

HIBERNIAN AUSTRALASIAN CATHOLIC BENEFIT SOCIETY.

At the usual fortnightly meeting of St. Joseph's Branch of the above Society, held in the School-room on Monday evening, the 4th inst., the president in the chair. The minutes of the previous meeting having been read and confirmed, and some correspondence having been read by the Secretary, it was proposed by Bro. Connor that Dr. Brown's resignation be accepted, and that the Secretary be instructed to write a complimentary letter to Dr. Brown, acknowledging the very efficient and satisfactory manner in which he discharged the duties of his office. It is needless to say that the motion was carried unanimously.

It was proposed by Bro. Morowney, and seconded by Bro. Connor, that Dr. Murphy's tender of 16s per member per annum be accepted. On being put to the meeting it was declared carried.

A long and protracted discussion ensued upon the advisability of getting up a monster pic-nic party for St. Stephen's Day in aid of the Christian Brothers' Schools, the further discussion of which was postponed until Wednesday evening.

It was proposed by Bro. Carroll, and seconded by Bro. Byrne, and carried unanimously, that Bro. Griffin be appointed band-master for the next twelve months at a salary of fifty pounds per annum.

After passing some accounts for payment, the meeting wound up with the usual prayer.

ST. PATRICK'S BRANCH, LAWRENCE.

The usual fortnightly meeting of this branch was held in its usual place of business on Monday evening, the 27th inst., Mr. Woods (president) in the chair. Minutes of last meeting were read and confirmed. Correspondence was read from A. J. Templeton, corresponding secretary, and from John Cantwell, Secretary Dunedin Branch, conveying on behalf of the members of that branch a vote of thanks. Friendship (secretary) was by a resolution requested to acknowledge the same with thanks. On the motion of Vice-President Whelan, seconded by Bro. Spillane, it was resolved that the secretary communicate with other branches throughout New Zealand, seeking information as to the best methods of being represented at the forthcoming annual meeting at Melbourne. On the motion of Bro. Harris, seconded by Bro. Ryan, it was resolved that the secretary take steps towards providing officers' regalia. The quarterly balance-sheet was read, and the meeting in due form closed. Quarter's balance-sheet, beginning July 19th, ending September 13th. Total receipts, £54 8s 6d; expenditure, £28 18s; total in bank, current account, £27 19s 5d.

GRAHAMSTOWN BRANCH.

The quarterly meeting of the members of the Grahamstown Branch of the H.A.C.B.S., was held on Monday, September 13, at the Hibernian Hall, Shortland—Brother Mulligan, P.P., in the chair. About 50 members were present. Fines were recorded against members living within a radius of two miles who sent no apology for non-attendance. Messrs. Donnelly and Herk were admitted as benefit members. A letter was read from Mr. Brookfield, Revising Barrister, in answer to the Secretary, stating his opinion that it will be necessary for the branch to amend their bye-laws and to obtain the certificate of an actuary before they can adopt the new general laws of the Society. Letters were also read from the Otahuhu and Onehunga branches. Messrs. Whelan and Clarken were proposed for membership. Brother D. E. O'Sullivan was elected vice-President, vice Brother McIlhorne resigned. The Secretary stated that it was not in the power of the Judicial committee to bring up a report on the charge they were balloted for to adjudicate upon, as it was still *sub judice*. The Secretary brought up a progress report of the late anniversary ball. Over 100 couples were present. It was one of the most successful affairs ever held in the Academy of Music. The Secretary congratulated the members on the fact that there was not a single case of sickness amongst them at present, for the first time within the last two years. The receipts of the Branch from all sources for the quarter amount to £140 10s 6d, and the expenditure to £100 9s 10. The state of the fund at present is—To credit of sick fund, £374 11s 3d; management fund, £34 9s 2d; funeral money on hand, £7 10s 6d. The sum of £40 stg. was received from the E.D. during the quarter, being the funeral allowance advanced by this Branch to the friends of two deceased members. Of the expenditure for the quarter, £41 16s 8d was sick pay granted to members, and £20 stg. funeral allowance. After transacting some miscellaneous business, the meeting closed with prayer.

ABOUT ONE'S SELF.—The object of brushing the teeth is to remove the destructive particles of food which by their decomposition generate decay. To neutralize the acid resulting from this chemical change is the object of dentifrice. A stiff brush should be used after every meal, and a thread of silk floss or india-rubber passed through between the teeth to remove particles of food. Rinsing the mouth in lime water neutralizes the acid. Living and sleeping in a room which the sun never enters is a slow form of suicide. A sun bath is the most refreshing and life-giving bath that can possibly be taken. Always keep the feet warm, and thus avoid colds. To this end, never sit in damp shoes, or wear foot coverings fitting and pressing closely. The best time to eat fruit is half an hour before breakfast. A full bath should not be taken less than three hours after a meal. Never drink cold water before bathing. Do not take a cold bath when tired. Keep a box of powdered starch on the washstand, and after washing, rub a pinch over the hands. It will prevent chapping. If feeling cold before going to bed, exercise; do not roast over a fire.

ANECDOTES OF DANIEL O'CONNELL.

