

The Hon. W. Beehan, M.L.C., and Mrs. Beehan were on a visit to Christchurch during the week, and were the guests, during their stay, of Mr. Power, at the Masonic Hotel. Accompanied by Mr. F. J. Doolan, president of the H.A.C.B. Society, the visitors called at the episcopal residence, inspected the Bishop's museum of rare and interesting subjects, and were shown over the new Cathedral under the guidance of Mr. J. A. Hickmott, clerk of works, and expressed great admiration of the magnificent building. After being entertained by the Very Rev. Vicar-General, calls were made on various prominent Catholic citizens, including Mr. E. O'Connor, at his Catholic Book Depot. When at Lyttelton, on their return to Wellington, Hon. Mr. and Mrs. Beehan dined with the Rev. Father Cooney at St. Joseph's presbytery.

During the banquet at the Hibernian Hall last Tuesday evening, P.P. Bros. J. McCormick and D. Edmonds were invested by the District President with handsome past presidents' collars. Addressing the recipients, the Hon. Bro. Beehan said it was a pleasant duty to meet the two Brothers. It was always a pleasure to recognise worth, especially in those who had filled the different offices in the branch from the lowest to the highest, and that their services had gained esteem was shown here by the gift from their fellow-members. Bro. McCormick expressed his grateful appreciation of the gift, its value being enhanced by his investiture of it by the D.P. Bro. Edmonds also suitably replied.

The 'New Zealand Tablet' came in for some remarkably favorable expressions of opinion by many prominent speakers at the Hibernian gathering last week, including the Very Rev. Vicar-General and other clergy present. The Rev. Dean Foley, in proposing the Press said all Catholics should have the paper in their homes. To them it was the chief vehicle of information and instruction, able, fearless, and honest, and he was pleased at the opportunity of bearing testimony thereto.

The devotion of the Forty Hours' Adoration was commenced on Sunday in the Pro-Cathedral. Pontifical High Mass was celebrated by his Lordship, the Very Rev. Vicar-General being assistant-priest, the Very Rev. Dean Foley deacon, and Rev. Father O'Connell sub-deacon. The Bishop addressed the congregation, and at the conclusion of Mass there was a procession of the Blessed Sacrament. Pot plants, palms, and banners, adorned the sanctuary and precincts. The music was Gounod's 'Messe Solennelle,' capably rendered by the choir under the conductorship of Mr. H. H. Loughnan, with Miss Kate Young at the organ. His Lordship the Bishop pontificated at Solemn Vespers, attended by the Very Rev. Dean Foley and Rev. Father Price as deacon and sub-deacon respectively, the Very Rev. Vicar-General was assistant-priest, and Rev. Father O'Connell being master of ceremonies. The Bishop preached to a crowded congregation on the Holy Rosary, after which the choir sang the 'Te Deum' in thanksgiving for the election of the Sovereign Pontiff, Pope Pius X. A profusion of floral decorations adorned the high altar, which was brilliantly illuminated. On Monday at nine o'clock there is to be a Missa Cantata, and on Tuesday at the same hour the Mass of Deposition.

His Lordship the Bishop returned from Hanmer during the week, being accompanied at the Sanatorium by the Rev. Father Price. On arrival there, with much kindly forethought, a room was immediately set apart and prepared at the 'Lodge' for the celebration of Mass. On the following Sunday the beautiful public hall, erected by Mr. D. Rutherford, who takes a deep interest in the district, was placed at the Bishop's disposal, and arranged by Mr. Millikin for the celebration of the Holy Sacrifice. An altar was erected and beautifully adorned by Mrs. M. Lance, and the Misses White. The Bishop celebrated Mass at 10 o'clock, and preached on the day's Gospel to a good congregation, the greater portion of which was non-Catholic. An excellent site, in a prominent part of the township was lately secured for a church which the Bishop and the zealous and energetic rector of the district (Rev. Father Price) are anxious to see erected in the near future, indeed, this is one of the conditions imposed on the acquisition of the property, apart from which the want of a church is deeply felt by the many Catholic visitors to the health-giving resort. Several other denominations are already established at Hanmer, and the reproach Catholics are at present laboring under should be speedily removed. The collections already made at Mass there have been set aside as the nucleus of a building fund, to which the Rev. Father Price trusts to very soon sufficiently supplement to enable the work being proceeded with.

Since May 1, when Greater Christchurch was formed, buildings have been erected in the city to the value of £186,300. By far the greater part of the sum represents buildings in the outer area.

