

'Merchant of Venice' was staged. The net proceeds of the performance amounted to £11 3s 3d. The committee thanked Messrs. G. W. Woods, J. Shepherd, jun., and A. Fitzgerald for the return of debentures, all who assisted to make the Shakespearean play a success, the press, and Mr. Mehahey for acting as judge of elocution. Regret was expressed at the departure of three highly esteemed members—Rev. Brother Alfred and Messrs. L. W. J. Morton and P. S. Byrne. The annual Communion of the club was largely attended, and the ladies who assisted at the Communion breakfast were specially thanked. In conclusion, the committee stated that the club is the centre of much social improvement in the community, and as such it can be recommended to the support of those who are not fully acquainted with the valuable work it is doing.

The president, in moving the adoption of the report and balance sheet, congratulated the club on its sound position, and said the balance sheet was sufficient evidence, without any words of his, of the continued prosperity of the institution. The motion was carried with acclamation. The members of the committee-elect were recommended to take into consideration the advisability of adding another room to the building in which to place the billiard table.

The election of officers for the ensuing year resulted as follows:—Patron, Very Rev. Dean Burke, V.F.; president, Mr. T. Pound; vice-presidents, Messrs. G. W. Woods, M. Scully, and Rev. Brother Arthur; spiritual director, Rev. Father Kavanagh; secretary, Mr. R. J. Timpany; assistant secretary and treasurer, Mr. A. J. Keane; sub-editor, Mr. E. Prendergast; trustees, Very Rev. Dean Burke and Mr. J. Collins; auditor, Mr. J. Mulvey; general committee, Messrs. W. McGoldrick, P. Scully, M. Scully, J. Hannan, C. Mitchell, P. Maloney, J. O'Brien, and J. McMullan.

A vote of thanks to the chairman concluded the business of the evening.

## DIOCESE OF AUCKLAND

(By Telegraph from our own correspondent.)

April 25.

Mr. P. J. Nerheny is a candidate for the Auckland Mayoralty. The contest, which comes off next Wednesday, is creating great interest, each side working hard to secure the election of its candidate.

The Rev. Father Wright, at the last meeting of the confraternity of the Holy Family, gave a highly instructive and interesting lecture on the 'Moon.' The hope was expressed that he would give further lectures on astronomy.

Rev. Father Hunt, C.S.S.R., arrived last Thursday morning from Wellington by express, and left the same evening by steamer for Tauranga, where he opened a mission yesterday. When he finishes there he will proceed to Hamilton, to conduct a fortnight's mission.

At the Masses at the Cathedral yesterday the Rev. Father Holbrook spoke earnestly and strongly on the Bible-in-schools question. He said circulars had been sent surreptitiously to those likely to support this scheme by ministers of various denominations. Catholics, who paid their quota towards the maintaining of the present secular system, had a right to some consideration. Why should their money be used to inculcate doctrines in which they did not believe? He knew what was going on, and he exhorted every Catholic householder to attend school committee meetings to-morrow night and vote against this proselytising scheme. It was a deliberate attempt to turn the State schools into Protestant Sunday schools. Catholic teachers in public school would, if this were carried, soon be discharged, because they would not be able to teach to orders. The suggested conscience clause would entail upon Catholic children in State schools many insults. As soon as the Bible-in-schools proposal was carried then no longer could State support be withheld from Catholic schools, which now saved the State £60,000 annually.

The new buildings for the Sisters of the Sacred Heart, which was referred to recently, will be a very handsome structure of Gothic design, consisting of three storeys and a basement, with a frontage of 115ft and a depth of 100ft. It will be built of pressed Melbourne bricks, faced with Oamaru stone, and will consist of a central block and two side wings. The interior will contain a number of studies, recreation rooms, and class rooms, also a library and school refectory, while the chapel will occupy the whole of the second floor of the wing. The floors and partitions are to be built of reinforced concrete, thus rendering the convent fireproof. There is at present a wooden building on the site, and this will temporarily be used as a residence for the Sisters. It can be taken down when need may arise, and replaced by a wing in harmony with the new building, which has been designed by Messrs. Edward Mahony and Son, architects. The estimated cost is £20,000.

