

and the general trend of enlightened non-Catholic opinion was strongly against the oath. At an Anglican Synod held in Goulburn, New South Wales, the Rev. J. A. Newth moved a formal resolution protesting against the insult to Catholics involved in making the King declare their doctrines 'superstitious and idolatrous,' and in doing so gave one of the most cogent expositions of the objections to the oath that we have yet seen.

After referring in a courteous and Christian way to the doctrinal differences between the Church of England and the Catholic Church, Mr. Newth continued: 'And because, forsooth, we do not hold Rome's doctrine of the invocation of saints and of the Mass, we must insist on the King's making a declaration that they are "superstitious and idolatrous," must we? The Presbyterians in the General Assembly in Sydney have said "No," even the Wesleyan Methodists in their conference have said "No," and we, I hope, for the credit of the diocese, will also say "No." In the first place, because it is absurd for the King to have to make this declaration; for the King is not a theologian, and no one supposes him to be competent to lay down the law on these vexed theological questions, to really know anything about them, and why, therefore, should he be expected to say anything about them? In the second place, because it seems preposterous that the King, who is only the temporal head of the Church of England, should, as a condition of receiving the Crown, be subjected to a more rigid religious test than is demanded of even the Archbishop of Canterbury, its spiritual head; for the Archbishop of Canterbury is, I need hardly say, only required to give a general assent to the 39 Articles as a whole, and not to declare that he receives what they say of the Mass, etc., "without mental reservation of any kind whatsoever"—in the third place, because it is no safeguard, for if the King were secretly a Romanist, it is not likely that he would not find some way of making the declaration for all that. He might be advised that it was virtually an oath taken under compulsion, and, therefore, null and void; or that he might fake it "without any mental reservation of any kind" that his subjects were entitled to claim for him, or with some other grain of salt that might be offered.

'And last, but not least, we object to this oath, because it is wrong, because it amounts to persecution, for which no good cause can be shown, wounding to the quick as it does a large and influential section of the community, many of whom fill the highest positions of rank and honor in the Empire, and are among the most loyal of his Majesty's subjects. No wonder that King Edward's voice is said to have barely risen above a mutter when he made the declaration on the last occasion upon which, we hope, it ever will be made. If the Roman Catholics were not allowed to celebrate Mass in the British dominions, as was of course the case at one time, then there would be some consistency in the King's declaration; but if, as we do, we leave them perfectly free to carry out their own forms and ideas of worship, and not only this, but if these very same forms and ideas of worship, if the Mass and the invocation of Saints, are tolerated in the Church of England itself, surely we are only straining at a gnat while we are swallowing a camel if we object to the King being excused from calling them names.'

DIocese OF DUNEDIN

Rev. Father O'Connell, S.M., began a week's retreat for the students of Holy Cross College, Mosgiel, on Monday evening.

The Very Rev. Father O'Donnell, of Gore, arrived in Dunedin on Saturday from Sydney, on his return from a trip to Europe.

The weekly meeting of St. Patrick's Young Men's Social and Literary Club, South Dunedin, was held in the schoolroom on Tuesday evening, May 10, when a very enjoyable time was spent. During the evening songs were given by Messrs. T. Mee, J. McDonald, W. Boreham, W. Tonar, and J. Keyes, and a piano solo by Mr. F. Perkins. A motion was passed expressing sympathy with the Royal Family on the death of the King.

St. Joseph's Harriers held their weekly run on Saturday from the Wakari School. Considering the weather conditions, a fair muster turned out. Paper being dispensed

with, the pack, under Captain Callan, went along past the school, striking the Wakari District road, which was followed for some considerable distance, till the reservoir was reached, and after going around it the pack doubled back to the Wakari District road, which was followed home. Owing to the weather, the run was cut short, only about four miles being covered, mostly on the road, the pace throughout being very solid.

