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Current Topics

AT HOME AND ABROAD.

THE YORUBAS of West Africa are described as an intelligent race. At any rate, their language contains some rare gems of practical wisdom. Archbishop Trench gives one which runs as follows: 'Ashes always fly back in the face of him that throws them.' It is an African variant of the Turkish proverb: 'Curses, like chickens, always come home to roost.' In our issue of last week we gave what was tantamount to a local application to these wise old saws when we pointed out that the violent and rampant political dust-throwing bouts of the Opposition organs injured nobody but the party whom they were intended to benefit. We are all the more strongly convinced of this now, since we find our opinion confirmed on independent grounds by the scholarly and judicious editor of the *Outlook*, the Presbyterian organ of New Zealand. In the last issue of his admirably conducted weekly—which, by the way, is attached to no political party—the editor passes judgment as follows on the gospel of political billingsgate:—

In our judgment not a little of their (the Government) success is due to the virulence of the Opposition Press. Day after day a relentless, and, in many cases, an unscrupulous warfare was waged against the members of the Ministry. There might have been some force in it if it had shown any sense of proportion. But it did not. The Opposition, with scarcely one exception, transformed its editorial pens into tar-brushes and painted the Government absolutely and unreservedly black. This was neither art nor ethics, and in not a few quarters it produced an effect the exact opposite of what was desired. We do not say that the Opposition were the only sinners in this respect. It is quite possible the Government organs, had they been in the same position, would have done the same thing. But it is bad policy, to put it on the lowest ground. The great bulk of the citizens simply refuse to believe that men who give themselves to serve the country—be they Liberal or Conservative—are hopelessly and irredeemably base, and if they are constantly told so day after day in their newspapers they resent it, and take the first opportunity of showing that they do. Mr. Seddon's Government, no doubt, has its faults; but to say that it is evil and only evil, and to keep on saying this continually, surely betrays a distorted vision. It is much to be desired that the malignant bitterness which characterises a great deal of the Press of this Colony on both sides might be softened and abated. We are convinced that a good deal of Mr. Seddon's success is due to the sympathy excited for him because of the acerbity with which the Opposition newspapers assailed him. And the lesson is one which both sides of the Press should take to heart. In this, as in everything else, it should be remembered that the wrath of man, even of editors, worketh not the righteousness of God.'

The opinion expressed by us finds fresh support in a letter addressed to the *Christchurch Press* by a strong supporter of the Opposition, the Hon. Lancelot Walker, M.L.C. He has the following warning words on the defeat of his party at the recent elections:—

'And how to account for this disaster? Mismanagement and over-confidence. And of all the agencies that have worked against us, none, in my estimation, has been more potent than the *Press* newspaper of Christchurch. For months and months your columns have been choked with vituperations against the other side, and vainglorious boastings as to what we are going to do; prophecies of certain success on our part—not one of which came off—and contemptuous reckonings as to faraway chances on the other side. Can you not understand that this sort of continual abuse must stimulate the enemy to their utmost exertions, and that they will give back a Roland for our every Oliver? In every altercation between two

washerwomen, the one who keeps her temper always wins. But can you not also understand that this tirade of abuse of the other side may, after a time, pall on even our own supporters? Only about ten days ago I met a neighbouring farmer, staunchly on the right side so far, and I said to him: "Well, I suppose you are going to vote for —?" "No," he said, "I think not; Seddon has had enough bully-ragging from the Press, and I'm something if I don't go for the Government man." And if he, why not scores of others? I am sure that in all election work it is better to go silently than blatantly.'

The lesson is soon and easily read. The old Latin proverb runs: *Discipulus est prioris posterior dies*. This being interpreted means: 'To-day is the scholar of yesterday.' The Opposition organs of 'to-day' have, we trust, learned a lesson from their blunders of yesterday, and the lesson, which we trust they will take to heart, was set forth in our leading article of last week, where we said that 'political abuse is, like the boomerang, a dangerous weapon that may come whirling back and wound its thrower.' If so much is learned, the experience has not been altogether in vain; it may make for cleaner and more temperate political campaigning in the future—a consummation devoutly to be wished for.

THE CROSS IN PEACE AND WAR.

RELIGIOUS prejudice, like any other form of lunacy, breaks out into a thousand strange and wondrous freaks and pranks. But not the least strange of them is that of positive hatred of the cross, the sign of man's redemption. St. Paul said: 'God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.' The passion and death of his Saviour was more than all the world to him. From the earliest days of the Church the mere emblem of the cross was dear to Christians for the sake of all that it spoke to them. To this day it stands aloft on the summit of the churches of nearly every Christian creed. But in Ireland, especially in Ulster, there are many who hate the sign of redemption for the chief reason that their Catholic neighbours love it. Hence the cross-smashing that takes place from time to time in Catholic cemeteries and churchyards in the north-east corner of Ireland. It is not quite unknown even in the south, for the writer of these lines knows of an old churchyard where—happily many years ago—every headstone that bore the sacred sign was ruthlessly defaced or broken. This curious—and to Catholics inexplicable—hostility of feeling found voice in an unexpected way and quarter in Dublin recently. The occasion was the annual Diocesan Synod of the Anglican Church. The Synod was much exercised over the discovery that a cross was cut upon the marble representation of a stole upon the monument erected in Christ Church Cathedral to the memory of the late Protestant primate, Dr. Plunkett. The Dean and Chapter had examined and approved of the design for the monument. Their eyes, however, were not keen enough to discover the little cross upon the stole. One Rev. Mr. Hunt had a pair of optics keener than them all. He was the Columbus of the little emblem. And the Dean and Chapter expressed their profound regret at its presence and promised the removal of the 'offensive representation.' There were some, even in St. Paul's day, to whom 'the word of the cross' was 'foolishness.' But in the goodly company that assembled at the Anglican Synod in Dublin one hardly expected the cross to be referred to as an 'offensive representation.'

One of Dickens's characters contrived to veer conversation on every topic under the sun around to the severed head of Charles I. Just now every interchange of ideas gets sooner or later—generally sooner—to war. Even the emblem of the cross may be easily associated with the din of arms and the noise of martial strife. Dr. Talmage, for instance, tells us that 'when the old Scottish chieftains wanted to raise an army, they would make a wooden cross, and then set it on fire and carry it with other crosses they had through the mountains, through the highlands, and among the people, and as they

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waved the cross the people would gather to the standard and fight for Scotland. There the emblem of the flaming cross aroused the patriotism of the people and nerved them to strike a vigorous blow for their native land. The sign of the cross has in the same way nerved the Catholic soldier to deeds of daring on a thousand hard-fought fields. Take, for instance, Meagher's gallant Irish Brigade at St. Mary's Heights on the deadly day of Fredericksburg. They knelt, received their chaplain's blessing, made the sign of the cross, and then charged up the lead-lashed hill straight to certain doom. Six times in succession they faced that hell-storm. It was not war. It was sheer massacre. But no man flinched. That morning 1200 rations were served out to the gallant Brigade. In the evening just a little over 200 sufficed for the bleeding remnant of that band of heroes. In General Longstreet's words, 'it was the handsomest thing of the whole war.' In denouncing a display of anti-Catholic bigotry at an election contest last year a correspondent of the *Brooklyn Eagle* said: 'It did not weaken the blows that Phil Sheridan inflicted on the enemy at Five Forks because in the morning he was observed to make the sign of the cross with his good right hand before he mounted his charger—just what Rosecrans told his men to do at Corinth. "Make the sign of the cross and go at them, boys!" said old Rosey. They did, and were invincible.' In all human probability many a gallant Dubliner did the same at Elandslaagte. They were none the worse of that. For did not a gallant American officer say of his Irish Catholic soldiers in the great Civil War that he 'found the most pious of them the very bravest,' and that they were the men he would pick if he 'wanted to storm the gates of hell'? The soldier who begins by making the gates of heaven 'suffer violence' need not have much fear of the gates of hell.

CARLYLE wrote in his *Journal* in 1831 that it is a 'vain hope to make people happy by politics.' The saying is, we fancy, even truer of the politicians themselves than of the people who send them to do their talking in

Parliament. Disillusion, such as is said to sometimes follow the peal of wedding bells, will probably come in due course to many of the fresh New Zealand legislators who were returned triumphantly on the 6th, when they find that part of their function as parliamentarians will be to act, not merely as law-makers, but also as factotums and agents-general in miniature to all and sundry in their constituencies. A fair average sample of the 'odd jobs' expected of the parliamentary 'generally useful' is furnished by the following letter recently received by a New South Wales legislator. We quote from a Sydney contemporary:—

As I can't come to town in time for registration, haven't cut sorgum for milken cows, and boys being away shearen, I would like you to see the constible and regisser my dog. he is 8 mouts old 15th of next mont. his name is Bismark, and i don't sactly know what bread you would call him, but he is by Brown's old coolie, that you remember, him that bit the baliff, and a fox-terrier that onct belonged to old Mrs. Tomson, up the river. there is a bridge out hear that wants doen up about 8 pound, and it will help you hear if you get it looked to for us, as some thing Nash could do, more for us than you. You will get a petishion about it signed by me and other leaden residence. Dooley's draft mare, the one with the two foals, got her leg down it referendum day, and there was nearly a smush up.

The spelling of this interesting document reminds one of Artemus Ward's criticism of Chaucer: 'Some kind person has s t me Chawcer's poems. Mr. C. had talent, but he couldn't spel. No man has a right to be a literary man onless he knows how to spel. It is a pity that Chawcer, who had genevus, was so unedicated. He's the wuss speller I know of.' The writer of that missive had 'genevus,' even though he 'couldn't spel.' And neither Chaucer nor Ward could give clearer or more diplomatic expression to their sense of the utility of parliamentary representatives.

THE CHARGE OF RITUAL MURDER.

In his *Pudd'nhead Wilson's Calendar Mark* Twain inserted the following bit of wisdom: 'The difference between a cat and a lie is this, that a cat has only nine lives.' The statement is true in an altogether especial manner of those screaming hair-raisers which are produced in periods of sectarian fury for the purpose of blackening the character of a rival creed. The Reformation produced a plentiful supply of gruesome, monstrous, and impossible charges of idolatry, phenomenal immorality, and diabolical chuckle-headedness against the Catholic body. Many of these survive to our day. At this hour they are the stock-in-trade of cheap and nasty controversialists and of those strange couples with damaged reputations and police-court records who wander over the surface of our planet earning a dishonest and dishonourable livelihood by pandering to a certain taste for the prurient and the obscene. Catholics can and ought to sympathise with people of any creed who are made the butt of foul and monstrous calumnies. In the days when the Church was in the Catacombs, pagans accused the early Christians of blood-guiltiness in connection with their

worship. It is a discredit, not to Christianity, but to many who bear the Christian name, that for several centuries past a blood accusation or charge of ritual murder has been laid against the Jewish people. The charge never for a moment stood the test of investigation. It died and was buried in dishonour. But in periods of social and political ferment it was exhumed and hawked about to poison the wholesome atmosphere with its foetid smell. And thus it happens that a mysterious murder at Polna, in Bohemia, was made the occasion of resurrecting the old calumny. There was an anti-Semite fury abroad. The leaders of the foolish crusade would not let so fair an opportunity pass. And hence the killing of a youth in Polna was turned into a charge of ritual murder against the authorities of the Jewish Church.

Some time ago we dealt editorially with the squalid story of this strange and long-lived calumny against a people who, whatever their shortcomings, do not lie open to the charge of having persecuted Christian people nor imbrued their hands in their blood. By a strange error, there are some who fancy that the Catholic Church has given a sort of sanction to the 'blood accusation' by authorising the cult of Simon of Trient, who is alleged to have been ritually murdered by Jews. The story was carefully investigated by Pope Sixtus IV. As a result, this Pontiff emphatically forbade the cult of the boy, in a rescript to the Bishop of Ventimiglia. Many other Popes have likewise marked their strong disapprobation of this calumny against our Jewish forefathers in the true faith. Papal rescripts against it were issued by Pope Gregory IX., who declared that in doing so he was following the example of his predecessors in the Holy See. Other Papal documents condemning the charge of ritual murder were published to the world by one each of those Popes who bore the names of Eugenius, Alexander, Clement, Celestine, and Innocent. Another Pope, besides denouncing the story a calumny, ordered all who were in prison on such a charge to be at once set free.

The calumny arising out of the Polna tragedy has been publicly denounced by Father Andreas Csori in Buda-Pesth; by the *Furistische Blätter*, an Austrian law-journal which is contributed to by many leading barristers of the Empire; by the Congress of Orientalists at Rome, in their session of October 10; and by many others. All through Austria great meetings of Jews have been held to protest against the story of the ritual murder. The most notable and impressive utterance on the subject was, undoubtedly, that of Chief Rabbi Dr. Güdemann at a mass meeting of his co-religionists in Vienna. The *Jewish Chronicle* of October 13 thus reports a portion of his great speech on the occasion: 'A thrill passed through the audience when, with uplifted hand, the Chief Rabbi impressively exclaimed: "Shall I swear that there is not the slightest grain of truth in the blood accusation? Well, then! I can affirm by the most sacred of oaths, before God and all the world, that in our religious writings I cannot find the least justification for the charge that the Jews, or any Jewish sect, or any individual Jews have ever used or still use Christian blood, human blood, for ritual purposes, and that I have never heard of any Jew, either in the past or in the present, who, by any act of his, gave just ground for this accusation."'

RULES FOR THE LIQUOR TRAFFIC.

INTERESTING DISCOURSE BY FATHER FAUVEL.

(From our TEMUKA correspondent.)

A VERY practical instruction on the duties of publicans was given at Temuka on last Sunday by the Rev. Father Fauvel, S.M. The Rev. Father took as his text the words of Isaiah v. 22: 'Woe to you that are mighty to drink and understand to make others drunk.' The preacher opened his discourse with a reference to the recent Prohibition agitation, which, after mighty threatening, had left the interests of the hotelkeepers in the electorate intact. He wished them happiness here and hereafter, and therefore deemed it his sacred duty to give them a salutary advice, and wished to God that his voice was powerful enough to carry his words throughout the length and breadth of the Colony.

There is no effect, said the rev. preacher (whose words summarise), without an adequate cause. What is the cause of the agitation that has banded so many thousands of people together heart and soul in an effort to shut up public-houses for ever? There are, perhaps, several contributing causes, political, social, or other. But we have not to go far to find the chief one—the frightful vice of drunkenness, which degrades a man's humanity, and ruins him in body and soul. And yet, to the disgrace of our common Christianity, it is encouraged and favoured by a certain class of publicans. It is no wonder that people have got tired of this. It is no wonder, too, that many, confounding the traffic with a gross and sinful abuse of the traffic, have left no stone unturned to utterly put a stop to it. The number of hotelkeepers in my parish is small, indeed, but that is no reason why I should not explain to them their duties and obligations—what they are to do and what to avoid—in connection with a trade that offers so

many dangers to salvation. Conscience, the fear of God, honesty—these are the guiding stars on which the eyes of their souls must be ever fixed.

THE GOD-FEARING PUBLICAN

In this business, as in many others, there are to be found two classes of people: the conscientious, honest, and God-fearing; and the unconscientious and dishonest. The former class is the model for the Catholic publican to follow; the other is a warning example to shun at all costs.

1. The upright and God-fearing member of the trade is one who, obedient to the voice of conscience and the Divine command, never allows intemperance in or about his licensed premises.

2. He firmly and—if I might say it in a sense—mercilessly refuses to supply drink to persons who are already under the influence of drink.