## Rotorua

(By telegraph from our own correspondent.)

April 25.

Rev. Father Cahill (Dannevirke), who has been spending a few weeks in Rotorua recuperating, left last week for Auckland en route for his parish.

The tourist season is nearly at an end, and the town is beginning to assume its winter aspects. On the whole, the season was not equal to past ones.

Very Rev. Dean Lighthart returned to Rotorua on Saturday, after an absence of about a month in the north. His parishioners were pleased to hear that he had almost recovered from the severe attack of influenza which detained him a fortnight in Auckland.

Rev. Father Dunne, of Wilcannia, celebrated the 10 o'clock Mass at St. Michael's Church on Sunday, and preached an instructive sermon. In the evening, in the presence of a large congregation, Rev. Father Kennedy, O.F.M., who had intended leaving Rotorua the previous day, but in response to an appeal from Father Wientjes remained over Sunday, preached a beautiful discourse. In the course of his sermon, Father Kennedy emphasised the necessity of approaching the Holy Table regularly—daily, if possible, this being the wish of the Holy Father—for the conversion of mankind from the dangers of infidelity. The preacher quoted statistics which showed that Christianity was being undermined by infidels, and that it was the opinion of learned writers that at the end of another century there would be but two great forces in the world—Catholicism and infidelity.

## Westport

(From our own correspondent.)

April 18.

The debating branch of St. Canice's Club opened its winter session on Tuesday evening last, there being a good attendance of members. The subject for debate was 'Should bachelors be taxed?' Mr. G. E. Simon led for the affirmative, and was supported by Messrs. J. A. Ryan, T. Reece, W. Smith, E. Nosley, J. Radford, and F. O'Gorman, whilst the negative was upheld by Messrs. A. M. Bourke (leader), P. Malloy, T. Parkin, C. Reece, F. Ryan, J. Hughes, and P. Hughes. At the conclusion of the debate the judge (Rev. Father McMenamin), after reviewing the speeches, gave his verdict in favor of the affirmative. On Thursday evening, April 14, a highly successful euchre tournament was held in St. Canice's Club rooms. Mrs. De Vere won the lady's prize, and Mr. John Spillane the gentleman's.

## Waimate

A handsomely illuminated address, the text of which is as follows, will be presented to the Rev. J. Tymons, S.M., on his intended visit to the Waimate district next month (says the *Waimate Advertiser*):—

'Dear Rev. Father,—Widespread and truly sincere was the regret at the rumor that you were going away from us to control the commercial course at St. Patrick's College. During four years of curacy you proved yourself a zealous priest, an able administrator, and a true lover of the people. As minister of God, you celebrated Holy Mass Sunday after Sunday, enduring tedious drives, long fasts, and trying weather. In the administration of the Sacraments no official hardness and indifference, never wearied, always kind and courteous. Upon the sick, at home, and in the hospitals you bestowed special care and attention, late and early bearing them the consolations of religion, ever affable and serene with encouraging words, with a delicate and appropriate sympathy. The children in the country schools remember you as loving, patient, determined to brave all and dare all to teach them the catechism and prepare them for the Sacraments. Eager for the beauty of the temple of God, you devoted much energy in decorating, repairing, and improving the church property, especially at Morven; providing the sanctuary with artistic altars, vestments, and furniture; and this without fuss or apparent expenditure or special collections, but in a manner all your own. Efficient in financial management, you formed your plans carefully, quietly, described them to the people, and as quietly put them into execution, always achieving magnificent results, though few suspected your own personal labors undergone to reach the desired end. Look at the bazaars, the Hibernian Society, the clubs, the school concerts, Dean Regnault's presentations, parochial social gatherings, children's excursions, altar societies, and the orchestra, all finely organised, and conducted with vigor and crowned with brilliant and triumphal success. Gratitude, love, admiration, lead us to make this presentation, though you fled to avoid it. Wishing you continued success in your new sphere, we are, the Catholics of Waimate.'

The results of the drawing of St. Mary's art union, Nelson, are published in this issue....

A list of winning numbers in the art union in aid of St. Patrick's Church, Kumara, appears in this issue....

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