

WANGANUI NOTES

(From our own correspondent.)

April 9.

"Greater Wanganui" we really are at last, Gonville and Castlecliff having come into the borough at last, and we are a city, but a city without bishop or cathedral. Probably these will be added unto us later. We have a new Mayor too, Mr. Hope Gibbons, our late Mayor, Mr. T. B. Williams, having found it necessary to resign on account of his very serious illness. On last Thursday night, Mr. Gibbons gave a banquet to celebrate the amalgamation, and a number of important people were bidden to that feast. The Hon. W. Downie Stewart, Minister of Customs, was the chief guest, and our Father Mahony was there too. It was an historical gathering of course, with many toasts and reminiscences, some of the latter extremely interesting. A few of the speakers, Mr. Ewen Campbell for instance, were here as far back as 1843, and their memories of the place are like a good old fairy tale. The election of Mr. Hope Gibbons to the office of Mayor just now is all to the good, as there is heaps for him to do and he is most energetic. Naturally we all expect him to make a complete success of everything, but if he will get our footpaths made safe to venture out upon, we will indeed be grateful. For a few years now, life seems to have been hardly worth living, and most of one's salary went in boot repairs and corn plasters. I'm quite sure we've developed a "Wanganui Walk" for every third person limps, and the worry of trying to keep "to the left" when there is nothing left but bumps and pot-holes, has been a real nightmare. Anyhow, that should be all over now that we're a city.

His Grace Archbishop O'Shea spent a few days here on his way to Jerusalem, up river. Arriving on Friday, his Grace intended going up by Saturday morning's boat, but on Friday night a terrific downpour of rain upset our poor old river badly. Fortunately, his Grace didn't attempt Saturday's trip which was not in any way scimped or shortened—the boat passing Jerusalem at 5 o'clock on Sunday afternoon. What a flood there was in the river on Sunday. At Taumarunui it was eight feet higher than normal, and in town here it was rushing along at a terrific rate. It was a great sight—"a swirling flood of pea soup appearance," the *Chronicle* called it. Quite a good description, but it was over smell-ful to be appetising. The low lying areas on the banks are under water, and there is the usual collection of driftwood. The rain is over now, the sun shining and the wind blowing. His Grace intends going on with his journey to-morrow, and will administer Confirmation on next Sunday.

Rev. Father Hickson, S.M., is spending a few weeks in Auckland and Father Segrief, S.M., is relieving here. When Father Hickson comes back to us Father Segrief will hurry away as he is due in Australia very soon, to embark on the raising of funds for the establishment of a Marist College over there.

Have just heard that the plans for the Gonville Church-School have been approved of and that the work of building will soon be put in hand. Next time I will be able to say more about the building, exactly where it is going to be put and so on.

Hibernian Society

ST. JOSEPH'S BRANCH, DUNEDIN.

At the conclusion of the routine business at the recent fortnightly meeting of St. Joseph's branch of the Hibernian Society, his Lordship the Bishop entered the meeting room, and was very enthusiastically greeted.

Bro. J. J. Marlow, sen. (District Deputy), addressing the Bishop, said: "On behalf of the Hibernian brothers and sisters, I desire to assure your Lordship of the pleasure it gives us to welcome you again in our midst. Nowhere will you receive a warmer welcome and rightly so, as from the first day you entered the Dominion your Lordship showed an interest in the Hibernian Society which was most gratifying and encouraging, and this interest on your part has many times since been manifested. Your Lordship will be pleased to learn of the steady and thorough progress of St. Joseph's branch, which now may be classed among the strongest in the Dominion. The branch's latest progressive

movement is the establishment of a ladies' branch, and in this the right spirit is being shown. In founding this branch (St. Dominic's) a want long felt is being removed, and with the number available of those suitable for membership success is assured. The Hibernian Parliament is to meet at Westport in the near future, at which, it is hoped, an era of active propaganda in the interests of increased membership will be inaugurated. In this regard Friendly Societies, as a whole are renewing efforts which were interrupted by the war and the unsettled conditions which followed, and the Hibernian Society must not be behind others in their endeavors." No Catholic young man (said Bro. Marlow) can afford to remain outside a benefit society, and, when making a choice one embracing a wholly Catholic membership should undoubtedly have the preference. St. Joseph's branch (he continued) had recently celebrated its golden jubilee, and Bro. Marlow asked the Bishop's acceptance of a beautifully bound and inscribed copy of the souvenir booklet issued on that occasion. The District Deputy conveyed, on behalf of the members, the best wishes of the society to his Lordship, and appreciation of the sustained interest he manifested in Hibernianism.

In responding, the Bishop said he was very glad to have the pretty souvenir of the branch's jubilee, and although absent during several celebrations of a similar nature in the city he was present in spirit. He was pleased at the advances made by the society, and especially so in seeing a ladies' branch established. His Lordship entirely endorsed Bro. Marlow's remarks regarding membership in a Catholic benefit society—to remain outside showed a want of foresight to say the least—and he hoped great progress in enrolment of members would be one of the results of the District Meeting. His Lordship then spoke at length on his recent travels and experiences, and in conclusion said the society's work for Faith and Fatherland would always have his sympathy and support. The society was worthily fostering the traditions of the Old Land, and, with God's blessing, the work in future would far surpass what has been done in the past. On the motion of Bro. Marlow a hearty vote of thanks was accorded the Bishop for his interesting and encouraging address.

Diocesan News

ARCHDIOCESE OF WELLINGTON

(From our own correspondent.)

April 11.

The Easter days are near. One wonders will this lovely weather last. We seem to have escaped the storm that struck the North, but by the Law of Compensation something else will probably befall us and they in turn will go free. So many students are going home to eat the Easter eggs that it has been decided to abandon the idea of participation in the Jubilee Celebrations of Victoria College.—Official participation that is. Any student is free to join the becapped, begowned procession through the streets.

Father Moran, of Lower Hutt advises that the Month's Mind for Dean Lane will take place at Lower Hutt on Wednesday, April 30, at 11 a.m. It is expected that there will be a large attendance of clergy and laity.

His Grace Archbishop Redwood was the recipient of many congratulations last week on his eighty-fifth birthday. It is almost impossible to believe that he has travelled through so many years. We who are used to him find it difficult to credit, and the Australians find it harder still.

A well-known resident of the Newtown parish celebrated her eighty-fifth birthday last week. This was Mrs. Campbell, whose slender upright figure is familiar to all the worshippers at St. Anne's. A saintly nun said once that old people by their mere presence bring a blessing, and St. Anne's feels that way about Mrs. Campbell, who in spite of her great age is always to be seen praying before its altar. She will pray there for a long while yet if the congregation's wish is granted.

A very fine lecture on the Divinity of Christ was given by Rev. Father Ryan at the Students' Guild on Sunday. It was suited to the season for it dealt inevitably with the trial in Pilate's Court, with the dying of Christ on the