3. He never adulterates the liquor he sells.

4. He does not tolerate in his house impure, irreligious, or blasphemous discourses.

5. He never allows games, dances, or such-like amusements in or about his premises for the purpose of attracting young people and thus inducing them to drink.

6. He refuses drink to intemperate fathers, on whose wages he knows their wives and families depend for a living.

This is a picture of the God-fearing publican. He can conduct his trade honourably and bring up his family in virtue and respectability; he can prevent many and great evils; he can stand well in the eyes of God and his fellow-men; and he can win a great reward in the world to come.

AN EXAMPLE TO AVOID.

The unconscientious publican, on the contrary, has his heart and soul fixed upon the gains of his trade. He is determined to make money anyhow, lawfully or unlawfully.

1. He serves drink indiscriminately to all who ask for it—even to those who have the 'signs' of it upon them, or who are half-drunk, or quite intoxicated—with little care whether the unfortunates can get home safely, with little thought of their risks of falls from horse-back, or of being run over, or otherwise sent unprepared to their last account. The man that acts thus is the devil's accomplice in compassing the eternal ruin of the soul of a fellow-creature. This man's chief thought and aim is merely to avoid trouble with the police.

2. Again: he scruples not to keep drunken persons on his premises as long as they have money to spend—even though this may cause grief and tears and heart-breaking to the unhappy wives and children who depend upon the drunkard's wages for a living.

3. He encourages amusements of various kinds merely to draw people, young and old, to his bar.

4. He sometimes adulterates liquors and thereby makes illicit and unjust profits—every sovereign of which will hang like a mill stone around his neck in the world to come.

SUNDRY POINTS.

All trades and callings have their peculiar dangers and temptations. But the considerations I have placed before you will show that the calling of the licensed victualler has perils to salvation that are most urgent and pressing, and hence the great necessity that he should be an honest, conscientious, and God-fearing man. The Rev. Father then exhorted all publicans to follow strictly and faithfully the six rules mentioned above as being the guides and safeguards of the conscientious hotelkeeper. He took up each point separately and expounded it and enlarged upon it with great power seasoned by practical wisdom. He declared that it would be more tolerable for the inhabitants of Sodom and Gomorrah on the last day than for Catholic publicans who encourage drunkenness for the sake of gain. He set before his hearers the example of the pagan magistrates of Sparta, who, in order to inspire their youth with a horror of the vice of intemperance, exposed a drunken slave from time to time to their gaze in the public squares. On the first occasion that these noble youths saw the drunken slave they cried out: 'Oh, whence can such a monster come, who, with the face of a man, has less sense than a brute?'

Dealing with the old objection: 'If I refuse him drink, he will go to the next public-house,' Father Fauvel said: 'Well, let him go. What is that to you? If your neighbour makes up his mind to go to perdition, it is his own affair. You have to answer not for his actions, but for your own. The sin is the same for the drunkard, but not so for you. The rev. preacher likewise condemned the exorbitant rents or prices paid for licensed premises; but he warned his hearers that this was no justification for unjust or dishonourable or unchristian methods of trade. Nobody forced the licensee to rent a house or the owner to buy, and a business which cannot be carried on in an honest, upright, and Christian manner ought never to be undertaken. Let hotelkeepers, therefore (said the preacher in conclusion), understand and consider well the obligations of their very responsible position. They can effect much good, but also much evil. If they conduct their business on the lines laid down the blessing of God will be with them. But if for the sake of filthy lucre they allure to and encourage drunkenness the malediction will surely fall upon them that was spoken by the Prophet Isaiah: 'Woe to you that are mighty to drink wine and understand to make others drunk.'

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THE WAR IN SOUTH AFRICA.

A CATHOLIC AND NATIONAL CELEBRATION.

The *Requiem* Mass at the Pro-Cathedral for the fallen in the Transvaal war (says the *London Tablet*) was a particularly National, as well as a particularly Catholic, celebration. The Union Jack gains its full significance in that environment of Catholic ceremonial, and is seen to be most affecting when draping a catafalque before an altar. With its three crosses of St. George, St. Patrick, and St. Andrew, the flag does not in itself present any incongruous sight among sacred objects. The congregation present included some who had seen the colours obscured in the smoke of battle with less emotion than they then saw them obscured by the smoke of incense. The absolutions were given by Cardinal Vaughan, of whom it was not inappropriate to the moment to remember that he came of a family who were nearly all soldiers if they were not priests, from the days of Agincourt to those of the Crimea, where his own father served as a volunteer. The figure of Bishop Brindle, the much-decorated soldier-priest, who sang the *Requiem*, added completeness to a scene in which piety and patriotism united—the kindred points of Heaven and Home.

The atmosphere was charged with emotion, as well it might be with the almost hourly bulletins of death from the battlefield; and the appeal to prayer for the known dead—and for the possible dead—had sounded as a solemn invitation to others besides Catholics. A single indication will suffice. One of the Catholic worshippers, the wife of a very distinguished Commander, after the last prayer had been said, felt a hand upon her shoulder. She turned round to recognize the sister of an officer whose name has been printed among the most gallant of the fighters in South Africa, and who now lies there disabled by wounds which, as the fears and affections of his family at home insist, may mean death. One lady looked at the other with an exclamation of surprise: 'What, are you a Catholic?' 'No,' was the response; 'but I mean to be.' For the sister of a wounded soldier of the Queen there could be no doubt at that solemn moment, when sophistry had no standing-room, and there was silence about prayers for the dead at Westminster Abbey and silence at St. Paul's, as to what is in deed and truth the National Catholic Church of England.

CATHOLIC OFFICERS AT THE FRONT.

Among officers in the Boers' great take of prisoners at Dundee is Captain A. L. Kelly, of the Royal Rifles, a nephew of Father Miller, of St. Charles's College, North Kensington. He and other Catholic prisoners had with them their Chaplain, Father Lewis J. Matthews, who left Alexandria to join the forces in South Africa. Father Matthews, found in the front, was following the fine tradition of Catholic chaplains: a tradition conspicuously associated with the career of Bishop Brindle; with that of Father Bellord, who was wounded at Tel-el-Kebir; and with that of Father Collins, who, caught in the front rank at that same fight, had to explain—what was quite obvious, after all—that his horse had carried him thither.

Every day brings forward names of Catholics (says the *Tablet*) who have gone, or are about to go, to the front. Their name is legion. Major-General Clerly will have a Catholic comrade in command in Major-General Francis Howard, C.B., A.D.C., son of the late Sir Henry Francis Howard, of the Diplomatic Service, and nephew of the late Mr. Philip Howard, of Corby. General Howard reached Durban last Sunday. Captain John A. Bell-Smyth, of the King's Dragoon Guards, who is aide-de-camp to General Lord Methuen, will find among his fellow old-boys from Edgbaston, Mr. E. Longueville of the Coldstream Guards, Mr. A. Macnamara of the Royal West Surreys, Mr. C. Berkeley of the Welsh Regiment, Mr. W. Butler-Bowdon of the Lancashire Fusiliers, and Mr. E. Bellingham, to name no more. Indeed, the connection between Birmingham and the war—already noted in the coincidence that the General who fell first in 'Mr. Chamberlain's war' was connected by marriage and otherwise with the capital of the Midlands—seems to have a further illustration in the large number of Catholics gone to the wars from the Oratory play-ground. Indeed, a present boy writes from the school to say that it can boast of fourteen old boys in the campaign. 'Let us hope,' he adds, 'that an Oratory boy may win a Victoria Cross out there now that he has got the chance.' Other names occur, but we need not now do more than mention those of Mowbray Berkeley of the Black Watch, whose cousin has been already quoted, and Lieutenant Maxwell-Scott, of Abbotsford, with the Gloucesters, whose fate has for days been enshrouded in an uncertainty that means fierce suspense for his friends.

COLONEL SCOTT CHISHOLME.

The death of Colonel J. J. Scott Chisholme at Elandsagte throws into mourning many members of a Scottish family adhering to the Catholic faith. The son of Mr. John Scott Chisholme, of Stitches, Roxburghshire, he was born in 1851, entered the army when he was 21, serving first in the 9th Lancers, of which he had become major when, 10 years ago, he was transferred to the 5th, acting at first as military secretary to Lord Connamara in Madras, and reaching the rank of colonel in August of last year. Less than three months ago he vacated his command of the Lancers to raise the company of Imperial Light Horse in South Africa, which he commanded, and at the head of which, fighting with almost reckless daring, he died in the prime of his strength at the age of only 48.

ANOTHER CATHOLIC SOLDIER.

Another Catholic who gave his life for his country in the same action was Hubert Joseph Wolseley. If his name did not appear in the first list of the gallant dead, that was only because he had gone so far ahead to meet the foe that his outlying body was not found until some six days after it had fallen. The second son of Mr. Edward Wolseley, of Weybridge, and nephew of Sir Charles Wolseley, he

was a kinsman of the Commander-in-Chief of the British army. He had wished for the navy as a career, but a touch of asthma disqualified him, despite his tall figure and the habits of an athlete. He was educated at Fort Augustus, and—after trying his hand 'in the city,' where he began by graduating in finance at the office of Messrs. Leecher and Stevens, in Clement's-lane—he went out to South Africa. There a position in the mines left him more opportunities than he had at home for the exercise of his capacities as a capital horseman and a capital shot. When trouble came he was keen to take arms, and his enthusiasm did not fail him on the battlefield as one of the bravest of a band of brave volunteers under Colonel Chisholme—the Colonel and the trooper going together to that death which it is 'sweet and decorous to endure for the fatherland.

STONYHURST BOYS AT THE SEAT OF WAR.

Among the Stonyhurst boys ordered out to South Africa (says the *New Era*) are Colonel T. J. Gallwey, C.B., Royal Army Medical Corps, as principal medical officer of the Second Division of the First Army Corps; Captain P. A. Kenna, V.C., 21st Lancers, Assistant Provost Marshal of the staff of the Cavalry Division, graded as Deputy-Assistant Adjutant General. Captain Ellis and Lieutenant Creagh go out with their respective regiments. Captain E. S. Bulfin, Yorkshire Regiment, who was A.M.S. and A.D.C. to Sir William Butler at the Cape, will for the present remain in South Africa on special service. On his return home from Egypt Colonel Gallwey had been appointed principal medical officer for the Home District.

Diocesan News.

ARCHDIOCESE OF WELLINGTON.

(From our own correspondent.)

December 16.

The Rev. Father Ainsworth is for the present in Wellington enjoying a well-earned holiday.

Misses C. Kirkwood, B. Ryan, and Teresa Killeen, pupils of the Dixon street Convent School, passed the Technical School second grade drawing examination.

The Revs. M. Guinard and F. Keiley were ordained deacons on Sunday by his Grace Archbishop Redwood. The ceremony took place in St. Joseph's Church.

The Very Rev. Father Brown, S.J., who has been conducting missions in the South, is the guest of the Very Rev. Father Lewis. He leaves by the *Monowai* for Sydney to-day.

The 'Good Luck' stallholders at the Easter bazaar gave an 'At home' in the Sydney street schoolroom on Wednesday. During the evening songs were sung by Misses Pender, Maginnity, and Mr. Izett, Mrs. Izett and Mr. Keenan contributing recitations.

Scarcely has the General Election been over than, by the death of Mr. H. A. Field, the chosen for the Otaki seat, a bye-election has become necessary. Already the campaign has begun, and Mr. Morison, the defeated candidate at the recent election, announces himself in the Opposition interest. Mr. W. H. Field, a brother of the late member, is to contest the seat on behalf of the Government.

Sunday's sacred concert in aid of St. Joseph's Church organ fund was well up to the standard set by the choir on previous occasions. Special credit is due to Mr. Searle, whose singing was the feature of the concert. Mr. Pope did well in the solo part of the 'Laudate,' and Miss Sullivan and the choir gave an excellent rendering of Mendelssohn's 'Hymn of Praise,' solo and chorus. Mr. M. J. Ennis presided at the organ and Mr. Rowe conducted.

DIOCESE OF AUCKLAND.

(From our own correspondent.)

December 14.

The Rev. Father Gillan conducted a Triduum for the Confraternity of the Children of Mary at St. Benedict's, terminating on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception.

An entertainment was given last evening in aid of the school fund by the pupils of the Sacred Heart School, Ponsonby, in their own schoolroom. It was a most pronounced success.

St. Benedict's Christmas Fair promises to be a great success. Sir G. M. O'Rourke, M.H.R., has consented to open it, and most of the newly elected Parliamentary representatives for the city and suburbs are to be invited to attend.

The Auckland provincial district remains in relation to parties in the same position as it did in the last Parliament. Mr. W. J. Napier, who headed the poll in Auckland city with 6097 votes, polling 502 over the second candidate, is a Catholic, and at one time was Auckland correspondent for the *TABLET*.

The Rev. Father Gillan preached a retreat last week to the Little Sisters of the Poor, at their Home in Ponsonby. It was concluded by the Rev. Father Patterson. It goes without saying that the good Sisters and their charges greatly appreciated the untiring zeal and exhortations of the reverend Fathers.

Mr. Hogben, of the Education Department, Wellington, visited officially the Star of the Sea Orphanage (under the charge of Sister Mary Borgia) last Friday and expressed himself as well pleased with the arrangements. He also visited the boys' orphanage at Lake Takapuna, accompanied by Father Gillan and Mr. Parish, and was much struck with the excellent Home, and the well-kept estate

surrounding it. It is small wonder that high encomiums should be lavished upon this excellent place, and to those in charge, Sister Mary Alphonsus and Mr. Colgan, too much praise cannot be given.

A treat was afforded the inmates of the Star of the Sea Orphanage, Ponsonby, last Friday evening by the Auckland Liedertafel, under their conductor, Mr. A. Towsey. The Sisters and boarders from the adjacent convent attended in large numbers. Besides the items by the visitors songs were given by Messrs. Allen, A. Trenwith, J. Parish, and Arthur Towsey. Most acceptable items were contributed by the Very Rev. Dr. Egan and Rev. Father Patterson. The children gave their quota to the programme in a chorus 'Where is Happiness?' A hearty vote of thanks was given to the Liedertafel for their great kindness in affording amusement to the orphans.

The Very Rev. Dr. Egan, O.S.B., was presented with a beautifully framed shield containing the photos of the members of the Young Men's Club, in which that of their spiritual director occupied the central position. An address was also presented. The presentation was made by the esteemed president of the Club, Mr. J. J. O'Brien, who prefaced the reading of the address with a neat little speech, in which he eulogised the many good qualities of Dr. Egan. Dr. Egan replied and thanked the members most heartily, and hoped they would be many years associated in carrying out their mission of religious, secular, and social improvement. A generous spread, supplied by the president and Mrs. O'Brien, was then partaken of. The following ladies waited at the table:—Mrs. O'Brien, Misses Lynch, Flynn (2), McGuire, Nyson, and Simpson. A thoroughly enjoyable evening was spent.

His Lordship the Right Rev. Dr. Lenihan has written from his old college at Valladolid, Spain, under date October 30. His Lordship says: 'Such pleasant days I am having here thanks to the exceeding kindness of the rector and professors. The rector, Monsignor Allen, was in charge when I was a student here, and the professors and a priest assisting me in giving a retreat to the students, were class mates of mine, so that we pass many an hour recounting old times. The rector is quite spoiling me with all the kindness he bestows upon me. I am thoroughly enjoying this rest after so much wandering about. I can only spare a fortnight, much to the regret of the rector, who wanted me to stay with him three months. I feel after a week's sojourn here much rested and refreshed. While things do not seem to have progressed in Spain, at the college, under the rector's excellent administration, many improvements have been effected, and the students here have reason to be grateful for the care that is taken of them. On my way to Spain I branched off to Lourdes, and under the shadow of the statue of our Lady had the privilege of saying Mass, making a memento of all my friends in Auckland, especially my priests and religious, and of the laity who so willingly help us. In this way I did not forget those who join with you, Sunday after Sunday, in collecting at the church door. Convey my good wishes to each and all of the collectors.'

