

to which were contributed selections by Messrs. Geohagan's orchestra, songs by Mrs. A. Mead and Mrs. F. O'Brien, Misses A. Bryant, Grace Pender, Nancy Archer, W. Shanley, and Katie Crane, Messrs. G. J. Fama, W. McKa, E. McNamara, J. Shanley, J. Foley, and H. Hobbs. Messrs. Elford, Cassin, and T. McFail appeared in items of a 'variety' nature, and there were several choruses by the company. Mrs. A. Mead accompanied, and Mr. Luke Hickey capably discharged the duties of hon. secretary. The audience were well pleased at the efforts made to amuse and entertain, and look forward with expectancy to the next gathering of a similar nature. Most of those taking part went out from town for the purpose, and many from considerable distance, a kindness and generosity which received due appreciation.

DIocese OF AUCKLAND.

(From an occasional correspondent.)

At the eleven o'clock Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral on Rosary Sunday, the choir gave a splendid rendering of Gounod's 'Messe Solennelle.' There was a crowded congregation. The soloists were: Madame Casier, Miss Maud Donovan, and Miss Lizzie Knight (soprano), Monsieur Casier (tenor), Mr. Bagstrom (bass). A special feature of this choir is the ever-increasing number of young soloists, and the strength and precision of the chorus. The ever-varying lights and shade of this beautiful work were well and faithfully kept by the choir. Special mention must be made of the singing of Madame Casier in the opening solo of the 'Gloria.' This lady is a true artist, of whom the Auckland people are very proud. Miss Lizzie Knight, a rising young mezzo-soprano, and the possessor of a voice of rare quality, was heard to great advantage in the devout and solemn 'Et Incarnatus Est.' This young lady belongs to a family of noted professionals, and will shortly establish a great name for herself. Miss Maud Donovan's singing of the expressive opening solo of the 'Benedictus' left nothing to be desired; she possesses a voice of wonderful richness coupled with great power, and is a great favorite. Monsieur Casier, a gentleman of great experience in the operatic world, possesses a magnificent tenor voice, it might, perhaps, best be described as a Continental tenor of the bravura style. His knowledge of operatic and Church music, together with his bold and descriptive style of singing, renders his services invaluable to the choir. Mr. Bagstrom, the basso, is also from the Continent, and possesses a voice of good quality and wonderful power. The singing of these gentlemen in the 'Qui tollis' was a masterful interpretation of this wonderful conception of Gounod's creation. The splendid three-manual organ, supposed to be the best in the Colony, is ably presided over by the talented young Auckland composer, Mr. Harry Hiscocks, of 'Coronation march' fame, and who has already made a reputation for himself. Mr. P. F. Hiscocks is to be congratulated upon the success achieved by the choir in this as on all other occasions.

A few days ago (reports the 'Freeman's Journal') Father Oregan, Administrator of St. Mary's Cathedral, received news from Dean O'Haran at Port Said, which intimated that his Eminence Cardinal Moran had been unwell for a week between Colombo and Suez. The illness, we understand, was of a gastric nature. As our Rome correspondent in his letter of August 26 does not refer to it, we presume his Eminence had by then almost, if not quite, recovered. The London correspondent of the Sydney 'Daily Telegraph' wrote on August 28: 'Cardinal Moran arrived in Rome on Saturday last. He made detailed inquiries regarding the election at the Vatican, and declared that Pius X. was 'just the kind of Pope that Catholicism stood in need of.' The Cardinal is still suffering from gastric fever, due to the heat of the tropics and the long voyage. He did not leave the Irish College, where he is staying, all last Saturday, and received nobody. The Cardinal's Secretary, Dean O'Haran, went to announce at the Vatican his Eminence's arrival to the Propaganda, and arranged for an audience with the Pope. The Pope received the Cardinal in private, and greeted him most cordially. His Holiness expressed his thanks for the warm congratulations which the Cardinal tendered him, and added that he had been most pleased to receive the congratulatory telegram sent by the Cardinal from Colombo on the occasion of his election.

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Characteristics of the Holy Father

In the Paris 'Figaro' of a recent date are some interesting details as to the manner of life Pius X. led in Venice while holding the office of Patriarch. Such details furnish material which enables us to form some idea of the character of his Holiness. We have the description of a person who is thoroughly democratic in his mode of living and who has won the hearts of all by a kindness of disposition which manifested itself in many ways. He mingled with his people, and took personal interest in their affairs.

The 'Figaro' gives us a picture of the Venetian gondoliers, who all knew him personally, lying in wait for Cardinal Sarto to greet him and receive his episcopal blessing as he made his daily rounds of the city. Venice he dearly loved, and it was only for very short periods of time he absented himself from it. His two sisters lived with him in the Episcopal palace on St. Mark's place, attending to the household duties. 'A story is told,' says the 'Figaro,' 'of a professional cook calling at the archiepiscopal residence to proffer his services as an expert chef. The Patriarch of Venice received him courteously, but objected to availing himself of his services, saying: "I eat rice and meat and meat and rice. My sisters are thoroughly competent to cook both for me."'

This Anecdote illustrates the Simple Life

Pius X. led as Patriarch of Venice. The duties of his high office he fulfilled with a simplicity that won for him the esteem and love of the Venetians. He was constantly enjoying upon his people the practice of the common Christian virtues of charity, humility, and love for one another. In his own person he gave a practical exemplification of these virtues. His open-handedness was known to all Venice. Indeed, so generous was he in his contributions to all sorts of charitable work that very little of his salary of two thousand five hundred dollars he received as Patriarch remained to him at the end of the year. A story is told of how on one occasion he found himself in Rome without even so much as would enable him to pay his train fare back to Venice. He succeeded in negotiating a loan of 400 dollars, which caused him a great deal of anxiety until he was enabled to pay it back after some time.

The 'Figaro,' referring to the way in which Cardinal Sarto gradually won the respect and affection of the people of Venice says: 'The Venetians at first received him coldly as they knew that the King of Italy was unwilling to grant him his exequatur on account of the antagonism existing between the Vatican and the Italian Government. But it did not take long for the new Patriarch to win his way into all hearts by

His Affability and Piety.

The people were very much impressed on learning that when he was parish priest he sold his horse and carriage that he might render financial assistance to the poor of Salazano. On another occasion he pawned a ring to help a poor person who had applied to him for assistance.

These stories are more eloquent of the man of whom they are narrated than would be the most elaborate eulogies. They throw upon him a strong light which enables us to get a good view of him. His contempt for money when it was a question of assisting God's poor shows how thoroughly he is penetrated with the spirit that the Church breathes into her children—a spirit that fashioned and formed St. Vincent de Paul, whose glorious work on behalf of humanity is continued after 200 years by devoted sons and daughters in all lands. Pius X. is one who believes, as St. Vincent de Paul believed, that something more than mere sympathy with the miseries of his fellowmen is needed. He is convinced that deeds are more important than words, is shown by the pawning of the ring and the selling of the horse and carriage that the wants of the poor might be satisfied.

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