

Church, Pittsburg, their respective godparents (represented by proxy) being Mrs. Bellamy Storer, of Boston, Cincinnati and Paris, and Rev. Henry R. Sargent. Mr. Strong is an associate of the American Institute of Architects, a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers, and was one of the founders and late president of the Anglo-Roman Union.

The Rev. Gordon Tidy, who for two years was assistant to the Rev. Carr-Smith, at St. James', Sydney, and who had charge of the Anglican Cathedral, Bathurst, during the absence of Dean Marriott in England, was received into the Catholic Church on February 24, at St. Stanislaus' College, Bathurst, by the Very Rev. Father M. J. O'Reilly, C.M., Provincial of the Vincentian Fathers. Mr. Tidy received his education at Wellington College, and at the Royal Military College, Sandhurst. Dr. Benson, afterwards Archbishop of Canterbury, was head master at Wellington, and there Father Hugh Benson was born. Mr. Tidy served for some years as lieutenant in the 8th King's Regiment. He is a son of the late Major-General T. H. Tidy, who was for some years assistant-Adjutant General of the Horse Guards.

Mrs. Bartlett, widow of the late Judge Bartlett, who was so well known in New York some years ago, has been received into the true fold, having made her abjuration in Paris some time ago. Mrs. Bartlett received the Sacrament of Confirmation from the hands of the Most Rev. Archbishop Stonor, in the Church of San Silvestro in Capite, in the presence of the Rev. John Dolan, rector, late of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, New York, and a few special friends. Mrs. Bartlett (writes a Rome correspondent) is only one of the hundreds of foreigners who are converted every year in Rome, and whose names never come before the public. Hebrews, Protestants, and many who never gave a thought to any religion, find the light of faith after a sojourn in the centre of Christendom, for it is here alone even the most educated can form an adequate idea of the power and majesty of the Catholic Church.

At the Church of the Sacred Heart, Edinburgh, on April 21, the Rev. A. J. Grant, M.A., B.D., formerly minister of the United Free Church at Lochranza, Arran, was received into the Catholic Church by the Rev. Charles Widdowson, S.J. Mr. Grant, who is of middle age, is a noted scholar and a fluent Gaelic speaker. He is well known in the Highlands, and has held positions at Inverness, Fort William, and other places in the North of Scotland. He retired from his charge in Arran about two years ago, and since then he has been doing pulpit work in the United Free Churches in and around Edinburgh. It is understood that Mr. Grant's wife has been a Catholic for some time, and that fact becoming known led to difficulties which ended in his resignation from the Arran charge, the final outcome now being that he also has obtained the inestimable grace of entering the one true fold. Mr. Grant is said to be the first United Free Church minister to join the Catholic Church, although within the last few years two ministers of the Established Church of Scotland in Glasgow became Catholic priests, and are now engaged in active work in Glasgow archdiocese.

April 2 (says the London *Tablet*) is a date which holds high anniversary place in the records of that proud chapter of history, the Victorian conversions. Recent happy happenings in the South of England, in the first year of our own Georgian era, tend to send our memories northwards to what took place in Leeds sixty years ago last Sunday. The evening of April 2, 1851, closed upon a memorable scene in St. Ann's, Leeds, afterwards the Catholic cathedral of the diocese. Before its altar seven Anglican clergymen knelt to make public profession of the Catholic Faith—six from St. Saviour's, Leeds, and one other, making probably the largest number ever received in joint association. Dr. Newman had come from Birmingham to receive the converts, whose names were: The Rev. Thomas Minster, M.A., Catherine College, Cambridge, Vicar of St. Saviour's from 1849, who died the following year in Catholic minor orders at St. Mary's, Hailey; the Rev. George Lloyd Crawley, of Christ Church, Oxford, curate of St. Saviour's, afterwards an Oblate Father of Mary Immaculate in Leeds, who died in 1874; the Rev. Seton Rooke, M.A., of Oriel College, Oxford, curate of St. Saviour's, who preached in his Dominican habit at the second opening of St. Mary's, Leeds, in 1866, and died at Haverstock Hill in 1901; the Rev. Henry Combs, M.A., Fellow of St. John's College, Oxford, curate of St. Saviour's, who lived for a time with the Oblate Fathers in Leeds, and, dying in 1880, left them many of his books; the Rev. Richard Ward, M.A., of Oriel, Oxford, first vicar of St. Saviour's, who died a Canon of Westminster; the Rev. W. H. Lewthwaite, M.A., Trinity College, Cambridge, vicar of Clifford, Yorkshire, afterwards a devoted Father of Charity till his death in 1892; and, finally, Newman's warm personal friend, the Rev. William Payne Neville, assisting at St. Saviour's, who joined the Birmingham Oratory, and for whom Newman called faintly, 'William, William,' almost in his last moments. He died but six years ago, the last survivor of the band, and the last but one (Dr. Ryder) of that more famous company of Newman's fellow-Oratorians whose names are inscribed on the dedicatory page of the *Apologia*. Several lay members of St. Saviour's congregation presented themselves for reception into the Church at the same time; but the example thus set has been far exceeded in point of numbers in Brighton.

