

the Very Rev. Father Murray, the Rev. Father Maples, the Very Rev. Father Keogh, S.M., and the Rev. Father Tubman, S.M. As a token of their esteem the clergy presented Dean Regnault with the completed volumes of the new *Catholic Encyclopedia*.

REV. FATHER COGNET, S.M., OTAKI

(From an occasional correspondent.)

The Catholic Mission of Otaki was lately the scene of a very interesting event, the memory of which will long live in the minds of those who had the privilege of witnessing it. Priests and friends from all parts of the archdiocese flocked to Pukekarakara to join in the celebration of Father Cognet's silver jubilee of his ordination to the priesthood. Ordained on September 13, 1835, by the Bishop of Belley in the historical church of Bron, the Rev. Father has ever since labored among the Native and the European population of New Zealand on the Wanganui River, in Taranaki, Hawke's Bay, and Otaki.

On the morning of his jubilee, Father Cognet, after receiving many congratulations, celebrated a Mass of Thanksgiving for the blessings received during his priestly career. At the end of Mass and before Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, the Very Rev. Dean Regnault, S.M. (Provincial), addressed the congregation, taking for his text the words of the Psalm, 'Thou art a priest for ever according to the order of Melchisedech.' He spoke briefly of the day's celebrations, and went on to explain the wonderful power given to the priest—power of offering the Holy Sacrifice, power of forgiving sins. The Church needs good priests, so may God long keep their pastor to do good in their midst.

At the conclusion of Mass there was a presentation of a fine gold chalice to Father Cognet by the children of the school and a beautiful missal, a gift of the Children of Mary. At Benediction a splendid stole, a present of the Sisters of St. Joseph, was used.

About 1 o'clock the sound of a bell called the mixed gathering of European and Maori friends to the large meeting hall, which had been transformed by the Natives under the direction of Father Delach into a commodious dining-room. Grace being said, all sat down to a splendid Maori luncheon. Towards the end the Very Rev. Father O'Shea, S.M., V.G., proposed the toast of the jubilarian in a few touching words, which were loudly applauded, especially those which referred to Father Cognet's kindness and the general esteem in which he was held by the clergy of New Zealand.

Father Cognet feelingly replied. He said how deeply grateful he was for the kind way the Vicar-General had proposed the toast, and for the honor conferred upon him by the presence of so many priests and friends. Rev. Father Cognet also added that on a day like this a little flattery is not supposed to do any harm; so he did not complain to be flattered a little. But, all the same, in his heart he was conscious of having committed many faults and mistakes. He did not expect to see the day of his golden jubilee; nevertheless he was ready to do God's holy will.

The Ven. Archdeacon Devoy, S.M., tendered his heartiest congratulations to the Rev. Father.

In the name of the younger clergy, Father Lacroix expressed his pleasure of assisting at this joyous ceremony, and wished long life to his old parish priest and friend.

Mr. T. O'Rourke, speaking for the parishioners, told Father Cognet how his goodness and zeal had endeared him to his flock and healed the wound they had received in the loss of a very dear friend and beloved pastor.

After luncheon all the visitors betook themselves to the fern garden designed by Father Melu, a delightful spot for poets and artists, the work of many days and the glory of the gardener.

In the schoolroom an address was read and presented, together with a purse of sovereigns, accompanied by a number of valuable books. Then the children of the school and the convent boarders gave an excellent entertainment consisting of musical items, songs, and a play, 'Martyrdom of St. Philomena,' which reflected great credit on the Sisters and their young pupils. Illuminations and firing of rockets brought to a close a day of great rejoicing.

WEDDING BELLS

WHITEFORD—HIGGINS.

