

position are to be remarked the unisons of the *Gloria*, and the melodies of the *Credo*, the *Et Incarnatus* being of surpassing beauty, and the accompanied Amen fugue *Et Vitam* of wondrous brilliancy. The *Sanctus* is considered less meritorious than the parts which have preceded it, but with the *Agnus Dei* the original excellence is resumed and maintained to the end.

THOSE of our readers who are interested in nautical matters will be interested in learning that two fine, new steamers—the *Wakatipu* and *Wanaka*—belonging to the Union Ship Company will probably be found at Port Chalmers on Sunday next. They are both first-class boats and well worthy of a visit.

In Clifford's Mirror of the World an opportunity is at hand of becoming acquainted with the appearance of the most noted scenery of the various continents. Art may further be studied in that most charming of its branches—Statuary, and excellent music enjoyed in the performances of several well-known and talented local artistes.

MONSTER MEETING IN DUNEDIN.

HAD there been any reasonable doubts as to the feelings of Dunedin and Otago generally on the question of Abolition, they must have been set at rest by the meeting held on Wednesday evening last, at the Princess Theatre, [where the line of action pursued at Wellington by Messrs Macandrew and Stout met with the enthusiastic applause of some 2000 people. We much regret that our limited space prevents us from inserting in our columns the speeches made by the gentlemen in question, and on the conclusion of which, they were cheered to the echo; we are, however, enabled to lay before our readers the resolutions which were carried with the utmost unanimity. They were as follows: "1st. (Moved by Mr Lawson), that Messrs Macandrew and Stout are entitled to the hearty thanks of this meeting for affording their constituents this opportunity of mutually hearing and expressing opinions in reference to the past and future of New Zealand politics. That, in the opinion of this meeting, the Otago representatives who have acted in opposition during the present session of the Assembly, have faithfully, honourably, and nobly fulfilled their trust, and deserve, and have, the entire sympathy of the great bulk of the inhabitants of Otago in their efforts to obtain justice for, and maintain the rights and privileges of, the people of this Province. 2nd. (Moved by Mr Maloney) that, in the opinion of this meeting, it is hopeless to expect anything like justice to Otago from the present House of Representatives, and that the Superintendent and the Executive be strongly urged forthwith to convene a meeting of the Provincial Council, with a view to the necessary legislative action being taken to obtain a plebiscite of the people, so as to ascertain their wishes and opinions as to the form of local self-government best calculated to secure to the Province the exclusive enjoyment of its own resources, and the control and administration of its own affairs. 3rd. (Moved by Mr Hutchinson) that His Worship the Mayor, as Chairman of this meeting, be hereby respectfully requested and authorised to forward the foregoing resolutions to His Excellency the Governor of the Colony, and to the Colonial Secretary." A slight interruption was caused by Messrs Grant and Lloyd, and some one of that pestilent crew that delights in causing annoyance and discomfort to respectable persons had shaken a quantity of pepper through the building, but that was the only unpleasantness that occurred.

MDLLE. ILMA DE MURSKA.

ON Tuesday evening last Mdle. Ilma de Murska, having returned from her triumphant tour in the North, re-appeared in Dunedin, and we regret to hear that it is for the last time she visits this town. Many years will probably elapse before an opportunity is again afforded to the inhabitants of New Zealand of witnessing, in any form, the perfection of art such as they have experienced it in the vocalisation of this lady. It is seldom, indeed, that artistes of eminence are so endowed with a spirit of adventure as to travel thus far from the centres of civilization, and we antipodeans may well congratulate ourselves that in the present instance a rare exception has been found to the general rule, and this in the person of one who ranks second to none living in the exercise of her charming profession. We have been singularly favoured. America was already a long-settled and populous country when Jenny Lind accepted an engagement there; but while New Zealand is still in its infancy, it has succeeded in attracting to its shores a songstress equally renowned. Who can say, however, what length of time may elapse before another such visitor may be welcomed amongst us? And even should another come here at no distant date, bearing also the reputation of having swayed the musical world of Europe, in all probability there would not again be found anything like the peculiar delicacy, refinement and purity that distinguish the voice and execution of Mdle. Ilma de Murska. The programme issued for the first grand opera concert at the Queen's Theatre on Tuesday evening last, was one of unprecedented attraction, and it was carried out in a manner that we can hardly land too highly. We have a horror of "gush" of any kind, but that sometimes found in newspapers is, above all things, abominable, and, therefore, we find ourselves in a strait, for it is extremely difficult to refrain from this obnoxious expression of feeling in attempting to describe the singing and acting of Mdle. de Murska. We have already, in previous numbers of this journal, exhausted our powers of criticism in endeavoring to convey to our readers an idea of the surpassing vocalisation of the great prima donna, but we had hardly, before Tuesday evening last, had an opportunity of forming a just opinion of her qualifications as an actress. We expected that the rôle of Leonora would be ably filled by one qualified to render the music allotted to it faultlessly, and who would as well act the part in a graceful manner; but we were quite unprepared to find an originality introduced into her representation of the character by Mdle. de Murska, which at once proved her to be endowed, not only with talent, but with genius in the true sense of the word, and which we have no

