

duty to be present; by so doing they will not only evince their practical interest, but will assist in no small degree in making the event a memorable one in the history of Hibernianism. The reception committee, with Mr. James McCusker secretary, are working very energetically to make the gathering a success.

The election of 14 members of the new Hospital and Charitable Aid Board took place in Wellington on Wednesday, when there was very little public interest taken in the event. Messrs. J. J. Devine and J. E. Fitzgerald (members of the Wellington City Council), prominent Catholic citizens, were among the successful candidates. Mr. Devine was for many years chairman of the Wellington and Wairarapa United Charitable Aid Board, which is now absorbed in the new board. It may be of interest to note that as far back as 1897 (being then chairman of that board) Mr. Devine brought about a conference in Wellington of the several Charitable Aid Boards of New Zealand, with a view to their bringing before Parliament the advisability of legislating that the body that made levies on all contributing local authorities in each district for charitable aid should have direct expenditure of the funds. This alteration in the law has now been made. Henceforth in each district the body that provides the funds will have the direct expenditure thereof for hospitals and other institutions, and so greater economy in administration is possible.

DIocese OF CHRISTCHURCH

(From our own correspondent.)

March 19.

The third and last week of the mission in the Cathedral, conducted by the Redemptorist Fathers, has been remarkable for consistently large congregations and most edifying manifestations of religious fervor. The missionaries have completely won the hearts of the people, and their devoted ministrations in this city will be an abiding memory.

The Feast of St. Patrick was observed with due solemnity in the Cathedral. There was Solemn High Mass at 9 o'clock. The Very Rev. Father Hunt, C.S.S.R., was celebrant, the Rev. Father Lynch, C.S.S.R., deacon, the Rev. Dr. Kennedy subdeacon, and Very Rev. Father Price, Adm., master of ceremonies. Under Mr. A. J. Bünz at the organ, the choir sang the music of the Mass. The occasional sermon was preached by the Rev. Father Whelan, C.S.S.R., who, from the text 'Going therefore teach ye all nations' (St. Matthew xxviii., 19), delivered a particularly fine panegyric of the Apostle of Ireland. This command (he said) was given to the Apostles of old during those memorable days the Church will soon commemorate. The first Apostles passed away but others succeeded them, and so on through the centuries the Divine mandate was ever observed and the Gospel message conveyed to the uttermost parts of the earth. In due time, among others illustrious in the annals of the Church, came forth St. Patrick, first as the humble priest, then Bishop and missionary. In impressively eloquent terms the preacher traced the life and labors of that great Apostle, who, following the Divine injunction, came to Ireland. Brilliantly endowed with the spirit of the Church, with heroic sacrifice, and amid difficulties and hardships patiently endured, he converted the whole country, which, nourished with his glowing love, his sanctity and knowledge, became the glorious garden of the Church of God. The feast of St. Patrick is universally celebrated, and why? It is because of the gift of faith inherited from the Apostle of Ireland, that faith implanted by our Lord and Saviour in the hearts of the Apostles, for which they suffered martyrdom to gain heaven, our eternal home. It is, too, the exile's return for this gift of faith, that there is such deep devotion to the Blessed Sacrament and to the Blessed Virgin displayed everywhere among the Irish people. It is not necessary to go to the halls of Tara for examples of the faith so treasured by the Irish people. The churches throughout Ireland are thronged to this day, and here the Cathedral has been thronged throughout the mission, and why? Because of the faith, nourished by the Blessed Sacrament, and by love of the Blessed Virgin and St. Patrick.

Greymouth

(From an occasional correspondent.)

On Wednesday, March 9, his Excellency the Governor visited the Marist Brothers' School. The pupils sang the 'Minstrel Boy,' which pleased his Excellency very much. Master Norman Knell then read the following address:—

'Your Excellency,—We, the Catholic boys of Greymouth, consider ourselves highly honored in receiving a visit from such a distinguished visitor. Although we are young, we can appreciate your sterling qualities and your broad-minded statesmanship. We are proud that our Governor is an Irishman, a scion of the illustrious Plunket family. During your term of office you have endeared yourself, your Excellency, not only to the older people of our fair Dominion, but in a special manner to the younger generation by your kindly disposition in visiting the schools and by the great interest you have taken in educational matters and in everything that makes for the happiness of

the people. That you may long be spared in health and happiness to assist in the councils of the great British Empire is the earnest prayer of the boys of the Catholic school, Greymouth.'