DIOCESE OF CHRISTCHURCH.

(From our own correspondent.)

December 18.

The Rev. Father Kimbell of St. Patrick's College arrived here during the week, and is at present the guest of the Rev. Father Marnane at St. Mary's.

His Lordship the Bishop made several brief visits to the city during the week. He presented the prizes at the convent schools on Thursday and Saturday, and presided at an important meeting of the Cathedral Committee on Friday.

The pupils of the Convent of Mercy, at Lyttelton, gave an entertainment on Tuesday last in the local Oddfellows' Hall in aid of their prize fund. A well-arranged programme of vocal and instrumental music, recitations, and two farces was submitted to an appreciative audience.

The mission services held at Oxford by his Lordship the Bishop and the Very Rev. Dean Foley were well attended. On Tuesday last a visitation was made to and a mission was commenced at Kaiapoi, which was continued throughout the week and terminated on Sunday last when the Sacrament of Confirmation was administered.

Mr. F. W. Petre, architect, of Dunedin, who was passing through to Wellington, was present at the meeting of the Cathedral Committee last week, and exhibited a plan of a Basilica, which if adopted as the proposed building would have capacity (to use the architect's own words) of containing within its walls any church at present existing in the Colony, and would prove by far the most imposing structure in the city. Provision is made for a crypt, and seating accommodation for 3000 persons. Massive Corinthian pillars adorn the front. The main entrance would be reached by means of nine steps, and from this floor further flights of steps would lead to a gallery almost encircling the interior. The materials used would be Oamaru stone faced with blue stone, with concrete foundations. So far, however, nothing definite has been arranged.

Mr. Davitt, who has resigned his seat in Parliament, is a constant contributor to American and colonial newspapers, and an occasional writer in English and Irish journals and reviews.

Monsignor Merry del Val, who was recently on a short visit to London, is the son of the Spanish Ambassador at the Vatican, a relative of Count de Torres-Diaz, a well-known Spanish Catholic in London. Mgr. Merry del Val spends much of his vacation in England, for which he entertains a sincere admiration, and in which he has many friends. He is young in years, but his experience in diplomatic matters is wide, and he has, in all probability, a brilliant career before him.

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NEW CHURCH AT TAPANUI.

THE OPENING CEREMONIES.

(Special report.)

THE opening and blessing of the new church at Tapanui last Sunday was the crowning event in the history of a plucky undertaking of which the few and scattered Catholics of that district may be reasonably proud. The work was undertaken by eight Catholic families, few of whom are blessed with a plethora of the world's goods, and the result of their efforts and self-sacrifice, coupled with the altogether admirable practical goodwill and support of their non-Catholic neighbours, has been the erection of a singularly handsome church building which involved an expenditure of £300, and was on last Sunday solemnly opened with only about £30 or £40 of its total cost unpaid. The building stands upon a three-quarter acre section, securely fenced, on what is claimed to be one of the best sites in the town, and presents a bright and handsome appearance. The following are the descriptive particulars of the new building, which is a conspicuous ornament to the town:—

The church is in the Gothic style of architecture, and its pleasing proportions show out to great advantage. The building will accommodate a congregation of about 300. The material used in the construction is timber, on a concrete foundation. It is about 40ft in length, exclusive of the sanctuary (12ft) and a porch (8ft). The width is 22ft. The windows—sixteen altogether—are furnished with cathedral glass of pleasing design and subdued colours, and the sanctuary is lighted by a triple lancet oriel window. The interior is very artistically stained and varnished, the colours used being in excellent taste, and the window facings and doors are tastefully grained. A massive wooden altar, of handsome construction, adds considerably to the beauty of the interior. The belfry, which stands on four massive pillars, is surmounted by a Celtic cross, and rises to the height of 40ft. The church on the whole is a fine specimen of ecclesiastical architecture, the workmanship being especially good. Mr. Thomas Carmody, of Gore, was the contractor, and he carried out his work to the entire satisfaction of the pastor and congregation. The painting was done in a very tasteful manner by Mr. John Fleming, of Tapanui.

Perfect weather favoured the opening ceremony. The church was crowded to excess by a congregation consisting chiefly of non-Catholics, whose large-hearted generosity and kindly sympathy with the good work formed the theme of grateful comment by the Catholics of the district, by Father P. O'Donnell (the priest in charge of the mission), and by the preachers at Mass and evening devotions. The offerings on the occasion of the opening reached a sum of about £50. A strong choir from Gore conducted the musical portion of the services in a very pleasing manner. Mrs. Neave acted as organist, and at the Mass sang Gounod's 'Ave Maria' as an offertory. Mr. Johnson rendered Bordeese's 'O Salutaris.' The music at Benediction was also well chosen and admirably rendered. The celebrant of the Mass was the Very Rev. Dean Mackay, Administrator of the Diocese. There were also present the Very Rev. Father O'Neill (Milton), Father P. O'Donnell (Gore), and Fathers Coffey and Cleary (Dunedin).

FATHER O'NEILL'S SERMON.

The occasional sermon at the Mass was delivered by the Very Rev. Father O'Neill, and was marked by great power. He took as his text the words of St. Matthew xiv. 18: 'Thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build My Church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.' The very rev. preacher pointed out the object for which the Church was instituted—to convey to souls to the end of time the graces which the Redeemer purchased by His death on the cross. In that mission she could not fail. Her continuance was predicted by the angel when he told her that the Holy One that would be born to her should rule over the house of Jacob for ever, and of His kingdom there would be no end. A like declaration was made by our Lord when He sent forth His apostles to teach all nations, with the promise: 'Behold I am with you all days, even to the consummation of the world'—not till the Church should become corrupted, but for all time: 'till the consummation of the world.' Therefore we maintain that decay or corruption in doctrine is impossible in the Church which Christ established. To assert such decay would either mean that Christ was untrue to His word, which would be blasphemy to assert; or it would mean that He had not the power to keep His promise and save His Church from the gates of hell. The Church, then, must continue till the end of time pure in her teaching, in her practice, in her principles and motives, no matter how individuals within her may fall away. History has vindicated this, and for almost 1900 years has revealed the fulfilment of the promises of the Lord Jesus Christ. From the days of the apostles to our own time dissensions have arisen within the Church and troubles from her enemies outside. But St. Peter's barque has come safe through all the storms of 1900 years. During the first 800 years of the Church's life no fewer than ten general persecutions were let loose on the Christians. The full power of the mighty Roman Empire was directed to sweep them off the earth. They were flung to wild beasts, with garments soaked in pitch they were turned into flaming lamps at night. They were made the sport of Roman rabble. But through persecution the Church only spread the more, and in very truth and deed 'the blood of martyrs became the seed of Christians.' The preacher then went on to describe the use and fate of the early heresies—of the Arians, the Nestorians, etc., how they spread over the Christian world, flourished for a time, and then died away, leaving the Church's marvellous strength and unity unimpaired. He then dealt in some detail with the causes which led to the more recent and great religious revolt of the sixteenth century, which originated in Germany through the pride, ambition, and disappointed hopes of an ex-friar, who found the restraints of his

vows too irksome. Backed by the secular power, he drew away nearly one-half of the population of Germany from the unity of the Catholic faith. The spirit of revolt spread to England and Scotland, and out those two old Catholic lands adrift from the rock on which the Church of Christ was built. That was 301 years ago. Since then men have tried in vain to find that the Catholic Church has altered in one tittle from the articles of faith taught in the days of the Apostles. The Church has remained unchanged and unchangeable through all the ages. She teaches in the nineteenth century the same doctrine as she taught in apostolic days. From time to time she has to explain her doctrines in more concise terms. But, as in the case of the dogmas of Papal infallibility and the Immaculate Conception, these doctrines were always believed in the Church, and formed part of the deposit of truth left by Christ to His Apostles.

The preacher then pointed out how the Catholic Church was the only form of Christianity known in England and Scotland for 1500 years. He dwelt long and lovingly on the tangible proofs of the faith and zeal of the people of the pre-Reformation days, which were still to be seen in the magnificent temples and monasteries—many in ruins—which were dotted over England and Scotland. Abuses existed—for human nature is frail. But the Reformation was not caused by abuses, but by the rampant greed and lust of one man. The preacher concluded with an eloquent peroration on the great work of church-building, which linked those present to their fathers of the pre-Reformation days, and paid a grateful and happy tribute to non-Catholics who had aided so effectively in the erection of that handsome edifice to the honour of the Most High.

FATHER COFFEY'S SERMON.

In the evening the occasional sermon was preached by Father Coffey (Dunedin) from the text of Genesis: 'Verily this is the house of God.' In the course of a singularly able and impressive discourse, which the limits of our space prevent us giving in any detail, the rev. preacher explained the objects of church-building—chief of which is the providing of a place where the great Sacrifice of the New Law shall be offered up. He then proceeded to define Sacrifice, and to point out that it differed from every other act of honour of which man is capable in that it may be offered to God alone and in testimony of His infinite power over us and of our total dependence on Him. The history of Sacrifice was traced up under the Jewish dispensation; in happy and convincing terms the various prophecies regarding the 'clean oblation' of the New Dispensation were one by one passed under review; and then their grand fulfilment was shown in Christ's great Sacrifice on Calvary. The preacher then showed how Christ on that first Good Friday offering Himself once and in one place only, and that the great predicted Sacrifice of the New Law was to be offered in every place and time; and proved that the fulfilment of the prophecies was to be found in the Sacrifice of the Mass. It fulfils all the conditions of a true Sacrifice—a visible offering, made by a legitimate minister duly appointed, in testimony of God's supreme dominion over us. The rev. preacher then proved the identity of the Sacrifice of the Mass with that of Calvary; dealt in detail with the four great purposes for which the Mass is offered; and concluded with an admirable exposition of the spirit with which Catholics should assist at this great and supreme act of religious worship.

ST. DOMINIC'S COLLEGE, DUNEDIN.

St. JOSEPH'S HALL was crowded on Monday afternoon on the occasion of the annual breaking-up entertainment by and the distribution of prizes to the pupils of St. Dominic's College, Dunedin. Among those present were the Revs. Fathers Murphy, O'Donnell, Moloney, and Ryan, and Messrs Fitzgerald, Bessence and Richardson.

On such occasions the parents and friends of the pupils attend for the purpose of seeing for themselves what has been the result of the year's work, and if the finished manner in which all the items on the programme were performed is to be taken as a criterion of the class of education imparted at the College, the standard is certainly high, and can well stand the test of criticism. The programme opened with two action songs, 'Out on the deep' and 'Jeux de cerceaux,' by the kindergarten. The scene on the stage was a pretty one, the boys being attired in sailor costume of white and pale blue, and the girls in white, the latter carrying hoops with coloured ribbons and bells. The performers kept good time, and the songs were nicely rendered. A number of the senior pupils sang in a finished manner Abt's 'Water Lilies.' The College has always been noted for the high state of proficiency attained by the pupils in instrumental music, and the duet from Weber on three pianos by Misses Seelye, O'Connell, Kelman, Heenan, Delargy, and Joyce was certainly a very artistic performance and more than maintained the reputation of the institution. A feature of the performance was the splendid time—so accurate was this that it appeared as if the volume of sound came from a single instrument. Miss G. Meenan possesses a very sweet voice, and her 'Song of sleep' gave promise that she will become a very good vocalist. The college boarders contributed a calisthenic display, two of them practising on 'Sawdow developers.' Miss Davis's solo, 'The Swallows,' was sung with taste, and was a very fine example of good vocalisation. Miss G. O'Connell gave a recitation, in which clear enunciation and appropriate action were marked features. Miss F. Courtis played a pianoforte solo with faultless execution, her touch being clear and telling. A mazurka of Chopin was played brilliantly by Misses Paton, E. Ward, and A. Liston, the performers giving evidence of finished tuition by their splendid time and good touch. Miss Ewing has a rich contralto voice, which showed to great advantage in the solo, 'The Soul's Awakening.' It is rare to meet with one so young who possesses such a rich contralto voice. Miss Ewing has evidently a future before her as a vocalist. A pianoforte duet, 'Bohemian Dances,' was played with taste and feeling by Misses G. Meenan, E

Hay, O. Larnach, E. Ward, M. Paton, and J. Griffen. The programme concluded with a chorus 'Spring' by the senior pupils. Miss O. Larnach deserves a word of praise for the finished manner in which she accompanied the greater part of the vocal items.

At the conclusion of the concert part of the programme the Rev. Father Murphy took the opportunity of thanking the performers for the very fine treat just given by them. He was sure the audience would agree with him that they had acquitted themselves in a manner that was alike creditable to themselves and their teachers. The performance was equal to, if not better than, any which was ever given before. With regard to the work done during the year, regular attendance, and good conduct, their superiors had informed him that they were the best body of pupils who had ever passed through the College. This was no doubt very encouraging both to their superiors, who devoted their time and attention, and sacrificed their lives in the work of education, and also to their parents. One of the objects of the College was to turn out the pupils good members of Society, to make them perfect ladies, and in doing this they were conferring a great benefit on the community. With reference to the prizes he said that some might be disappointed at not receiving any, but they should remember that in a class it was sometimes very difficult to decide who was worthy of the distinction, the competition was so close. The wreath for the most amiable girl in the school, on the vote of the pupils, was awarded to Miss Winney Heenan. Father Murphy concluded by thanking the audience for their attendance. The prizes were then distributed by the Rev. Father Murphy, the recipients being warmly applauded as they appeared on the stage.

At the conclusion of the proceedings Mr. Fitzgerald (one of the Education Board Inspectors) said that he and his colleagues, who were present, knew something of the Sisters' work. When they visited their schools they expected to find thorough work, good order, good manners, and a nice tone pervading all, and certainly the schools did not disappoint them. It was with pleasure that they accepted the invitation to be present that afternoon to see something of the Sisters' work, which did not come within the scope of their official duty. On behalf of his colleagues and himself, and he felt assured on behalf of the whole of the large audience, he could say that for all they had seen and heard they had nothing but commendation. He thanked the Sisters and their pupils for the pleasure they had given him, and all who were with him.

The Rev. Father Murphy thanked the audience for their attendance, and the proceedings terminated.

The audience then adjourned to St. Joseph's School, where a display of works of art by the pupils of St. Dominic's College was held. The exhibition consisted of paintings in oil, fancy work, and wood carving. Miss McKechnie and Miss Kelman were represented by very fine oil paintings of the far-famed Sounds. A feature of the exhibition was a number of plaques, with paintings of flowers done from nature. These were in most instances very fine examples of art, the colouring and arrangement of the flowers being very true to nature. Drawing from casts seems to have been brought to a high state of perfection at the college, as the specimens of this class of work shown by Misses Kelman, Joyce, Ward, Watt, and others were very well done, the shading being particularly good. Misses Lake, McDonald, Seelye, and others had some specimens of very artistic panel painting. A picture which attracted some attention was an animal study by Miss Cockerill. Miss Hay, besides other subjects from her brush, had a very creditable pastoral study in oils. A very pretty piece of work was cactus dahlias in oils by Miss Ward. Miss Brennan had a study in black and white. A new style of ornamentation for a cushion, consisting of Florentine raised work in tinted velours, was shown by Miss Lobb, and Miss Joyce was represented by a handsomely painted mirror. Among the most successful exhibitors of fancy work were Misses McGuire, Plunkett, Dooley, Cutten, Thompson, Watt, Holmes, O'Halloran, Carroll, Vaninni, Quelch, Blakely, Patterson, Meenan, and Tobin. Not the least interesting portion of the exhibition was that devoted to kindergarten work, consisting of mosaic designs, picture albums and embroidery, mat weaving, prick, fancy and plaque work. It could hardly be believed that some of the specimens of work shown were done by little dots of six and seven, yet such was the case. The many articles shown bore testimony to the varied education given in this department, and the taste and finish displayed in the work were ample evidence of the great amount of patience on the part of the teachers to bring about such good results. The exhibition on the whole must have been a revelation to many of the visitors, especially those unacquainted with the high class art work done at the college, and one and all admitted that it was the best yet held, especially when we take into account some of the exhibits which are intended for next year's bazaar, amongst which was a beautifully embroidered panel worked with filonelle on satin. So beautifully was this shaded and so fine was the work that many took it for a painting. Some fine specimens of wood carving were shown, the best piece being a panel with passion flowers in *alto rilievo*.