hesitation in declaring, to entitle her to a rank upon the lyric stage equal to that of any who have ever appeared there—even to that which Madame Grisi acquired by her representations of Norma and Lucrezia Borgia, parts in which her acting was superb. In the scene from "Crispino e la Comare," as compared with that from "Il Trovatore," Mdle. de Murska displayed her talents to be of wonderful versatility; her acting throughout was most charming, and the music of the part she sustained gave her ample opportunity for the exercise of the brilliant execution she possesses, and prominently brought into play the marvellous flexibility of her voice. In this scene she was ably supported by Signor Susini, who, as a buffo singer, is incomparable; the drollery of his acting kept the house in a continual roar of laughter, and contributed in no small degree to the enthusiastic cheers that greeted him when, in company with the fair prima donna, he came before the curtain at the close of the concert. To Signor Rosnati, likewise, was allotted a leading portion of the proceedings of the evening. The *Barcarole* from Massanillo, Donizetti's *Una Vergine*, and the tenor part in a duet with Signor Susini and in the *Miserere* scene fell to his share, and received splendid treatment from him. In particular, his rendering of the much admired "*Ah Che la Morte*" was very fine, and elicited unbounded applause from the audience. Of the instrumentalists, Maestro Strauss Illa has too long been an established favorite with the public of Dunedin to require any lengthened comments from us on his performances. These were a selection of airs from "Il Trovatore," arranged for the violin, and which the Maestro interpreted to his audience with his usual refinement and skill, and his own fantasia for the pianoforte, "*Mollie Darling*," a *morceau* of singular merit and beauty, for which, in responding to an encore, he substituted "*Une Danse de Nègre*," which is not his composition, and is more remarkable for quaintness than beauty. Mr. Hadley, who acts as accompanist, is distinguished by a rare delicacy of touch, which combines with considerable powers of execution to render him a very charming performer. On the whole, the De Murska company is certainly unique in the colonies, and affords an opportunity not often to be found of hearing music in perfection.

FAITHFUL UNTIL DEATH.

To the Editor of the NEW ZEALAND TABLET.

SIR,—We, the homeward-bound Sisters of Mercy from Wellington, have been informed on our arrival at Port Chalmers of the sudden death of our dear devoted pastor, the Rev. Father Petit Jean. Will you insert in your columns this copy of a letter, his last effort for the Catholics of New Zealand, the last words he penned. We received the original, together with our beloved Father's blessing, but a few hours before starting on our mission, September 21. Alhambra, off Bluff, Sept. 22, 1876.

"Presbytery,
"Feast of the Nativity of the
Blessed Virgin Mary.

"On the occasion of my presenting to the rev. Mother a copy of the statistics of New Zealand, for the use of the Sisters about to make a home voyage, the rev. Mother desired me to give some remarks in the form of a letter, which the travelling Sisters might show to the Superiors of the various convents where they would solicit fresh auxiliaries in the education of the Catholic youth in New Zealand. To this request I assented most cordially.

"Now, I ask from the excellent Superiors who may happen to read these lines, a favorable hearing and a true sympathy for New Zealand. I think I have a right to plead for this country. I consider myself its natural advocate. My sojourn in it of thirty-seven years, entitles me to call myself its father in an ordinary and religious point of view. Having arrived here before all government, I have spent my life in evangelising and administering the Sacraments to both natives and Europeans, in concert with my fellow-laborers, the Marist Fathers. It was my sweet lot to seek Irish exiles wandering on these shores, and to impart to them the religious assistance which their state required. I cannot remember without emotion those Catholic soldiers to whom I administered spiritual succour in the name of their dear Church and country, in the camp, in the field, in hospitals, aye, on their death-bed, when, being mortally wounded, they had to be prepared for their last passage. I mention these things in the spirit of thanksgiving to God, and to enlist the sympathies of hearts for my New Zealand mission. All that could be said in favor of new colonies, in the way to invite to their shores new holy laborers, applies to New Zealand a hundredfold. Here is a colony growing rapidly to almost an empire. The nine or ten provinces of which it is composed would form each of them a most important settlement. Apart from the native population, the inhabitants of New Zealand now reach the number of upwards of four hundred thousand. Immigration alone adds every year nearly thirty thousand. A good many people are attracted to this land by the known advantage of its soil and climate. It would not be surprising to see before many years, New Zealand get ahead of Victoria in population and prosperity. Such being the case, those who preside over the Catholic Church in these islands feel distressed, and are really alarmed, because they are not prepared to meet the urgent demand of clergy and teachers, of churches and schools. To put off indefinitely the accomplishment of their desire would be disastrous, because the forty thousand Catholics, of whom the greater number are scattered over New Zealand, mixed among infidels or sectarians, or men quite indifferent in matters of religion, would necessarily run the risk of losing their faith. In the very centres of population, the Church does not keep her ground without some difficulty. What is more particularly wanted is an increase of good teachers and devoted Sisters. The ground is clear before us. The bishops have repudiated the so-called national education, the baneful effects of which have been already keenly felt even in this country. Having