

good cause. To them all, in the name of the *New Zealand Tablet*, we offer our cordial thanks, and we place on record in this Jubilee issue our appreciation of their labors in the past, while expressing our confidence that they will be ready in the future to rally as of old round the flag raised by Patrick Moran fifty years ago.

One word more: we invite our readers to read the letters of congratulation which we publish this week. Space made it necessary for us to omit many, but the letters selected speak for all. Here we have the venerable Metropolitan, in the name of the Catholic body of New Zealand, offering us his congratulations and bearing generous and gratifying testimony to the *Tablet's* value as a Catholic paper; and with him are united Australian Bishops who read our pages every week and are kind enough to assure us of their satisfaction with the manner in which we are striving to fulfil our duty, addressing to us terms of praise that we value chiefly inasmuch as that they are a guarantee to all our readers that we have been faithful to our ideals and that the *Tablet* of May, 1923, is still one in spirit and in policy and in efficiency with the *Tablet* which Bishop Moran founded for the Catholics of New Zealand.

The First Subscriber

TO THE MEMORY OF ALL THE FIRST SUBSCRIBERS, AND PARTICULARLY OF THE PIONEERS LIKE MR. FLANNERY.

He had fought in '67, he had trembled to a tune,
He had waited in a hollow for the rising of the moon,
When his slender dream was broken at the dawn of the day,
He had slipped through his hunters and wandered far away.

In the hold of the Dark Mary he brooded late and soon,
Would the bitter rains forever drown the little black moon?
In the hold of the Dark Mary he would kneel at night and pray
That his eyes might see it rising ere they closed in the clay.

Thro' the six long years that followed sweat was on his brow and hand,
As he tore the loaf of living from a young and angry land.
But his head was bent in grieving at the forge or at the plough,
And he murmured in his hunger "Could I hear of Ireland now!"

Then one day a priest brought tidings that a Bishop in the South,
A most proud and fearless Bishop, fierce of pen and sweet of mouth,
Had begun to print a paper that should tell of faith and home
To the exiles whom the Old World had sent out to work and roam.

He became a first subscriber and he never knew regret,
And his troubled heart was lightened of its brooding and its fret.

He read the Bishop's paper on a spare night or noon,
"Faith," he said, "like me he's waiting for the rising of the moon."

And he treasured up the copies till the shelves groaned with their weight,
But he grew explosive sometimes—"Och the times have grown sedate,
And the pike is out of fashion and the tongue is all the tune
Ah, my children, none is looking for the rising of the moon."

His children grew and married and they smiled upon his dream,
Called it Dad's old Fenian fancy," but his eye would flash and gleam,
He was back in a hollow with a pike and a tune,
And a long sob for Ireland and the rising of the moon.

He was dark in his eyesight when the high Easter came,
But his children read it to him and his heart leapt to flame.
"God on high! This man too knows it! Let me die now and soon.

Through my old blind lids I see it. It's the rising of the moon."

—E. D.

Catholic Societies Past and Present

ST. JOSEPH'S MEN'S CLUB.

During his period of duty in the city after his arrival in the diocese, Father (now Dean) Burke applied himself to the task of forming a Young Men's Society, the object of which was to cultivate the literary talents of the members by means of lectures, debates, etc., and incidentally to encourage them to meet in social intercourse in a Catholic atmosphere for the purpose of mutual self-improvement. The founder of the society soon had a real live organisation, and he did not spare himself in providing and contributing to the syllabus, also adding further attractions as opportunity offered. After the departure of Dean Burke, the society lapsed into a moribund state until Father Lynch (who became president) renewed interest in it. In this, as in everything else Father Lynch undertook, the society's former success was amplified. From then onward its career was a lengthy and honorable one; Father Lynch holding the office of president during the whole time he remained in Dunedin. Many who are now prominent in professional and commercial circles passed through the ranks of the society, and attribute at least some of their success to the training they received while associated therewith. The society's ramifications increased as time went on, and amongst the members' activities the cultivation of the dramatic art was a prominent feature. In this the members achieved, with the help of professional coaches, some notable successes. Among the society's leaders on the literary side were some highly educated and enthusiastic gentlemen whose interest in the work in hand never flagged. After many years of successful endeavor the organisation again lapsed. An attempt was made a few years ago to re-establish the society on its former basis, and, owing to the energy of Father Ardagh, this was fairly successful to a certain point. Subsequently, however, it was deemed expedient to merge the resuscitated organisation in the Christian Brothers' Old Boys' Association.

ST. JOSEPH'S LADIES' CLUB.

This most useful association was formed a number of years ago with the main object of affording a means to social intercourse among the Catholic girls and young women resident in the city, and to assist those who are obliged to live away from their own homes to fill positions in business and follow other occupations in Dunedin. In this laudable endeavor St. Joseph's Ladies' Club has accomplished a great deal of good. The club's first president was Miss A. Heley, who did excellent work in its inaugural stages. Miss Heley was succeeded as president by Miss M. Staunton. The early years of the club were remarkable for its fine dramatic programmes, and the efforts of the members in this direction, while ambitious, were invariably successful. Mrs. M. A. Jackson, who held the position of president for a lengthy term, performed excellent work for the club: the farewells to the men leaving for the Great War and the reception of those who returned being distinctive features of the club's activities during the latter years of her presidency. At the present time the destinies of the club are being guided by Miss E. Knott, who has most capably filled the position for four years. There is quite a substantial membership roll, and keen interest is shown in every phase of the work of the organisation.

THE ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY.

More than thirty-five years have elapsed since the St. Vincent de Paul Society was established in Dunedin. Known first as the Catholic Ladies' Association of Charity, with Mrs. A. J. Fergusson as president, it later adopted the title by which it has since been known. Associated with Mrs. Fergusson was (among other energetic workers) Mrs. J. B. Callan, sen., who also filled the position of vice-president. Immediately preceding Mrs. Jackson, Mrs. J. J. Connor filled the position of president for several years. The main conference is attached to St. Joseph's Cathedral parish, and incorporated with it are conferences at North-east Valley, Mornington, and Kaikorai. A conference is also in operation in connection with St. Patrick's parish, South Dunedin. A long-felt want was recently supplied by the society in this city by the appointment of a Catholic district nurse. For a number of years a men's branch of the society existed in Dunedin, its activities being mainly devoted to the seafaring men. Owing to the depletion of its ranks by the outbreak of the Great War, the branch fell into abeyance. Steps have already been taken, however, to re-establish the society on the basis provided by the general rules. At meetings held during the past few weeks at the North-east Valley, Mornington, Kaikorai, and in the city, numbers of men gave in their names for membership, and it is hoped that by July 19 (Feast of St. Vincent de Paul) all the preliminary details will be arranged, and the society definitely established.

THE HIBERNIAN SOCIETY.

The society's golden jubilee was celebrated in March last, and, as the event was very fully reported in our columns at the time, it is unnecessary to revert to it here.

DUNEDIN CATHOLIC STUDENTS' GUILD.

The newest society to be established in Dunedin is the Catholic Students' Guild. This guild—fortunate in its possession of Very Rev. C. Morkane, Rector of Holy Cross College, as president—is, judging by the results so far recorded, destined to accomplish inestimable service in the interests of students attending the Otago University.