

A NEW CONVENT AT WANGANUI

BLESSING AND LAYING THE FOUNDATION STONE

(From our own correspondent.)

His Grace Archbishop Redwood, accompanied by the Rev. Father Holley, S.M. (the recently appointed parish priest of Wanganui) and the Rev. Father Hickson, S.M. (Wellington), arrived here on Saturday afternoon, May 6. On Sunday morning after the last Mass his Grace the Archbishop administered the Sacrament of Confirmation to 175 candidates at St. Mary's Church, there being a very large congregation.

The ceremony of laying the foundation stone of the new convent, which will be one of the finest buildings in the North Island, was performed in the afternoon, his Grace the Archbishop officiating. The weather was beautifully fine, and there was a very large attendance of the public, about 2000 being present. On the platform were the Archbishop, Rev. Fathers Holley, Hickson, Barra, Moloney, and Vibaud, Mr. J. T. Hogan, M.P., and his Worship the Mayor (Mr. C. E. Mackay). Apologies were received for the absence of Very Rev. Dean Regnault (Provincial of the Marist Order) and Very Rev. Father O'Shea, S.M., V.G., Mr. R. W. Smith, M.P., and Mr. Sydney Johnston.

The actual ceremony was very short, the tablet being simply lowered into position and blessed by the Archbishop, who afterwards delivered an interesting address. The tablet bore the following inscription:—A.M.D.G.—This stone was solemnly blessed and duly laid by his Grace the Most Rev. Francis Redwood, S.M., D.D., Archbishop of Wellington and Metropolitan, May 7, 1911. John L. Swan, M.R.S.A., architect, Wellington; builders: Campbell and Burke, Wellington.

Archbishop Redwood said it was with great pleasure he was present to solemnly bless and truly lay the stone of this splendid building, which was being erected in honor of the Order of St. Joseph, the patron of this teaching Order. He expressed gratitude to the Mayor and the member for the district for their attendance. That day marked an era in the history of the Order of St. Joseph. Many old residents of Wanganui would remember the small beginning of the Order in Wanganui, and all would know their great work, which had progressed and grown from the acorn to the mighty tree, whose branches spread throughout all parts of the diocese. When these buildings were finished the Sisters would have a home to accommodate a large number of boarders, who would come from all parts of the diocese, as well as a place for the novices whom they would train for their sublime vocation. Speaking specially to the Catholics, but at the same time to the public generally, Archbishop Redwood said: 'There is nothing so important as a good solid Christian education for the rising generation. No matter what else you give them, if that is missing there is a great gap in their education. The faculties that are to be developed are ignored, and the thing for which they were created by the Supreme Being is lost. If this world were the only world, it would seem that secular education would meet all requirements. But we are here only for a short time. Our home is in eternity, and we are to prepare ourselves for that eternity, and therefore must always have that last end in view in all we undertake. The object of people now seems to be to tear along at a mighty speed somewhere. But where? Going ahead somewhere is not progress. Is it progress if you are going in the wrong way? Is it progress if you are forgetting the end for which the Creator intended you? It is progress downhill. The Catholic Church knows that, and she will therefore always have complete education for her youth. They must be trained mentally, physically, and morally. They require, therefore, the great element of religion—a religion imparted in an atmosphere of religion, so that they breathe it in through every pore, they imbibe it and are saturated with it, so that they will be able to stem the influences that are tending against religion. Catholic means universal. The Catholic Church wants to be Catholic in education. She wants all the faculties of the child developed harmoniously in order that there may grow the perfect man and woman.' His Grace then concluded by remarking that the new convent would be a magnificent building, which, standing on a hill, would be a landmark and an ornament to the countryside.

Rev. Father Holley said that in order to give an idea of the magnitude of the building, and to remove some erroneous impressions regarding the financing of this great undertaking, it would be interesting for the public to know that the actual contract price was £17,613, which, with extras, would make £17,894. To that must be added the fees of the architect and clerk of works, bringing the price up to £18,894. Other charges, including £3000 for the site, brought the total to £22,000. The Church authorities had been able to borrow £19,000 from the Public Trustee, so that they were £3000 short, without considering furnishing, laying out the grounds, etc. The interest amounted to £18 per week, or £900 a year. It therefore behoved all present who were in sympathy with the work to give according to their means or, at least, to promise what they thought they would in a reasonable time be able to pay.