The following is the prize list:—

Christian Doctrine—Senior class (silver medal, presented by Mr. B. Young), G. Meenan; junior class (silver medal), N. Quelch. Twelve special prizes were presented by the Rev. J. Ryan for Christian doctrine.

Bible History—Senior class: First prize, G. O'Connell; hon. mention, M. Ross and F. McEuskey. Second prize, M. O'Leary; hon. mention, G. Meenan and N. Sullivan. Third prize, H. Sweeney; hon. mention, C. Delargy—Junior class: First prize, N. Quelch; hon. mention, A. McDonald and A. Connor. Second prize, J. Freed; hon. mention, H. Mackay and J. Griffen. Third prize, M. Knox; hon. mention, Mary Laverty and R. Rossiter.

Catechism—Senior class: First prize, M. Ross; hon. mention, M. O'Leary. Second prize, N. Sullivan; hon. mention, G. Meenan. Third prize, E. Ward; hon. mention, O. Larnach.—Junior class:

First prize: A. McDonald; hon. mention, A. Connor, N. Quelch, and J. Griffen. Second prize, Mary Laverty; hon. mention, H. Mackay, R. Rossiter, and A. Carmody. Third prize, E. Thomas; hon. mention, L. Freed, M. Knox, and M. O'Rourke.

Painting—Silver medal presented by Mr. Shaw. C. Watt. Painting and Drawing from the Cast—Silver medal, M. Kelman; hon. mention, N. Joyce, E. Hay, O. Larnach, and E. Ward.

Needlework—Silver medal, M. Cutten; hon. mention, M. Brennan, A. Plunkett, N. Quelch, E. Hay, H. Mackay, A. McDonald, V. Thompson, and — M'Gregor.

Music—Intermediate grade: Silver, medal, E. Hay; hon. mention, E. Ward, M. Kelman, C. Watt, G. O'Connell, A. Liston, O. Larnach, C. Delargy, and W. Heenan.

Junior grade—Silver medal, presented by Mrs. Liston, M. Carey; hon. mention, M. Jackson and V. Blakely.

Attendance—Silver medal, H. Mackay; hon. mention, N. Quelch, E. Thomas, N. Sullivan, G. Meenan, E. Robinson, and M. Shain.

Good conduct—Silver medal, presented by Mrs. Shain, N. Joyce; hon. mention, E. Patterson, N. Sullivan, W. Heenan, M. Kelman, V. Blakely, A. Plunkett, E. Hay, M. M'Gregor, M. Ross, E. Robinson, M. Cutten, N. O'Carroll, and A. Macdonald.

Class medallists—Intermediate B, H. Mackay; intermediate A, V. Blakely; senior grade B, N. Sullivan; senior grade A (dux), M. Ross.

Successes in Trinity College instrumental music—All the candidates presented passed.

Intermediate grade—Honours, E. Ward, E. Hay, and K. Cartwright; pass, M. Kelman, C. Watt, H. Hannigan, and E. Kirkaldy.

Junior grade—Honours, M. Carey, M. Jackman, M. Montague; pass, A. Kerr, M. King.

Primary grade—E. Hooper and M. Gawne.

Vocal music—Senior grade, — Bridger.

Wreath, awarded by the votes of the pupils for amiability and good conduct—W. Heenan.

JUNIOR GRADE.

English and arithmetic—Class A, Minnie Collins; class B, Mina Ward.

Improvement in arithmetic—Gertrude Petre.

Religious knowledge—Mary Murray, M. Collins, M. Callan, M. Ward, M. McDonald, M. Gawne, F. Byrne, Winnie Power.

Conversational French—First prize, Mary Callan; second prize, Mina Ward; hon. mention, M. Collins, M. Gawne, F. Byrne, W. Power, M. McDonald.

Pianoforte—M. Gawne; hon. mention, M. Collins. Improvement in music, L. Fraser.

Needlework—Mary Tobin; hon. mention, M. Collins.

Mapping—M. Callan and M. Murray.

Regular and Punctual Attendance—F. Byrne, M. Gawne, and M. Collins.

Writing—F. Beissel, M. Murray, and M. Gawne.

Order and Neatness—M. Tobin.

Application to Studies—M. Collins, M. Callan, and M. Ward.

Politeness and Deportment—M. Callan and M. Collins.

Good Conduct—M. Collins, M. Callan, and M. Ward.

Amiability—E. Hegarty.

General Improvement—Mary Murphy.

The G.O.M.'s prize in *The Dominican Star*—Mary Callan, editor of the supplement 'Our Very Own.'

KINDERGARTEN.

Preparatory Class A—Christian doctrine, embroidery pictures, and diligence, Mary Walsh. Reading, singing, and pianoforte, Myrtle Morrison. Recitation, singing, arithmetic, and pianoforte, K. Collins. Picture embroidery, drawing, singing, and writing, Ethel Salmon. Arithmetic, embroidery, and improvement in music, Gerty Shain. Comprehension of lessons, writing, fancy, and plain needlework, Nora O'Donnell. Reading, needlework and amiability, Dolores McDonald. Geography and improvement in music, Mercedes McDonald. General improvement, drill, and mat weaving, Eric Spain.

Preparatory Class B—Drawing, clavier, and writing, Mary Isabel Laffey. Writing, spelling, and arithmetic, Maggie Maher. Violin practice, reading, and drawing, Alan Shain. Object lessons and prickwork, Ivy McDonald. Violin practice, spelling, and object lessons, Kitty Byrne. General improvement and prickwork, Ethel Murray. Gift III and reading, Joseph Salmon. Mat weaving and arithmetic, Cassie Spain. Reading and prickwork, Vera Myers.

Kindergarten Class (IV grade)—Word building and object lessons, James McDonald. Drill and prickwork, James Collins. Gift III, Ernest Meenan. Mat weaving, word building, and writing, Eric Green. Writing, drawing, and drill, Frank Meenan. Singing, drill, and recitation, Eric Campbell, Molly Coghlan, Patrick O'Connor, Cyril Campbell.

Kindergarten Class (III grade)—Word building, clavier, and combination of colours: Ila B. Henderson, Patricia Toomey, Bessie Laffey. Word building and colours: Patrick Keligher, Nicholas O'Neill, Gabrielle Spain.

Kindergarten Class (II grade)—Colours and gifts I and II: Myrtle Crichton, Mabel Yarley, Joseph Petre, Nellie Coghlan, Harold Green.

Kindergarten Class (I grade)—Gift I, forms, and general sweetness and amiability: Kathleen Campbell, Eileen Collins, Arthur Meenan, Margery Murray, Rita Petherick, Bertie Cantwell, Leonard Petherick, Kathleen Campbell.

Sorrow is only one step in a long journey, one step in a long growth. It is the furnace from which the steel emerges hard; another process softens it. Many a brave soul finds itself first, God afterwards.

Friends at Court.

GLEANINGS FOR NEXT WEEK'S CALENDAR.

(Written for the N.Z. TABLET.)

December	24, Sunday.—Vigil of the Nativity of Our Lord.
"	25, Monday.—Nativity of Our Lord.
"	26, Tuesday.—St. Stephen, Martyr.
"	27, Wednesday.—St. John, Apostle and Evangelist.
"	28, Thursday.—The Holy Innocents.
"	29, Friday.—St. Thomas, Bishop and Martyr.
"	30, Saturday.—St. Elizabeth, of Hungary.

ST. JOHN, APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST.

St. John, the beloved disciple of Jesus, was the son of Zebedee and Salome, and the brother of St. James the Great. He was a fisherman by trade, and was called to the Apostleship by our Lord along with his brother James when they were mending their nets by the shore of Lake Genesareth. They did not, however, entirely abandon their occupation until they received a second call along with St. Peter and St. Andrew after the miraculous draught of fishes, on which occasion they left all things and followed Jesus without reserve.

Among the twelve Apostles there were three who were specially favoured by our Blessed Lord; but of these the dearest to His Sacred Heart was undoubtedly St. John. Hence he is spoken of in the Holy Gospel as 'The disciple whom Jesus loved,' and while he shared the revelation of our Lord's glory on Mount Thabor and His agony in the garden with SS. Peter and James, he alone enjoyed the special privilege of resting his head on the breast of Jesus at the Last Supper. The holy Fathers tell us that it was the spotless purity of St. John which made him so dear to Jesus, and which caused our Blessed Lord to make choice of him on Calvary as the most fitting guardian for His Virgin Mother. St. John responded to his Master's love by the ardour of his own affection to both the Son and the Mother. He was the only one of the Apostles who followed Jesus to the last, standing loyally with Mary at the foot of the cross to the very end, in spite of the scoffs and insults of the mob and his own bitter anguish at the sight of the cruel torments of his beloved Master. His devotion to Jesus was not without its reward, for our Lord with His dying lips bequeathed to St. John that which He held the most dear and precious in this world—namely, His beloved Mother. 'Woman,' said He, 'behold thy son; son, behold thy Mother.' And from that hour the disciple took her to his own.

After our Lord's ascension St. John seems to have remained chiefly at Jerusalem until the death of the Blessed Virgin, though no doubt he was often absent on various apostolic expeditions. He is said to have preached the Gospel in Parthia and the neighbouring countries. After the death of our Lady his labours were principally devoted to Asia Minor, where he exercised a general supervision over the numerous Christian communities, travelling from place to place to spread the Gospel, encourage the faithful, and provide the churches with worthy and zealous pastors. During this time he resided chiefly in the city of Ephesus.

In the persecution of Domitian, A.D. 95, St. John, then the sole survivor of the Apostolic College, was apprehended by the Procurator of Asia and sent to Rome. He was condemned by the cruel Emperor to be cast into a vessel of boiling oil, but was miraculously preserved from injury. The memory of this miracle is preserved in the Church by a special feast, which is kept on May 6, and is entitled 'St. John before the Latin Gate.'

Being afterwards sent into exile to Patmos, a little rocky island in the Archipelago, St. John was favoured with the heavenly visions which he has described in the Apocalypse, and which relate to the future history of the Church and the awful events that will accompany the final judgment. His banishment was not of long continuance, for at the death of Domitian, A.D. 96, he was restored to liberty and returned to Ephesus.

It was about this time that he wrote his Gospel to supply the omissions of the other evangelists, and to refute the rising heresies of Ebion and Cerinthus, who denied the Divinity of Jesus Christ. He is also the author of three epistles, which are full of earnest exhortations to the love of God both in Himself and in our fellow-men. St. John was in truth the Apostle of Divine charity. Never was he weary of inculcating this lesson upon his disciples, and of exhorting them to prove the sincerity of their love for God by their love for one another. It is related that, when age and infirmity had so enfeebled him that he was unable to make long discourses to the people, he used still to be carried to the assembly of the faithful, and would always address them in these words: 'My little children, love one another.' And when at length his hearers, tired of this constant repetition, asked him the reason of it, he replied: 'Because it is the precept of the Lord, and if you fulfil it, it is sufficient.'—words which remind us of the saying of St. Paul: 'He that loveth his neighbour hath fulfilled the law.'

This great Apostle, so beloved of God and lovable of men died at Ephesus, A.D. 100, at the age of 94.

Choose such recreations as are healthful, short, transient, recreative, and apt to refresh you; but at no hand dwell upon them, or make them your great employment; for he that spends his time in sports, and calls it recreation, is like him whose garment is all fringes, and his meat nothing but sauces; they are healthful, changeable, and useless. And therefore avoid such games which require much time or long attendance; or which are apt to steal thy affections from more severe employments.

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Irish News.

ANTRIM.—A Magnificent Peal of Bells.—A magnificent peal of 10 bells, weighing in all nearly seven tons, has been presented to St. Mary's Church, Star of the Sea, Whitehouse, by Mr. Philip Jordan, Jordanstown. The whole peal will be hung on massive steel girders. The tenor bell, which is the largest, will be hung so that it can be swung. On each of the 10 bells there is a suitable inscription, but the principal inscription is on the tenor bell. The beautiful tower, which is already such a conspicuous object on the Antrim side of Belfast Lough, is fast rising to a finish.

Laying the Memorial-Stone of a Training College.—The ceremony of laying the memorial-stone of St. Mary's new training college, Falls road, Belfast, was performed during the last week in October by the Most Rev. Dr. Henry. The building has so far progressed towards completion that his Lordship was able to announce that the college would be opened in second week of September next. The necessity for such an institution for the training of female National teachers (says the *Irish Weekly*) has long been apparent, and everything has been done to make the college an ideal one so far as the comfort of the pupils is concerned. The National Board has empowered his Lordship to admit to the college 80 Queen's scholars for one or two years according to circumstances. These will receive during their stay free board and education under the care of the Dominican Nuns. The pupils will be assisted for their examinations by highly qualified lay professors, male and female. In the course of a short address his Lordship referred to the necessity of a training college in the North of Ireland for female teachers, pointing out that three-fourths of the female teachers in this diocese were untrained, and the probability that at no distant date the Commissioners of National Education would refuse to sanction the appointment of untrained teachers, at least as principals of schools. The rapidity with which the new college has been raised is a proof of the solicitude of his Lordship in everything that concerns the training of the young.

ARMAGH.—A Fine Example of Intolerance.—The intolerant action of the Protestant majority of the governors of the Shiels Institute at Armagh (says the *Irish Weekly*) must not pass without comment. The Catholic gentlemen at the Board were three, and the Protestants nine. A new governor was to be elected, and a Catholic and a Protestant were put in nomination, with the inevitable result—three votes for the Catholic; nine for the Protestant. This is the second instance of a similar display of intolerance on the part of the Armagh governors of the institute during this year. It is highly creditable to them, and we trust it may be taken note of. If this system of persistent and rigid exclusion of Catholics from such boards in Ulster is to be persisted in, the time has come when the Catholic majorities in public bodies throughout the rest of Ireland should note the fact, and re-consider the generous and tolerant policy they have always pursued towards non-Catholics, a policy, by the way, for which the Protestant Press gives them very little credit.

CLARE.—A Valuable Collection.—An Ennis literary collector (Mr. James Hayes) is about to dispose of part of a very unique collection of portraits, franks, addresses, and secret political documents (which have remained unpublished), connected with the famous Clare election of 1828, when O'Connell defeated Vesey Fitzgerald. The fate of Catholic Emancipation turned upon the election.

CORK.—Proposed New Church at Mogeely.—There being a great necessity for a new Catholic church at Mogeely, near Middleton, suitable to the requirements of the people of the united parishes of Mogeely, Clonmault, and Dungourney, a large and influential meeting of the people of those parishes was held at Mogeely recently for the purpose of raising the necessary funds. A local generous donor has already granted a site for the proposed new edifice. The chair was taken by the Rev. M. Ahern, P.P., Castlemartyr. A working influential committee was appointed. A subscription list was opened and a sum of £700 was collected on the spot.

