

ported in part, we believe, from the general municipal rates, and numbering amongst subscribers a large proportion of Catholics whose religious susceptibilities have been grievously wounded as a consequence of the circulation this undesirable publication has already received.

We feel confident that having directed your attention and that of the honorable board controlling the Sydenham Library to the nature of the book indicated, immediate orders will be given for its withdrawal from the library shelves.

Trusting to be favored with an early reply, I have the honor to be, Sir, very faithfully yours,

J. J. WILSON,

Secretary Diocesan Council, N.Z.C.F.

Sydenham Public Library,

Sydenham, August 12.

The Secretary N.Z. Catholic Federation.

Sir,—Re your letter of July 22, asking withdrawal of *Souls in Pawn*, by Lindsay Russell, my committee have considered the matter, and resolved that the book remain on the shelves.

I have the honor to be, very faithfully yours,

T. C. SUTCLIFF, Librarian.

The executive of the Federation do not intend to let the matter rest here, but at the earliest convenient moment will ventilate the subject in the City Council, and meanwhile urge Catholic residents to refrain from supporting the library.

#### CATHOLIC IMMIGRATION COMMITTEE, WELLINGTON.

A meeting of the C.I.C. was held on August 20; Miss Reichel presided, five members attending. Rev. Father Venning (spiritual director) was also present. As the arrival of boats is somewhat uncertain, owing to the disturbed state of affairs, it was decided to call meetings when necessary, the secretaries to notify members of dates. The secretaries were instructed to convey the sympathy of the C.I.C. to Mrs. Prendeville—a member—in her sad bereavement. A Requiem Mass would be offered by the spiritual director. Correspondence was read from Christchurch and Foxton. The club secretary reports that St. Bride's Club is now in a satisfactory financial position. The club continues to be well patronised, especially on Thursday evenings, when members are at liberty to invite their friends of both sexes, and an enjoyable time is spent in music and games, light refreshments being supplied by members of the club. The committee (hon. secretary, Miss Girling Butcher, Federation office) will be delighted to welcome any girl who is a Catholic, particularly those who are strangers in the city.

#### Death of Right Rev. Mgr. O'Reilly, Auckland

A pioneer of the Catholic Church in New Zealand passed away on Tuesday evening in the person of the Right Rev. Monsignor O'Reilly, at the age of 71 years. Monsignor O'Reilly was ordained by the late Bishop Croke at Auckland nearly 50 years ago. Later he took charge of the parish at Thames, where he labored faithfully and well for 22 years. He was very highly esteemed in the district, where he was for many years chairman of the Hospital and Charitable Aid Board. He spoke Maori very fluently, and was well known by the Natives of the northern districts and in his diocese. For the past few years his health had been failing, and three years ago he retired from parochial work. He had been residing in Dunedin for the past twelve months.

The following sketch of his life, which gives an admirable idea of the splendid pioneer work done by the late Monsignor, is taken from Mr. J. J. Wilson's work, *The Church in New Zealand*:—

'Than the Right Rev. Monsignor O'Reilly, of the Thames, no cleric is more widely known or respected—we had almost said beloved—by men of all denominations in the Auckland province. Born at Rosscarbery, County Cork, Ireland, on February 24, 1843, Mon-

signor O'Reilly came out to New Zealand with his parents in 1852, arriving in Auckland in May of that year. He received private tuition from the priests of the diocese. It was at the Maori School, situated where the Bishop's house now stands in Ponsonby, that Monsignor O'Reilly began his ecclesiastical studies in 1858, later on taking charge of the school, which was established in connection with the Catholic Church. The Monsignor, it may be here stated, is a fluent Maori linguist, and has frequently acted as interpreter. His intimate knowledge of, and acquaintance with, the language have been of immense service to him in the many vicissitudes of his life in New Zealand.

Maori boys from all parts of the diocese were enrolled at the Ponsonby School, and some steady work was put in, the ground work of many a successful career being laid there. The Maori war breaking out in 1860 so affected the attendance, however, that it became necessary to close the school, for the pupils would not come to Auckland. Here it is worth noting that on the occasion of Cardinal Moran's visit to Auckland the reception arrangements at Rotorua were carried out by a committee, the three leading members of which—Mita, Hira, and Wairemu Pauro—were former pupils of Monsignor O'Reilly's—a fact of which they made a special point of reminding his Eminence. In 1865 Monsignor O'Reilly went to Rotorua, with the object of establishing a Maori school there, and got matters so far under way that the timber was on the ground ready for the erection of the school, when another war scare broke out, occasioned by the Hau Hau rising, when Patara and Kereopa passed through the country on the way to Opotiki, the scene of the Rev. Mr. Volkner's murder. The project was consequently abandoned, and Monsignor O'Reilly returned to Auckland and further prosecuted his studies, being ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Pompallier on February 24, 1866, which was the twenty-third anniversary of his birthday. It is interesting to note that Monsignor O'Reilly is the only connecting link with that time and the present in the Auckland diocese; and, indeed, there is only one other in New Zealand—viz., the Ven. Archpriest Walsh, of Westport.

Monsignor O'Reilly was then stationed as curate at St. Patrick's Cathedral, where he remained for five years, until shortly after the arrival of Bishop Croke (the latter subsequently becoming Archbishop of Cashel, Ireland), who appointed him first resident priest at Coromandel. There he labored till July, 1878, when he was appointed to the charge of the Thames parish, remaining there to this day, with the exception of two years, when he took charge of St. Patrick's during the Bishop's visit to Europe in 1899. In 1900 he had conferred upon him the title of Monsignor by his Holiness the late illustrious Pope Leo XIII. He enjoys the distinction of being the senior priest of New Zealand, with the exception of the Archbishop of Wellington, who is his senior by a few months. There are older men in the ministry, but not older priests than Monsignor O'Reilly.

'It was uphill work at Coromandel,' Monsignor O'Reilly said, on one occasion, harking back to the early seventies. He had to practically open a new ecclesiastical district, and establish a church, school, and presbytery. Going to the Thames shortly after the gold fever had abated, in the days of the Queen of Beauty mine, Monsignor had a wide field to cover, for it embraced Paeroa, Te Aroha, Waibi (which, of course, was then unsettled), Karangahake, and Waitekauri. 'Travelling was far from easy in those days. There were no coach roads: in fact, one could hardly take a horse over them, and it was quite a common occurrence to be bogged when making one's way over the ranges. There was no Catholic church outside of the Thames,' and the Monsignor had to build churches at Paeroa and Te Aroha. 'Not only our own people subscribed to the fund, but representatives of all denominations contributed their quota, and often unsolicited.' Monsignor O'Reilly was the first priest to celebrate Mass at Whangapoua, Te Aroha, Paeroa, and Waitekauri.

The interment will take place at Auckland.—R.I.P.