

Rev. Father Sauzeau then said—"I must thank you very sincerely for the very kind manner in which you have drunk the health of the clergy. Last year his Lordship Bishop Redwood and the Rev. Father Garin added greatly, by their presence, to the solemnity of the opening; this time we are left to our own resources. Our worthy Secretary has shown, in his speech, how necessary are the priests in the midst of a congregation, and the great sacrifices they have to make to come to this country; but they do it with the greatest pleasure when they feel that the people profit by their labors. Although we are few, and, as a whole, not blessed with great wealth, a great deal has been done in New Zealand since the formation of the mission by the union of the people among themselves, and also with their clergy. As a great deal still remains to be done, and as we shall soon, not improbably, have to fight the battle they are fighting in other countries, let us strengthen this unity, and we are sure of success. Isolated or divided we are powerless; united we can overcome every difficulty. You have wished me a long life among you; and, as I have been already upwards of twelve years in Blenheim, I shall soon be able to say like the old priest at home, who was complimented on a similar occasion: 'My dear children, I have baptized you all, I have married you all, and, please God, I shall bury you all.'" Great applause.

The Chairman then said it now devolves upon me, gentlemen, as chairman, to propose the toast of the evening—viz., "The H.A.C.B. Society"—a toast which I propose, too, with the greatest pleasure, only marred by the wish that it was in the hands of someone better qualified to do it justice. It is unnecessary to urge the fact that benefit societies do good in many ways. Many a one when sick and away from his friends, with perhaps no means of otherwise obtaining assistance, has felt the advantage of having the doctor engaged by the Society; has been encouraged by the visit of the members deputed for that purpose, and has received much needed pecuniary assistance. There is also the social advantage to the stranger becoming a member which these societies hold forth, at once affording an introduction and bond of union with many of those with whom he has taken up his abode. And even should his position cause these advantages to be of no moment, and should he continue paying his contributions week after week and year after year without receiving any recompense, he would, at least, have been doing a good action; and when his last hour arrived, few, indeed, of the many shillings he had spent would afford him as much satisfaction as those paid to funds for the maintenance of so charitable a work. Besides these advantages, our Society had another incomparable advantage to Catholics that it looked also to the soul, enjoining as it did a regular attendance at Mass and the Sacraments, and, as an instance, he had himself been much edified some time ago by seeing the members in a body receive the Holy Communion. The toast was received with great acclamation.

The Secretary, Bro. J. Ward, jun., responded, giving a short account of the establishment of the Society, and of the rapid progress it had made throughout Australasia. All its members had now to bear a great responsibility, for their conduct would be narrowly watched by many wishing to see what kind of men made up this purely Catholic Society, and so they must maintain the honor of their holy religion; and they should also remember that the honor of the country from which they took the title Hibernian was at stake; that country where the forefathers of most of them had lived, and had so long and nobly maintained the Catholic belief and practice under very adverse circumstances, and to whom and their descendants, in many parts of the world, was, in a great measure, due that freedom which English, as well as Irish, Catholics enjoy throughout the British Empire to-day. Applause. He would conclude by thanking them very kindly for the warmth with which they had received the toast. The "Blenheim Branch" was then proposed by Mr. Broughan, to which they owed the social gathering at which he was proud to assist that evening; they had made great progress during the last year, and he hoped they would continue to do so, and that their numbers and influence would continue to increase.

P. P. Morrison, in responding, said there was one thing especially which he wanted to impress upon the Branch, and upon each individual member which were at present, he might say, upon their trial. Some of the leading members of society here seemed inclined to hold aloof from them, though several leading men had become honorary members. Now he felt sure that this came from no ill-feeling, but that they wished before connecting themselves more closely with us, to see what character the Society would maintain, and whether we were really capable of carrying out the rules under which we were banded together; it, therefore, lay with the present members, and those who were on the point of joining, to prove to them that we were a society, with which no one, whatever his position, need be ashamed to connect his name, and there was no doubt that if they followed out carefully their rules, they would become more and more respected by the whole community. He would conclude by thanking all for the enthusiastic manner in which they had received the toast.

The present officers of the Branch were then proposed by Bro. Houldsworth, P.P. He had no doubt this toast would be duly honored; their officers had always taken a great interest in the Branch, and their work required great attention and considerable time to be devoted to it, he would, therefore, beg of the rest of the Society to assist their officers in every way they could, and then the Branch would soon become so strong and respected, that all present will look back with pride and say to themselves, each of us helped to bring about this. He would also remind those friends who kept aloof, that—in one sense at least—those who were not with us were against us, for each one who seemed to ignore the Society assisted in keeping others out of it, and as he believed everyone admitted it to be good if properly carried out, he thought it should be encouraged by all who could assist in carrying it out as it ought to be. Applause.

The V.P., Bro. Connell, responded. He thought he could answer for himself and brother officers, that they would try to emulate the example of their predecessors, whom they had seen doing their duty with honor to themselves, and to the satisfaction and advantage of the Branch generally, and he begged to thank Bro. Houldsworth and the company generally for showing such kindly feeling to himself and colleagues. Applause.

