

Ashburton

(From our own correspondent.)

The dates for the forthcoming bazaar have been definitely fixed for the 8th to the 15th March. The stallholders report a ready response to their appeals for assistance, and everything points to the bazaar proving an unqualified success.

The Catholic Young Men's Club, after a vacation of a couple of months, opened the session on Thursday evening last by the holding of an 'At home' in the club rooms. Mr. W. J. Cunningham (president) presided over a large attendance of members and their friends. The early part of the evening was devoted to a progressive euchre tournament, the prizes for same being won by Miss N. Bradley and Mr. Duncan McDonald. A musical programme followed, the following contributing:—Pianoforte solo, Miss K. Nealon; songs, Miss Cunningham (Christchurch), Messrs. V. Madden, T. Purcell, and Duncan McDonald; recitation, Mr. M. J. Moriarty. Refreshments were handed round during the evening, and the entertainment in every way proved the equal of its predecessors.

Palmerston North

(From our own correspondent.)

February 2.

Rev. Father McManus, of Inglewood, who has been appointed to succeed the late Father Costello, will take charge of this parish during the coming week.

At the recent half-yearly meeting of the local branch of the H.A.C.B. Society, Bros. August Max and M. Rosauwoski were elected president and vice-president respectively.

The Hibernians will hold their St. Patrick's Day sports as usual, and a strong committee has the arrangements in hand, and, given fine weather, the success of last year will be repeated.

Rev. Father Bergin, of Manaia, and now appointed to Waipawa, celebrated the 11 o'clock Mass on Sunday, after which there was Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament during the day. Father Bergin preached eloquent sermons both at Mass and the evening devotions.

St. Patrick's Choir will hold their annual picnic at Ashhurst. Their intention is to arrive in time to sing the music of the 11 o'clock Mass, and so give our friends of the two congregations of Ashhurst and Raumai a musical treat. The choir, which now num-

bers thirty members under Mr. Tabor, have never been so efficient as at present.

At a large and enthusiastic meeting held on Sunday night last, Rev. Father Doulaghty (being in the chair), a strong committee was set up to deal with the St. Patrick's Day celebrations. It has been decided to hold an Irish national concert in the evening. A sub-committee was set up, with Messrs. W. T. Tabor and R. Oakley as chairman and secretary respectively, to make the necessary arrangements.

SOME OLD ENGLISH HYMNS AND THEIR AUTHORS

(By W. H. GRATTAN FLOOD, Mus. D., in the *Ave Maria*.)

The subject of English Catholic hymns—or, more correctly speaking, Catholic hymns in the English language—has not hitherto received the attention it deserves. German Catholic hymns have found many editors and annotators and a goodly array of collections of Catholic hymns in German and French has appeared from 1537 (when Vehe's hymn-book, with forty-six tunes, was issued) to 1632, which saw the publication of Father Jean Evangeliste's *La Philomele Seraphique*. In the Sarum Primers, 1538-44, there is an attempt at versifying some of the hymns; but the first serious effort at Catholic hymnody was in 1599, when Richard Verstegan published, at Antwerp, a 'Primer,' in which, as is stated in the preface, 'the hymns are so turned into English metre that they may be sung unto the tunes in Latin.' Richard Verstegan matriculated at Oxford in 1565, and settled at Antwerp, publishing numerous Catholic works. His hymns will be found in his *Odes*, published in 1601; and of these the charming Christmas hymn, 'Our Blessed Lady's lullaby' ('Upon my lap my Sovereign sits') is included in the *Arundel Hymns*, No. 32. His name appears in the published volume as 'Richard Verstegan, alias Roulands.' The sixth verse is particularly neat:

'Three Kings their treasures hither brought
Of incense, myrrh, and gold,—
The Heaven's treasure and the King
That here they might behold.
Sing lullaby,'

An edition of the *Primer* of 1613 reprints twenty-two of the translations from the edition of 1599. The edition of 1685 includes 'the Rosary as said in her Majesty's chapel at St. James,' and the well-known

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