His Excellency thanked the boys for the hearty reception they gave him and for the kind address read. He exhorted them to be loyal to their country as their forefathers were loyal, and reminded them of the sacrifices their Church and their parents were making on their behalf.

The proceedings concluded with the singing of the National Anthem and three ringing cheers for his Excellency.

On Wednesday, March 9, the pupils of the Greymouth Convent School assembled in St. Patrick's Schoolroom to welcome his Excellency the Governor. The room was tastefully decorated with scrolls, flowers, and evergreens, while outside the flag of New Zealand waved proudly in the breeze. At 11.30 a.m. the distinguished visitor drove to the convent, accompanied by his Worship the Mayor (Mr. T. E. Coates), Mr. A. R. Guinness, M.P., and about twenty other gentlemen representing the various boards of the district.

Very Rev. Dean Carew, S.M., and Rev. F. McCarthy, S.M., conducted the party to the school, where a cordial welcome was accorded to the Governor. The following short programme was then rendered by the pupils:—'Song of welcome' (chorus); address, Miss Lily O'Donnell; 'All hail, Zealandia!' (chorus); recitation, 'A dreadful mistake,' Miss Nellie Kilgour; song, 'How I became an L.L.D.,' Miss Kathleen Hannan.

The following is the text of the address:—'May it please your Excellency,—Assembled here to-day, we, the pupils of the Convent School, Greymouth, beg to tender to your Excellency a very hearty welcome and to express our grateful sense of the high honor you have conferred on us by paying this, your first, visit to our school. This happy day on which your Excellency has thus honored us will ever be regarded as a 'red-letter' day in the annals of our school. As this is also a farewell visit, your Excellency will allow us to mingle with our welcome a deep and sincere regret. During your six years' stay in the Dominion your Excellency has taken the keenest interest in the educational and other matters that tend to the uplifting and the betterment of the people. No wonder, then, that the news of your intended departure has been received with such deep and widespread regret. Again thanking you for your kindness in visiting us, and praying that God's choicest blessings may fall on your Excellency, Lady Plunket, and family. We remain, your Excellency's respectful and devoted children,—The pupils of the Convent School, Greymouth.'

His Excellency, in replying, was enthusiastically received. He said he had enjoyed the entertainment immensely. The happy, pleasant faces he saw that morning would linger long in his memory, and when he returned to Ireland, his dear native land, he would tell the people at Home how well cared for and how happy the children of Irish parents are in this Dominion. His Excellency then went on to explain the duties of the Governor as the representative of his Majesty the King, and he strongly exhorted the pupils to be loyal and patriotic citizens. He knew that patriotism was taught them by their teachers, and he could wish that it should occupy a place in their estimation second only to religion. His Excellency assured the girls that if they were faithful to the religious teaching of those in charge of them they would surely grow up good women—models to all others in the Dominion. The singing of 'God save the King' brought the pleasant function to a close.

After a short visit to the Convent Infant School, where the little boys gave three hearty cheers for his Excellency, and where a song was sung in his honor, the Governor and party were conducted by Very Rev. Dean Carew to the Marist Brothers' School.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY

DUNEDIN

For some years the celebration of St. Patrick's Day in Dunedin has been confined to an Irish national concert. At one time it was thought that such an entertainment would not be a success from the attendance point of view without the inclusion in the programme of the alleged comic element, but time and experience have proved that high-class Irish music has a charm which appeals to all tastes, and is quite sufficient to draw a large audience, especially on such an occasion. With one or two exceptions the concert given on Thursday night in the Garrison Hall was truly national; even the encores were in nearly all instances of that character. An excellent programme had been arranged by a committee of which the Rev. Father Coffey, Adm., was chairman and Mr. E. W. Spain secretary, and the best local talent was secured for the occasion, so that a successful entertainment was anticipated, and these hopes were realised to the fullest extent. Nearly every item was encored, and the very large audience showed by their appreciative applause that they were highly pleased with the concert. Mrs. R. Hudson, jun., who is a prime

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