father James Mackintosh, of Parnell. The immediate cause of death was stated to be syncope, the result of hemorrhage.—R.I.P.

MR. JOHN KAVENEY, OTAUTAU.

It is with sincere regret (writes an Otautau correspondent) that I have to record the death of Mr John Kaveney, which took place at his residence, Strathmore, Otautau, on November 27. Mr Kaveney was, perhaps, one of the oldest residents in the district, and certainly one of the oldest residents of the Catholic community here, and his death at the comparatively early age of 59 years was generally regretted. Feeling reference was made by the Rev. Fathers Walsh and Sheehan in their respective churches. Deceased, who was a native of Grangemore, County Roscommon, landed at the Bluff in September, 1864, then a young man of 21 years, and after bearing the heat and the burden of the early days, contracting and carting to Kingston, he settled at Waicōla 20 years ago, and removed to Strathmore some 10 years back, where he resided till his death. Deceased was well known in all parts of Southland, and was highly respected for his sterling honesty and large-heartedness. He was a patriotic Irishman, a great lover of his native land, and a practical Catholic. The interment took place in the Otautau Cemetery, and the funeral was attended by mourners from all parts of the district. A wife and one daughter aged 15 years are left to mourn their loss, and to these, in their sad bereavement, the sincerest sympathy is extended.—R.I.P.

DIocese OF AUCKLAND.

(From our own correspondent.)

January 29.

The Very Rev. Father Fitzgerald, O.F.M., returned on Tuesday afternoon from Hamilton, where he conducted the retreat of the Sisters of the Mission. Last evening at St. Mary's Convent, Ponsonby, he opened a retreat for ladies of the diocese. It is Father Fitzgerald's intention to stay for some time in this diocese.

Rev. Father Croke returned at the end of last week from the Waikāo, where he has spent some months. Father Croke is staying at the Mater Misericordiae Hospital. Rev. Father Tormey, of St. Benedict's, is also an inmate of the hospital, suffering from a slight attack of typhoid fever, but is happily recovering, and may soon be enabled to leave the institution.

There were gathered at St. Mary's Convent during the holidays eighty Sisters of Mercy from many parts of the diocese.

The Rev. Father Hickson, S.M., of Reefton, who had been attending the retreat of the priests of the Archdiocese of Wellington, arrived here to-day from the South on a short visit to his relatives.

The Marist Brothers returned last week with one addition to their number.

Signs are evident of a stirring battle at the municipal elections over the question of running the electric cars in the city on Sundays

Rev. Father O'Reilly, of New South Wales, has gone to Rotorua for a short stay.

Inspector Cullen, in charge of our provincial police force, was thrown from his horse at Te Kūti, in the King Country, last Thursday and injured his right hand, necessitating his keeping it in a sling. The inspector's numerous friends throughout the Colony will regret to hear of the accident, but they will be pleased to know that this courteous and zealous officer is not likely to be long incapacitated from his duties.

Mr F. S. Igoe, a very old member of the Hibernian Society, passed away last week, and was buried last Sunday afternoon at Waikumete cemetery. His Lordship Dr Lenihan, the Hon. J. A. Toie, also a large number of Hibernians and a large body of citizens attended the funeral.—R.I.P.

Alderman Thomas Gilmour, J.P., of Rookwood, Sydney, accompanied by his wife and daughter, arrived from the South last Thursday. He has been four months in the Colony, most of which was spent in Christchurch. He is one of the founders of the Hibernian Society in Australia, and to this day takes an active interest in this highly commendable organisation. He was loud in his praise of the members of the Christchurch branch for their kind and generous treatment of him. While in Auckland he was waited upon by several of the officers of the district and branch, and society matters were discussed with much interest. Mr, Mrs and Miss Gilmour last Sunday were shown over the Bishop's palace and grounds, which they admired, and subsequently over the convent and grounds of St. Mary's. Mr Gilmour, before leaving by the Mararoa for Sydney last Monday evening, said one great advantage in travelling from place to place was to find kind and warm-hearted brother Hibernians eager to make your stay pleasant. Nothing occurred during his tour of New Zealand which gratified him more than his reception by his brother Hibernians, and he would with pleasure make this known in Australia. Mr Gilmour's eldest son, Brother Lawrence, is a prominent member of the Marist Brothers in New South Wales, and was for a long time at Hunter's Hill College, and is now in charge of the orphanage conducted by the Brothers in Sydney.

TIMARU.

(From our own correspondent.)

February 2.

A meeting of the congregation was held on yesterday after the 11 o'clock Mass to consider the advisableness of altering the hours at which Mass is celebrated on Sundays, the Rev. Father Tubman being in the chair. The present hours are 9 o'clock and 11 o'clock. The latter hour was not altered, but it was decided that the first Mass be celebrated at 8 a.m. in future instead of 9, the change to commence on Sunday, 15th February.

The parish schools re-opened to-day. In the Brothers' School Brother Martin, from Christchurch, succeeds Brother Charles, who has been transferred to Napier.

Much interest has been taken in making Timaru a port of call for the direct steamers, and at a meeting held on Friday last at the Harbor Board offices it was shown that it was feasible and possible to get the largest steamers to call here provided the local importers co-operated in accumulating their shipments. The chairman of the Harbor Board explained that the present extension, when completed, would permit of vessels of the largest draught calling. With present accommodation it is likely an endeavor will be made to have a monthly service from home, the steamer calling first at Port Chalmers and then with a lighter draught coming on to Timaru. This will be a great boon to Timaru importers if successfully arranged.

How many have found 'the weather' a friend in need when ideas are barren. The weather is also a relief to a correspondent desirous of filling a column, and who, having exhausted local topics, falls back upon it to supply the complement. It is an ever-ready auxiliary to both speaking and writing, so that it is only right the weather should have its revenge for being over-acknowledged and should make a community feel it is the all-important subject of the day. Such is the position it has gained in this district at this particular time, and men who flippantly talked about the weather previously now mention the subject with serious consideration. And why? It holds the fortunes of many in its hands and has the power just now of apportioning to the small and large landowner alike a peaceful or a sleepless pillow. Since I wrote last the weather went on an excursion; started somewhere near Dunedin, visited Waimate, dropping hailstones as large as pigeons' eggs, and having evidently exhausted itself for the nonce went out to sea via Makikihi to recoup its energies. The farmers of Timaru are to be congratulated, as the storm passed on, and striking in again on the Ninety Mile Beach, met inland a howling nor-wester. According to an eye-witness the embrace between both gales was terrific, and resulted in a cyclone which waltzed gaily along in a limited track to Ashburton, spending a gay time as it went, amongst fences, straw stacks, galvanised sheds, chimney stacks, and unstable house roofs, leaving mementoes of its visit as it went along. In Timaru evidences of the storm were noticeable, but only as a sort of skirmishing on the outposts, telling that a battle was raging near at hand.

The great summer sale is now in full swing at Messrs A. and T. Inglis, George street, Dunedin, and will continue until Saturday, February 21. Patrons are promised immense bargains in all departments....