

Mr. Alfred Coles, J.P., president of the Petone Catholic Club, who with his family leaves shortly on a nine months' tour of the world, was entertained at a banquet on Wednesday evening by members of the local Commercial Club. Mr. Coles is also president of the Sacred Heart Conference of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, Petone.

There was an interesting and impressive ceremony at the Home of Compassion, Island Bay, on Saturday, March 19, when three young ladies were professed. They were Miss Muriel Seymour, of Lower Hutt (in religion Sister Mary Peter Damien); Miss Martha Wells, of Wellington (in religion Sister Mary Helen); and Miss Sarah Speight, of Patea (in religion Sister Mary Louisa). The ceremony was performed by his Grace the Archbishop. The choir of the Sisters of Compassion sang the appropriate music, Miss Girlie Gibbs acting as organist. There were present Very Rev. Dr. Kennedy, S.M., Rev. Fathers Goggan, Herbert, G. Mahony, and Taylor, S.M. After the ceremony his Grace the Archbishop conveyed to the newly professed Sisters the best wishes of their many friends and congratulated them on having chosen the better part, and wished them many years of happiness in the religious life. The parents and relatives of the newly-professed Sisters were also present, and were entertained after the ceremony at breakfast by the Rev. Mother Mary Aubert.

At the meeting of the boys belonging to the St. Vincent's Guild, held at St. Patrick's Hall on Friday evening, March 18, there was a good muster of members present. Two new members gave in their names for enrolment. On the previous Sunday a number of the boys, who had made their First Communion, approached the Holy Table at the various churches. Next month the members of the St. Mary's Conference of the St. Vincent de Paul Society who supervise the guild intend to commence a visitation of the Catholic boys in the parish. Each member will have certain parts of the parish allotted to him, and he will look after the welfare of ten to fifteen boys who reside in that part. The guild is gradually increasing in numbers, and the main objects of getting the boys to approach the Holy Table monthly and to go regularly to church are also being attained. The results of the 100yds race among the boys of the guild at the sports meeting of the H.A.C.B. Society and Catholic Club held on Saturday, March 19, were as follow:—Hector Carruthers, 1; William Scrimgeour, 2; Horace Hunt, 3.

There were very large congregations at the Masses and the devotions in the Catholic churches in Wellington on Good Friday. At the Basilica of the Sacred Heart, Hill street, his Grace Archbishop Redwood was celebrant of the Mass of the Presanctified, Rev. Father Peoples, S.M., being deacon, Rev. Father Hickson, S.M., Adm., subdeacon, and Rev. Father Herbert, S.M., master of ceremonies. In the afternoon there was the devotion of the Stations of the Cross, and in the evening Tenebrae. At St. Joseph's Church the celebrant of the Mass was Rev. Father Schaefer, S.M., Rev. Father Venning, S.M., deacon, and Rev. Father Quinn, S.M., subdeacon. In the afternoon there was the devotion of the Stations of the Cross. In the evening at Tenebrae the Rev. Father McDonald preached a sermon on the Passion. On Holy Thursday at St. Anne's Church, Newtown, the Rev. Father Herring, S.M., was the celebrant of the Mass, Ven. Archdeacon Devoy, S.M., deacon, and Rev. Father McDonald, S.M., subdeacon. In the evening Rev. Father Quinn, S.M., preached. On Good Friday Ven. Archdeacon Devoy, S.M., celebrated Mass, and in the afternoon there was the devotion of the Stations of the Cross, and in the evening Tenebrae, when the Ven. Archdeacon Devoy, S.M., preached on the Passion.

On St. Patrick's Day Mr. W. H. Field, M.P., opened the bazaar, which was held in the Shannon Druids' Hall in aid of Mother Mary Aubert's Home of Compassion. Mr. Field, who was accompanied by Mrs. Field, stated that he was very pleased to assist such a cause as Mother Mary Aubert's Home. Mother Aubert thanked Mr. Field for his kindness in attending to formally open the fair. The stalls and stallkeepers were as follow:—'Australia,' Mesdames May and Manning, Misses Mason and Lanrig; 'Miranui,' Mesdames J. Roach, J. B. Retter, and P. Gill; 'Shannon,' Mrs. Dalton, Misses Hogan and Cooper. This stall was the fac-simile of a whare, and the work of the Mouta Maoris. Sweets stall, Misses Lynch, L. Curran, and M. Ryan. Shooting gallery, fish ponds, bran tubs, and other side shows were also in evidence. The concert, which was held in the evening, was well patronised. Credit is due to Mrs. May for the success of the entertainment, as she was responsible for the training of the little dancers. On Friday and Saturday nights the bazaar was in full swing, the weight-guessing competitions for sheep donated by Mr. J. Mitchell and other competitions causing great interest. The committee expect to be able to hand over to Rev. Mother Aubert about £150 as the result of their efforts. The bazaar and concert proved a success both socially and financially.