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## DIOCESE OF AUCKLAND.

(From our own correspondent.)

October 1.

The keenest interest was shown in the city on the question of running of Sunday trams. By the narrow majority of 22 out of a total poll of 7888 the question was decided in favor of the proposal.

A bazaar, the proceeds from which are to be devoted to the Sisters of Mercy's new convent building fund at Parnell, was opened last Tuesday by the Mayor of the borough, and will close next Saturday. It promises to be most successful, and deservedly so.

Next Sunday will be a red letter day at St. Benedict's. This fine church is to be re-opened that day after the recent internal improvements. There will be Solemn High Mass, at which his Lordship the Bishop will preside. Special collections are to be taken up, which it is hoped may, with the sum already subscribed, enable the Rev. Father Gillan to announce that the improvements, which run into several hundred pounds, are fully paid for.

An impressive ceremony took place at St. Mary's Convent chapel, Ponsonby, on September 24, when three young ladies made their vows. The names of the newly professed are—Miss Nellie Perking, Haydonton, N.S.W. (in religion Sister Mary Marcellus), Miss Rees, Cooma, N.S.W. (Sister Blandina), Miss McMenamin, Auckland (Sister Theopheme). His Lordship Bishop Lenihan presided, and was assisted by the Rev. Fathers Patterson, Meagher, O'Hara, McGuinness, Tormey, Furlong, and Holbrook. The sermon was preached by the Rev. Father Benedict, O.P. The music incidental to the occasion was rendered by the Convent choir, assisted by the Very Rev. Dr. Egan, O.S.B., and the Misses Lynch. The beautiful little chapel was artistically decorated with arum lilies and lycopodium. The parents and friends of the newly professed were entertained at breakfast by the Sisters.

The annual reunion of the ex-pupils of the Sisters was largely attended. Rev. Father Benedict, O.P., gave some selections on the gramophone. Afternoon tea was served to the visitors. The Sisters of Mercy, who arrived in Auckland in 1850, must have been gratified to see so many of their former pupils gathered round them to celebrate the feast of the Order on September 24. It must also be gratifying to them to see their labors blessed with success at the recent practical music examinations, Trinity College, London, the results being as follow:—Senior division (honors), Rita O'Sullivan and Aida Ralph. Senior division (pass), Janie Amodeo, Gertrude Bray, Josephine Kenealy, Ellen Brown, singing. Intermediate division (honors), Eileen Kenealy, Flora Gordon, singing. Intermediate division (pass), Eileen Cullen, Katie Mahoney. Junior division (pass), Norah Webb, Emily Robertson, and Elsie Maguire. Preparatory grade (pass), Gertrude Daly and May Mann.

On Friday evening a meeting was held in the Marist Brothers' Schoolroom to take steps to fittingly commemorate the seventh anniversary of the consecration of his Lordship Bishop Lenihan. The meeting was convened by the Rev. Father Patterson, Adm. Amongst those present were the Very Rev. Dr. Egan, O.S.B., Rev. Fathers Patterson, Meagher, Tormey, Furlong, and Holbrook. Apologies were received from the Rev. Fathers Gillan and Kehoe, both of whom regretted their inability to attend, and promised their hearty co-operation. Mr. Edward Mahony was appointed chairman of committee, Rev. Father Patterson, Adm., hon. treasurer, and Mr. M. J. Sheehan hon. secretary. The following were appointed a committee: Hon. J. A. Tole, and Messrs. J. J. O'Brien, J.P., and D. Flynn (Ponsonby), Messrs. P. J. Nerheny, A. Kohn, and M. Foley (St. Patrick's), Rev. Father Gillan and Messrs. P. Brophy, and J. Larkins (St. Benedict's), Rev. Father Kehoe and Messrs. Mulvaney and F. Peacocke (Parnell). The Rev. Father Patterson explained that it was intended to present the Bishop with a motor car to cost £290, and he had in hand already £250, the balance being fully promised. He had engaged the Choral Hall for Monday, November 16, subject to the approval of the committee. His Excellency Lord Ranfurly had promised to attend that evening, and he had secured the services of some of the best of our local vocalists and instrumentalists to assist on the occasion. It was decided to heartily thank Father Patterson for his indefatigable labors, and to ratify all the arrangements he had made. It was decided that the children from the nuns' schools should sing one or two choruses that evening.

The 'Excelsior' plough is 'Champion of the World.' On hillside, sea, swamp, tussock, or stubble, it is equally at home.—Morrow, Bassett, and Co., sole agents in New Zealand.—\*\*