

Africa. The Society of the Propagation of the Faith has just received the following letter from her describing Mr. Roosevelt's recent visit to her at the mission at Uganda:—

"The great man has been to see us! How long I have waited to say this. Yesterday he arrived at Entebbe, and to a telegram inviting him to lunch here the reply came: "With pleasure, Kermit and I accept the invitation to dinner." The Bishop, attended by the priests and Prince Joseph, with a great throng of our people, turned out to greet Colonel Roosevelt. We had two hands, and one of them walked 65 miles to be here. Up the road came the four runners who had been sent to watch for the rickshaws. Breathlessly they came with the message, and on top of it the rickshaws with the provincial governor and Colonel Roosevelt. Introductions followed, and to my remark how kind it was for him to come he replied, "Kind? Why, pitchforks wouldn't have kept me away! In fact, I would have been afraid to go back to the States if I hadn't come to see you."

"To the sweep of a lively march we all walked to the convent, where Mr. Roosevelt charmingly and so naturally spoke of men and things that we were ready listeners. I will only mention the matters near home, and that later. He was delighted with the convent and the work of the children, and commented on the modesty and good manners of the women. The queen sister, who ranks next to the king, was here, with several of the princesses to meet him. He was gracious enough to raise his hat and shake hands with these our great ladies, as he did with Prince Joseph, when bidding them good-bye. The Baganda who witnessed this were beside themselves with joy to see the gracious act of "this man of kindness." He was deeply interested in the process of bark-cloth making and our other industries. He visited the St. Elizabeth's Infirmary and the school, where he saw the children at their tasks. I know he was sincere in his praise when he said several times that he wished Mrs. Roosevelt could be here with them to see this model school in the heart of Africa. The children sang the "Star Spangled Banner." Perhaps it was the tears in my own eyes which made me think they were in his. Kermit thought it wonderfully fine, as they both thought the two bands which the Fathers here taught the boys to play so well.

"I do not know what most holy nuns will think when they hear that I was invited to the luncheon, and seated beside Mr. Roosevelt and opposite Kermit. I was their countrywoman. Did I feel embarrassed? No one could with Colonel Roosevelt, for he is simple and kind and puts one at one's ease. I forgot to tell you of whom he spoke. He said the Paulist Fathers were ever his staunchest friends in temperance work, and he always relied on their sincerity. He spoke of Dr. Wall, who had such influence with the police and who worked so faithfully for their good. Monsignor Denis O'Connell, Archbishop Keane, and others were mentioned. He asked me if I knew Maurice Francis Egan, and I told him how the latter had on one occasion visited our school and insisted on my sitting down to rest, and he taught the 84 little colored children for me the whole hot afternoon. He is to call on his Grace Archbishop Farley to give him his impressions of our efforts here. At luncheon I told him how, when my dear old mother wanted to rebuke us for finding fault with things, she would remark, "It is fit for a President." How little, then, did I dream that I should ever be so near one. When you sent us a box some months ago I saved a can of tomatoes, and whoever sent them would have rejoiced to-day could they have seen the glad surprise on the faces of Colonel Roosevelt and Kermit when the American tomatoes in Africa were served up.

"Mr. Knowles invited us to a tea party at his place, but the Bishop looked serious. Colonel Roosevelt in his most strenuous manner pleaded with the Bishop to grant this favor, and so to-morrow the Sisters will be at luncheon with our "great American," the king and his court, and in the afternoon all the Kampala folk will come to the reception. The Bishop, Fathers, and my Sisters are simply charmed with Mr. Roosevelt, and if there be in Uganda a woman prouder of her country and its incomparable representative than I, just let me see her, please. I did not fail to say to him how his broad and generous spirit of toleration had made him dear to American Catholics. His reply was characteristic: "I try to be decent, and I do detest religious intolerance. Some of my dearest friends are Catholics."

The Very Rev. Dr. Kennedy, Rector of St. Patrick's College, reports having seen Halley's comet with the naked eye on Sunday morning.

According to the secretary of the Christchurch General Laborers' Union, there is plenty of work offering at present for laborers, and the outlook just now is much better than it was at this time twelve months ago.