THE WEDDING RING OF ENGLAND

The ring to be worn by King George at his coronation is (say the *Ave Maria*) of great antiquity as an emblem of power, and is preserved with the utmost care at the shrine of the Confessor in Westminster Abbey. It is metaphorically called the 'wedding ring of England.' The legend concerning it is thus quaintly related by Caxton:—

When the blessed King Edward had lived many years and was fallen into great age, it happened he came riding by a church in Essex called Havering, which was at that time in hallowing and should be dedicated in the honor of Our Lord and St. John the Evangelist. Wherefore the King for great devotion lighted down and tarried while the church was in hallowing. And in the time of procession a fair old man came to the King and demanded of him alms in the worship of God and St. John the Evangelist. Then the King found nothing ready to give, ne his almoner was not present; but he took off the ring from his finger and gave it to the poor man, whom the poor man thanked and departed. And within certain years after, two pilgrims of England went into the Holy Land to visit holy places there; and they had lost their way and were gone from their fellowship; and the night approached, and they sorrowed greatly as they that wist not wether to go, and dreaded sore to be perished among wild beasts. At the last they saw a fair company of men arrayed in white clothing, with two lights borne afore them; and behind them there came a fair ancient man with white hair for age.

Then these pilgrims thought to follow the light and drew nigh. Then the old man asked them what they were, and of what region; and they answered that they were pilgrims of England, and had lost their fellowship and way also. Then this old man comforted them goodly, and brought them into a fair city where was a fair cenacle honestly arrayed with all manner of dainties. And when they had well refreshed them and rested there all night, on the morn this fair old man went with them, and brought them in the right way again. And he was glad to hear them talk of the welfare and holiness of their King St. Edward. And when he should depart from them, then he told them what he was, and said: I am John the Evangelist, and say ye unto Edward your King that I greet him right well, by the token that he gave me this ring with his own hands at the hallowing of my church, which ring ye shall deliver to him again. And say ye to him that he dispose his goods; for within six months he shall be in the joy of heaven with me, where he shall have his reward for his chastity and for his good living. And dread ye not, for ye shall speed right well in your journey, and ye shall come home in short time safe and sound. And when he had delivered to them the ring he departed from them suddenly. And soon after they came home and did their message to the King, and delivered to him the ring, and said that St. John Evangelist sent it to him. And as soon as he heard that name he was full of joy, and for gladness let fall tears from his eyes, giving laud and thanksgiving to Almighty God, and to St. John his avowry that he would vouchsafe to let him have knowledge of his departing from this world. Also he had another token of St. John, and that was that the two pilgrims should die tofore him; which thing was proved true, for they lived not long after.

Diocesan News

ARCHDIOCESE OF WELLINGTON

(From our own correspondent.)

June 10.

The Rev. Father Herbert, S.M., of the Sacred Heart Basilica, Thorndon, has been transferred to Nelson to take up duties as assistant to Rev. Father W. D. Goggan, S.M.

The new church-schoolroom at Brooklyn will be blessed by his Grace Archbishop Redwood to-morrow. Owing to the large Catholic population now at Brooklyn Mass will in future be celebrated there every Sunday.

Mr. H. McKeown, a prominent member of the H.A.C.B. Society and Catholic Club, has been appointed by the recently-formed Hawke's Bay Football Association to represent that body on the New Zealand Union.

Mr. J. E. Gamble, accountant of the Wellington Harbor Board and president of St. Anne's Conference of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, has been elected to the committee for the management of the Sailors' Rest.

The funeral of Mrs. Fitzgerald, wife of Mr. Joseph Fitzgerald, took place last Saturday morning. Requiem Mass was celebrated at 9 o'clock by Rev. Father Barra, S.M., The funeral, in which the members of the Hibernian Society took part, then proceeded to the Karori Cemetery, where the interment took place. The Rev. Father Ainsworth, S.M., officiated at the graveside.—R.I.P.

It is anticipated that the profit of the recent social, held in the Town Hall, will exceed £100, which sum will be utilised for the upkeep, etc., of Te Aro schools. The Rev. Father Venning, S.M., and his committee, with Miss McCusker and Mr. W. Frost as secretaries, have every reason to feel gratified with the result of their efforts.