

## Opening of a New Church at Kilbirnie

(From our Wellington correspondent.)

The new Catholic Church at Kilbirnie was blessed and opened by his Grace Archbishop Redwood on Sunday afternoon, January 23. His Grace was assisted by the Very Rev. Father O'Shea, V.G., Very Rev. Dean Regnault, S.M. (Provincial), Ven. Archdeacon Devoy, and Rev. Fathers Herbert (master of ceremonies), Hickson, Tubman (Timaru), Bowden, Herring, Venning, Quealy, and Eccleton.

The Ven. Archdeacon Devoy traced the circumstances that led up to the building of the church from the mission held at Kilbirnie by the Redemptorist Fathers eight months ago. Mass had been said every Sunday since that time, at first in a public hall, and since Christmas in the new church. A largely-attended Sunday school was also being carried on. Particulars regarding the new building were also given by Ven. Archdeacon Devoy, and in conclusion he acknowledged the valuable services of the committee (specially mentioning the Messrs. Bourke), the ladies who had helped to raise funds, and a number of priests and friends of his own who had sent donations from different parts of the Dominion.

His Grace said he was grateful to find such a large congregation present to show an interest in that building, and the advantages it would be the means of securing for the parish. It was a very good thing to have a proper place in which to meet and assist at the great sacrifice of the Mass. He hoped they would have Mass there every Sunday, and perhaps before long the Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament every Sunday. His Grace congratulated Archdeacon Devoy, whose heart, he said, was in the work, and who must have been surprised to find his hopes fulfilled so completely and in so short a time. He also complimented the architect and contractors on their work. After announcing that the church had been named after the great apostle of Ireland, St. Patrick, and congratulating the parishioners on having erected such a neat, serviceable building, his Grace continued: 'But while I congratulate you very much on having a church, I congratulate you still more on having a school. If you have not good schools your churches will be empty. No work is so important, so influential, or so necessary as the carrying on of good Catholic schools for the Catholic people. You will have excellent teachers, devoted to the work, and your children will be able to have a perfect and complete Catholic education. I hope all the Catholic children will come here. They are out of place anywhere else but in a Catholic school; they are in danger anywhere else. It is a sin to send them anywhere else, unless under very exceptional circumstances. Let them be trained here to become a joy to their parents, an honor to the Church, a blessing to society, a guarantee of order and virtue to the Dominion of New Zealand, and well-pleasing to Almighty God. They would have admirable teachers entirely devoted to their work and a building specially suited for its purpose. Their children would, therefore, receive a complete Catholic education—the greatest blessing God could bestow upon them. As their children were brought up so they would be through life. The Archbishop concluded by expressing the hope that that day would mark the beginning of a period of extraordinary blessing for the district.

A collection was then taken up, and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament followed. Subsequently Archdeacon Devoy announced that the collection had realised £241 in cash and £3 10s in promises.

The church is situated off the main road at Evans Bay. It is conspicuous for the absence of over-much ornamentation, and by its simplicity and fine proportions at once commands attention. The outside of the building has been painted in tints that harmonise well with the red asbestos tiled roof. The interior is as well designed as the outside. Not an inch of space has been wasted, and there is a sober yet cheerful note in the decoration of the nave. The walls are formed of match-boarding painted a sage green, and having a four-foot dado of varnished rimu, the natural beauty of the wood showing through. The ceiling is painted white. Not only are there ventilators all along the sides of the building, but the windows can all be opened with ease. At the east end is a platform, and here are two great easy-sliding doors. These cover up the altar when the building is being used for secular purposes, as it will be—namely, for a school by day and for social work among Catholics and their friends in the evening. Light for the nave is obtained by day through a liberal number of side windows and a large three-light window over the west door. At night 1200 candle-power is obtained from the three clusters of four large Osram electric lights. At the back of the church is a dining-room and other conveniences for the Sisters of Mercy, who will have charge of the school by day. The same apartments will be at the disposal of officiating priests on Sundays. The interior dimensions of the building are 60ft long, 27ft wide, and 25ft high. It will seat 200 people at present, but seats can be provided to take over 100 more if required. The altar, built by Mr. H. Fielder, is of Celtic design. It is expected that the school will begin with fifty children, some of whom have been going to the Sisters' school at Newtown. The contract price was

£650 for the building, and extras ran into some £30 more. The seats have cost £53, and the altar £25. It is expected that the whole undertaking will cost about £800. The site consists of about half an acre, and fronts the main road. It comprises sections given by the late Mrs. Crawford and Mr. J. Bourke.