Messrs. Herbert, Haynes, and Co., Ltd., Dunedin, invite our readers to call and inspect the new idea in extending dining-room tables, which are compact, simple, and convenient....

For Chronic Chest Complaints,
Woods' Great Peppermint Cure, 1/6, 2/6.

The Sisters of Mercy, Auckland

(From our own correspondent.)

On April 9, 1850, sixty years ago, Bishop Pompallier, with seven Sisters of Mercy, under the guidance of the saintly Rev. Mother Cecilia Maher, landed in the fair city of Auckland, which is described by her in one of her letters as 'a singular-looking town, partly in a valley and partly straggling up a hill; wooden houses, streets marked, grass everywhere.' The enterprising band of Sisters left Dublin on August 8, 1849, for London, thence to Antwerp, from which place they embarked on August 27 in the ship *Oceanica*. After a long and perilous voyage they landed in Sydney, where they received the paternal greeting of Archbishop Polding, and were the guests for several days of the Benedictine Nuns at Subiaco. An uneventful voyage of some weeks brought our travellers to Auckland, which they sighted on April 7. On the 9th the Sisters bade adieu to the *Oceanica* and landed on the beach, where all the inhabitants came to welcome them to New Zealand. A procession was formed to the church, where the 'Magnificat' and 'Te Deum' were sung, the organ being played by Mr. Culpin. At the convent the Sisters were received by their future pupils, who had refreshments awaiting them. The Sisters of Mercy date from the birth of the Colony. They have shared in the joys and sorrows of their fellow-citizens of all denominations, in the up-hill struggles of those early days, and now rejoice in the prosperity of this fair Dominion. The subsequent works of the Sisters of Mercy in Auckland are well known. There are fourteen houses in the diocese, including an orphanage for girls in Waitomata street, Ponsonby, and an orphanage for boys at Takapuna. The Mater Misericordiae Hospital at Mt. Eden has been some years in existence. The Sisters in charge of the nursing department were trained and received their certificates from St. Vincent's Hospital, Sydney. The excellence of the nursing is well attested by the numerous patients who flock to it. The parent house, St. Mary's Convent, New street, Ponsonby, takes its place among the educational establishments of the Dominion. It was built in 1860, Mr. E. Mahoney being the architect. I am pleased to hear that a new building is in contemplation, and the Diamond Jubilee bazaar, which is to take place at the end of the year, will be well patronised, no doubt, by the friends and well-wishers of the Sisters of Mercy.

Mass was celebrated on the diamond jubilee anniversary at St. Mary's Convent at 7.30 o'clock, which was followed by Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. In the afternoon the children from the Star of the Sea Orphanage were regaled with afternoon tea, cake, etc. About 102 children were present, the Sisters and boarders entertaining the little visitors until the sound of the Angelus bell dispersed the merry little band.

Diocesan News

ARCHDIOCESE OF WELLINGTON

(From our own correspondent.)

April 16.

The parishioners of Island Bay are to hold a eucharist and musical evening in the Tutanekei Hall, Berhampore, in aid of St. Francis' Church, Island Bay, on Wednesday next.

The house-to-house collection for the month of March for funds towards the erection of new schools in Te Aro parish amounted to £35, which makes the sum received since the commencement of the collection in July last year £400.

Another burning question is close upon us. The clergy (says the *Times*) are determined to put in school committees at the coming election who favor the Bible being read in schools. They are influencing their people from the pulpit.

Last Sunday evening at St. Joseph's Church, Very Rev. Dr. Kennedy, S.M., Rector of St. Patrick's College, gave an instructive address on devotion to the Sacred Heart to the members of the men's branch of the St. Joseph's Sacred Heart Society.

The children from the Catholic orphanages and adults from other charitable institutions enjoyed the play 'Peter Pan,' to which the management kindly invited them to be present last Saturday afternoon. There was a large attendance, who were delighted with the play.

The members of the choir of the Basilica of the Sacred Heart, Hill street, gave a sacred concert last Monday evening. The items, which included Mendelssohn's 'Lauda Sion,' were very highly appreciated by those present. The concert was held in the Basilica. Mr. J. Flanagan acted as hon. secretary.

The H.A.C.B. Society, Lower Hutt, took part in a friendly societies' demonstration, organised with the object

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