The priests and a number of gentlemen then made a collection, with the result that the handsome amount of £158 was realised.

After addresses by the Mayor and Mr. J. T. Hogan, M.P., his Grace thanked the people for their attendance, and the proceedings terminated.

In the evening his Grace preached in St. Mary's Church to a crowded congregation on the feast of the day, the 'Patronage of St. Joseph.' Subsequently his Grace formally installed Rev. Father Holley as the parish priest of Wanganui.

A very handsome donation of £1000 has been made by Mr. Sydney Johnston, of Takapau, Hawke's Bay, to the local community of St. Joseph, towards the cost of the erection of the new convent.

Palmerston North

(From our own correspondent.)

May 7.

To-day being the first Sunday there was Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament after the 11 o'clock Mass. The Rev. Father Costello preached to a crowded congregation in the evening on the Patronage of St. Joseph, after which followed the usual procession of the Blessed Sacrament.

Mr. W. G. Tabor, who has been absent from Palmerston North for some time, has accepted an important position with Messrs. Buick and Young, and I am pleased to say that his vocal services will be again given to St. Patrick's choir, which, under the conductorship of Rev. Father Kehoe, with Madame Parry as organist, is attaining a state of great efficiency.

The first round of the inter-society euchre tournament was won by the H.A.C.B. Society, who beat their opponents by 45 to 27.

The sixth annual concert of the pupils of St. Mary's Convent, held before a crowded audience in the Opera House on Wednesday, May 3, will be remembered as having eclipsed the best of its predecessors by a substantial margin. There were present his Grace the Archbishop of Wellington, and Rev. Fathers Costello, Kehoe, and Dore. The entertainment gave evidence of the very high standard of tuition given by the Sisters, while the addition of a trio of talented young vocalists from the Wellington Convent was an admirable innovation, and lifted the concert to a higher level than had before been reached. Appearing first in a Shakespearean trio with her fellow-pupils, the Misses Segrief, Miss McEnroe gave the audience some indication of her powers, but they were hardly prepared for the revelation that followed in the rendering of the intricate vocal solo, 'Carnivale de Venezia,' wherein the young singer had full opportunity of displaying her talent. As an encore, Miss McEnroe gave the evergreen Irish air, 'Believe me, if all those endearing young charms,' in quite a delightful manner. Miss Agnes Segrief, another of the Wellingtonians, gave an intelligent and satisfying rendering of Gounod's 'Serenade,' to which was given the added charm of a violin obligato by Miss Louise Croucher. The number was one of the evening's gems, and in response to a recall Miss Segrief made a marked impression by her exceptional rendering of another of Ireland's beautiful airs, 'The harp that once.' Together, the Misses McEnroe and Segrief secured the only double encore of the evening, their beautiful rendering of Blumenthal's 'Venetian boat song.' Of the other vocalists, Mrs. Broad again proved her popularity with Palmerston audiences by being heartily encored for a charming rendering of Cox's 'The lonely road,' the recall item being Mallinson's 'Four by the clock,' very tastefully rendered. Miss Vera Cooper was also encored for the way in which she negotiated the extremely difficult problems set in the Meyerbeer scena, 'Roberto, oh tu che adoro.' Part singing is always a welcome feature of the convent concerts, and the three items given by the pupils were all evidence of careful training. Among the instrumental numbers, Miss Louise Croucher's violin solo, of course, took pride of place. It goes without saying that a recall was demanded. Miss Minna Ward, who was till quite recently a frequent performer at local concerts, made a welcome reappearance in a pianoforte solo, her number being a charmingly rendered 'Study in D flat' by Liszt, for which the audience demanded an encore. The remainder of the programme was devoted to pianoforte items by the advanced pupils of the convent. The overture was a duet (two pianos) by the Misses Rainbow, Carey, Hill, and Richter, which was excellently given. There was a finely rendered duo, Chopin's 'Rondo in C,' by two well known pianists Misses Vera Graham and Violet Kendall, and the 'Tannhauser' overture on three pianos by the Misses M. Ward, N. Greene, and Gudgeon. All three items revealed careful training and intelligent interpretation, and completed one of the finest concerts given here for some time. Mention must be made of the unusual excellence of Miss Ward's accompaniments, which were remarkable for an artistic restraint not often found in such work.

For Children's Hacking Cough at night,
Woods' Great Peppermint Cure, 1s 6d, 2s 6d.