## IMPERIAL POLITICS

The following Irish Nationalists have so far been returned:—Dublin North, J. J. Clancy; Dublin Harbor, T. C. Harrington; Dublin (St. Patrick's Division), W. Field; Galway, Stephen Gwynn; Kilkenny, P. O'Brien; Wexford North, Sir T. H. Esmonde; Waterford City, J. E. Redmond; Roscommon South, J. P. Hayden; Wicklow East, John Muldoon; Donegal North, P. O'Doherty; Kildare North, J. O'Connor; Tipperary South, J. Cullinan; Cavan West, V. P. Kennedy; Donegal South, J. G. Swift MacNeill; Birr, M. Reddy; Leitrim North, F. E. Meehan; Mayo East, John Dillon; Meath South, D. Sheehy; Louth South, J. Nolan; Sligo North, T. Scaulan; Tipperary East, T. J. Condon; Waterford East, P. J. Power; Westmeath South, Sir W. R. Nugent; West Wicklow, J. O'Connor; Liverpool (Scotland Division), T. P. O'Connor; Limerick West, P. J. O'Shaughnessy; Clare East, W. Redmond; Kilkenny North, M. Meagher; Clare West, Arthur Lynch; Cork South, A. Barry; Cork East, Captain Donelan; Kerry West, T. O'Donnell; Leitrim South, T. Smith; Longford North, J. Farrell; Mayo West, — Doris; Sligo South, J. O'Dowd; Tipperary North, M. Hogan; Wexford South, P. Ffrench; Cavan East, G. S. Young; Kildare South, D. Kilbride; Newry, J. J. Mooney. Mr. William O'Brien has returned to public life again, and has been returned for Cork City, the polling being—W. O'Brien, 4535; A. Roche, 4438; M. Healy, 4229; Murphy, 3776; Fitzgerald, 2061. Dublin (College Green), J. P. Nannetti; Dublin (St. Stephen's Green), Brady; Limerick, Alderman Joyce; Kilkenny, M. Keating; Leix, P. Meehan; Meath North, P. White; Kerry South, J. P. Boland; Roscommon North, J. J. O'Kelly; Louth, T. M. Healy (Mr. Healy is an Independent Nationalist, and was opposed by R. Hazleton, whom he defeated by 99 votes); Belfast West, J. Devlin (Mr. Devlin's opponent was Mr. Boyd-Carpenter, a son of an English prelate, whom he defeated by nearly 600 votes, his majority at the previous election being only 16); Monaghan South, McKean; Longford South, Phillips; Ossory, Delany; Galway East, Roche; Limerick East, Landon; Mayo South, O'Donnell; Donegal West, H. A. Law; Connemara, W. O'Malley; Galway North, R. Hazleton; Galway South, W. J. Duffy; Tipperary (Mid), Hackett; Armagh South, Dr. C. O'Neill.

A feature of the elections in Ireland was the defeat of Mr. T. W. Russell, Vice-President of the Agricultural Department, in South Tyrone, where he was replaced by a Unionist. Mr. T. Sloan, an Independent Orangeman and patron of anti-Catholic lecturers, has been badly beaten in Belfast South by another Unionist. Dr. Chapple, of Wellington, and formerly member for Tuapeka in the New Zealand Parliament, has been returned for Stirlingshire.

The following cable messages, which may be taken for what they are worth, appeared in the daily papers of Friday:—

In the course of a speech, Mr. Pease (Chief Liberal Whip) said that Mr. Asquith, in his Albert Hall speech, gave no pledge that Home Rule would be given to Ireland. What he said was that the ban which the Liberals had imposed upon themselves at the last general election had been removed, and that the Liberals were now free, if they so desired, to extend self-government to Ireland. At the same time, everyone in the Government was pledged not to give an Irish Independent Parliament, but self-government consistent with the Union.

The *Times'* Dublin correspondent says that Mr. Pease's statements have created consternation among the Nationalists. The election is being fought in Ireland on the question of Home Rule. It is now assumed that Mr. Asquith expected a majority independent of the Nationalists' vote, and had directed his Whip to disown his Albert Hall undertaking. The *Times*, commenting on Mr. Pease's statement, says: 'He explains, but only when the borough elections are nearly over, that Mr. Asquith really meant nothing in particular at the Albert Hall. The county elections, wherein the Irish vote is insignificant, are beginning, and the Liberals hope to profit by the repudiation of an intention whereon they have hitherto been trading. The late Sir W. Harcourt's expression, "a dirty trick," fittingly describes this manoeuvre. What is now meant is that a Home Rule Bill will only be introduced if it serves party purposes.'

We were informed by cable on Saturday that Mr. Pease was defeated by Saffron-Walden, so that his change of front did not save his seat.

Speaking at Dublin, Mr. J. E. Redmond expressed his confidence in Mr. Asquith's fulfilment of his pledge. 'The Nationalists will not ask for Home Rule before the veto is settled, but when the veto is gone the first friendly House of Commons elected will carry Home Rule. Irishmen do not ask for separation.'