DOWN.—The County Infirmary and the Nuns.—At a recent meeting of the Committee of Management of the County Down Infirmary, a letter was read from the Rev. Joseph O'Kane, P.P., Kilclief, drawing attention to the fact that Sisters of Mercy, and nuns in general, are prohibited from visiting the sick and dying of their own religious denomination in that institution, and hoping the time has come to repeal a law that is insulting to the Catholics of the County Down, and to the good ladies of the community of nuns in Downpatrick in particular. The reform suggested by Father O'Kane was rejected on a division, Messrs. Henry Loughran, of Newry, and Matthew King, of Newcastle, Catholic representatives of the County Council on the committee, being the only members who supported it.

DUBLIN.—Donation to the Dublin Museum.—The herbarium of the late Lord de Tabley has been presented to the botanical department of the Dublin Museum by his sister, the Hon. Lady Lighton. The herbarium mainly consists of British plants, and was of service to the late Lord de Tabley, who was the O'Byrne, in the preparation of his recently-published *Flora of Cheshire*. At a low estimate the collection contains 20,000 sheets of specimens. This gift is due to the recommendation of Sir William Thistlethorpe, director of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, and formerly professor of botany in the Royal College of Science, Dublin, who states that the herbarium will be useful to active working botanists in Dublin.

Death of a Well-known Priest.—The Rev. Father Lynch, well known in Dublin, died at his residence, Belgrave-square, during the last week in October. The deceased clergyman had a rather varied career. Some 50 years ago Father Lynch became a member of the Cistercian Order at Mount Mellary; subsequently he became an abbot. He was the first chaplain of Glenoree Reformatory, and it may be said that he was practically the founder of that renowned institution. Some years ago Father Lynch became chaplain to a noble Catholic family in England; and at the death of its head he was allowed a pension and returned to Dublin, where he spent the remainder of his days.

GALWAY.—Religious Reception.—The beautiful chapel attached to the Convent of Mercy, Loughrea, County Longford, was recently the scene of the interesting ceremony of a religious reception. The young lady who was received was Miss Mary Larkin, eldest daughter of Mr. John Larkin, of Loughrea. There was Solemn High Mass at which the Most Rev. Dr. Healy, D.D., Lord Bishop of Clontarf, presided, and afterwards delivered a most eloquent address.

KILKENNY.—St. Kieran's College.—Speaking at the annual distribution of prizes to the successful pupils of St. Kieran's College, Kilkenny, the Bishop of Ossory, after referring to the great work which has been carried on in this college during the past 12 months, when for the first time St. Kieran's had been able to win exhibitions in the middle grade, said the best proof of the efficiency of study in the college during the past year was to be found in the very large number of students in proportion to the numbers who went in for examination, who secured passes in the Intermediate course—92 per cent.—a very respectable record for any college to show.

LIMERICK.—Death of a Priest in South Africa.—General regret was felt in the western part of the County Limerick when news was received of the death at Queenstown, South Africa, of the Rev. Patrick Bourke, who was born at Rathkeale on March 17, 1878. Bishop McSherry, who preached the panegyric, said the deceased was idolised by the people of St. Augustine's, Port Elizabeth, where he served for over a year. On one occasion whilst travelling by post cart he saved the lives of his fellow-passengers by rushing to the horses' heads on the brink of a precipice at the risk of his own life.

MAYO.—The Secretaryship of the County Council.—Mr. D. O'Kelly, brother of Mr. Conor O'Kelly, chairman of the Mayo County Council, has been elected secretary to the Council at a salary of £500 a year, out of which he is to pay for assistants.

MEATH.—A High Altar for the Kilmainham Wood Church.—A fine specimen of ecclesiastical art was recently produced by the firm of P. J. Neill and Co., Dublin, in the very handsome high altar, by the order of the Very Rev. P. Fitzsimons, P.P., in the newly-built church at Kilmainham Wood, County Meath, according to plans prepared by Mr. W. H. Byrne, architect. It is of Caen stone with shafts of selected onyx, and is executed in good style as to figure work and general ornamentation.

WEXFORD.—Proposed Presentation to a Priest.—The friends of the Very Rev. James F. Thompson, O.S.A., in New Ross, County Wexford, have decided on presenting him with an address and presentation on the occasion of his departure to Grantstown from New Ross, where he had spent over 25 years.

GENERAL.

The Evicted Tenants' Restoration Fund.—A committee, with his Eminence Cardinal Logue as chairman and Lord Plunket as vice-chairman, has been formed for the purpose of assisting the evicted tenants to get back on their holdings. The committee is composed of Nationalists and Unionists, landlords and tenants, who make a temperate appeal on behalf of these poor people. Their cause (says the *Irish Weekly*) has passed beyond the domain of politics. Ten years ago they were in the thick of a fight which was distinctly political. They were the wounded soldiers of a land war which has, to a large extent, thanks to reform, conceded to allay an agitation in which those honest, if misguided, men were pioneers. The angry feelings then aroused have died away. This appeal is issued principally to philanthropists. Their condition constitutes an evil, which is depicted in the manifesto issued with the sanction of his Eminence and Lord Plunket, and 'the endeavour,' as the promoters of this Restoration Fund wisely and properly state, 'to restore them to their homes, where these are still available, or to provide for them elsewhere in cases where their former homesteads have passed definitely into other hands, cannot now be regarded otherwise than as an effort of philanthropy.' This is only a portion of the task which the committee has undertaken with great public spirit. 'The houses of the restored tenants have in many cases to be rebuilt, and in almost all cases assistance in the stocking and cropping of their farms is essential in order to start them afresh on the path of industry. Without resources for these purposes the tenants when reinstated would have to face a struggle which for the majority of them must end in bankruptcy.' The committee have therefore resolved to appeal to the friends of peace and goodwill, irrespective of party distinction, 'for the means as well to restore holdings to, and where necessary rebuild homes for, the evicted tenants as to help them in cropping and stocking their farms at the start only.'

Mr. Davitt's Retirement.—The *Liverpool Courier*, a Conservative organ, says regarding Mr. Michael Davitt's retirement from Parliament:—We are bound to say that we regret Mr. Davitt's decision to retire. He is a man who can be ill spared from the House as an exponent of Irish policy and aspiration. He is a misguided politician, but honest and fearless, and also consistent in his opinions.

The Irish in America and the Parnell Statue.—The New York Council of the Irish National Federation, in pursuance of a disagreeable but imperative duty, have submitted to our countrymen in America a statement on Mr. Redmond's mission, with a view to save the name and memory of Parnell from being any longer the shibboleth of factionists. They ask their countrymen—'Shall we place the custody of a memorial to Parnell in the hands of one who never had his confidence in life, and who has dishonoured his memory in death by making his name the synonym for discord in Ireland, or shall we await the hour when a united people and a triumphant cause and custodians worthy of the trust shall warrant us in aiding the Irish people to build a monument to Parnell worthy of his services to Ireland?'

The Irish Industrial Schools.—The report of the Inspector of Reformatory and Industrial School for the past year (writes a Dublin correspondent) is now in the hands of the public. There has been during the past year much discussion about Doctor Fagan's now famous circular, the full effects of which can only be made manifest in time. It must inevitably add largely to the population of the Irish Reformatory Schools whilst it will lower the moral tone of the Industrial Schools. At present we have in Ireland only six Reformatory Schools whilst we have seventy-one Industrial Schools. During recent years the Reformatory Schools have become less a necessity owing to the fact that children who seem to be in the way of danger are committed to the Industrial Schools. At present only about 542 boys and 63 girls are inmates of Reformatory Schools. The Industrial Schools accommodate 3,873 boys and 4,910 girls. Generally speaking the training given the children is satisfactory.

The Royal University Degree Day.—The most striking feature of degree day at the Royal University buildings was the sweeping success of University College, Stephen's Green, the *alumni* of which were awarded one fellowship, three studentships, one scholarships, and one special prize. The Queen's Colleges of Belfast, Cork, and Galway between them got just one fellowship, no studentship, no scholarship, or no special prize. In second-class honours alone—and this is the lowest class of distinction—did the three Queen's Colleges beat the University College. St. Mary's University College, Merrion Square, for the higher education of girls, did well also, having won six distinctions as compared with five won by the Queen's Colleges of Cork and Galway combined. Blackrock College tied with Queen's College, Cork, on which £15,000 a year of public money is spent. Year after year the Royal University examinations serve to show more plainly the scandalous manner in which Irish Catholics are treated in the matter of University education. In no other country on earth is the spectacle witnessed of the minority receiving University education at the expense of the State and the large majority of the people left wholly unprovided for in that respect.

The Disabilities of Irish Catholics.—Some people in England (says the Dublin correspondent of the *Catholic Times*) appear to know nothing about the disabilities under which Irish Catholics suffer in their own land. It would occupy too much space to give a full list of Irish Catholic grievances. A few will suffice. The Jesuits, the Dominicans, and other religious Orders are illegal bodies and time after time are by law robbed of bequests left them. The Catholic youth of Ireland are deprived of University education, although Mr. Balfour deprecates the injustice to which we are subjected. The Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland may be a Turk, Jew, or Atheist, but not a Catholic. When he leaves Ireland for even a short holiday, the judges who are sworn in to administer the affairs of the country during his absence must be non-Catholics. Nearly all the higher official positions are filled by Protestants who have been appointed by the State. A Royal Commission recently concluded that England robs Ireland annually of nearly £3,000,000. But why continue the list. No doubt some broad-minded statesmen recently endeavoured to do something that would atone for past misdeeds, but they were in a minority, a foiled minority.

Unveiling of a Portrait of Lord Russell of Killowen.—At the third annual meeting of the Castleknock College Union held recently, the Most Rev. Dr. Donnelly unveiled a life-size portrait of Lord Russell of Killowen, which had been presented to the college by the members of the Union. The portrait, which is from the brush of Mr. Charles Russell, a talented Dublin artist, is a remarkably striking one, and a true likeness of the eminent Irishman and jurist, the memory of whose early and long connection with this old-established seat of education it is intended to perpetuate. An eloquent address on the subject of Lord Russell of Killowen was delivered by Mr. M. C. Macinerney, Q.C., in the course of which he alluded to what Lord Russell had done, both by his speeches in Parliament and his contributions to the Press, for Catholic education and for the self-government of his native land. In the conclusion of his interesting address, the speaker said that in reviewing the life of Lord Russell of Killowen they would see his ardent love of creed and country running through the warp and weft of his magnificent career like the woollen thread through the golden texture which the witch's daughter is ever weaving in the German fairy tale.

Evening Star, June 22, 1889, says:—"Messrs W. Gawne and Co. of George Street, have sent us a sample of Worcestershire Sauce manufactured by them, which is in no respect inferior to the imported article, so long celebrated for flavouring sauces and as an agreeable addition to grills, fish, and steaks. We can safely recommend it as a valuable addition to our rapidly developing local manufactures. The bottles are neatly labelled and ornamental, not only for home use, but for exportation; and we hope the manufacturers will realise a demand equal to the merits of the savoury article they have produced."—*

GISBORNE CONVENT SCHOOL.

THE annual concert and distribution of prizes to the pupils of the Convent School, Gisborne, took place last week in the Academy of Music, in the presence of a large audience. The following (reports a local paper) contributed to a capital programme:—

Chorus, pupils; pianoforte duet, Misses Devery and Liddell; violin solo, Misses Devery and Donovan; chorus, infants; dumb-bell exercises, junior pupils; violin solo, Miss Devery; recitation, Miss Mabel Clarke; chorus, pupils; pianoforte solo, Miss Adeline Coote; chorus, infants; violin solo, Miss Dora Booth; vocal solo, Miss Mabel Clarke; club exercises, pupils; pianoforte duet, Misses Nicholson and McConville; recitation, Miss Lullie Power; violin solo, Miss Devery; chorus, pupils; pianoforte trio, Misses Coote, Hale, and Clarke; tambourine drill and dance, pupils; chorus, pupils; pianoforte piece, Miss Adeline Coote; vocal solo, Miss Linda Nicholson; pianoforte duet, Miss Ethel Downes and A. Downes; shepherds' drill and dance, pupils; vocal solo, Willie McConville; pianoforte solo, Miss Mabel Clarke; vocal duet, Misses Coote and Nicholson; violin solo, Miss Lullie Power; pianoforte solo, Miss Irene Harding; chorus, pupils. The several dances given by the children were very pretty and elicited loud applause from the audience. The tambourine drill and dance were specially worthy of mention, as were also the club and dumb-bell exercises. At an interval during the evening the Hon. James Carroll distributed the prizes, and before doing so gave the children a short address as well as a recitation. Mr. Carroll was quite in his element with the children, and his remarks to each of the successful candidates as he or she came forward to receive the prize were of a most happy nature. The Rev. Father Mulvihill and Mr. J. Martin assisted in the distribution of the prizes. The following is the

PRIZE LIST:

Gold medal for good conduct awarded to Irene Harding; Christian doctrine, D. O'Dwyer; painting in oils, Miss Devery; music (pianoforte), Adeline Coote; violin, Dora Booth; singing, Linda Nicholson; carving, Miss Devery.

Arithmetic: Standard VI., Nellie Donovan; Standard V., Rose Liddell; Standard IV., Denis O'Grady; Standard III., Peter McConville; Standard II., Harry Martin; Standard I., Willie Bowler.

Geography: Standard VI., Nellie Donovan; Standard V., Willie McConville; Standard IV., Maggie Riddell; Standard III., Peter McConville; Standard II., Eddie Griffen.

Grammar and composition: Standard VI., Adeline Coote; Standard V., Irene Harding; Standard IV., Dora Booth; Standard III., Lullie Power; Standard II., May Fitzgerald.

Reading: Standard V., Belle Buchanan; Standard IV., Jane Hale; Standard III., Francis Riddell; Standard II., Emily McConville; Standard I., Elsie Bower.

Writing: Standard IV., Mary Roche; Standard III., Nellie Heeney; Standard II., Nellie Dooling; Standard I., Fred Liddell.

Drawing: Standard VI., De Simson; Standard V., Rose Liddell; Standard III., D. McConville; Standard II., John Lynch; Standard I., Bertie Clarke.

Spelling: Standard V., Winnie Maultsaide; Standard III., Maggie Nicholson; Standard I., Flossie Donovan.

The Inspector, Mr. Hill, examined the school on October 21, and reported as follows:—Standard VI.—Presented 3, present 3, passed 2. Standard V.—Presented 3, present 3, passed 3. Standard IV.—Presented 8, present 8, passed 7. Standard III.—Presented 14, present 14, passed 12. Standard II.—Presented 8, present 8, passed 7. Standard I.—Presented 3, present 3, passed 2. Class P.—Presented 42. Grammar very fair; geography of Standard II. very good; mental arithmetic very good; repetition good; recitation very good; drill and exercises fair; calisthenics fair; singing intelligently and well-taught; needlework very good; comprehension of the language of reading lesson fair. The Standards are good, well-prepared, and of commendable promise. The style of work is very good. The preparatory classes under the pupil teacher are in good working order. They show an interest in their work. I was pleased with the intelligence of the answering in the oral exercises set by me. Remarks: The average progress made by this school since my examination last year is good. The pass and extra subjects have been very fairly prepared, and the work is in advance in general proficiency to that submitted last year. There is a nice spirit of emulation among the pupils, and the style of the work on paper and in books affords evidence of good training and supervision.

MR. P. LUNDON, Phoenix Chambers, Wanganui, is still busy putting people on the soil. He has also hotels in town and country For Sale and To Lease Write to him.—*.