Sunday being the feast of Pentecost, there was Pontifical High Mass at St. Joseph's Cathedral at 11 o'clock. His Lordship Bishop Verdon was celebrant, Very Rev. Father O'Donnell (Gore) assistant priest, Rev. Father O'Connell, S.M. (Christchurch), and Rev. D. O'Neill (South Dunedin) deacons at the throne, Rev. Father O'Reilly deacon of the Mass, Rev. Father Scanlan subdeacon, and Rev. Father Coffey, Adm., master of ceremonies. The occasional sermon was preached by the Rev. Father O'Reilly. In the evening at Vespers the Rev. Father O'Connell, S.M., preached an impressive discourse on the day's festival.

There was a very large attendance of members at the usual weekly meeting of St. Joseph's Men's Club on Monday evening, the programme being readings by members. The following gentlemen contributed items:—Rev. Brother Brady, Messrs. Hally, Laffey, Graham, Lovell, Dunne, and Rossbotham. The contributions chosen were all from authors of recognised merit, and consequently a most enjoyable evening was spent by those who listened, while the readers without doubt benefited by the close study and preparation devoted to their readings. On the motion of Mr. E. W. Spain, seconded by Mr. J. B. Callan, jun., a hearty vote of thanks was passed to the readers. Rev. Father Coffey, who presided, also complimented the readers and criticised their work, pointing out how improvement might be made in certain cases.

Invercargill

(From our own correspondent.)

May 16.

The annual social in aid of the Catholic Club will be held in the Victoria Hall on Thursday, June 16.

A euchre match between the members of the Hibernian Society and those of the Catholic Club took place in the club rooms on Tuesday night. Both societies were well represented, and a very enjoyable evening was spent. The Hibernian side was successful in winning the match. It is intended to hold these matches monthly in future.

The following pupils of St. Catherine's Convent, Invercargill, were successful in the theory examinations of last November, conducted by the Associated Board of the R.A.M. and R.C.M.:—Local centre examinations: Advanced grade, harmony (full marks 150, honors 130, pass 100)—Alice F. Harrington, 105. Rudiments of music (full marks 99, pass 66)—Marion Vera Nelson, 94. School examinations: Higher division, harmony (full marks 150, distinction 130, pass 100)—Grace E. Paton, 108.

The Hibernian Band's sacred concert, which was postponed from last Sunday on account of the death of King Edward, was given in the Gardens yesterday. The following programme was rendered: Funeral March (Beethoven); selection, 'La Gitana' (W. V. Wallace); solo, 'Beautiful Isle of the Sea' (Balfe); selection, 'La Sonnambula' (Bellini); euphonium solo, 'Land of hope and glory' (Elgar); Hymn of the Homeland' (Sir A. Sullivan); selection, 'Il Bravo' (Mercadante); Dead March in 'Saul' (Handel); 'God save the King.'

The *Southland Times* of May 13 devotes its leading columns to a very fair and impartial article on 'The Accession Oath.' After referring to the agitation on foot to amend the oath, the writer goes on to say: 'The Protestant succession is strongly buttressed by the law, and that being so the insistence upon the terms of the Accession Oath, and particularly upon the declaration that certain rites of the Church of Rome are superstitious and idolatrous might very well be omitted. In that Church are to be found thousands of his Majesty's most loyal subjects, and it is surely wanton cruelty to wound their feelings and to affront their religious convictions by compelling the King to denounce in the harshest terms articles of faith which they regard as sacred.'

DIocese OF AUCKLAND

(By Telegraph from our own correspondent.)

May 16.

Right Rev. Mgr. Gillan is still absent in Gisborne.

The Newman Society (Auckland branch) held its usual meeting yesterday afternoon in St. Patrick's Hall.

The devotion of the Forty Hours' Adoration will commence at the Cathedral on the last Sunday in May.

The Children of Mary held a social last Friday evening in the Hibernian Hall, when there was a large attendance, all of whom enjoyed themselves thoroughly. Miss Duffin (honorary secretary) worked energetically to make the function a success.