

dorf, the leader of the Prussian army, issued a declaration in which he made Jacobinism, with which the Poles had nothing to do, the pretext for the dishonest action of the Prussian Government. This was done to throw dust in people's eyes, and especially to keep the plutocrats of the British Parliament quiet. The Polish Kingdom, after the second partition, shrank in size to a third of what it had been, and in the third partition this was disposed of, Prussia receiving about a thousand square miles. Thenceforward, for the most part,

Bitter Oppression was the Lot of the Poles.

The fire of patriotism never ceased to burn in their breasts, and many of them in 1812 joined the Grand Army of Napoleon, who held out to them the hope of restoring the Polish monarchy. The execution of the design, if he ever entertained it, was defeated by his fall. For a while the aspirations of the Poles again received some encouragement from the Allied Powers, who at the Congress of Vienna, in 1815, endeavoured to bring about an improvement in the conditions under which they were governed and the treatment meted out to them. But these efforts had little effect, and the existence of the Poles has been, to a great extent, a constant fight against tyrannical attempts to stamp out their nationality.

In recent years Austria has shown considerable liberality towards the Poles, granting them Constitutional rights as well as religious liberty. But in Prussian Poland the people have been ruled with an iron hand. Bismarck, indeed, conceived the idea of elbowing them out of their own land. Public money was used to buy up Polish estates, which were then handed over to Germans. The Polish language was banished from the public schools. The sale of Polish newspapers at the railway stalls was prohibited. Children were forbidden to learn their catechism in Polish, and for refusing to recognise this ordinance the late Cardinal Ledochowski was sent to prison. Polish associations were persecuted, and any measures for the assertion of Polish national views were sternly repressed.

Such has been the character of the regime in Prussian Poland, and it is not probable that if a Polish Kingdom were set up by the Central Powers the mode of ruling it would be much better, for in the exercise of authority Prussian influence would predominate. But, fortunately for the Poles, it is certain that in the end Germany and Austria will not be victorious, and that in the settlement of the conditions under which they will be governed in the future Great Britain and France will have a good deal to say.

## Diocesan News

### ARCHDIOCESE OF WELLINGTON

(From our own correspondent.)

October 30.

Arrangements are being made to organise a monster Carcic picnic for Boxing Day in aid of the Catholic education fund.

His Grace Archbishop O'Shea preached at St. Joseph's Church, Buckle street, last Sunday evening. His Grace gave an interesting account of his travels in America, and the growth of the Church in that part of the world.

Miss E. M. Carmody, daughter of Mr. P. Carmody, J.P., Mitchelltown, president of the ladies' branch of the Hibernian Society, and for some time its secretary, has joined the Sisters of Mercy, St. Mary's Convent, Hill street.

Very Rev. Father Taylor, Marist Missioner, is conducting a retreat for the Children of Mary at St. Joseph's Church, Buckle street. The services are well attended and the number of communicants each morn-

ing is particularly edifying. It concludes to-morrow, when the devotion of the Forty Hours' Adoration commences.

Mrs. Segrief, of Daniel street, has received a cable from her son (the Rev. Chaplain-Captain Segrief, S.M.), who went away as chaplain of the hospital ship Maheno, to the effect that he had arrived in London, and was in good health. He mentioned that he had visited Chaplain-Captain Dore, of Foxton, who was wounded at the Dardanelles, and found him progressing slowly and would soon be enabled to return to New Zealand.

Mr. J. H. Humphreys, the representative of the Proportional Representation League, England, who is visiting New Zealand, will give a lecture in the Concert Chamber of the Town Hall on Wednesday, November 10. As the system of Proportional Representation is a subject that all Catholics should be conversant with, they should not miss this opportunity of hearing the system explained by such an eminent authority on the subject.

Mr. E. J. Healy, who recently resigned the conductorship of St. Mary of the Angels' Choir, was entertained on Saturday evening by the members of the choir, and presented with an illuminated address, signed by the members, also a handsome silver rose bowl for himself and Mrs. Healy, suitably inscribed. Advantage was taken of the presence of Corporal A. P. Dwan, of the Wellington Rifle Brigade, a member of the choir, to present him with a pair of binoculars. Messrs. Healy and Dwan suitably thanked the members for their very handsome presents. The evening was pleasantly interspersed with vocal and instrumental items.

At St. Mary of the Angels' on Wednesday morning Solemn Requiem Mass was offered for the deceased soldiers in the war. The celebrant of the Mass was the Very Rev. Father O'Connell, S.M., the Rev. Father O'Connor, S.M., and Rev. Father Smyth, S.M., were deacon and subdeacon respectively, and Rev. Father Hurley, S.M., Adm., was master of ceremonies. The church was filled with the large congregation. His Grace Archbishop O'Shea presided, and was attended by the Very Rev. Dean Smyth, S.M. (Provincial). Ven. Archdeacon Devoy, S.M., and Very Rev. Dean Regnault, S.M., Adm., occupied seats in the sanctuary. A choir of the city clergy sang the music of the Mass. Among those who attended was Sir Joseph Ward, and also several leading citizens. His Grace Archbishop O'Shea, before the final absolution, addressed the congregation. 'This country,' said his Grace, 'in common with the whole of the Empire, is sorrowing over the death of many of her best and bravest sons, and we meet to-day to offer up the adorable Sacrifice of the Mass for the repose of their souls. The minds of all are filled with sorrow because of the great loss of life that has plunged so many homes and so many families into mourning.' This was without doubt for the time it had been raging, the greatest and most frightful war that had ever taken place, and was exacting a proportionately greater toll of human life than any other. This young country, though so far from the centre of operations, was doing its part nobly, and our people were giving an example of the most sublime patriotism. We fought in a just cause, for if ever there was a just war this was surely one, so far as we were concerned. The Archbishop then went on to say that although the war had brought great sorrow, still, for all that, great good was likely to come out of it. It was noticed in the Home Country especially that the great sacrifices that men were making and the losses that were being suffered, were bringing us all nearer together, and filling our minds with the more serious things of life.

It was bringing out the best that was in us, and we would emerge from it purified, chastened, and strengthened in every way. Patriotism was one of the most sublime of virtues, and those men who had fought and died had performed an act of the most perfect charity. 'Greater love than this hath no man, that a man should lay down his life for his