

ranks of the army, the work will be done; if we stand down, it will remain unfinished. The Church will survive our neglect; but its comparative success depends on its members. It can be made or marred by the words, the deeds, and the manners of its soldiers. It possesses an inexhaustible fountain of spiritual energy for the world's regeneration; but if this energy is to flow over the earth and pour its divine healing into the sick and hungering souls of men, it can only be through God-like men, priests and laity. On us, therefore, it depends whether the sacred ark of salvation shall ride in safety, bearing the most priceless of treasures—our faith and all its gifts on the ever rising waters of modern Democracy. It is ours to prove that the Church holds the key of the problems with which men are confronted, as no human power, however imposing, does; that with her and through her alone the world's best hopes and noblest ambitions may be realised. It is in our power to make this fair country the grateful and devoted child of the Church. That is what we have to work for. Come up, then, I call to you with all the warmth of my soul, come up from the Catacombs and step bravely into the arena, priest and laymen. This is no time for apologising for ourselves or our religion. Fear no foe, turn aside from no danger, strike at every enemy. "Civil society," wrote Leo XIII., "no less than religious is imperilled; it is the sacred duty of every right-minded man to be up in the defence of both the one and the other." The Catholic Church alone comes down from Christ through all the centuries to bring to men His message of justice and charity. At the present moment it is more important than ever that this message be placed before the world in all its strength and clearness.

I could not begin my work in Auckland without touching upon the education question. That question is not yet settled and will remain unsettled until the rights of God, of the parent, and of the child are fully vindicated.

Let me state the Catholic position once more, so that all may see how just are our claims. We claim that in a national system of education, all citizens should stand on the same ground before the law; that no single citizen should be penalised on account of his religion. We insist that if the Government may tax all citizens for purposes of education, then all have a right to share in the beneficial use of such taxation, without having disabilities and restrictions and penalties placed upon their religion. We say that because they are equal in all things to their fellow-countrymen as sharing all the principles and burdens of the same land. Catholic parents have a strict right to have their children educated in the schools of the country in conformity with their religious convictions. We claim therefore Catholic schools, staffed with Catholic teachers, with effective Catholic oversight in matters of religious teaching and influence. We ask for these schools only where it is feasible. That is what we want and what we are determined to have at all costs. We have the schools; we want justice for them. But that is not all. We ask nothing impossible or unreasonable; we look for nothing that has not been granted years ago in England, and now, at the request of the Education authorities themselves, in Scotland. Once a true Christian education is secured to our children in the school and out of the taxes we ourselves pay, we are ready to fall in with whatever arrangements authority may provide.

These claims of ours for simple justice have so far been disregarded and our appeals for consideration set aside. But let no man imagine that a final settlement has been reached, or that Catholics are content to bear this wrong in silence. If our Catholic schools are kept going by the truly heroic sacrifices of priests, teachers, and people, that is no excuse for perpetuating an act of tyranny. Nor can we ourselves look on quietly and make no effort to secure the recognition of our reasonable demands. We must urge our claims unceasingly and unflinchingly. Many of our fellow-countrymen already share our views and with these we must combine. Others are opposed to us largely from sheer ignorance and prejudice; these we must enlighten. I have sufficient confidence in the fairness of New Zealanders to hope that they will in the end do us justice. But that depends on ourselves. We will get nothing for the asking. We must be determined at all hazards and at all costs to fight for our schools and put our case before our countrymen. No public cause worth the winning is ever won without a fierce struggle. No just cause—and ours is overwhelmingly just—is ever lost for which even a minority of earnest men will fight. I hope to do all I can to help you in fighting for this righteous cause. If we are but true to God and to ourselves, we must and shall succeed.

I thank you once again, dear priests and people, for the most kind manner in which you have received me into this diocese. The warmth of your welcome proves to me that I am building my future work on the gracious affection of my Bishop, the brotherly friendliness of my fellow-workers in the sacred ministry, and the loyal co-operation

of a big-hearted people. What more could any man desire? I trust I shall ever keep your sympathy and your devotion, and in time I hope also to win your affection.

