

no Catholic congregation in this part of the country. What a marvellous change; what great progress! Now there were many priests, many churches, many schools, many parishes, many congregations, and these great gatherings of the Catholic federation were the evidence and outward demonstration of the great, onward, steady movement of religion; whilst, by showing its greatness, they would add to its impressiveness and further its growth. Numbers and combination impressed and awed the onlooking world, whilst stimulating and urging forward the active participants in a movement. He was proud of this opportunity to express his joy and the joy of the old colonists round about in looking upon this evidence of the growth of their religion in this young country.

The Very Rev. Dean Burke said the great object of the Federation was to bring into practical activity that union in thought, morals, and manners which the doctrinal unity of the Christian faith had impressed upon their minds and hearts. It was a poor thing to be one in faith and divided in action; one in principle and separate in practice; members of One Fold and wandering over the wilds and the hills, a prey to clever wolves, in so many different coverings, lying in wait for us. Unity and faith and disunion and separation in so many other matters of importance, some of them bearing closely on that faith, is a sorry spectacle. And that sad and sorry spectacle may be seen in more Catholic countries than one. Look at France. For years we have looked in puzzled amazement at 38,000,000 people, Catholic people mostly, intensely Catholic millions of them, yet taken possession of, misled, misdirected, despoiled of their native strength, robbed and persecuted; and that by a small *élite* of from 30,000 to 40,000 secret-society men. See what unity can do in the case of a small minority. See the sad results of disunion in the case of the great majority. It is not vastness that accomplishes great things; it is combination of parts and unity of mind and aim. What a vast gathering a small company of soldiers could disperse in a few minutes! Now, the aim of our Federation is to produce in many matters, not directly of Faith, yet of great practical importance to the interests of our religion and our people, unity of thought and sentiment and combination in action, unity, combination in action, self-help in Catholic interests, one mind and one heart. Old cries, these; but these are the cries that win. When the great interests of our religion or of our country are at stake away with enemies and critics, with dissentients and disunionists, with private axe-grinders and the pursuers of self. Get all honest men and women to rally round the common standard. Now, these are the great aims of the Catholic Federation. This great meeting, in weather conditions so inclement, is evidence that there is in Southland some enthusiasm for the aims of the Catholic Federation.

The Afternoon's Proceedings.

Immediately after the Mass the ladies' committee entertained the clergy at luncheon in a spacious marquee erected for the purpose. The following clergy were present:—The Very Rev. Dean Burke, V.F., Very Rev. Father O'Donnell (Gore), Very Rev. Father J. Lynch (Wrey's Bush), Rev. Father Murphy (Riverton), Rev. Fathers E. Lynch, C. Morkane, B.A. (Holy Cross College), D. O'Neill and H. Woods (Invercargill), and J. Foley (Gore). His Lordship Bishop Verdon sent an apology for his absence, and gave his blessing to all those who attended and took part in the gathering. During the afternoon a capital sports programme was carried out under the direction of Mr James Collins, who was ably assisted by the various committeemen, all of whom wore rosettes of the Papal colors (yellow and white). A feature of the gathering, as far as the children were concerned, was the free distribution of toys and sweets, an item which gave great pleasure to the recipients.

This report would be incomplete without an expression of appreciation of the splendid services rendered by the Riverton committee under the able direction of Mr J. Geary. Every necessary detail was attended to, nothing being lacking for the amusement of the little ones and the comfort of the huge assemblage.

When the Very Rev. Dean Burke, some ten years ago, suggested a gathering of the Catholics of Southland it was then thought impracticable, but the Federation supplied the necessary machinery, and Wednesday's great gathering, the result of the Dean's forethought, must have been deeply gratifying to him.

At 5 o'clock the trains began to move off, and a great, sober, orderly assemblage of a fine class of people dispersed to their homes, pleased with the day's performances. Before the dispersion the hymn 'Faith of our Fathers,' the 'Song for the Pope,' and the National Anthem were sung. Cheers for the secretaries and the ladies who assisted them—to all of whom, of course, the success of the meeting was due—were heartily given by the crowd.

ST. JOSEPH'S PARISH COMMITTEE, WELLINGTON.

St. Joseph's Parish Committee met at the presbytery, Patterson street, on Wednesday, February 3. The Rev. Father Barra presided, and there was a good attendance of members. Mr W. O'Connor was appointed to the committee in place of Mr R. H. Williams (resigned) as parishioners' representative. The rev. chairman, in welcoming Mr O'Connor, spoke of the energy displayed by him in the various things he had been connected with, and he was sure that the committee would find in him a very ardent worker. Correspondence was received from the general secretary, covering sample copies of Catholic Truth Societies' pamphlets, and asking the committee to purchase a supply for free distribution. The matter was fully discussed, and it was decided that as the St. Vincent de Paul Society did good work in the distribution of Catholic literature in the parish the matter be left in their hands. A letter was received from Mr J. Donovan tendering his resignation as a member of the committee. The resignation was received with regret, and it was decided to write to the secretary of the I.A.C.B. Society asking his society to elect another representative. The secretary (Mr A. Cassie) reported on the work done at the half-yearly meeting of the Diocesan Council. Arrangements were made for members of the committee to be in attendance at the church doors for the purpose of collecting subscriptions. The secretary reported that subscriptions were coming in very well up to the present.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS

C.S., Westport.—We have been unable so far to ascertain the exact locality at which the late Father Rawes was stationed at the time of his death. Should the information reach us later, we will let you know.

CONSTANT READER, West Plains.—The following is the present address:—Rev. James O'Malley, C.C., Templemore, County Tipperary, Ireland.

AMBITIOUS. There is no harm in your sending manuscript, which we will read through and advise you accordingly. At the same time, it is only fair to warn you that the number of people who wish to write stories is very large, and the number who can really do so is very small.

BROODIE, Ross.—(1) Wash the harness with soft soap and hot water, and when dry apply harness blacking with a stiff brush, finishing off with a chamois leather. (2) At this time of the year, when there is a plentiful supply of green feed, a horse's mouth ought not to be in need of washing with a disinfectant, unless the animal is troubled with a decayed tooth. Any chemist will supply you with a wash which will answer the purpose.

KAPPA, Hutt.—We have handed your queries to our contributor 'Ghimel,' who will deal with them next week.