

## CATECHISTICAL SOCIETY.

The Annual Meeting of this most useful Institution was held on Tuesday evening last, the Bishop in the chair.

The usual Subscriptions were paid in to a considerable amount—several new members were proposed and admitted, and a list of the children in attendance at Catechism, for many months past, was read to the Meeting. From this it appeared that, on an average, nearly 800 children are instructed in the Christian Doctrine, every Sunday, both at the Cathedral, and St. Patrick's.

In order to effect a new arrangement of classes, it was resolved that a classification of the children, according to their capacity and proficiency, should take place as soon as possible. It was also decided that the children should get a holiday entertainment, under the superintendence of their respective teachers, in the course of some time. By another vote, all the Clergy in the Diocese were declared *ex-officio* members of the Society. It was then moved that a special Committee be appointed, to draw up a suitable address to the Rev. Mr. O'Brien, expressive of the gratitude of the Society for his many valuable services since their formation. The various officers for the ensuing year were then appointed, after which the Meeting adjourned.

### NAMES OF OFFICERS.

Right Reverend Dr. Walsh, President.  
Rev. Thomas L. Conolly, Vice-President.  
Mr. Philip Compton, Secretary.  
Mr. Patrick Magee, Assistant Secretary.  
Mr. Thomas Prandy, Treasurer.

## VISITATION AT ST. MARY'S.

On yesterday, the Festival of the Assumption, the Right Rev. Dr. Walsh held a Visitation at the Cathedral. He was received at the principal gate of the Church by the Clergy, who came in procession to meet him. The Cross was presented to him by Rev. Mr. Tracy, and the Bishop kissed it on his knees. Next the Antiphon *Ecce Sacerdos* was sung, holy water and incense were presented to the Bishop and the whole returned in procession to the High Altar, where the other prayers prescribed by the Pontifical were recited.

The Bishop then ascended the altar, kissed it, and gave his solemn benediction to the faithful,

who crowded the Church in every part. Mass was then celebrated *coram Episcopo* by Rev. Mr. Lyons, at the termination of which the Bishop explained to the people the various objects for which a Visitation is held. He was then attired in a black stole, cope, and simple mitre, and went with the Clergy in procession to the middle of the adjoining cemetery, having first recited the prayers for the dead, at the altar. During the procession the *De Profundis* was repeated. Having arrived at the platform the *Libera* was chaunted, and the Bishop went through the various prayers and ceremonies for the absolution of the Faithful Departed, as appointed in the Pontifical. The procession then returned to the Church, reciting the *Miserecre*, and the remainder of this affecting service was concluded at the altar.

The Bishop was then attired in white cope and stole, and proceeded to address the people at considerable length on the church, the sacred vessels, the necessary ornaments, the state of the Cemetery, the Purgatorian Society, the Temperance Society, the discipline observed in the Cathedral, the state of morals, the abuses and scandals of the Parish, and delivered suitable exhortations on these and other points. His discourse being ended, the Sacrament of Confirmation was administered to 305 persons, 34 of whom were converts to the Catholic Faith. At the close of the ceremony, the Bishop addressed an earnest admonition to the children and adults who had just received the Holy Ghost. Since Sunday last, they had all been going through a course of spiritual exercises, and their pious demeanour in the Church was most edifying. The Bishop then imparted an Indulgence of Forty Days to all present—those who were confirmed, came in order, and received his Benediction; and finally the last prayers for the dead, as prescribed at the close of an Episcopal Visitation were recited by the Bishop and Clergy, at the Epistle side of the Altar. The clergymen in attendance were, Rev. Messrs. Hannan, Tracy, Power, Lyons, Carmody, and Hennesy, together with the Students of the College. On the whole, the Glorious Feast of the Assumption was, we trust, a day fruitful in benediction and grace, for the Church of Halifax.

**MORE CONVERTS TO CATHOLICITY.**—On Friday the 27th ult, the Rt Rev Dr Wiseman received into the Catholic Church two Clergymen of the Church of England—the Rev J M Capes, rector of St John the Baptist's Church, last over Bridgewater, and the Rev J Montgomery, recently curate of Castleknock, county Dublin.