

on the previous evening in the Schoolroom, Barbadoes street. The programme comprised the following pieces, played by a band consisting of Messrs H. Poore (piccolo), Tankard, junr. (cornet), J. M. Thomson (bass viol), and Weber (pianoforte), viz:—"Enfants de Mont Blanc," Quadrille Albert Victor valse; "Petre le grand," quadrille Skylark valse and Il Bacio valse; Miss Rowley sang "Joyous love;" Miss Rowley, "Holy dreams, happy dreams;" Mrs Digby, "Kathleen Mavourneen;" Misses Ness, duet, "The dream;" Mrs Oakes, "Erin my country," and "Norah's treasure;" Miss N. Ness, "Take back the heart;" and Mr Rowley, "The Buccaneer." Mr Nolan read "Beautiful Snow," and Messrs Barrett and Ness delivered the dialogue between Cassius and Brutus. The whole of these pieces were nicely performed, evoking hearty applause in some cases and demands for encores in others. The entertainment was wound up with the farce "A Queer Subject," by the members of the club, who acquitted themselves most creditably. There was a large attendance, the receipts amounting to a respectable sum.

DURING the past week, remarks the Auckland 'Weekly News' of the 28th ult., there have been exhibited at the shop of Mr Edward Ledger, near the Catholic church, Parnell, three splendid specimens of Berlin wool work. The subjects are Biblical, and viewed as works of art are really excellent. They are the work of four young ladies attending the convent school at Parnell, and who have been instructed by the Sisters of Mercy. They have been framed very handsomely by Mr Ledger, and whilst they remained in his shop were inspected by large numbers of people. It may be mentioned that these are the same which were exhibited at the opening of the Market on Friday, and which attracted so much attention. The subjects chosen are: Joseph presenting his Father to Pharaoh, Moses in the Bulrushes, The Burning of Sodom and Gomorrah, and The Virgin and Child.

MR THOMAS HARRON, late of Reefton Catholic School, has been appointed Head Master of the Ahaura school, and will, we ('Grey Valley Times') believe, enter upon his duties at once. Mr Harron is a gentleman of very high scholastic attainment, and from his long experience in high class education will be a valuable acquisition to the local institution.

Mr J. C. Ahearn, of Greymouth, has made an alteration in the arrangement of the evening classes at St. Patrick's School. In future the hours of attendance for all pupils will be from 7.30 p.m. till 10 p.m. every evening, except on Saturday. The fees remain as before.

SCHOOL BOARDS IN SCOTLAND.—The election of school boards is steadily progressing throughout Scotland, and we have the satisfaction of recording several triumphant returns of the Catholic nominees. In Edinburgh, where, of course, the election has been attended with more than ordinary excitement the contest between candidates was not merely upon personal grounds. Although the number of candidates and the distribution of votes was conducted in a perfectly systematic manner, one party has been utterly defeated, and we are glad to say, that party which advocates the secularisation of education. The Rev. George Rigg, of St. Mary's, Broughton-street, headed the poll with nearly 2,000 votes more than the second candidate, who, with the next successful aspirant, is a lady. As a specimen of the state of elementary education, it may be mentioned that in one district, out of forty-four persons unable to write their names on the ballot papers, only ten were illiterate, the remainder being physically incapacitated. From Glasgow, owing to the number of Irish Catholics, a still more satisfactory return is made, two priests and a layman have been elected, viz., Rev. Alex. Munro, S. Andrew's; Rev. Valentine Chisholm, of St John's, and Mr F. Kerr. The Rev. Mr Sutherland has been returned for Aberdeen, Rev. Alex. O'Lonnell for Falkirk, and the Rev. Mr Gordon, of S. Mary's, for Greenock, besides many others for smaller towns.

THE 'Tuapeka Times' compliments Mr Bastings for having ably filled the Lawrence Mayoralty chair during the first six years of the existence of civic institutions there, and refers to the confidence placed in Mr Bastings's successor, Mr Herbert, whose term of office is about to expire. Having done so, it asks who is to be Mayor for next year, and then expresses itself thus:—"We think that, save under peculiar and exceptional circumstances, the office of Mayor should roll annually; and it is indeed a poor community that cannot present once a year one of its number fit and capable as regards education, ability, and social position to fill the office."

FRANK HEWITT ran three races with a man named Mahony, on the 23rd June, on the 'Friendly Societies' grounds, Melbourne. The distances were 100, 300, and 440 yards, Hewitt giving Mahony three, seven, and twelve yards' start. The first event was won by Hewitt, but he lost the other two.

A FIRE broke out in MacLaggan street early on Tuesday morning, but it was extinguished with slight damage.

THE 'Tuapeka Times' thus refers to the south road:—"Last week, a waggon with five tons of goods was fast for two days. The combined efforts of thirty horses could not move it; the waggoner was compelled to unload the goods, and drag the empty waggon out of the rut. This is only a single instance, but it is of daily occurrence; we therefore wish to draw attention of the people to it in time."

RESERVES of from 8 to 200 acres, have been made in Canterbury for village greens.

"SUBSCRIBER," whose letter appears in our last issue, writes to us saying, that it was at St. Bathans, and not at Naseby, that Mr De Latour said clergy should have no control over schools, and that there should be no religious instruction gabbled in them.