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EDWARD THOMAS & CO.,

LARGEST EXPORTERS OF
—RABBITSKINS—

NO COMMISSION. In the Colony.

Cash Buyer of WOOL, SHEEPSKINS, HAIR, HIDES, etc.
Agents for the ALBERT CHURN (Patented)

BOND STREET, DUNEDIN.

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MR. T. J. COLLINS, DENTIST,

Has removed to new premises, immediately above the Union Bank of Australia, PRINCES STREET SOUTH, and directly opposite Brown, Ewing's.

ENTRANCE next to BRISCOE AND CO.

C O S S E N S A N D B L A C K
ENGINEERS, BLACKSMITHS, MILLWRIGHTS
IRON AND BRASS FOUNDERS
CRAWFORD STREET DUNEDIN.

Manufacturers of Pumping and Winding Machinery, Hydraulic Mining Plant—including Hydraulic Giants, Sluice Valves, Elevator Castings, Iron and Steel Fluming, etc., etc., Dredge Tumblers Buckets, Links, Windmills, Waterwheels, Turbines, Brick and Drain Pipe Making and Wood-working Machinery, Horse Powers, Chaff Cutters, Turnip Pulpers, and all kinds of Machinery and Gearing.

A VERY LARGE STOCK OF PATTERNS TO SELECT FROM

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Repairs and Every Description of Engineering and Blacksmith Work Promptly Executed.

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WINE, SPIRIT, & CIDER MERCHANTS.

Also Importers of

Cigars, Cigarettes, Indian, Ceylon, and China Teas, and American Goods.

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CATHEDRAL SQUARE AND CHANGERY LANE

CHRISTCHURCH.

W A V E R L E Y H O T E L ,
QUEEN STREET,
A U C K L A N D .

MAURICE O'CONNOR (late of Christchurch and Dunedin) begs to notify that he has taken over the above favourite hotel, close to Train and Wharf. Splendid view of Harbour.

Best brands of Wines and Spirits always on hand.

MAURICE O'CONNOR.

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From 40 GUINEAS to 75 GUINEAS

By the BEST ENGLISH MAKERS.

Second-Hand Pianos from £16 to £28 at

HOGG'S PIANO WAREHOUSE,
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For **STYLISH,** **RELIABLE** Boots and Shoes

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95 GEORGE STREET, DUNEDIN.

NOTE.—Ships etc. of the cream of the World's Markets constantly coming to hand. SEE WINDOWS.

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STANDARD

FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS

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| <p>FIRST.
Boots with this Brand on the heel are Guaranteed to Fit and Wear Well.</p> | <p>SECOND.
On this Brand only the Very Best of Workmen are employed.</p> | <p>THIRD.
Only the Very Best of Materials are used in this Brand of Boots and Shoes.</p> | <p>FOURTH.
Farmers, Miners, and all who want to keep their feet dry, try this Brand.</p> | <p>FIFTH.
The "STANDARD" Brand Boots and Shoes are known from Auckland to the Bluff for sterling quality.</p> |
|---|---|---|---|--|

Commercial.

(For week ending December 20).

Mr. J. A. CHAPMAN, Sharebroker, Dunedin, reports as follows:

BANKS.—National, from 2/15/6 to 2/16/6; New South Wales, from 39/0/0 to 40/0/0; Union of Australia, Ltd., 35/0/0 to 36/0/0; Bank of Australasia, 63/0/0 to 64/0/0.

INSURANCE.—National, from 17/3 to 17/6; New Zealand, 3/1/0 to 3/2/0; South British, 2/14/0 to 2/16/0; Standard, 13/6 to 14/0.

SHIPPING.—New Zealand Shipping, from 4/17/0 to 5/0/0; Union Steam, 10/7/6 to 10/12/0.

COAL.—Westport from 3/6/0 to 3/7/0.

LOAN AND AGENCY.—Commercial Property and Finance Company, from 5/0 to 5/6; National Mortgage, 23/0 to 24/0; Perpetual Trustees, 12/6 to 13/0; Trustees and Executors, 29/6 to 30/6.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Kaiapoi Woollen Co., from 6/5/0 to 6/6/0; Mornington Tramway, 16/0 to 16/6; Mosgiel Woollen, 4/0/0 to 4/1/0; New Zealand Drug, 2/12/0 to 2/13/0; New Zealand Drug, new issue, 1/18/6 to 1/19/0; Milburn Lime and Cement, 2/0/0 to 2/2/0; do., new issue, 1/0/0 to 1/0/6 (30/- paid); Otago Daily Times, 13/4/0 to 13/5/6; Emu Bay Railway, 12/0 to 12/9; Wellington Woollen, 5/0/0 to 5/2/6; Silverton Tram, 4/17/0 to 4/18/0; New Zealand Refrigerating, 1/13/0 to 1/14/0; Roslyn Tramway, 5/3 to 5/9.

GOLDFIELDS.—Reefton: Big River Extended, from 8/0 to 8/6; Keep-it-Dark, 25/0 to 26/0; Alpine Extended, 4/0 to 4/6; Croesus (Paparua), 4/0 to 4/9.

DREDGING COMPANIES.—Chatto Creek, 47/0 to 48/0; Clyde, 52/0 to 53/0; Dunedin, 12/0 to 13/0; Empire, 3/17/0 to 4/0/0; Enterprise, 85/0 to 87/6; Evan's Flat, 35/0 to 36/0; Etrick, 14/6 to 15/6 (paid up); Golden Gate, 122/0 to 124/0; Golden Beach, 47/6 to 49/0; Golden Point, 35/0 to 37/0; Tuapeka, 32/6 to 33/6; Vincent, 43/0 to 44/0; Hartley and Riley, 8/19/0 to 9/5/0; Jutland Flat, 4/0 to 4/3 (contrib.); Macraes Flat, 9/0 to 10/0; Golden Run, 48/0 to 51/0; Golden Terrace, 13/0 to 15/0; Magnetic, 61/0 to 62/6; Matau, 70/0 to 75/0; Molyneux Hydraulic (B), 30/0 to 32/0; Nevis, 26/0 to 27/0; Otago, 2/0/0 to 2/1/0; Upper Waipori, 2/3 to 2/9; Waimumu, 24/6 to 25/6; Sunlight, 33/0 to 35/0; Cromwell, 58/0 to 59/0 (prem); Riverbank, 6/6 to 9/0; Nil Desperandum, 42/0 to 45/0; Klondyke, 31/0 to 32/0; Waikaka Forks, 0/9 to 1/0 (prem); Dunstan Leads, 15/0 to 16/6; Ophir, 8/0 to 9/0; Golden Gravel, 1/0 to 1/9; Dunstan Pioneer, 1/6 to 2/0; Golden Reward, 9d to 1/0.

SLUICING COMPANIES.—Moonlight (contrib.), 13/0 to 14/0; Roxburgh Amalgamated (contrib.), 6/9 to 7/0; Deep Stream, 22/0.

PRODUCE.

EXPORT OF NEW ZEALAND PRODUCE.

During the month of November 1189cwt butter was exported from Dunedin, with 752cwt cheese and 13,349 carcasses mutton. From Invercargill 361cwt beef, 11,327 carcasses mutton, and 186 carcasses lamb were exported. For the Colony during the month the exports were:—18,378cwt butter, 2721cwt cheese, 16,013cwt frozen beef, 206,556 carcasses mutton, 6946cwt legs and pieces, and 1089 carcasses lamb. For the eight months of the present year, commencing with April, there was, as compared with the corresponding eight months of 1898, an increase of 20,521cwt in the quantity of butter exported, an increase of 11,459cwt cheese, an increase of 57,261cwt beef, an increase of 388,482 carcasses mutton, and an increase of 160,505 carcasses lamb. In addition to this 34,971cwt legs and pieces were exported this year with no corresponding entry last year.

SOUTHLAND PRODUCE MARKET.

Invercargill prices current:—Wholesale: Butter, fresh, 5d; eggs, 10d per doz; cheese, farm, 3½d; bacon, farm, 7d; do (rolled), farm, 6d; hams, 8d; potatoes, L1 10s per ton; barley, 2s to 2s 6d; fowl wheat, 2s; chaff, L2 10s per ton; flour, L8; oatmeal, L9 to L10; pollard, L3; bran, L2 10s, including bags. Retail:—Fresh butter, 7d; eggs, 1s per doz; cheese, 6d; bacon, rolled, 8d, sliced, 9d; hams, 10d; potatoes, 2s per cwt; flour, 200lb, 15s; 50lb, 4s 3d; oatmeal, 50lb, 5s; 25lb, 2s 9d; pollard, 5s 9d per bag; bran, 3s 6d per bag; chaff, L3 per ton; fowls' feed, 2s 3d per bushel.

Mr. F. MEENAN, King street, reports:—Wholesale price only:—Oats: Good demand. Feeding, 1s 8d to 1s 9d; milling, 1s 10d. Wheat: milling, 2s 6d to 2s 9d; fowls' wheat, 2s 2d to 2s 5d. Hay: ryegrass and clover, best, L3 0s. Straw: pressed, 22s; loose, 28s. Bran: L3. Pollard: L3 5s. Flour: L6 10s to L7. Butter: best brands factory, 10d to 11d; dairy, 6d to 8d. Oatmeal: L10. Potatoes: well picked, good sample, 20s; old stock from 1s per bag. Chaff: much easier demand; L2 5s to L2 15s. New potatoes, 5s, Auckland; local, 8s.

Messrs. Stronach Bros. and Morris report as follows:—

WHEAT.—No business doing and market very dull. Prime milling 2s 6d to 2s 7d; medium, 2s 5d; fowl wheat, 2s to 2s 3d per bushel (sacks in).

OATS.—Market very firm and prices advanced 1d per bushel. Milling, 2s; Good to best feed, 1s 10d to 1s 11d; medium, 1s 8d to 1s 9d per bushel (sacks extra).

CHAFF.—Prime chaff is in good demand, but medium quality is dull of sale. Prime eaten sheaf, L2 10s to L2 15s; medium to good, L2 to L2 7s 6d per ton (bags extra).

POTATOES.—Derwents unsaleable.

Messrs. Donald Reid and Co. report as follows:—

OATS.—We catalogued a quantity of medium to good feed. The attendance of buyers was limited, and only a few lots reached our valuations. There is keen demand from shippers for all classes of oats in sound condition. We quote: Prime milling, 2s; good to best feed, 1s 10d to 1s 11d; medium and discoloured, 1s 8d to 1s 9d per bushel (sacks extra).

WHEAT.—The market for milling quality continues dull. Fowl wheat is in fair demand at 2s 2d to 2s 3d for good whole wheat; 1s 9d to 2s per bushel (sacks in) for broken and damaged.

POTATOES.—We offered a few lots of Derwents, which met with no demand and are unsaleable.

CHAFF.—Our catalogue contained only medium quality, for which the demand was weak. Prime quality is offering sparingly, and is readily quitted on arrival. We quote: Good to prime eaten sheaf, L2 10s to L2 15s; medium to good, L2 to L2 7s 6d per ton (bags extra).

A Taranaki butter factory has sold all its output this season at 11½d per lb, f.o.b. on trucks.

The Agent-General cables:—'Butter, 105s; market good. No alteration cheese market since last week.'

London, December 15.—The cold weather is hardening the European wheat markets, while stringently but only slightly depressing American.

The cold weather is stimulating the butter market. There is good demand for choicest colonial at 104s to 106s. Danish is unchanged.

There is good enquiry for New Zealand cheese. Canadian is strong at 59s to 60s.

Napier, December 14.—Messrs. Nelson and Co. have received the following cable from the C.C. and D. Co., London:—'Frozen meat market quotations: Best Canterbury, 3½d; Dunedin and Southland, 3d; Napier and North Island, 2½d. Lamb: First quality, 4½d; second, 3½d.'

"Tested Seeds." New Supplies.

HOWDEN AND MONCRIEFF,
SEEDSMEN AND NURSERYMEN,
51 PRINCES STREET, DUNEDIN.

Grass Seeds — Ryegrasses, machine dressed, off old pasture.
Italian Ryegrass. Cocksfoot. Chewing's Fescue.
Timothy.

Clovers — Cowgrass, Colonial and Imported. White. Red. Alsike.
Trefoil.

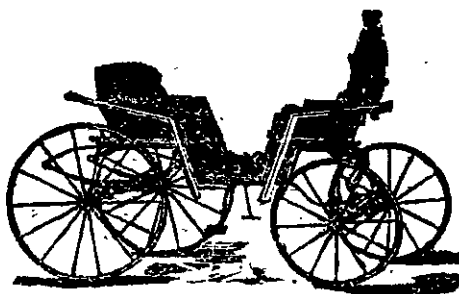
Turnip Seeds — *Suedes*: Champion. Elephant. Monarch.
Webb's Imperial. Tait's Best of All. Webb's
Giant King. *Yellows*: Aberdeen Green Top.
Aberdeen Purple Top. Romney Marsh (our strain
gave very great satisfaction last Season). Fosterton
Hybrid. *Whites*: Devon Greystone. Lincoln
Red Globe.

— Samples and Prices on Application. —

DUNEDIN CARRIAGE FACTORY,

Princes street South, Dunedin.

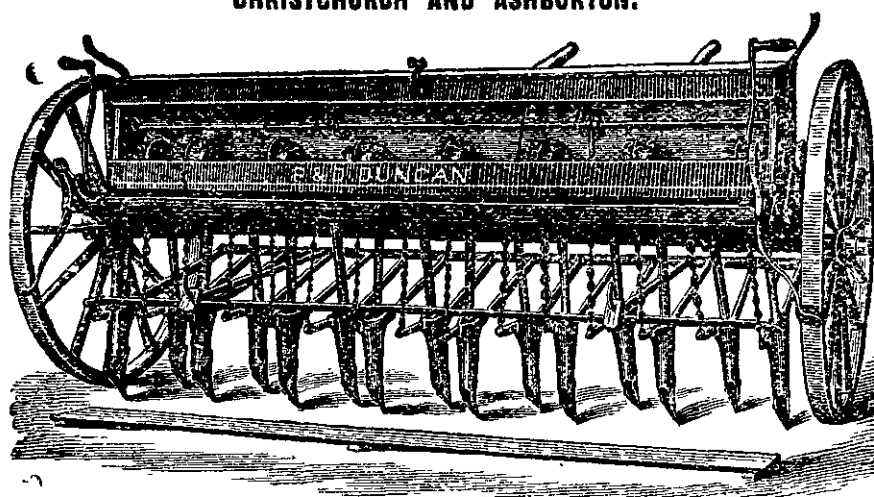
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Have now on hand
Single and Double
Buggies, Station
Waggon, Waggon-
ettes, Spring
Carts, etc. First
award for Carriages
at New Zealand and
South Seas Exhibi-
tion, 1889-90.

P. & D. DUNCAN, LTD.

AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERS,
CHRISTCHURCH AND ASHBURTON.



Manufacturers of Agriculture Implements and Machinery, sole manufacturers of
Duncan's Patent Drills, with Fertiliser Attachments; Duncan's Patent Spring Tine
Cultivator, with Seeder Attachment; Duncan's Patent Disc Harrows; Duncan's
Patent Stubble and Multi-furrow Ploughs, etc. Agents for Marshall, Sons and Co.'s
Threshing Machinery.

The CLEVELAND.

A BICYCLE of HONEST VALUE.

Perfection is attained simply by not resting on Past
Achievements as Final.

The ROVER.

The PIONEER of the PRESENT DAY CYCLE.

Write for Catalogues to the Sole Agents—

MASON, STRUTHERS AND CO.,
CHRISTCHURCH.