May the Divine Child Jesus really develop in us by the intercession, protection, and example of His ever Blessed Mother, who has preserved and strengthened the unspeakable gift of our faith until this day. May St. Patrick, the apostle of the Irish race, the patron of this Cathedral and Diocese, bless us all and make us walk faithfully and courageously in our high calling.

PONTIFICAL BENEDICTION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT.

At the conclusion of his Lordship Dr. Liston's discourse, Mrs. White sang the "Ave Maris Stella," and Mr. Hubert Carter the "Cujus Animam," from Rossini's "Stabat Mater." Pontifical Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament was then given by the Coadjutor-Bishop, assisted by Rev. Fathers Silk and Lyons as deacon and subdeacon, respectively; Very Rev. Father Forde being master of ceremonies. The "O Salutaris" was sung by Mr. Venables, and Miss Coleman rendered the solo in the "Tantum Ergo"; and the choir the "Te Deum." In conclusion Handel's "Hallelujah Chorus" was splendidly given by the choir. Mr. Leo Whittaker conducted and Mr. G. Ingleby Allen presided at the organ. The Cathedral was crowded, the congregation numbering over 1600.

A garden party and reception will be tendered to the Bishop in the grounds of the Sacred Heart College, Richmond Road, Ponsonby, on Thursday, December 30, at 3 p.m.

DIocese OF CHRISTCHURCH

(From our own correspondent.)

December 27.

Mr. B. J. McKenna presided at a meeting of the committee of the St. Patrick's Sports' Association, held on Tuesday evening. Donations were gratefully acknowledged from Very Rev. Dean Regnault, S.M.; Rev. Father Fogarty (Rangiora), Mrs. J. S. Barrett, and Messrs. Matson and Co. The correspondence received was of a lengthy and varied nature.

The quarterly meeting of St. Matthew's branch of the H.A.C.B. Society was held on Monday evening last. Sister Rose Rodgers, B.P., presided; and there was a good attendance of members. Sick allowance (£2) and accounts (£19 9s 5d) were passed for payment, the principal items in the latter being U.F.S. dues (£8 8s 2d) and M.A. fees £4 5s 3d. A letter of thanks for services rendered at the recent garden fete was read from Rev. Father O'Connor, Addington, special mention being made of Mrs. Blackaby's excellent work. Bro. M. Piggott (St. Patrick's branch) notified his willingness to donate a prize to the sister responsible for enrolling the most members during the forthcoming six months. The president extended good wishes for a happy Christmas, and in reviewing the year's work expressed satisfaction at the results.

On Christmas Day, Masses were celebrated at the Cathedral continuously from 6 till 9 a.m., in the presence of large congregations, great numbers approaching the Holy Table. Solemn Pontifical Mass was celebrated by his Lordship Bishop Brodie at 11 o'clock. Very Rev. Father Whelan, C.S.S.R., was assistant priest; Rev. Father Long, deacon; Rev. Father Gallagher, subdeacon; and Very Rev. Dr. Kennedy, Adm., master of ceremonies. The incidental music was impressively rendered by the choir, with Mr. A. J. Bunz at the organ. The "Kyrie" and "Gloria" were from Plumpton's Mass, and the "Credo," "Sanctus," "Benedictus," and "Agnus Dei" from Gounod's "Messe Solennelle." The "Adeste Fideles" was sung by a quartet during the Offertory. His Lordship Bishop Brodie preached briefly on the subject of the Gospel for Christmas Day, "Glory to God in the Highest, and on earth peace to men of goodwill." He said that Holy Church had kept the wondrous truth of the Incarnation, and after 2000 years each Christmas brought fresh signs of the strengthening of that faith. His Lordship expressed his gratitude to the priests for the way they had done all the work entrusted to them, and also to the religious teachers, the Sisters, and the Marist Brothers. Since six o'clock that morning there had been large congregations at all the Masses, with large numbers receiving Holy Communion. Elsewhere churches might be empty, but what was seen in the Cathedral that morning showed that the devotion and sacrifice of the teachers were helping in keeping the wondrous truth of Christmas alive. He also thanked the choir, acolytes, members of the Altar Society, and the other Church institutions for their devotion to duty during the year. The devotions in the evening consisted of Solemn Vespers and Pontifical Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. The sermon was preached by the Very Rev. Father Whelan, C.S.S.R., who chose as his text the words of the