

funerals, and praying for their souls. Religion was the guiding spirit of both. In these modern days of Poor Law (usually very poor law), Trades Unions, Benefit Societies, County Council Schools, and general materialism, religion has no part, or a very subordinate part. In former days mutual assistance, the aid of the poor, the helpless, the sick, of strangers, pilgrims, and prisoners, the burial of the dead, the keeping of schools, or of bridges and highways, were all deemed part of Christian charity, and formed part of the work the guilds set themselves to perform. The full development of guild-life belonged to towns where it was fully organised, and every kind of guild contributed to the religious and social life of the place. . . ."

Equally interesting are Mr. Ditchfield's pages on the varied useful purposes to which the Church and the parish house of the village were put to promote the religious and social life of the people.

A Painful Contrast.

In the latter part of his interesting book the author draws a telling contrast between the England of the fifteenth century and the England of the sixteenth century, saying:—

"And then they [the people] learnt of the fall of the monasteries, with all the turmoil and confusion that their suppression involved. The monks were great landowners, and the abbot and convent were lords of the manors of many a fair village. The Church, by its monasteries, controlled a great part of the countryside, and its influence extended far and wide. It is beyond the purpose of this book to tell the story of these religious houses, and the great work they accomplished in promoting the glory of God, in carrying on the grand idea of continual worship in the noble buildings they erected, the cultivation of learning, both secular and religious, the education of youths in their schools, and the duty of extending hospitality to all classes. The monks were the pioneers in bringing into cultivation waste lands, and were the leaders in scientific farming and horticulture."

From the pillage of the monasteries till the development of capitalistic industrialism in the eighteenth century, the lot of the British working man grew steadily worse. Early in the last century, for example, pharisaical capitalists were urging the abolition of Negro slavery, while little girls of four and five were working for more than 12 hours a day as trappers in their mines." When England lost the Catholic Faith her working people lost with it happiness, prosperity, idealism, and individual character. In the Middle Ages men were free. Autocracy, both in industry and government, came in with the Reformation. "Liberty is ancient; it is despotism that is modern."

Diocesan News

ARCHDIOCESE OF WELLINGTON

(From our own correspondent.)

June 17.

A very successful mission is being conducted by the Redemptorist Fathers at St. Anne's Church, Newtown. The church is taxed to its utmost in providing accommodation for the large congregations which attend the exercises of the mission. Exceptionally good attendances at first Mass each morning has been the rule, which is the best indication of the success attending the efforts of the devoted missionaries.

A very successful "at home" (realising £200) was given by Mrs. (Dr.) McEvedy at her residence, Willis Street, on Thursday. The proceeds are for St. Mary of the Angels' Church Building Fund.

The annual schools' social in aid of the education fund will take place at the Town Hall on Wednesday, 29th inst. There was a good attendance at a meeting of ladies last Wednesday to arrange details.

Preparations are being made for the enrolment, on July 3, of members in the Catholic Federation. The envelope system of enrolment is to be used in order to facilitate the work.

Another very successful debate was held last Friday evening under the auspices of the M.B.O.B. Association.

In the friendly societies' billiard tournament—500 up—the M.B.O.B. Association has already met two contesting teams, and much interest is being evinced in the finals.

The M.B.O.B. Rugby football team playing last Saturday against Petone (winners of last year's championship), were defeated by 14 to 8; the junior team were defeated by Ponoke by 6 to nil; the thirds lost to Porirua by 7 to 3; and the fourths had no trouble in defeating Athletics. In Soccer the senior team was defeated by Thistle by 4 goals to nil; the junior team defeated Diamonds by 6 goals to nil; the thirds defeated Brooklyn by 13 to 1; the fourths A drew with South Wellington; the fourths B was defeated by Petone by 3 goals to nil; and the fifths defeated Diamonds by 5 goals to 1.

At the New Centenary Hall on Monday evening, the 13th inst., a successful concert and social were given by St. Joseph's concert party in aid of its club funds. The sum realised (about £8) is intended to be applied to expenses incidental to the giving of entertainments at the hospital and various charitable institutions.

On Federation Sunday (July 3) every Catholic is urged to join or renew his or her subscription, as the case may be, so that the membership for the coming year will eclipse all previous records. There is much to be done, and it is hoped that every Catholic, man, woman, and child, not only in the archdiocese but in the whole of the Dominion, will consider it a privilege and a bounden duty to enrol in order to defend the precious heritage of Faith which it is their fortune to possess. Attention to the envelope system, which is to be adopted here, will save a considerable amount of time, and facilitate the work of the members of the committee engaged in the work of enrolling.

To welcome home Mr. P. J. Griffin after his trip to America, a number of friends assembled at the Grand Hotel the other night. Mr. J. J. McGrath presided, and there was a large number of representative citizens present. A very warm welcome was given by the company to Father Curran, a new arrival from Ireland, and Mr. E. G. Gould, from America, and they were duly honored. Prior to their departure from the function, to catch the Marana for Sydney. Father Curran, in responding, referred in high terms to the spirit of hospitality that characterised New Zealanders, both at home and abroad. Mr. Gould also responded. Mr. Loughnan voiced the pleasure of the gathering at seeing Mr. Griffin looking so well after his trip. It would be like gilding nuggets to express, in the presence of Mr. Griffin's old friends, his attributes as an Irishman and a citizen. Mr. Madden added a word of welcome. As a fellow-business man, he could say that, if the business of hotel-keeping was conducted everywhere on the lines followed by Mr. Griffin, there would not be any question of prohibition. As a business man, his instincts and principles were worthy of emulation generally. The chairman felicitated with the guest, not only on his return in good health and spirits, but on the fact that he had succeeded in settling his only son in the engineering industry in the United States. At his instance, cheers were given for Mrs. Griffin. Mr. Griffin's reception on rising to respond was spontaneous and demonstrative. He expressed the pleasure it gave him to be back in Wellington, among old friends. He recounted his experiences in San Francisco, where he had had his mission fulfilled, in regard to his son's future career. He felt deeply the appreciative remarks that were made about him, and assured all his friends of his sustained interest in their welfare. Votes of thanks were accorded the chairman and Mr. Ross (proprietor of the Grand Hotel), for valuable personal assistance in the arrangements for the function. During the evening a number of vocal numbers were contributed by the Lyric Quartette. Mr. Marcus Marks sustained his reputation as the best story-teller in Wellington.

The Wellington Diocesan Council of the Catholic Federation will meet at Dustin's rooms, Cuba Street, Wellington, on Thursday, July 14. An address to the delegates assembled will be delivered by his Grace Archbishop O'Shea.