THE half-yearly summonsed meeting of the Oamaru Branch of the Hibernian Australasian Catholic Benefit Society took place last week. The patron of the Branch is the Right Rev. Dr Moran, and the chaplain the Rev. Father Donovan. The following gentlemen were elected office-bearers for the ensuing six months:—President, Mr Thos. Dunn; Vice-President, Mr Jeremiah Markham; Treasurer, Mr Jas. Markham; Secretary, Mr Charles Kearns; Warden, Mr M. Baxter; Guardian, Mr T. Keating; Trustees, Messrs Dunn, Gleeson, and Cahill. The form of installation was read by the retiring President, Mr Matthew Grant, and the officers invested with the insignia of their respective offices by the President, Mr Dunn. Mr Dunn

thanked the members for the honorable position in which they had placed him. A vote of thanks was passed to the retiring officers, and the meeting terminated with the usual prayer.

A BRANCH of the Hibernian Australasian Catholic Benefit Society is to be opened at Naseby on the evening of Monday, 21st inst.

OUR Naseby correspondent, writing to us on Monday last, says:—"A public meeting was held in the Roman Catholic Church here on Tuesday, with the object of establishing a branch of the H. A. C. B. Society in this district. The Rev. Father Boyer announcing at the Masses in the morning that the meeting was to take place, told the congregation that it would be a great blessing, as well as a benefit to them, to have a branch of this society among them, as it would be the means of creating harmony and good feeling, and would be productive of numerous benefits. The rev. gentleman could not wait to preside at the meeting, as he had to leave soon after Mass on his way for Dunedin to the conference. At the meeting, Mr Michael Brookes occupied the chair, and it was unanimously resolved to establish a branch in the district immediately. This is a good movement. I wish it a great success, and I hope that the branch will long continue to exist and prosper."

MINING INTELLIGENCE.

OTAGO.

The Southern Escort which last arrived in town brought the following quantities of gold:—Lawrence, 1736 ozs 5 dwts; Waitahuna, 430 ozs 15 dwts; Waipori, 119 ozs 6 dwts; Switzers, 653 ozs 2 dwts; Tokomairi, 424 ozs 1 dwt; total, 3363 ozs 9 dwts. The quantity of gold brought down by the Northern Escort on Wednesday last was 7920 oz 5 dwt.

The following items of mining intelligence are from the 'Cromwell Argus':—The Star of the East Company finished a crushing of 200 tons on Thursday last. The quantity of gold obtained was 67 ounces. The Heart of Oak and Star of the East companies allowed the men on strike three days to make up their minds as to accepting the reduced rate of wages offered them—namely, £3 5s—and the men unanimously refused to resume work except at the old figure. From the Caledonian claim (Mr G. T. Stephenson's) we learn that a crushing of 427 tons was finished on Saturday, at the Royal Standard battery, Quartzville. The yield of gold obtained was 429 ozs 13 dwts. Owing to the bad state of the road between the claim and the battery, no more stone can be sent down for crushing until the commencement of spring; but Mr Stephenson intends keeping on his full complement of hands (seven men) throughout the winter. These are all employed in getting out stone, prospecting for new leaders, and otherwise opening up the claim. The Caledonian occupies the premier position among the Carrick reefs.

The Port Darwin goldfields (the 'Bruce Herald' states) continue to exercise a powerful influence over the minds of the miners of Otago. Many have already winged their flight for the distant field, and very few Melbourne steamers leave Dunedin without taking one or two adventurous spirits bound for the tropical Dorado.

According to the Alexandra correspondent of the 'Tuapeka Times,' those claims which require the river to be at a very low level in order to commence operations will not have much chance of a successful season.

WEST COAST.

MINING operations, remarks the Hokitika 'Leader,' are being conducted throughout the various fields in this district with varying success; but the average does not reach that of former years. It is, however, expected that when the two high level water-races at the Waimea and the Kanieri are constructed, a great impulse will be given to that important industry, and we shall have a large accession of population. The quantity of gold exported from the port of Hokitika during the month of June was 6354oz 15dwt, on which the sum of £635 9s 6d was paid for duty. The quantity of gold exported from the port of Hokitika from January 1st to June 27th, 1873, was 36,812oz 12dwt 5gr, valued at £147,325. The total duty amounted to £3680 17s 6d.

An extraordinary meeting of the shareholders of the Kanieri Lake Water Race Company was lately held at Hokitika, to consider the question of increasing the capital of the Company. Although the original capital had been put down at £10,000, it had always been intended to increase that amount, and there was no doubt but that the additional shares would readily be taken up. Mr Bonar earnestly urged upon the community the necessity of taking part in the undertaking. Only one water race in Westland had received a subsidy from the Government, and that Company was at the present time paying off the advance at the rate of 20 per cent. per annum. He believed that before the race was half completed, there would be returns coming in, as auriferous ground was known to exist along almost the entire line of the race. There was only a certain amount voted by Parliament for water supply, and that sum was already nearly exhausted, and unless immediate steps were taken to secure the subsidy for the Kanieri race, it would be too late. He believed that if the district was thoroughly canvassed, the whole of the shares could be disposed of. He had entire faith in the undertaking as a sound commercial speculation, and it behoved everyone who had the slightest interest in the district to take shares in the Company. Mr White said that the resources of the district were great, but undeveloped, and unless the necessary amount of capital asked for by the Company was shortly subscribed the gold would perforce be allowed to remain in the ground, inasmuch as if the Government subsidy were not shortly secured, all chance of constructing the race would be entirely lost. It was unanimously resolved that the capital of the company be increased by £10,000, thus making the entire capital £20,000, the additional capital to represent 10,000 shares of £1 each. 1200 shares were at once taken up.

The Charleston Four-mile Water Race scheme is progressing. Mr Greenwood has finished a memorandum as to probable cost of survey and construction of race, which he estimates at £5000.

A late washing up in the Alpine claim gave 200oz of retorted