

democratic forces Ireland would never have been able to win her many reforms during the last quarter of a century.

Transition Period.

To some extent Ireland is still in a transition period between the excitement and resentment of the rebellion and the restoration of her ordinary sane attitude. My recent information from different parts of Ireland leads me to the conviction that the justification of the Irish party is proceeding at a largely accelerated speed. Meetings are being held in almost every part of the country, speeches and resolutions have been made vindicating Mr. Redmond from the virulent attacks to which he has been subjected. There was never any doubt as to where the solid body of 300,000 peasant proprietors would stand ultimately. Their voice was not heard in the tempest of passion created by the rebellion, but it is rising more highly every day, and possibly before Parliament rises again we shall find an Ireland liberated from the spectre of rebellion and the will-o'-the-wisp rebellion methods.

Diocesan News

ARCHDIOCESE OF WELLINGTON

(From our own correspondent.)

December 30.

The Rev. Father Mangan, C.S.S.R., is conducting a retreat for the Sisters of Mercy at Wellington South.

A grant of £50 has been made out of the Catholic Field Service Fund to Chaplain-Captain Connolly, who is to sail in the hospital ship Maheno.

The Sisters of Compassion desire to convey their warmest thanks and the best wishes of the season to all those who have assisted them during the year.

After 1st Mass at the Sacred Heart Church, Hill street, on Christmas Day, the members of the choir presented Miss Jansen, the chief lady soloist for several years past, with a farewell mark of esteem. Miss Jansen is leaving the parish.

The St. Mary's annual parish festival will commence on January 30, and in connection therewith a queen carnival will be a feature of the function. Each stall has nominated a candidate, and the stall producing the highest takings will determine the successful candidate.

The progress of the Catholic Federation in the archdiocese of Wellington can be gauged by the financial barometer. A further sum of £55 8s 1d has been forwarded to the Dominion Executive for the half-year ending to-day, making a total of £166 7s for the half-year. This by no means represents the total, as many of the committees have not as yet forwarded their dues to the diocesan executive.

The annual Catholic picnic, known as Father Lane's picnic, was one of the chief attractions in the Hutt Valley on Boxing Day. Sports and games were provided for old and young. The children were specially catered for, and thoroughly enjoyed the outing. The sports and games were controlled by the Sports Committee, composed of Messrs. Mitten, O'Connell, Pearce, O'Brien, Gleeson, L. O'Sullivan, Neazor (2), Evans, Messrs. R. G. McKay, and D. Hickey were secretary and treasurer respectively. The judges were Messrs. C. A. Seymour, W. Hickey, W. Dennehy, and the starter, Mr. W. M. Welch. The refreshment stalls were in charge of Mesdames Patton, Cookson, and Lynch, and the afternoon tea stall was presided over by Mesdames Neazor and Connelly.

The annual picnic for the children of the Catholic schools of the city was held at Karori Park on Boxing Day. The weather was ideal, and an excellent outing was enjoyed. The committee arranged for everything that picnickers could desire, and the ladies made excellent provision for those who attended the gathering.

Throughout the day competitions (chiefly races) for children and others were held. The 100yds. school's championship was won by T. Colomb, of the Tasman Street School, with Plimmer, of the Hawkestone Street School, second. The attendance of adults was large, and included his Grace Archbishop Redwood, his Grace Archbishop O'Shea, the Ven. Archdeacon Devoy, and a large number of the clergy. Special car arrangements were made by the Tramway Department to convey the children to the Park in the morning and return them to the city in the evening. The loading of the returning cars was expedited through the committee lining the children up in order and despatching separate schools at a time. As a result of the day's outing a substantial amount will be handed to the Education Fund. The following were the officials:—Sports (adults): Director, Mr. Tom O'Brien; judges—Messrs. H. McKeowen, L. Carroll, and J. P. McKeowen; handicapper and starter, Mr. J. D. McPhee. Children's sports—Director, Mr. Jas. Stratford. Sideshow—Director, Mr. W. F. Johnson. Tea kiosk—Misses Mary McKeowen and Breen. Children's refreshments and sweets stall—Miss B. Craig and Mrs. E. Dunne. Committee luncheon—Mrs. H. McKeowen. Chairman and treasurer, Mr. J. J. L. Burke; vice-chairman, Mr. W. F. Johnson; hon. sec., Mr. P. D. Hoskins.

The following students were ordained priests by Archbishop Redwood at Greenmeadows on Thursday, December 28:—Cornelius Outtrim (Wellington), Dalton Campbell (Wellington), James Roche (Greymouth), Kevin McGrath (Napier), John Dowling (Wanganui). In addition to these Paul Kane (Timaru) was ordained to the diaconate and William Buckley (Wellington) to sub-diaconate.

The Misses Segrief and party entertained the men at Featherston Camp at a very enjoyable concert in the Catholic Institute on Thursday evening, December 21. The hall was well filled, and the various items were warmly applauded. Solos were contributed by Misses Teresa McEnroe, Violet Lamacroft, and R. and E. Segrief. Duets were given by Miss R. Segrief and Miss McEnroe, Miss Janie Petrie gave most delightful elocutionary items, and instrumental music was given by Sergt.-Major Connors. The accompaniments were played by Lieutenant Sutton. Thanks were given to the party by Chaplain-Captain F. S. Bartley, and the ladies were entertained afterwards at supper. On the following day the party gave concerts at the Featherston Military and the Greytown Hospitals, after which they returned to Wellington.

The Dominion treasurer of the Catholic Federation acknowledges the following donation for the Catholic Field Service Fund:—

Amount previously acknowledged ...	£601	7	5
Stratford Hibernian branch, per Rev.			
Father Maples ...	9	2	0
	£603	9	5
Less amount remitted to chaplains, etc. ...	£235	0	0
Grant to Chaplain-Captain Connolly (Maheno) ...	50	0	0
	285	0	0
Balance ...	£318	9	5

[Just as we go to press we have received our Wellington correspondent's letter, dated December 22, which gives the account of the meeting addressed by Very Rev. Father Lockington, S.J., in Wellington. In the circumstances we had to take our report of that meeting from the *Dominion* newspaper. This letter, rightly addressed, was posted in Wellington, as the post-mark shows, on December 22, and reached Dunedin on the afternoon of January 3. The Postal officials must all have gone to the war.—ED N.Z.T.]

The alchemist who essayed, by mixing various earths, to make a crucible that would endure was agreeably surprised to find he had produced porcelain.