

Fordell has put in a big claim for a prominent place in the long list of successful functions which have brightened the last few months. When a committee of twenty-three got together and decided that there was to be a concert and social, it was plain that there would be no two ways about the result. The committee under Mr. W. J. McGovern worked very hard, and favored by ideal weather conditions succeeded in attracting a very large audience. The hall was transformed, the Nikau palms making a very effective foundation for the decorative scheme. The concert was got off with a swing, and encores were freely given, the following contributing:—Miss Rubie Curran, L.T.C.L., L.A.B., generous as usual, gave of her best and opened the programme with a pianoforte solo, and, in addition, played most of the accompaniments, Miss O'Leary helping with some; Miss N. McGovern, Miss B. Boyle, Miss B. McLean, Messrs. C. J. McCarthy, J. Martin, A. G. McLean, and Master C. O'Leary (vocal items), Mr. L. Ciocchetto, recitation; Miss M. McCormack, recitation; Miss J. Campbell, highland fling; Mr. Price, lightning sketches and variety turns. Fordell mustered quite a deal of talent and was plainly pleased with its own, and Mr. Price was a pronounced success in his items. The town party was made very welcome, and treated the audience to a fine programme. After the concert came supper, dainty and liberal and thoroughly enjoyed by all. Then followed the social, the orchestra keeping things lively till all hours. Rev. Father McGrath thanked all the performers and patrons generally, and the evening was undoubtedly a great success.

A new scheme is afoot among the Maoris at Parakino, up-river. They have established a co-operative store at that settlement, under the direction of the Wanganui Maori Council. A committee has been formed, including six worthy ladies, and for the moment, Mr. Bob Peety is storekeeper, and Rev. Father Ginisty, treasurer. The idea is to spend the profits on the well-being of the Maoris, and the first objective is to put in a water supply at the pah, from a fine big spring quite handy. Advance Parakino!

At a meeting of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, held last week, it was decided to make an effort to resurrect the Particular Council which has been in abeyance for about three years. Mr. T. Lloyd was elected president, Mr. Dowling, vice-president, and Mr. J. Roche, secretary. The territory, a big one, extends from New Plymouth to Foxton, and delegates to the Particular Council, are hoped for from the various branches.

First Holy Communion at Aramoho on Sunday morning, nearly forty children. About half of these were from Aramoho, and the remainder from Westmere and Mosston. The church was beautifully decorated and was filled as it seldom has been filled before, the folk overflowing into the grounds. Rev. Father McGrath addressed the children, and after Mass, all adjourned to the schoolroom for breakfast. What a feast they had, much of it provided by the parents and friends, and prepared by the Sisters and Mrs. Richardson. Many of the country parents were invited in for a cup of tea, and the morning was one of undoubted bliss. The children were motored in from Mosston and Westmere by Mr. L. Fromont, an added joy. They had been prepared for the Communion by St. Vincent de Paul men of the Aramoho branch, and in their task were helped enormously by Mrs. M. Corliss, at whose home the Sunday school was held. Latterly, the children have assembled at the Corliss home after school on week days for a little extra instruction, and when the teachers were unable to go out on Sundays the classes went on as usual.



Napier

(From our own correspondent.)

September 14.

On Thursday evening, the 1st inst., the members of the Children of Mary sodality gave a "kitchen tea" for Miss Marion Hamlin, on the occasion of her approaching marriage. Rev. Father Clancy, (spiritual director), being present. An enjoyable programme, consisting chiefly of musical items, was rendered, Mrs. Briggs especially, charming all present by her delightful singing of several Irish songs. Father Clancy, on behalf of the members of the sodality, presented Miss Hamlin with a large picture of

the Little Flower. In doing so he spoke highly of Miss Hamlin's fidelity as a Child of Mary, and more especially of her work as a member of the altar society. For six years Miss Hamlin had practically sole charge of the decoration of the High Altar, and discharged this exacting duty most faithfully. After the presentation of the picture the various gifts brought by the guests were displayed, and a dainty supper was handed round.

At St. Joseph's Convent on the Feast of Our Lady's Nativity, seven girls were received as aspirants, and eleven aspirants were received as Children of Mary. A short instruction on the duties and dignity of a Child of Mary was given by Rev. Father Clancy, the ceremony being concluded by Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

Rev. Father Dowling of St. Bede's College, Christchurch, and formerly of Napier, is spending a few days here. He preached on Sunday evening, the 11th inst. on the "Unity of the Church."

The Catholic social held in the Taradale Town Hall, on Friday, September 9, proved a most enjoyable function. The supper arrangements were under the capable supervision of Misses M. Jeffares, White, and helpers. Excellent music was provided by the Maori orchestra, and the duties of M.'sC. were carried out by Messrs. Walshe and Aherne.

DIocese OF AUCKLAND

(From our own correspondent.)

September 16.

Early in August, Mr. Hall Skelton gave a splendid lecture on the "Irish Question" in the Central Hall, Auckland. After the meeting a branch of the Self-Determination for Ireland League of New Zealand was formed, and the following office-bearers were elected:—President, Mr. McGreal; vice-presidents, Messrs. M. J. Sheahan and P. Duffin; secretary, Miss A. McKie; treasurer, Miss E. Kavanagh. The president announced that he had some time previously arranged to give a course of lessons on the history of Ireland, and that he now proposed taking these classes under the auspices of the Auckland City Central branch of the League and the National Irish Club. The first of these lectures, which are being held fortnightly, was delivered on Friday, August 26, and judging by the enthusiasm shown then and at the subsequent meeting, the competitions, which are to be held on or about the first week of December, should be a decided success. A number of prominent Irish men and Irish women having offered substantial donations and trophies for these competitions, the members of the class, some of whom come from as far out as Onehunga, will have a good chance of being suitably rewarded. Their loyalty and fidelity to dear old Ireland will be even greater when they have studied her history.

A pleasant incident in connection with the departure of Right Rev. Dr. Cleary, Bishop of Auckland, took place on Saturday, September 10, when the natives resident on the Catholic Native Educational Reservation at Awataka, Northcote, presented him with a neat address, wishing him *bon voyage* and a safe return. The address was signed by the young chieftains Keremata and Wikitarina, on behalf of their "hapu," the Ngati-Hukanui. The incident is a happy conclusion of a long misunderstanding between these natives and the church authorities, which has been amicably settled by the natives being granted right of occupation of a sufficient portion of the reserve for all their needs, the use of a house owned by the church on the property, and a number of other concessions arranged between the parties with the assistance of Mr. George Graham.

The solemnity of the Forty Hours' Adoration was observed in St. Joseph's Church, Grey Lynn, on Sunday, September 11, and the following Monday and Tuesday mornings. Rev. Fathers O'Malley and Murphy preached the occasional sermons.

Rev. Fathers Buckley and Wright are making steady progress towards recovery after their serious operations in the Mater Hospital.

The Coadjutor-Bishop, Dr. Liston, accompanied Dr. Cleary to Wellington. On Sunday his Lordship will bless the new church at Waipawa, and returns to Auckland on Tuesday.

A very successful concert, organised by St. Patrick's