

what brings them there a radiant smile is their only reply.

After much research we had succeeded in getting a Father Christmas mask in Sydney, and this with the addition of a yellow robe and flowing headgear made up a very striking personage. When Father Christmas entered the hall his reception was deafening, the old boys shouting in ecstasy, the new ones shrieking in fear. Two little boys cowered on the ground while another older one fled out into the night and had to be pursued and brought back, being wedged this time in safety between two of the workmen in the back row. Thanks to the kindness of unknown friends the boys had many presents such as delight their hearts—knives, pencils, balls, etc., and the usual crackers at the end.

It was a very happy day to all, and the boys really deserved their presents for they have been very good both in school and out, their naughtiness being only sufficient to keep one's mind easy as to their being ordinary boys, and not prodigies.

We had special cause for thankfulness in the recovery of Rosne from pneumonia, our first case of severe illness. Rosne was one of our earliest scholars, coming from one of the artificial islands off Mala. We were very anxious about him, but he was a very good patient never refusing to take what was brought him, and at last one morning the temperature fell and he whispered faintly, "I want to swim." A Melanesian's desire to wash is always the first sign that he feels better, so Rosne's words were music in one's ear though it was many days before the wish could be granted. But he was brought across to see Father Christmas and placed in a deck chair, a very wan little figure with eyes shining like stars with delight and wonder. He was none the worse for the excitement and is now almost strong again, aided greatly by a bottle of the cod liver oil sent to us, and which he loves, extracting the very last drop from the spoon.

Beko has made the most wonderful progress, reads very fairly, is the best writer in his class, answers well, and has quite lost his wild look. He and Daurane seem quite good friends now. I look at him in wonder sometimes trying to call up in my mind the image of the old Beko who fled into the bush whenever life was too hard for him, and who wept in lonely misery before the dying embers of the kitchen fire, and I find it hard to con-

jure up in the presence of the present Beko as he sits before me writing quite beautifully in his copy-book at peace with himself and all the world.

Three boys are being prepared for Baptism. They came forward of themselves after hearing that a class would be formed for those who wished to be baptised. Several others asked but in their case it was thought better to wait a little.

The names of the three are Maharon of Bugotu and Rastee and Salarnaner of Mala. I give the names in the hope that those, who have already shown their interest in the boys, will perhaps remember these in their prayers.

Parochial News.

I.N.B.—To ensure insertion in the next month's issue of the GAZETTE, matter must be received by "The Editor, WAIAPU CHURCH GAZETTE, Napier," not later than the 15th of the month. Notes should be brief, and to the point, and legibly written on one side of the paper.

S. Augustine's, Napier.

Vicar: Rev. Canon Tuke.

Curate: Rev. C. L. Wilson.

Parish Almanacks can be obtained at the Vicarage as usual. They are quite up to the standard of former years, and those who want them should send at once for them. Two pence will secure one.

Subscribers to the CHURCH MAGAZINE are requested to send their annual subscription to the Vicar as soon as possible. The charge (including the *Dawn of Day*) is three shillings a year. The year ends on July 1st. Some have still forgotten to send last year's, and as this has been advanced by the Vicar he would like it wiped off.

The *Mission Boxes* sent out by the Diocesan Board of Missions to every Parish will, we hope, be taken by a large number of our people. Mr T. Pallot, the Box Secretary, will send a box to any who would like one. They will be collected twice a year, at the end of May and end of November. Several have already been taken. If each household would conscientiously use them, our Missions would be well supported. Let it be shown we are in earnest in this most urgent work of supporting the Missions and those brave workers in the Mission field.

Lenten Services will be held each Thursday evening at 7.30 o'clock. Many more will, we trust, be found this year attending these and all our Lenten Services, and thus prepare for a glorious Eastertide.

Self-Denial Offertories during Lent will be placed in a box at the entrance of the Church. They will be devoted to the Home Mission Fund.

We were glad to notice a good few of our Parishioners present at the Farewell Service with our Bishop in the Cathedral. The prayers of all Church people through the Diocese will be earnestly offered for the

Bishop and Mrs Averill's safe voyage to their parents' homes in England and a safe return to the Diocese.

The *Annual Outing* at Farndon Park was once more enjoyed by our Sunday scholars, who entered heartily into the various games and foot-races arranged for them. The Teachers who were able to get away from business in town were willing workers, and with our energetic Secretary, Mr T. Pallot, deserve the best thanks of the Clergy of the Parish for their valued assistance. A small shower, with a cooling wind, only served to sharpen the appetites of the children, who did justice to the efforts of the Teachers in keeping the supply equal to the demand for cakes, &c. The outing proved a very happy one, the good behaviour of the children greatly contributing to the happiness of those in charge.

Once more we are able to congratulate the Sunday School in winning the Bishop's prizes. These were secured by Kathie Cox and Stella Trenwith in the Junior Grade. Several others passed in both grades but no Senior scholar was awarded a Bishop's prize in any of the schools that entered. We ask our parents to encourage their children to enter for this annual examination by seeing that they attend regularly each Sunday. The list of the passes will be found in this number of the CHURCH MAGAZINE.

The *Choir* needs several good soprano voices and one or two male voices. Under Mr Harston's tuition the members have made good progress towards proficiency, but owing to some of our old and valued sopranos having, to their and our regret, to leave us we need our ranks strengthening. Misses King, Baird, and Watson were all very good and faithful members, and we hope they may all yet be able to take their old places.

The *G.F.S.* will hold its regular meetings in March, and we wish the Society under its energetic Secretary, Miss White, a very successful year's work.

The *C.E.M.S.* is already at work upon a syllabus for the fortnightly meetings, which we want every member to attend faithfully.

The *Missionary Committee* will help to advance the cause of Missions by being on the Parochial Missionary Committee, which will be formed in accordance with the Board of Missions scheme.

It was with unfeigned sorrow the Vicar found on arrival in Auckland last January that his oldest Parishioner, Mr John McKay, had passed away at the ripe age of 102 years. To have known such an aged servant of God and to have ministered to him for some years was a privilege highly valued. To his daughter, Miss McKay, who nursed her father so devotionally, and to Mrs King and all his relatives we offer our very sincere sympathy.

BAPTISMS.

("Suffer Little Children to come unto Me.")

George Rupert Raymond Brown, Marjorie Evelyn Brown, Euphemia Emma Bentley, Franklin Fernie Raymond White, Edith Jean Faulknor, Gordon William Eddy, Francis Thomas Archibald Selwood, Kenneth James Hartley, Norman Wilfred Donnelly, Alma Lydia McKenzie, Thelma May Ireland, Irene Marjorie Louise Elvey, Henry Whitmore Beatson, Ivy Muriel Kirk.

MARRIAGES.

"Heirs together of the Grace of Life."

John Gifford Bell to Beatrice Aimie Burridge, Arthur Andrew Carson to Margaret