Several other toasts were duly honored, including the Host and Hostess and the Chairman, all of whom had so well fulfilled their duties, that it was no wonder their healths were drunk with acclamation, after which the company broke up in an orderly manner, and generally well satisfied with their evening's entertainment. I must not omit to mention that all monotony was banished during the evening by the insertion at intervals of songs, comic, sentimental, and patriotic, many of which were extremely well rendered.

PORT CHALMERS REGATTA.

THE aspect of Dunedin on a holiday is anything but exhilarating. The town wears a sort of spurious Sabbatarian air, which is most depressing. Princes-street appears desolate as a plot of gooseberry bushes at the close of the fruit season; from Cargill's monument one would not be surprised to find that vinegar was flowing in lieu of the crystal tide proverbial for its non-inebriating qualities and the few individuals that are scattered here and there seem limp and dispirited. From such dismal quarters it is a relief to make good one's escape in any way, even though it be by means of an over crowded railway carriage, which is far from being the pleasantest method of conveyance, especially if the voyager be a male, and as he ought always to be, is the soul of chivalry and devotion to that tender blossom of the human race—the fair sex, and if, moreover, under such circumstances he is obliged to stand bolt upright in the centre of the vehicle with his back rudely turned to numerous and sundry of the gentle beings in question, and at the imminent risk of being precipitated full stamp on their toes at every lurch of the carriage, he knowing all the time in his inmost heart, that already the said pedal members must be in a sad state of corns owing to the prevailing fashion of high-heeled boots. To a gallant masculine creature situated thus, and who violently endeavors to maintain a painful rigidity of muscle that will enable him to keep firm on his feet in order that he may avoid the threatened catastrophe, and whose mind is therefore filled with distraction, it is but natural that atra-biliar suggestions should present themselves, and doleful imaginations become familiar as "household words." Most gladly, then, does such an one reach his destination, and the relief he experiences on issuing forth from confinement becomes magnified into positive delight if he happens to find himself placed in a beautiful locality, and amidst "gay and festive" surroundings.

Candour obliges us to confess that on ordinary occasions Port Chalmers is not an unusually agreeable place in which to spend an idle hour; our experience, however, is limited to an aimless wandering to and fro whilst awaiting the arrival of certain steamers, and such an occupation is amongst the most unhappy that can well fall to the lot of mankind. It is in vain to counterfeit an interest in the unloading or loading of vessels; in a few moments the affair has become monotonous, and one only looks on to become more weary. The wonders of the dry-dock are speedily exhausted, and the device of watching for fish in the water makes a man contemptible even in his own eyes. The beauties of nature fade to insignificance, and the signal-post obtains a power of attraction that renders it impossible to divert the eyes from it.

But on the day of the regatta all was changed; the heights of the harbor, with their verdant clothing of grass and foliage gained a fresh attraction from the colors that every vessel showed in abundance; gaily dressed spectators thronged the pier, and clustered on the ships, and scattered here and there were groups of people enlivening the hills and cliffs. Over the waters of the harbor yachts were speeding, their gleaming sails filled by the wind, while the foam was flying from their bows; and vigorous oarsmen bending to their task drove their boats through the brine, displaying in strength and skill the effects of long and patient training. The strains of a band were heard from the flagship, and frequent cheers greeted the arrival of a successful crew. Life and merriment were encountered everywhere, and in the general rejoicing of the occasion all evils were for the time forgotten. The events were twelve in number, and included various kinds of races—open boats and yachts, whaleboats, fishing boats, and gigs took part in them, and much interest attached to each contest. We append a list with the names of the winning boats and their owners:—

Seine Fishing Boats' Inrig Race, for boats not exceeding 20 feet overall; distance, 4 miles. 1st prize, £10; 2nd, £5. Entrance, 10s.
Mr. John Tunnage's Albatross 1
Second Class *bona fide* Whaleboat Race. Boats not exceeding 28 feet, four oars and steer oar; distance, 6 miles. 1st prize, £10; 2nd, £5. Entrance, 15s.
Mr. M. Innes's Pet 1
Amateur Four-oared Inrig Gig Race; distance, 2 miles. Prize, £5. Entrance, 20s.
O. R. Club's Isis 1
Champion Sailing Race, open to all, yachts included; distance, 8 miles. Prize, £15.
G. W. Mason's Royal Alfred 1
Ships' Four-oared Gig Race, for *bona fide* ships crews; distance, 3 miles. 1st prize, £5; 2nd, £2 10s. Entrance, 10s.
C. Stewart's Oamaru 1
Boys' Four-oared Inrig Gig Race, for boys under 17 years of age; distance, 2 miles. 1st prize, £4; 2nd, £2.
Union Club's Union 1
Second Class Open Boat Sailing Race; distance, 6 miles. 1st prize £3; 2nd, £4.