

The result of the General Election has been the sole topic of conversation since Wednesday. Even the most sanguine supporters of the Government scarcely hoped for so overwhelming a majority. For the City seats the 'Triple Alliance'—Messrs. Hutcheson, Atkinson, and Hislop—were looked upon as absolute certainties until the last return, that from the Skating Rink, came to hand. At that booth, however, the 'Alliance' collapsed, the result being that Mr. Fisher, who there polled a two-to-one majority, secured the third seat for the Government from Mr. Hislop. Great was the disappointment and disgust in the 'Alliance' camp when the final figures were posted. This was certainly a complete surprise to the public in so far as Mr. Fisher's return was concerned. Mr. Hutcheson, in returning thanks, said he would have preferred defeat in honourable company than election with Mr. Fisher. Mr. Atkinson, the other successful candidate, and a recognised advocate of Prohibition, was in his usual intemperate speech mood and stigmatised the defeat of Mr. Hislop by Mr. Fisher as 'a disgrace and a scandal to the city and the name of democracy.'

The results of the Royal College practical examination in music, which was held last week, are now to hand and are a flattering testimony to the teaching of St. Mary's Convent here. Several of the 30 candidates presented from that institution passed with distinction, nine with honours, while all obtained passes. In a letter to the Superioress of the convent Mr. Graham Moore, the examiner, remarks: 'I was delighted with the way the work was prepared for the examination. I can hardly recall an instance of so many candidates passing from one institution. Singing, indeed, is generally a weak point in most schools. Even when candidates are sent in they very often fail owing to defective methods of teaching. I shall let the examiner for next year know what he has to expect at Wellington. The following pupils passed:—Local Centre Examination: Possible marks, 150; pass, 100; honours, 130. Honours—K. Connell (senior singing), 141; R. Falconer (senior piano), 130. Pass—M. McLeod (senior singing), 112; I. Blundell (do), 100; T. Shapter (senior piano), 111; A. McDonald (junior piano), 113; C. Smith (senior piano), 104; M. Waldegrave (do), 107; S. Clarry (do), 107. Local School Examination: Possible marks, 99; pass, 66; distinction, 84. Passed with distinction—G. Flanagan (higher singing), 90; N. Drummond (do), 84; E. Maginnity (do), 88; E. Waddy (do), 84; O. Rittleng (piano elementary), 86. Pass—M. Waldegrave (piano higher), 80; M. Redmond (singing higher), 71; Mary Waldegrave (do), 68; V. Meredith (do), 78; B. Flynn (do), 78; M. Blake (do), 66; M. Evans (piano higher), 68; B. Gamble (piano higher), 73; N. Driscoll (singing higher), 66; T. Rowe (do), 68; M. Twohill (do), 79; O. McManaway (do), 73; J. Baillie (do), 72; E. M. Collins (piano elementary), 71; M. McDonald (do), 74; J. Broadbent (do), 66.

DIOCESE OF CHRISTCHURCH.

(From our own correspondent.)

December 11.

On Sunday evening last five aspirants were admitted to membership of the Children of Mary at the Pro-Cathedral, the Very Rev. Father Le Menant des Chesnais, S.M., Vicar-General, performing the ceremony.

At St. Aloysius' Hall on Monday evening, December 4, a very successful entertainment was given under the direction of the Rev. Father Richards in aid of the Pro-Cathedral funds. There was a good audience and the various items of a well-arranged programme were received with evident appreciation.

His Lordship the Bishop concluded his mission services in Rangiora on Tuesday, the 5th inst. The episcopal visitation of the parish and the administration of the Sacrament of Confirmation were comprised in the ceremonies performed by the Bishop during his stay. The collection for the Cathedral fund realised about £300. During the remainder of the week his Lordship and the Very Rev. Dean Foley were occupied at Oxford, another portion of the Rangiora parish, the services there being concluded on Sunday last, after which Dr. Grimes was expected to return to town.

The General Election passed off very quietly in Christchurch, and whether owing to the wise provision of having all hotels closed, or the moral effect of Prohibition tenets which have for the last three years been persistently instilled into the minds of the people, but one solitary first offender against the liquor laws made his appearance next morning before the presiding justice. Prohibition advocates were particularly prominent at all the polling places, and their doctrine seemed to pervade the very atmosphere, but notwithstanding their efforts the advocates of liquor reform suffered a most crushing defeat, losing not only the local option vote, but also meeting with the additional disaster of having their two former members and candidates on this occasion rejected.

