

ST. MARY'S CONVENT, WELLINGTON.

(From our own correspondent.)

THE annual distribution of prizes at St. Mary's Convent High School, Wellington, took place on Tuesday evening in the presence of a very large gathering. The prizes were presented to the successful pupils by the Ven. Archdeacon Devoy, in the unavoidable absence of his Grace Archbishop Redwood. An excellent programme of vocal and instrumental music was rendered during the evening by the pupils, among the contributors being Misses Reilly, Doris Haywood (recitation), Flanagan, M. Waldegrave, E. Waddy, Odile Ritleng, Hilda Nathan (recitation), Kate Connell, Waldegrave, Gracie McArdle. A couple of choruses were also sung by a choir of senior girls. The Hon. Dr. Grace, who assisted the Ven. Archdeacon Devoy in the distribution of the prizes, gave an address, in the course of which he reviewed the development and culture of music in the Home countries, which he described as having a very high civilising influence. He referred to the important parts played by the Royal Academy of Music and Trinity College (London) in promoting the culture of the art, and determining the efficiency of music pupils throughout the British Empire. Dr. Grace incidentally mentioned that at the recent examinations in connection with the Royal Academy of Music Miss Kate Connell had obtained 141 marks out of a possible 150 for senior singing.

The following is the prize list:—

Good conduct.—Silver medals (gift of Mr White); boarders—Teresa Rowe and Marion Goulter. Gift of Very Rev. Father Lewis; day pupils—Mabel Bourke.

Christian doctrine.—First division (gold medal, gift of Mrs O'Connor)—Ethel Crombie; second division, Marion Goulter.

Dux (gold medal, gift of Mr G. H. Fisher)—Girvan Runcie.

Painting.—Marion Brady.

Freehand drawing.—Edith Waddy and Hortense Runcie, equal in merit.

Model drawing.—Wynn Pearce.

Needlework.—First division—First prize (gift of Miss O'Connor), Constance Knowles; second prize, Lita Truman. Second division—Emily Whitaker. Lace work—Kathleen Bourke.

Music.—Medal (gift of Mrs McCarthy)—Mamie Waldegrave; prize, senior division (gift of Mr Brookes)—Bessie Flynn. Intermediate division (gift of Mr Brookes)—Muriel Waldegrave. Junior division—Constance McCloskey. Primary—Odile Ritleng, 1; Mary McDonald, 2. Diligence and improvement in music—Marion Goulter, Bertha Clifford, Mollie Laing.

Singing (medal, gift of Hon. Dr. Grace)—Kate Connell; prize, Higher School division, Bessie Flynn; junior division, Catherine Clifford; accompaniment playing, Bessie Flynn.

Excellence in essay writing (gold medal, gift of his Grace Archbishop Redwood)—Ethel Crombie.

Matriculation class.—Diligence (medal, gift of Mr. Palmer)—Ethel Crombie. Mathematics (medal, gift of 'Old Girls')—Ethel Crombie. Languages and composition (gift of Mr. Corrigan)—Girvan Runcie. Geography—Girvan Runcie. Writing—Rosie Sheridan. Mapping—Mary Monaghan.

Class II.—English—Constance Reilly. Arithmetic—Constance Reilly. Euclid—Constance Reilly. Geography—Kathleen Bourke. Penmanship—Kathleen Bourke. Composition—Margaret Hunter. Recitation—Margaret Hunter. Latin—Daisy Reilly. French—Muriel Waldegrave.

Class III.—Good conduct—Margaret Kenny. French—First division—Edith Waddy. Latin—Ethel Crombie. Arithmetic and algebra—Olive Blake. Geography—Olive Blake. French, second division—Olive Blake. Reading and recitation—Edith Richardson. Composition—Hessie Whitaker. Drawing—Emily Whitaker. English—Annie Twohill. Penmanship—Ethel Poll.

Class IV.—Good Conduct—Geraldine McAlister. English—Geraldine McAlister. Arithmetic—Gladys Philp. Penmanship—Gladys Philp. Geography—Eveline Collins. Reading and recitation—Nora Harnett. Drawing—Therese Sheridan. Diligence—Eileen Truman.

Class V.—Arithmetic—Charles Gasquoine. Geography—Charles Gasquoine. Reading and recitation—Christine Henry. Writing—Annie Laing. Composition—Jessie Broadbent. English—Nellie Twohill. Mapping—Catherine Clifford. Composition—Marion Goulter.

Preparatory school.—Good conduct—Boarders, Gracie McArdle. First division—Rita Martin. Second division—Violet Costell.

