

Nellie Sheehan, Mary Cuneen, Barbara Hurley, Elsie Ward.

To fittingly mark the occasion of the return to Ashburton of our esteemed fellow-Catholic townsman, Mr. P. Hanrahan, sen., along with his two sons—the Rev. Fathers James and Thomas Hanrahan,—after a sojourn of some months in the Old Country, a welcome-home social was tendered them on Tuesday of last week. The gathering was a large and representative one, amongst those present being a visitor from the North Island, in the person of the Rev. Father McManus. The Rev. Father O'Donnell presided over the gathering. In welcoming home the guests of the evening, the rev. chairman paid high tribute to the many good qualities of their guests. The Rev. Fathers Thomas and James Hanrahan he had known from childhood, and it was certainly a source of pride and pleasure for him to find them now in the ranks of the priests of the diocese. On behalf of the Catholic community, Father O'Donnell extended a hearty welcome home to Mr. Hanrahan and his two sons. A feeling response to the welcome given was made by the respective guests. During the evening progressive euchre was played, the prize-winners being Mrs. D. Fitzgerald and Mr. R. Nealon. A musical programme was gone through as follows:—Pianoforte solos, Mrs. D. Crowe and Miss Quigley; violin solos (2), Miss E. Cullen; songs, Mrs. F. Hanrahan, Rev. Fathers T. and J. Hanrahan. Supper was handed round by the ladies, and a most pleasing and enjoyable function terminated with the singing of 'Auld lang syne' and 'God save the King.'

Timaru

(From our own correspondent.)

December 13.

The pupils of the girls' primary school are giving a concert on Tuesday evening next in their hall, Craigie avenue. The proceeds are to be devoted to the prize fund.

On Thursday afternoon last, the Children of Mary were the guests of the Rev. Mother at a garden party, which was held in the convent grounds. The day was beautifully fine, and croquet and other games were indulged in for some time on the lawns, after which a dainty afternoon tea was dispensed under the shade of the trees. An entertainment was then given in the large reception room by the pupils of the boarding school, and a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon was spent.

The local branch of the Hibernian Society met on Monday evening in their hall, Brown street. The president (Bro. Hyland) presided, and there was a very

large attendance of members, including the Very Rev. Dean Tubman (chaplain) and the Rev. Father Ainsworth. A large amount of business was dealt with. Thirty-five new candidates were proposed for membership and twelve new members were elected and initiated, this very satisfactory position being due to the efforts of the Rev. Father Ainsworth, who during the recent mission impressed on the men the necessity of belonging to a friendly society. Before the close of the meeting the president thanked the Rev. Father Ainsworth for his splendid efforts on behalf of the branch, and asked him to accept an enlarged photograph of the 'Communion group,' as a small token of the members' appreciation. Very Rev. Dean Tubman thanked him, and complimented him on his successful appeal to the men to join the society. A large number of members also spoke of the good that the Rev. Father had done, amongst others being Bro. William Doyle, of the Nelson branch, who testified to the zeal Father Ainsworth had always shown in the cause of Hibernianism whilst in that district. Father Ainsworth, who was received with applause, thanked the members for their gift, and gave a most interesting address on the objects and aims of the society, and in conclusion wished the branch a most successful future.

DIOCESE OF AUCKLAND

(By telegraph, from our own correspondent.)

December 14.

His Lordship Bishop Cleary left this morning for the Lake Taupo district, where he intends to sojourn until near Christmas. His Lordship during the last few weeks has appreciably improved in health.

The devotion of the Forty Hours' Adoration took place at Parnell last week. There was special music at the eleven o'clock Mass, the choir being conducted by Miss A. Lorrigan. Right Rev. Dr. Brodie delivered the opening sermon, and Rev. Father Murphy (Ponsonby) preached in the evening. Very Rev. Father Cahill (of the Cathedral) preached on Monday evening. The devotion closed on Tuesday morning. Throughout large crowds visited the church. Right Rev. Dr. Brodie warmly congratulated his people on their magnificent manifestation of faith. On Sunday morning the men of the parish received Holy Communion.

Another manifestation of our holy faith was given at the Cathedral at the nine o'clock Mass on Sunday, when the members of the confraternity of the Holy Family, the Marist Brothers' Old Boys, and the local senior and juvenile Hibernians approached the altar



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