Reefton

Whilst in Reefton his Excellency the Governor and party (says the local *Times*) visited the convent school, where they were received by the Rev.

Father Galerne and the Rev. Mother. The following address to his Excellency was read by Master J. Muldoon:—'May it please your Excellency,—All we children of the Catholic schools assemble here to-day to offer your Excellency a truly hearty welcome to our midst. We hail with delight the opportunity thus offered us of welcoming you, both in your person and as the representative of our Most Gracious Majesty, King Edward VII., whose youthful but loyal subjects we are. This, the first occasion on which we have been honored by your Excellency with such a happy visit, will ever be cherished by us, and will ever be regarded as a golden link between the glorious Home-land and our sea-girt isle. The broad-minded sympathy, the singleness of purpose, and the lofty aims manifested by your Excellency call for all the recognition and appreciation which is in our power to express, and fain would we give expression to the emotions of genuine appreciation and admiration which fill our hearts on this memorable occasion. While we must thank your Excellency for the strenuous efforts exerted to make the 'Britain of the South' a land of prosperity, happiness, and peace, we are mindful of the deep, increasing interest you have ever manifested in educational matters, realising as we do that during your stay in the Dominion you have been zealous for the advancement of knowledge and truth. Permit us, then, to thank your Excellency from our hearts, and also to ask your acceptance of our most sincere good wishes that God may bless with His choicest favors your Excellency, Lady Plunket, and family, and that you may be spared for many years to take part in the legislation of the world-wide Empire is the earnest wish and prayer of all we children.'

Miss L. Loubere then gave a recitation, and Miss M. Clarke played a violin solo, which was followed by a chorus by the pupils, songs by the senior and junior pupils, and a floral drill by the junior pupils.

His Excellency in reply to the address stated that he was very much gratified at the manner in which they welcomed him. He was glad to see such evidence of the work of the Catholic schools, and he assured the children that if they realised what sacrifice was required on the part of their teachers and parents to give them the education they deemed proper, they would learn doubly well and emulate the pupils in the State schools. He also assured them that when he last parted from the King it was at Waterford, and the King was in the midst of his Irish subjects, and was delighted at the enthusiasm and loyalty they displayed. As most of them were of Irish descent there, he could tell them, much as he liked New Zealand, he had a great longing to get back to the 'ould sod.' He again thanked them all for their welcome, and hoped that as he was the first Governor to visit them that his predecessors would have as enjoyable a visit as they had made his.

The Rev. Father Galerne thanked the Governor for his visit.

Palmerston North

(From our own correspondent.)

March 20.

On Passion Sunday the members of the men's branch of the Sacred Heart Society approached the Holy Table in a body. After Mass, in response to the wishes of their chaplain (Rev. Father Connolly), all met in the library to put the Society of the Sacred Heart on a sound footing. The following officers were unanimously elected:—President, J. O'Donovan; vice-president, S. Hanlon; secretary, F. Oakley; and H. Blandford.

The Rev. Father O'Beirne was a visitor here during the week, and, together with Fathers Connolly and Queally, attended the concert on St. Patrick's Night.

The St. Patrick's Night concert was held in the Zealandia Hall, which was crowded with an appreciative audience. The proceedings opened with an overture, 'Irish airs,' by the orchestra, which was well received; the ever popular 'Off to Philadelphia,' sung by Mr. Keeble, was so well liked that he had to respond to an encore, and gave 'Father O'Flynn.' Mr. Frank Johnston's violoncello items were splendidly played, and deservedly encored. Miss O'Brien, the only lady vocal soloist, won laurels for her effective singing of 'My Mary with the curling hair.' To the encore she responded by giving 'My wish for you,' which served to show the quality and power of her voice to advantage. The humorous recitations of Mr. Eadie simply convulsed the audience, and he was obliged to give many others in response to their desire. The violin solo by Miss Mary Ward was nicely played. The quartet by Mrs. Broad, Miss Pegden, and Messrs. Keeble and Rodgers was distinctive for its sweetness. An Irish jig, by Miss O'Donovan, delighted the audience. Mr. T. J. Rodgers excelled himself by his rendering of 'Terence's farewell,' and in the solo of 'Eileen Alannah.' His recall song, 'Dear little shamrock,' was given with great expression. Miss Blandford in 'Tit for tat' and her encore 'The goblins 'll have yer' showed dramatic ability as a reciter. Miss Rawlins, L.T.C.L., displayed her skill as a pianist in 'The minstrel boy,' and as an accompanist. The orchestra gave splendid items, which Mr. W. T. Ward skilfully conducted. The

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