A very pretty wedding (says the *Marlborough Herald*) was solemnised at the Catholic Church, Seddon, the contracting parties being Miss Mary Agnes Higgins (eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Higgins) and Mr. D. E. Whiteford (second engineer of R.M.S. Athenic), only son of the late Mr. Daniel Whiteford, of Liverpool, England. The Rev. Father Holley officiated at the ceremony and celebrated the Nuptial Mass. The bride, who was given away by her father, was charmingly attired in a cream braided cloth costume, with silk guipure, and wore a large picture hat. She also wore a handsome expanding gold bracelet, with watch studded with turquoise and pearls (the gift of the bridegroom). She was attended by her

two sisters, the Misses Kate and Maggie Higgins. The bridesmaids wore handsome gold bracelets, the gifts of the bridegroom. Mr. H. T. Ash (Wellington) supported the bridegroom as best man, and Mr. James Higgins acted as groomsmen. Miss McCabe played the 'Bridal march' as the bride entered the church. The bridal party left the church to the strains of Mendelssohn's 'Wedding march,' played by Miss McCabe. The party repaired, by motor car, to Plantation Villa, the residence of the bride's parents, where the wedding breakfast was served in a marquee in the beautiful grounds of the bride's home. Rev. Father Holley proposed the toast of the bride and bridegroom in a very happy speech, other toasts appropriate to the occasion being also duly honored. The numerous presents, laid in the large dining room, looked very handsome and choice. The happy pair left for Picton, en route to the Empire City, where the honeymoon will be spent, taking with them the best wishes of a large circle of friends.

OBITUARY

MR. ARTHUR SKINNER, DUNEDIN.

We regret to record the death of Mr. Arthur Skinner, who passed away at his residence, Normanby, North-East Valley, Dunedin, on September 19, at the age of 76 years. The deceased, who was a native of Kincardineshire, Scotland, was born close to the well-known Blairs College, and was a member of an old Catholic Highland family of Glenlivet. He came out to New Zealand about twenty years ago, and settled down in Dunedin. The funeral took place on September 22, after a Requiem Mass at the Sacred Heart Church, North-East Valley. Rev. Father O'Reilly was celebrant of the Mass, and also officiated at the interment in the Southern Cemetery. Among those present at the funeral were the seven sons of the deceased. The late Mr. Skinner leaves a widow, seven sons (one of whom is a well-known commercial traveller, another a student at Holy Cross College, a third a leading athlete), and five daughters to mourn their loss.—R.I.P.

MRS. BERNARD McNAMARA, AMBERLEY.

To the sorrow of a wide circle of friends (writes our Christchurch correspondent) there passed away last week in a private hospital of the city, after a brief but painful illness, at the early age of 36 years, Mrs. McNamara, wife of Mr. Bernard McNamara, jun., of Gray's road, Amberley. The deceased lady was a daughter of Mrs. A. Watson, Gresford street, St. Albans, Christchurch, a much-respected parishioner of St. Mary's, Christchurch North; sister of Miss Watson (resident at home with her mother) and Mr. Watson (of St. Andrews, South Canterbury). She was attended in her last illness by the Rev. Dr. Kennedy, of the Cathedral, and died fortified by all the rites and consolations of our holy religion. Requiem Mass for the repose of her soul was celebrated by the Rev. Father Richards in the Church of the Passion, Brackenbridge, on last Friday morning, the funeral afterwards being very largely attended, the Rev. Father Richards, pastor of the district, officiating at the interment.—R.I.P.

ST. PATRICK'S COLLEGE JUBILEE FUND

At a representative meeting of clergy and laity held in Wellington about twelve months ago it was resolved to commemorate the silver jubilee of St. Patrick's College by raising a fund, to be known as the St. Patrick's College Jubilee Fund, to be applied to the reduction, if not complete extinction, of the existing debt on the institution, and the building and equipment of science laboratories in connection with the institution. The college was erected at a cost of £21,300, towards which the Catholics of this Dominion contributed £10,000, and the Marist Fathers £5800, so that it started with a debt of £5500, which, through unavoidable circumstances, now amounts to £7500. Since its foundation the Marist Fathers have spent on improvements to the college and in paying interest on the debt about £18,000. Had not the institution been hampered with a debt, the money paid away in interest could have been put to good account in properly equipping the college. It is not necessary to remind our readers of what the college has done for our Catholic youth during the twenty-five years of its existence. Within its walls they have received a sound Catholic training, all the advantages of a higher education which has qualified them to rank intellectually and socially with the best people in the land, and as a result its past students are to be found at the present time in every walk of life. The committee appointed to arrange for the jubilee celebrations, which will extend over three days, commencing on December 11, earnestly appeal for contributions to the fund, so that they may be in a position next December not only to hand over a sum that will liquidate the debt, but also have sufficient to provide for the necessary equipment of the college. A list of subscriptions appears elsewhere in this issue.