Class I.—Christian doctrine—Odile Ritleng. History—Odile Ritleng. Needlework—Odile Ritleng and Doris Haywood, equal. Reading and recitation—Doris Haywood. Arithmetic—Doris Haywood. Geography—Doris Haywood. Mental arithmetic—Bernard Gasquoine. Writing—Agnes Whitaker. Spelling—Agnes Whitaker. French—Agnes Whitaker. Grammar and composition—Monica Blake. Drawing—Mary McDonald.

Class II.—Christian doctrine—Rita Martin. Arithmetic—Gracie McArdle. Mental arithmetic—Gracie McArdle. Geography—Hilda Nathan. Composition and dictation—Hilda Nathan. Reading and recitation—Hilda Nathan. Writing—Mollie Laing. Drawing—Iris Moore.

Class III.—Arithmetic—Mabel Ward. Writing—Mabel Ward. Reading and recitation—Edward Nathan. Spelling—Eveline Guilford. Object lessons—Eveline Guilford.

Kindergarten Class.—First division—Reading and spelling—Edward Duggan. Arithmetic—Kathleen Moore. Needlework—Kathleen Moore. Writing—Doris Costell. Second division.—Reading and spelling—Violet Costell. Arithmetic—Eva Gasquoine. Weaving—Cecil Gasquoine. Writing—Clare Henry.

Shorthand.—Special prize, reporting class—Isabella O'Galligan. Senior division—First prize, Nora Duggan; second prize, Cecilia Guise. Intermediate division—Ellen Meagher and Annie Russell, equal.

The medals for the practical examinations in music were then distributed as follows:—Solo singing.—Senior division (gold medal, gift of Mr. Brookes)—Daisy Marshall. Pianoforte playing.—Senior division (gold medal, gift of Dresden Company)—Theo. Shapter. Gold medal (gift of Chas. Begg and Co)—Daisy Reilly. Junior division ('Martha Myers memorial' medal)—Winifred Richardson.

CATHOLICISM IN SCOTLAND AT THE BEGINNING OF THE CENTURY.

IN the course of a series of articles in the *New Era* on 'Catholicity in Scotland since the Reformation,' Mr. Austin Oates, K.S.G. says:—

And here a word may be written about the humble little seminary at Scaln. Here for many years priests had been trained and ordained and bishops consecrated. It had, indeed, more than realised the hopes of its founder, Bishop Gordon. But the time had come when more accommodation than it could afford was required. The French Revolution was the cause of serious losses to the Catholic Church in Scotland. Their colleges were confiscated and their students were forced to return home. Bishop Hay, ever equal to any emergency, raised funds sufficient to acquire a property at Aquhorthies, in Aberdeenshire, and thither in 1779 the students from Scaln were transferred.

About this time a similar institution was opened at Lismore, in the Highlands. Poverty and penury were the lot both of priests and people. The yearly allowance made by the Vicars-Apostolic to their clergy was £10 to priests in country missions, and £12 to those in towns. The number of Catholic churches in Scotland in 1800 has been estimated at 12. There were two in Edinburgh, one in Aberdeen, one in Glasgow, one in Banff, Preshome, Achinhaling, Strathglass, Fort William, Glengairns, Dornie, and Dee Castle. There were two bishops and some 40 priests, and the population is believed to have been about 35,000. Penal laws were things of the past. But there were, notwithstanding, many obstacles in the way of religious progress and extension. Bigotry and intolerance were rife and pronounced, and Catholics were still suffering from a system of social ostracism. Poverty was their dominant and ubiquitous characteristic, and bitter indeed was the struggle of priests and people for existence.

The death of Bishop Hay in 1811 was a great blow to the Catholics of Scotland. His long episcopacy of forty-three years was one of incalculable value and worth to the Faith. A brilliant controversialist and writer, an earnest and indefatigable missionary, ever full of buoyant courage and confidence he inspired and imparted both to all those with whom he came into contact. He had come into office and authority at a time when Catholicity in Scotland was in a position of a cruel and most critical crisis, and he faced and weathered a storm which threatened the very existence of the Church and her people, and brought them safely, aye, triumphantly, through it. In his declining days, spent at Aquhorthies in the Seminary he had founded, he had the dying consolation of seeing and knowing that happier days had dawned or were in store for the flock he had so deeply loved and so strenuously served.

Bishop Cameron succeeded, and for twenty-nine years ruled over the Lowland District, while Bishops John and Eneas Chisholm and Ronald Macdonald were successively Vicars-Apostolic of the Highlands. During this period the number of Catholics was steadily increasing, and particularly so in Glasgow. Here the Rev. Andrew Scott was working with great success in spite of considerable local prejudice and bigotry. The erection of St. Andrew's Church in Great Clyde street roused the fanatics to fury. One of their number, a certain McGavin, so gave way to his wrath and indignation as to incur heavy damages in an action brought by Father Scott against him for libel. This lawsuit, certainly the sensation of the year, cleared and cooled the air, and was in every way a great triumph for the Catholics.

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