JAMES BARRIE,

THE BAZAAR (next Wilson Bros.),

STAFFORD ST., TIMARU

FANCY GOODS IMPORTER, FRUITLER,
and CONFECTIONER.

Picture Framing on Shortest Notice.

The best assorted stock of Fancy Goods,
Confectionery, &c., in South Canterbury.

WESTPORT COAL COMPANY

(Limited).

HEAD OFFICE: DUNEDIN.

BRANCHES AND AGENCIES THROUGHOUT
THE COLONY.

The Company's celebrated COALBROOK-
DALE COAL is the Best House, Steam, and
Gas Coal in the Southern Hemisphere.

It is used by all the principal Steam
Lines, Freezing Companies, and
Gas Works in the Colony.

RETAIL YARDS:

RATTRAY STREET JETTY, DUNEDIN.
Telephone: No. 61.

**UNION STEAM SHIP
COMPANY OF NEW ZEALAND
LIMITED**

Steamers will be despatched as under
(weather and other circumstances
permitting):

LYTTELTON and WELLINGTON—

Waikare	Thurs., Dec. 21	2.30 p.m. tr'n
Tarawera	Fri., Dec. 22	3 p.m. D'din
Mararoa	Wed., Dec. 27	2.30 p.m. tr'n

NAPIER, GISBORNE and AUCKLAND—

Tarawera	Fri., Dec. 22	3 p.m. D'din
Mararoa	Wed., Dec. 27	2.30 p.m. tr'n

SYDNEY, via WELLINGTON—

Waikare	Thurs., Dec. 21	2.30 p.m. tr'n
Mokola	Thurs., Dec. 28	2.30 p.m. tr'n

SYDNEY via AUCKLAND—

Mararoa	Wed., Dec. 27	2.30 p.m. tr'n
Waihora	Tues., Jan. 9	2.30 p.m. tr'n

MELBOURNE via BLUFF and HOBART—

Talune	December 24	2.30 p.m. tr'n
Monowai	December 31	2.30 p.m. tr'n

**WESTPORT via TIMARU, AKAROA, and
WELLINGTON.**

Cargo only.

Upolu,* 1141	Fri., Dec. 29	4 p.m. D'din
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* Calls at Nelson.

**GREYMOUTH via OAMARU, TIMARU,
LYTTELTON, WELLINGTON, and
NEW PLYMOUTH.**

Cargo only.

Taupo	Wed., Dec. 27	Noon D'din
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TAHITI and RARATONGA—

Ovalau	Jan. 16, 1900	From Auckland
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FIJI (SUVA and LEVUKA)—

Taviuni	Wed., Jan. 3	From Auckland
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FOR TONGA, SAMOA, FIJI & SYDNEY

(From Auckland).

Ovalau	Tues., Jan. 16	
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ESTABLISHED 1880. TELEPHONE No. 69

BAKER BROTHERS,

FURNISHING UNDERTAKERS,

Direct Importers of Best and Latest
Designs in Funeral Furnishings.

FUNERALS Conducted with the
greatest Care and Satisfaction, at most
Reasonable Charges.

Corner of Wakanui Road and Cass
streets, and Baker and Brown's Coach
Factory.

**WILKINSON AND SON,
FAMILY & DISPENSING CHEMISTS.**

Since the death of the late T. M. Wilkin-
son this Old-established Business is now
under the proprietorship of his son, B.
Wilkinson.

All prescriptions and Recipes are dis-
pensed with care and accuracy from only
the purest Drugs and Chemicals.

Orders by post receive special attention.
For Xmas Presents of Perfumery, Sachets,
Hair Brushes, Perfume Sprays, Toilet Soaps,
etc., we have a large assortment to choose
from.

WILKINSON & SON, CHEMISTS,
Medical Hall, Princes Street, Dunedin.

"DEAR ME!

I've forgotten that **SYMINGTON COFFEE ESSENCE**, whatever shall I do? Call at the next
Store you pass; they All Keep it."

London, December 17.—Frozen mutton: Crossbred wethers and maiden ewes—Canterbury, unchanged; Dunedin and Southland, unchanged; North Island, 2½d. Lamb: Prime Canterbury, 4½d; fair average (including Dunedin, Southland, Wellington, and secondary Canterbury), 4d; River Plate, unchanged.
Rabbits—Colonial (firm), 9s.
Hares (very scarce), 2s 9d. Continental supplies having failed, At the kauri gum sales 4053 cases were offered, and 1400 were sold. Three-quarter scraped advanced 2s 6d, other descriptions remaining unchanged. The stock is 1632 cases.

AUSTRALIAN COMMERCIAL.

Sydney, December 13.—Wheat (nominal): New, 2s 6d to 2s 7d; old, 2s 7d to 2s 8d. Flour, L6 10s to L7. Oats—Feeding: New Zealand, 2s to 2s 3d; Tasmanian, 1s 10d to 2s; seedling—Tartarian, 1s 10d to 1s 11d. Barley: Cape, 2s 3d to 2s 6d. Maize: Local and New Zealand prime, 3s; American, 2s 10d to 2s 11d. Peas: Prussian Blue, 3s 3d to 3s 6d. Bran, 8d to 8½d. Pollard, 9d to 9½d. Potatoes: New Circulars, L2 to L2 10s; others L1 10s to L2. Onions: L1 10s to L2 15s. Butter: Dairy, 7½d to 8d; factory, 9d. Cheese: Large, 4½d to 4¾d; loaf, 5d to 5½d. Bacon, 5½d to 7d.

The above quotations are those ruling between merchant and retailer, and do not represent the slightly lower values obtained by recognised brokers.

Melbourne, December 13.—Wheat (quiet): New, 2s 6½d to 2s 7d; old, 2s 7½d. Oats: Algerian, 1s 8d; stout, 1s 10d. Maize, 2s 10½. Bran, 8½d. Pollard, 10½d to 11d. Potatoes: New, L1 15s to L2. Onions, L2 10s to L3.

Adelaide, December 13.—Wheat, very quiet. Old is quoted at 2s 8d; new, 2s 7½d to 2s 8d. Flour, L7. Oats unchanged. Bran and pollard, 9d.

LIVE STOCK.

DUNEDIN HORSE SALEYARDS.

Messrs. Wright, Stephenson, and Co. report as follows:—

There was a fair number of horses forward for Saturday's sale, most of them from North Otago, and, with the exception of three or four medium draughts, they were nearly all hacks and harness-horses of very ordinary class. Considering the indifferent quality or the horses offered, the sale was a good one, and nearly every lot changed hands. The near approach of the holiday season created a demand for the cheaper class of hack and harness horse that was gratifying to vendors. A very nice five-year-old dog-cart mare realised L19; a good buggy horse (unbroken), L16 10s; and other horses of less merit were sold as follows:—One at L14, two at L13, three at L12, one at L11, four at L10, and seven at from L6 to L9. There is a strong demand for first-class heavy young draught geldings, but there are none offering. We recommend consignments of this class, and also of really first-class spring van and spring cart horses. We quote: First-class young draught mares and geldings at from L45 to L50; good do, L38 to L45; medium, L30 to L35; aged, L18 to L23; upstanding young spring-carters, at from L25 to L30; good do, L18 to L23; light harness horses and hacks, first class, at from L18 to L25; good do, L11 to L17; medium, L8 to L12; aged and weedy sorts, L2 to L5.

ADDINGTON STOCK MARKET.

The entries at Addington comprised 4343 fat sheep, 1000 fat lambs, 487 store sheep, 532 head of cattle, and 480 pigs.

FAT CATTLE.—The 267 fat cattle were mostly good handy weight stuff. Bidding was slack, and prices were slightly easier. Prime beef sold at from 17s 6d to 20s per 100lb; good, 15s to 17s; cow and inferior, down to 12s 6d. Eleven North Island steers brought L7 7s 6d to L7 15s; good to prime local steers, L7 to L8 10s; others, L5 10s to L6 10s. Heifers sold at from L4 2s 6d to L7 2s 6d; and cows from L3 5s to L6.

FAT SHEEP.—There was a heavy yarding of fat sheep, the bulk being ewes, and a lot of mixed quality wethers. There was a fair demand for all lots. Wethers realised 12s 6d to 13s 9d; extra good to 14s; best ewes, 11s 6d to 13s; medium do, 9s 6d to 11s; others, 9s 6d to 9s.

FAT LAMBS.—With a few exceptions the lambs were of medium quality. A few extra good sold at from 13s to 14s; freezing quality, 11s to 12s 6d; inferior down to 9s 7d.

STORE SHEEP.—In store sheep ewes and wethers fetched 11s 7d to 12s 8d; small wethers, 11s 3d; hoggets, 11s 1d to 12s.

PIGS.—Pigs sold as follows:—Bacon 3d and porkers 3½d per lb; best baconers, 27s 6d to 35s; porkers, 21s to 30s; stores, 17s to 22s 6d; weaners, 12s to 15s.

WOOL, SKINS, TALLOW, ETC.

CHRISTCHURCH WOOL SALES.

The second wool sale of the season commenced on Thursday morning, 12,000 to 13,000 bales being offered. There was a large attendance of buyers. The wool was mostly in splendid condition, and a number of station clips were offered, including several that have never before been sold locally. Competition was exceedingly keen throughout, the sale proceeding much more briskly than the last. Continental buyers present snapped up the bulk of the merino and a considerable proportion of the best half-bred; while Home buyers and representatives of New Zealand mills were also keen competitors for the fine wools. During the forenoon 'Kaiwara' greasy merino sold up to 14½d, and T. Armstrong's half-bred to 13½d; fine crossbred reaching 10½d. All fine wools showed an advance on rates realised at the previous sale. Fine bright crossbreds also showed an improvement, but coarser grades were without change.

Messrs. Dalgety and Co. have received the following telegram, dated 11th inst., from their London office:—'Wool sales have closed firm, and lately-reported rates are fully maintained. Out of the

net quantity available for sale some 50,000 bales have been sold for home consumption, 49,000 bales for the Continent, 4000 bales for America, leaving 1000 bales to be carried forward to the next series. As compared with the closing rates of last series, merinos and fine crossbreds are 15 to 20 per cent. higher; greasy medium crossbreds, greasy coarse crossbreds, and scoured medium crossbreds are 20 per cent. higher; coarse crossbreds and coarse slippe wools are 10 per cent. higher.'

Messrs. Dalgety and Co. have received the following cable, dated 14th inst., from their London office:—'Merino sheepskins are higher by 10 per cent.; crossbred skins by 15 to 20 per cent. The tallow market is firm, and there is a brisk demand at last quotations.'

Messrs. Stronach Bros. and Morris report as follows:—

RABBITSKINS.—There were no sales this week, as they are only held once a fortnight at present.

SHEEPSKINS.—The demand still keeps up, the weekly sales being well attended. Best dry merinos, 6s 6d to 8s 6d; do half-breds, 6s to 8s; do half-breds 5s to 6s 6d.

HIDES.—In good demand. Prime heavy ox, 3½d to 4½d; medium, 3d to 3½d; light and inferior, 1½d to 2½d per lb.

TALLOW.—Market steady. Best rendered mutton, 15s 6d to 17s; medium, 13s 6d to 15s; rough fat 10s 6d to 12s 6d per cwt.

WOOL.—The first sale of the season takes place on Thursday next, 21st inst., but there will not be much offering. The next sale takes place on January 12.

London, December 12.—The wool sales just closed showed an advance of 20 per cent. in merinos and fine crossbreds, 20 to 30 per cent. in medium and lower crossbreds, 15 to 20 per cent. in slipes, 15 to 20 per cent. in merino lambs, and 25 per cent. in crossbred lambs, as compared with the October sales. During the sales 45,000 bales were purchased by Home buyers, 49,000 by Continental, 4000 by American, 5000 were held over.

London, December 13.—At the tallow sales 1875 casks were offered, and 1475 sold. Mutton, fine, 23s 3d; medium, 27s. Beef, fine, 27s; medium, 26s.

London, December 15.—The Bradford wool market is quiet. Common sixties, 31d; super, 32½d.

The New Zealand Loan and Mercantile Agency Company (Limited) has received the following cable from its London office:—'Wool: The sales closed firmly this day. Since close of last sales greasy merino is 20 per cent dearer, and greasy crossbred 25 per cent. dearer. Nearly all descriptions have advanced 3d per lb; other descriptions unchanged.'

THE WEEK'S DREDGING RETURNS.

During the week ended Monday, 18th inst. (says the *Otago Daily Times*), returns were reported from the following 23 dredges, the total yield being 787oz 19dwt 10gr, or an average of over 34oz per dredge:—Hartley and Riley (Cromwell), 4 days, 100 z 16dwt; Golden Treasure (Miller's Flat), 73oz 14dwt; Electric (Cromwell), 63oz; Junction Electric (Cromwell), 61oz; Success (Waipori), 138½ hours, 57oz 4dwt; Golden Gate (Island Block), 6 days, 55oz 3dwt; Manorburn (Manuherikia), 50oz; Woolshed (Glenore), 45oz; Inch Valley (near Palmerston), 136 hours, 35oz 10dwt; Dunedin (Miller's Flat), 6 days, 35oz; Empire (Waipori), 30oz 15dwt 21gr; Enterprise (Alexandra), 24oz 8dwt; Waimumu (near Gore), 151 hours, 22oz; Evans Flat (Tuapeka), 20oz 11dwt; Golden Point (Alexandra), 20oz; Tuapeka (Tuapeka Flat), 120 hours, 20oz; Nevis (Nevis River), 103 hours, 17oz; Chatto Creek (Manuherikia), 15oz; Sunlight (Beaumont), 131 hours, 14oz 5dwt; Golden Terrace (Lower Shotover), 13oz 17dwt 13gr; Otago (Miller's Flat), 11oz 14dwt; Jutland Flat (Waipori), 113 hours, 10oz 5dwt; Ettrick (Moa Flat), 8oz 15dwt; Bengerburn, 5 days, 7oz, 9dwt. Total, 787oz 19dwt 10gr.

THE ENGLISH COAL SUPPLY.

SOME twenty-five years ago (says the *Daily Mail*) Britain supplied 50 per cent. of the world's coal consumption, and now we supply only 30 per cent. While twenty-five years ago the United States of America supplied only 15 per cent. of the world's coal consumption, now they supply 30 per cent. We shall probably export 40,000,000 tons of coal this year to other countries, who manufacture at less cost than we do with our cheap fuel, who send their goods over to us duty free, and then undersell us in our own market. A duty of 6d per ton on all coal exported would tend to keep valuable fuel at home, where we should undoubtedly want it before long, and it would bring in £1,000,000 per annum, which would give 10s a week to 40,000 old or disabled miners, and thus provide for colliers the old-age pensions. One thing is certain, that in fifty years we shall practically be dependent on the United States of America for cheap coal, iron and steel, and when this comes about we or our sons will find out that an alliance with the United States for coaling our navy was imperative.

The Sacred Heart College, Auckland, conducted by the Marist Brothers, and under the patronage of his Lordship Bishop Lenihan, prepares pupils for the Civil Service (junior and senior), Law, Matriculation, and other examinations. In the interest of those desirous of entering on a mercantile career special attention is devoted to shorthand and book-keeping. The system of teaching is that followed in the eminently successful Marist College of St. Joseph, Hunter's Hill, Sydney. Further particulars as to terms, etc., will be found elsewhere in this issue, or can be obtained on application to the Superior, Rev. Brother Basil.—*.*

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Shearman, Ashburton, Mr. Hardy, Rakaia, and Mr Hibbs, Methven, all recommend the free use of McKenrie HONDAI-LANKA TEA.