The schools, conducted by the Sisters of the Mission, Barbadoes street, were, as I indicated in a previous letter, examined by Mr J. Baldwin, headmaster of the Sydenham State school, and Inspector of Catholic schools for the diocese of Christchurch under the Education Department, on precisely the same basis of examination as his own school (one of the most important under the North Canterbury Education Board) is conducted. In his general report the Inspector says: 'The schools on the whole have passed a very satisfactory examination. The neatness of the work in the upper standards appears to be a speciality, and is highly commendable. The singing in both schools is very good, and the needlework throughout is excellent. The discipline and general behaviour of the children during the examination were good.' Referring to the high school department the examiner says: 'The algebra is in advance of what I expected, the three pupils in the upper division and the six in the lower would, with very little preparation, be equal to the work required in the matriculation examination. The Euclid papers on the whole are very well done.' The French of the

upper division is marked by the examiner as very good, the weak point being the translation of English into French. In the lower division four of the six pupils are marked very fair. For algebra in the lower division three pupils obtained 100 per cent., two 98 per cent., and one 93 per cent., others ranging from 50 per cent. upwards. In the upper division the marks ranged from 58 per cent. up to 100 per cent.; in Euclid, 57 per cent. up to 71 per cent. Of 16 candidates for Stand VI., all passed; of 14 for Standard V., 13 passed; of 13 in Standard IV., 12 passed. Ten passed Standard Standard III. out of 11, and in Standard II. the whole class passed, the same being the case in Standard I. In the Convent parish school of 12 in Class V., 11 passed; of 18 in Class IV., 15 passed; of 25 in Class III., 19 passed; out of 15 sent up for examination in Standard II., 13 passed; and of 33 in Standard I., only two failed. It must, therefore, be conceded that the pupils of the Catholic schools easily hold their own with those of the State institutions as the foregoing report and list of passes amply prove. It must be borne in mind also that this was the first occasion the children underwent examination by one who was strange to them, and whose methods, too, were perhaps dissimilar to what they were accustomed to.

GREYMOUTH.

(From a correspondent.)

The annual examination of the Catholic schools by the Government Inspector was held recently. The results were most gratifying, the Convent schools gaining 96 per cent. This speaks well for the education imparted by the good Sisters.

The pupils of the Marist Brothers gained 100 per cent. Thus for the two years that Brother Canice has had charge the pupils have obtained this honourable distinction.

Regarding the High School, the Brothers are somewhat handicapped in that they are not allowed to teach Latin. This, in a High School, is a serious defect and will no doubt be rectified.

A new brick school 80ft by 30ft is about to be erected for the nuns. The estimate is £1000, most of the money being in hand. The work will be pushed on rapidly.

Brother John, Provincial of the Marist Brothers, is on a visit to Greymouth, and expressed himself highly pleased with the remarkable success of the school.

DIOCESE OF AUCKLAND.

(From our own correspondent.)

December 7.

The pupils of the Sisters of Mercy of St. Patrick's parish intend to give a concert in the Catholic Institute this week.

The Very Rev. Dean O'Reilly paid a visit to the Thames in the early part of the week in connection with the local Hospital Board and returned to Auckland yesterday morning.

The Rev. Father Patterson, lately of Palmerston North, is at present in Auckland, and on last Sunday preached a very fine sermon to a crowded congregation at St. Patrick's.

Very many of the candidates for Auckland City when wooing the electors averred they were in favour of the State examination of private schools. It is to be hoped our people will keep them to their promises.

The usual monthly procession of the Most Holy Sacrament took place last Sunday evening at the Cathedral. In the procession were the confraternities of the Children of Mary and the Guard of Honour, and the children of the Convent schools. There was a crowded congregation.

The General Election has absorbed local interest entirely. It has completely dwarfed Elandsagte, and Modder River. Politics, however, play a secondary part in it, pride of place being given to the liquor question. In this connection large calico sheets were exposed in every part of the City, upon which, amongst other names, appeared that of the Right Rev. Dr. Grimes as denouncing prohibition.

Lieutenant-General Clery, whose name appears frequently in connection with the present operations in South Africa, is a brother of the Rev. Father Clery, who was the first parish priest of Onehunga, but now stationed in the diocese of Southwark, England. Father Clery built the old church at Onehunga, having come to Auckland in 1850 and staying until 1859. The Clery family comes from County Cork.

Last Friday evening a large and representative meeting from the four city parishes, in connection with next St. Patrick's Day celebration, was held. The clergy were represented by the Very Rev. Dean O'Reilly (St. Patrick's), and Rev. Fathers Gillan and Darby (St. Benedict's). It was decided to at once apply for the Domain Cricket Ground, and to hold a national concert, etc., on St. Patrick's eve, Friday, March 16. The greatest interest was shown in the proceedings.

The Young Mens' Club, Ponsonby, gave another of their enjoyable entertainments in the Sacred Heart schoolroom on Monday evening last. The Very Rev. Dr. Egan and Rev. Father Patterson were present. The first part of the programme comprised a chorus by the Club Chorists, and vocal items by Messrs. Harkins, Culhane, Bryant, White, and Reardon, and a recitation by Mr. Young. The second part consisted of a comic operetta, 'Offenbach,' by Messrs. Donovan and Young, a ventriloquial entertainment by Very Rev. Dr. Egan, and a vocal duet, 'Life's dream is o'er,' by Messrs. Harkins and Patterson. The whole concluded with scene 3 from 'Handy Andy,' the parts being sustained by Messrs. Symons, Reardon, Culhane, Simpson Young and McCoy.