

Greymouth

(From our own correspondent.)

November 16.

A straw shows which way the wind is blowing, and judging by the magnificent spirit of faith and piety displayed during the mission which ended on Sunday, it is blowing in the right direction on the West Coast. Signs were not wanting to show that the heart of the Coast beats true to the Catholic Church. For 14 days St. Patrick's Church was crowded, morning and evening. Indeed, the Marist Fathers, who conducted the mission (Rev. Fathers T. J. McCarthy and A. J. Herring), are agreed that it was one of the most satisfactory they have ever given. Everything went to prove that the faith that had survived rope and rack and sword, flourishes even under the hand of an un-Christian Government.

During the mission the daily communicants averaged 750, while on the concluding day 1100 approached the Holy Table. Practically every home in the parish was consecrated to the Sacred Heart in accordance with the recent expressed wish of the Holy Father. Two very imposing processions took place, one in honor of the Blessed Sacrament, the other in honor of Our Lady. The guard of honor was composed of school children, Children of Mary, and Hibernians. The Confraternity of the Sacred Heart and the Apostleship of Prayer were inaugurated. Over 500 women and 300 men signified their intention to enter the glorious Apostolate. Besides this 500 handed in their names for the League of Reparation to the Sacred Heart, the members of which pledge themselves to assist at Mass and receive Holy Communion one day a week. The names of members have been set up at the church door as a Roll of Honor, and opposite each name is the day chosen by that person. In regard to this work Father Herring stated that a great feature of the Marist Missions was the organising of confraternities and sodalities in connection with the parish. On another occasion he stressed the great need of a Catholic atmosphere in the Catholic club.

Both priests proved themselves impressive and convincing speakers. The social evils of the day were vigorously attacked. The recent amendments to the Marriage Act met with vehement denunciation, and Catholic teaching in regard to the sacramental character of marriage was clearly explained. Drunkenness, illicit company-keeping, the reading of books against faith and morals, divorce, the violation of the laws that the Creator has ordained in regard to marriage, etc., were strongly condemned. In connection with the marriage law Father Herring showed himself the fearless champion of the teaching of the Church.

On the concluding Sunday of the mission a special men's Mass was celebrated at eight o'clock, at which 500 men received Holy Communion. After Mass a Communion breakfast was held at St. Columba Hall, where the following toasts were honored: "The Missionary Fathers" proposed by Mr. H. F. Doogan and responded to by Rev. Father McCarthy, S.M., "The Hibernian Society and St. Columba Club," proposed by Rev. Father Herring, S.M., and responded to by Messrs. H. McKeown, and A. McSherry; "The Local Clergy," proposed by Mr. M. Daly and responded to by Rev. Father Long, Adm.; "The Ladies," proposed by Mr. T. Barry and responded to by Mr. F. Doogan. The sight at the men's Mass was really edifying and inspiring, and in replying to a toast at the breakfast, Father McCarthy congratulated the men on their loyalty. He reminded them in a stirring address that they were heirs of a glorious spirit which had descended upon them from the pioneers of the Coast, whose name was a symbol of honor and loyalty. He charged them to carry on in the same spirit. They were the trustees of the future, and from them the coming generation would take the spirit which would animate the parish. Father Herring directed an appeal for recruits to the Hibernians and St. Columba Club. The president of the Hibernian Society, Mr. J. Kennedy, presided over the gathering.

On Sunday evening the congregation overflowed into the sanctuary and side chapels. Father McCarthy took for the subject of his final sermon, "The Divine Origin of the Catholic Church," concluding a masterly address with an appeal to his hearers to remain true to the grand old faith of their fathers. The renewal of baptismal vows and the imparting of the Papal Blessing concluded the exercises of the mission, leaving us sad, but strengthened in our spirit of loyalty to Holy Church.

At Brunner Father Eccleton, S.M., conducted a mission from Sunday, October 30, to November 6, and practically 100 per cent. of the Catholics in the district approached the Sacraments. Father Eccleton then proceeded to Cobden, where he conducted a mission from Monday to Saturday. Here again the missionary was edified by the spirit of faith and piety met with. On the 12th inst. Father Eccleton opened a mission at Barrytown.

Rev. Fathers Herring and McCarthy return to Christchurch next Saturday, leaving Rev. Fathers Eccleton and Vincent to continue the country missions.

Rev. Father Long, Adm., who is at present in Christchurch, is to return on Saturday.

MUSIC EXAMINATIONS**Convent of Mercy, Rakaia-Methven**

At the Trinity College (London) practical music examinations, held at the Convent of Mercy, Rakaia, on the 12th ult. by Mr. S. Myerscough, Mus. Bac., the following numbers of pupils of the Sisters of Mercy, Methven and Rakaia, were successful:—Professional diploma: Licentiate (piano), 1; senior grade: Honors 1, pass 1; intermediate: Honors 1, pass 2; junior: Honors 3, pass 4; preparatory: Honors 1, (violin) 1; first steps: Honors 2, pass 1. At the recent examinations in theoretical music, in connection with Trinity College, the Sisters of Mercy, Methven, secured the following successes:—Intermediate: Pass 1; junior: Honors 3, pass 1.

Convent of Mercy, Greymouth

The Trinity College practical examination in music was conducted in Greymouth by Mr. Myerscough on October 26 and 27. All the candidates presented by the Sisters of Mercy were successful—two twelve-year-old candidates (Misses Kathleen Knell and Ethel Wallace) obtaining 95 per cent., the former in pianoforte playing and the latter in violin playing, both in junior division. The following is the summary of results:—Higher local honors, 1; senior honors (violin), 1; senior pass, 1; intermediate honors 4, pass 2; junior honors (violin) 3, piano 5; preparatory honors (violin) 3, piano 6, pass 1. On November 16, Dr. Haigh, examiner for the Associated Board of Royal Academy of Music and Royal College of Music, London, conducted the practical examination in Greymouth. The following is the list of successful candidates:—Intermediate local centre violin, 1 (130 marks); intermediate local centre piano, 1 (125 marks); higher division piano, 2; lower division, 2; elementary (distinction) 2, pass 9, (violin) 1; primary violin (distinction) 1, pass 2, piano 6.

Dr. Haigh after the examination made the following highly eulogistic comments on the work of the students and teachers:—"Before leaving Greymouth, I should like to place on record the pleasurable surprise I have had examining the music candidates for the Associated Board of the R.A.M., L.R.C.M. The students have, in many cases, acquired not only technical readiness, but a real musical feeling, which, combined, have made their interpretations very convincing. The greater number of candidates were presented by the convent. During my lengthy tours in all parts of the Dominion, I have rarely met with such consistent teaching in any one school. I leave the West Coast feeling satisfied that the young students of Greymouth have opportunities of which parents may feel justly proud."

God gives us diseases in this world for the salvation of our souls, and when we endure them patiently they are the fountain of great merit to us.—St. Francis of Assisi.

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