O'CONNELL could be seen to greatest advantage in an Irish court of justice. There he displayed every quality of the lawyer and the advocate. For a round volley of abusive epithets nobody could surpass him. One of his droll comic sentences was often worth a speech of an hour in putting down an opponent, or in gaining supporters to his side. At *Nisi Prius*, he turned his mingled talent for abuse and drollery to great effect. He covered a witness with ridicule, or made a cause so ludicrous, that the real grounds of complaint became invested with absurdity.

O'CONNELL ON THE ATTORNEY.

He said a good thing once in an assize town on the Munster circuit. The attorney of the side opposite to that on which O'Connell was retained, was a gentleman remarkable for his combative qualities; delighted in being in a fight, and was foremost in many of the political scenes of excitement in his native town. His person was indicative of his disposition. His face was bold, menacing, and scornful in its expression. He had stamped on him the defiance and resolution of a pugilist. Upon either temple there stood erect a lock of hair, which no brush could smooth down. These locks looked like horns, and added to the combative expression of his countenance. He was fiery in his nature, excessively spirited, and ejaculated, rather than spoke to an audience; his speeches consisting of a series of short, hissing, spluttering sentences, by no means devoid of talent of a certain kind. Add to all this, that the gentleman was an Irish Attorney, and an Orangeman, and the reader may easily suppose that he was "a character!"

Upon the occasion referred to, this gentleman gave repeated annoyance to O'Connell—by interrupting him in the progress of the cause—by speaking to the witnesses—and by interfering in a manner altogether improper, and unwarranted by legal custom. But it was no easy matter to make the combative attorney hold his peace—he, too, was an agitator in his own fashion. In vain did the judge admonish him to remain quiet; up he would jump, interrupting the proceedings, hissing out his angry remarks and vociferations with vehemence. While O'Connell was in the act of pressing a most important question he jumped up again, undismayed, solely for the purpose of interruption. O'Connell, losing all patience, suddenly turned round, and, scowling at the disturber, shouted in a voice of thunder—"Sit down, you audacious, snarling, pugnacious ram-cat." Scarcely had the words fallen from his lips, when roars of laughter rang through the court. The judge himself laughed outright at the happy and humorous description of the combative attorney, who, pale with passion, gasped in inarticulate rage. The name of *ram-cat* stuck to him through all his life.

SCENE AT KILLINEY.

O'Connell was a capital actor, and his dramatic delivery of a common remark was often highly impressive. Many years since, he went down to Kingstown, near Dublin, with a party, to visit a Queen's ship-of-war, which was then riding in the bay.

After having seen it, O'Connell proposed a walk to the top of Killiney Hill. Breaking from the rest of his party, he ascended to the highest point of the hill, in company with a young and real Irish patriot, whose character was brimful of national enthusiasm. The day was fine, and the view from the summit of the hill burst gloriously upon the sight. The beautiful bay of Dublin, like a vast sheet of crystal, was at their feet. The old city of Dublin stretched away to the west, and to the north was the old promontory of Howth, jutting forth into the sea. To the south were the Dublin and Wicklow mountains, enclosing the lovely vale of Shanganah, rising picturesquely against the horizon. The scene was beautiful, with all the varieties of sunlight and shadow.

O'Connell enjoyed it with nearly as much rapture as his youthful and ardent companion, who broke forth—"It is all Ireland—oh! how beautiful! Thank God, we see nothing English here. Everything we see is Irish!"

His rapture was interrupted by O'Connell, gently laying his hand on his shoulder, and pointing to the ship-of-war at anchor, as he exclaimed—"A speck of the British power!"

The thought was electric. That speck, significantly pointed out by O'Connell, suggested the whole painful history of his fatherland to the memory of the ardent young Irishman.

AN INSOLENT JUDGE.

The judges themselves often came in for a share of his animadversions, when he deemed their judicial or other conduct deserved public censure; and when he pleaded as an advocate before them, their resentment always betrayed itself. Singular to say, his practice was never injuriously affected by his boldness outside. Other men have suffered vitally from the political or personal hostility of judges—Carran was one of them. But O'Connell beat down the most formidable hatred, and compelled, by the sheer force of legal and intellectual power, the bitterest and most obstinate personal rancour to give way. He compelled pompous, despotic and hostile judges to yield. He could not be awed. If they were haughty, he was proud. If they were malevolent, he was cuttingly sarcastic.

It happened that he was by at an argument in one of the Courts of Dublin, in which a young Kerry attorney was called upon by the opposing counsel, either to admit a statement as evidence, or to hand in some documents he could legally detain. O'Connell was not specially engaged. The discussion arose on a new trial motion—the issue to go down to the Assizes. He did not interfere until the demand was made on the attorney, but he then stood up and told him to make no admission.

He was about to resume his seat, when the Judge, Baron McClelland, said, with a peculiar emphasis, "Mr. O'Connell, have you a *brief* in this case?"

"No, my lord, I have not; but I *will* have one when the case goes down to the Assizes."

"When I," rejoined the judge, throwing himself back with an air of lofty scorn, "was at the bar, it was not *my* habit to anticipate *briefs*."