CONVENT OF THE SACRED HEART, TIMARU.

THE ANNUAL SPIRITUAL RETREAT FOR LADIES
preached by the Rev. Father J. COLGAN, S.J., will begin on the Evening of MONDAY, January 8, and end on SATURDAY, January 13.

Ladies who wish to attend should apply as soon as possible to the Reverend Mother.

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BROTHER BASIL.

NEW ZEALAND RAILWAYS.

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS, 1899.

The following ALTERATIONS and ADDITIONS to the Ordinary Time Table will be made in connection with the Christmas Holidays:—

SATURDAY, 23rd DECEMBER.

An Excursion Train will leave Dunedin for Christchurch at 10.35 p.m., Waitati 11.33 p.m., Seaciff 11.57 p.m., Waikouaiti 12.18 a.m., Palmerston 12.45 a.m., Hampden 1.28 a.m., Maheno 2.3 a.m., Oamaru 2.35 a.m., arriving at Christchurch 8.50 a.m. on 24th December. This train will stop at Upper Port Chalmers, Pura-kanui, Waitati, Warrington, Seaciff, Puketeraki, Waikouaiti, Palmerston, Hampden, Herbert, and Maheno, also at any station where required North of Oamaru to allow passengers to alight.

A Special Train will leave Dunedin for Invercargill and intermediate stations at 11.20 p.m., Mosgiel 12.20 a.m., Waihola 1.15 a.m., Milton 2 a.m., Balclutha 3.25 a.m., Clinton 4.55 a.m., arriving at Invercargill 8.20 a.m. on 24th December.

Trains will leave Balclutha for Owaka at 11.30 a.m. and 8 p.m.; returning from Owaka at 2 p.m. and 9.30 p.m.

SUNDAY, 24th DECEMBER.

An Excursion Train will leave Christchurch for Dunedin at 10.40 p.m. on 23rd December, leaving Oamaru 4.45 a.m., Hampden 5.50 a.m., Palmerston 6.45 a.m., Waikouaiti 7.15 a.m., Seaciff 7.45 a.m., Waitati 8.5 a.m., arriving at Dunedin at 9 a.m. This train will stop at the stations named, also at other stations where required to set down passengers from North of Oamaru.

A special train will leave Invercargill for Dunedin at 11.15 p.m. on 23rd December, leaving Clinton 2.45 a.m., Balclutha 3.55 a.m., Milton 4.55 a.m., arriving at Dunedin 7.10 a.m.

MONDAY, 25th DECEMBER.

A Train will leave Dunedin for Oamaru at 9.0 a.m., Waitati 10.15 a.m., Seaciff 10.45 a.m., Waikouaiti 11.13 a.m., Palmerston 11.43 a.m., Hampden 12.28 p.m., Herbert 12.58 p.m., Maheno 1.11 p.m.; returning from Oamaru at 2.45 p.m., Maheno 3.20 p.m., Herbert 3.38 p.m., Hampden 4.5 p.m., Palmerston 5.0 p.m., Waikouaiti 5.30 p.m., Seaciff 6.5 p.m., Waitati 6.35 p.m.

The following Trains will run as usual:—
The Express Trains between Dunedin and Christchurch, the 10.20 a.m. Passenger Trains Dunedin to Oamaru, the 2.25 p.m. Oamaru to Christchurch, the 10.20 a.m. Christchurch to Oamaru, the 4.40 p.m. Oamaru to Dunedin, the Express Trains between Dunedin and Invercargill, the 8.0 a.m. Dunedin to Balclutha the 4.10 p.m. Balclutha to Dunedin, the 11.40 a.m. Balclutha to Clinton, the 2.15 p.m. Clinton to Balclutha, the 10.0 a.m. Invercargill to Clinton, and the 1.46 p.m. Clinton to Invercargill.

A Train will leave Balclutha for Dunedin at 7.23 a.m.
On the Port Chalmers line Trains will run as Sundays.
All other Train Services between Timaru and Gore will be SUSPENDED on Christmas Day.

TUESDAY, 26th DECEMBER, 1899.

RACES AT PALMERSTON.

SPORTS AT WAIKOUAITI.

MAORI FETE AT PUKETERAKI.

BLUESKIN A. AND P. SHOW AT WAITATI.

Trains to Palmerston will leave:—
Dunedin, 7.40 a.m., 9.0 a.m., 10.20 a.m.
Waitati, 9.5 a.m., 10.22 a.m., 11.23 a.m.
Seaciff, 9.43 a.m., 10.57 a.m., 11.50 a.m.
Waikouaiti, 10.15 a.m., 11.28 a.m., 12.9 p.m.

Trains to Dunedin will leave:—

Palmerston, 4.55 p.m., 6.26 p.m., 7.35 p.m.
Waikouaiti, 5.30 p.m., 6.49 p.m., 8.15 p.m.
Puketeraki, 5.55 p.m., 7.0 p.m., 8.35 p.m.
Waitati, 6.50 p.m., 7.37 p.m., 9.30 p.m.

The 10.20 a.m. Train from Dunedin and the 8.26 p.m. Train from Palmerston will only stop at Upper Port Chalmers, Waitati, Seaciff, Puketeraki, and Waikouaiti. Other Trains will stop at any station to pick up and set down passengers.

Trains will leave Palmerston for Dunback at 11.10 a.m., and 5.0 p.m.; returning from Dunback at 11.55 a.m. and 6.5 p.m.

Trains will leave Palmerston for the Racecourse at 11.10 a.m., 12.5 p.m., 12.45 p.m.; returning from the Racecourse at 4.30 p.m., 5.55 p.m., and 6.50 p.m.

Return fare from Palmerston to Racecourse will be 1s.

Holiday Excursion Tickets between Dunedin, Palmerston, Oamaru, and intermediate stations will not be available by the Express Trains.

REGATTA AT PORT CHALMERS.

Trains will leave Dunedin for Port Chalmers at 7.5 a.m., 10.0 a.m., 11.10 a.m., 12.10 p.m., 1.15 p.m., 2.30 p.m., 3.35 p.m., 4.40 p.m., 5.15 p.m., 6.15 p.m., 8.30 p.m., 10.15 p.m., and 11.30 p.m.

Trains will leave Port Chalmers for Dunedin at 7.5 a.m., 8.15 a.m., 11.15 a.m., 12.10 p.m., 1.20 p.m., 2.55 p.m., 4.0 p.m., 4.40 p.m., 5.15 p.m., 6.15 p.m., 7.0 p.m., 9.20 p.m., 10.50 p.m., and 12.5 a.m.

Excursion Tickets to Port Chalmers will be issued by any Train up to 3.35 p.m. as under:—

From Dunedin and Pelichet Bay—First Class, 1s 6d; Second Class, 1s.

Above tickets will be available for return by any Train on day of issue only.

SPECIAL NIGHT TRAINS.

Will run as under:—

Dunedin, depart 8.10 p.m., Waitati 9.25 p.m., Seaciff 9.55 p.m., Waikouaiti 10.20 p.m., Palmerston 10.50 p.m., Hampden 11.35 p.m., Maheno 12.10 a.m., Oamaru 12.15 a.m., arriving at Christchurch 7 a.m. on 27th December. This train will stop at the stations named; also at any station North of Oamaru to set down passengers.

Christchurch, depart 8.15 p.m., Oamaru 3.0 a.m., Palmerston 4.48 a.m., arriving at Dunedin 7 a.m. on 27th December. This train will stop at any station between Oamaru and Dunedin to set down passengers from North of Oamaru.

CALEDONIAN SPORTS AT OUTRAM.

Train will leave Outram for Dunedin at 6.5 p.m. Train will leave Mosgiel for Outram at 7 p.m.

SPORTS AT KAITANGATA.

Goods Train, with passenger carriage attached, will leave Balclutha for Dunedin at 5.30 p.m., Stirling 5.40 p.m.

CYCLING SPORTS AT BALCLUTHA.

Trains will leave Balclutha for Owaka at 7.30 a.m., 11.30 a.m., and 8 p.m.; returning from Owaka at 9.15 a.m., 2 p.m., and 9.30 p.m.

Train will leave Dunedin for Balclutha and intermediate stations at 11.20 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, 27th DECEMBER.

SPORTS AT OWAKA.

Special Train will leave Owaka for Dunedin at 5.50 p.m., Balclutha 7.25 p.m., arriving Dunedin 11.15 p.m.

The GOODS SHEDS at Dunedin and Port Chalmers will be CLOSED on Christmas and Boxing Days, 25th and 26th December.

By Order.

The New Zealand Tablet.

FIAT JUSTITIA.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1899.

A CHRISTMAS WORD.



HE approach of the Christmas festival once more reminds us of the different standpoints from which the flight of time is varied by youth and by those who have reached or passed what DANTE calls 'the midway of this our mortal life.' To the impatient schoolboy who chalks up the days and hours that separate him from his Christmas holidays, time plods on with the slow pace of an ox-team; to the busy man of middle or advanced age its pace is that of a fast express

THE FAMOUS "VICTORY" SEWING MACHINE.
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train. It stops at no station in its onward rush, yet its annual passage through the Christmas period gives to youth and old age alike a brief glimpse, as it were, of an oasis of green trees and sparkling waters after long months of more or less arid toil and grind. The innocent joys associated with this gentlest feast of all the year have entered so intimately into our social life at the close of this century, that we can scarcely realise that even in 'Merrie England' at one period any observance whatsoever of Christmas was placed under a legal ban. Both in England and Scotland the old religious observance of the festival was swept away by the Reformation. The old-time social and domestic usages, however, long survived. Under the Puritan régime Christmas was observed as a day of solemn fast. Parliament met to transact business on Christmas Day; stringent orders were given that shops should be opened and markets be held; Christmas decorations were forbidden; the chiming of bells was made a legal offence; preaching or holding religious services on that day was punishable with imprisonment and fine; in Scotland feasting and resting from work were penalised; and, generally speaking, no effort was spared to blot out the memory of this ancient anniversary from the minds of the people.

The days of the anti-Christmas crusade died with the Restoration. The spiritual significance of the festival was, however, gone; but many of the old social and domestic customs of Catholic days have survived or been revived in lands and homes where the true purpose and spirit of the festival have been forgotten for over three hundred years. CHARLES DICKENS stands forth as the new apostle of kindly Christmas greetings and good-will. He was instrumental in bringing back to the life of English-speaking peoples of our day more of the genial warmth of the old Catholic 'merrie Chrystemasse' than they had known since the days of the Reformation. The revival of the old Christmas idea shows itself in a thousand various ways. Thus far it is marked by a mere—but kindly—feasting and merry-making, and by a steady annual increase in the interchange of friendly gifts and greetings. The purely human element predominates vastly; but all this neighbourly courtesy and friendship and affection and generosity form a ladder by which in due time the happy multitudes will, we trust, rise to the higher ideal of the Christmas festivities. Religious verse is already here and there and gradually working its way into the Christmas cards; Christmas celebrations have already secured the force of custom in most Anglican churches; other denominations show signs of following the lead; and we may in time hope to see many of our separated brethren so far 'undo the work of the Reformation' as to adopt in part or in whole the Catholic conception of the spiritual significance of this great festival. To the Catholic mind in old England there lay a world of meaning in the greeting—now revived—of 'a merry Christmas.' It was, in effect, simply a modern variant of St. Paul's inspired conception of the joy that should ever be present to those that couple true belief with righteous works: 'Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice.' We wish all our readers a full and flowing measure of this sacred joy. 'Tiny Tim's' brief but glorious prayer was this: 'God bless everybody!' The infantile mind grasped the splendid significance of the great doctrine which the Divine Babe of Bethlehem came to preach—the Brotherhood of Man and the Fatherhood of God. The gentle child's prayer thus becomes this festival in an altogether special way. And with him we say from our hearts: 'God bless everybody!'

DIOCESE OF DUNEDIN.

Mr. Walter Kirby, the well-known New Zealand tenor, sang at High Mass at St. Joseph's Cathedral on Sunday.

A successful sale of work in connection with the St. Vincent de Paul Society took place in St. Joseph's Hall on Wednesday afternoon.

The extern pupils of St. Dominic's College held their annual outing at Outram on Tuesday. The party were conveyed to their destination in drags, and a very pleasant day was spent.

A capital entertainment was given at Mosgiel last night (Wednesday) by leading talent from Dunedin in aid of the funds of the local Convent of the Sisters of Mercy. Several of the city and visiting clergy were present, and the affair was a pronounced success. A report will appear in our next issue.

A conversazione was held in Hanan's Hall, Invercargill, on Wednesday evening of last week in aid of the funds of the Marist

Brothers' School. There was a large attendance, the building being crowded. Vocal and instrumental selections were given, games of various kinds were engaged in, and a most enjoyable evening was spent.

On Thursday afternoon of last week the annual breaking-up entertainment and distribution of prizes at St. Joseph's primary school, Dunedin, took place. The prizes were distributed by the Rev. Father Murphy, several other of the clergy being also present. An excellent programme, consisting of choruses and recitations, was gone through by the pupils, who acquitted themselves in a very creditable manner.

A song recital, in which some of our leading vocalists will assist, will be given by Mr. Walter Kirby in the Choral Hall on Friday evening. This will be Mr. Kirby's first public appearance in Dunedin, and will very likely be his last for a time, as he is about to proceed Home immediately for the purpose of placing himself under the tuition of Mr. Santley. Mr. Kirby toured the Australian colonies some time ago in company with Mdlle Trebelli. He gave a successful concert in Christchurch recently, when he received very flattering notices from the local Press. Among those who have promised to assist at Mr. Kirby's concert are Misses Rose Blaney, K. Moloney, Mrs. Holmes, and Messrs. Schacht and Jago.

The Very Rev. J. Ryan, S.J. (Rector of St. Francis Xavier's College, Kew, Melbourne), the Rev. T. Colgan, S.J., and the Rev. Father Geary arrived in Dunedin by the Waikare on yesterday (Wednesday) morning. Father Ryan remains in Dunedin to conduct a retreat at the Dominican Priory. Father Colgan proceeds to Timaru to open a retreat for the community of the Sacred Heart at Timaru. As may be seen by reference to our advertising columns, he opens a retreat for ladies on January 8. Father Geary is one of the two young priests whom Bishop Verdon secured for work in the diocese of Dunedin. His rev. confrère, Father Hearn, remained at Invercargill.

The Garrison Hall was fairly well filled on Monday night, when a benefit concert was given on behalf of the widow and family of the late Mr. A. Carter. As a great many more tickets were sold than were represented by the attendance, it is anticipated the efforts of those who organised the entertainment will be fairly successful. The programme submitted was a good one, and included items from most of our leading vocalists, who are ever ready to assist in any deserving cause. After an orchestral item the pupils of the Christian Brothers' School gave a gymnastic exhibition, under the direction of Mr. Smith, with their usual precision and success. Mr. E. Eagar, who sang with such success in Invercargill a short time ago, contributed two songs in his usual finished manner. Miss F. Brewer was honoured with an encore for her singing of 'When the heart is young.' A similar compliment was paid Mrs. R. Hudson, jun., for her vocal item. Miss Rose Blaney gave an artistic rendering of 'Close to the threshold' with violin obligato by Mr. Coombs, and was equally successful in a duet with Mr. Jago. Mrs. J. H. Coombs and Miss Morrison contributed vocal items, which were warmly applauded. A very pleasing duet was given by Mrs. Hudson and Miss Brewer. Mr. J. Jago gave two songs during the evening, both of which were redemanded. A pianoforte duet was played with taste by Misses S and N. Hall, and a violin solo by Miss May Donaldson, who was encored. Mr. Hanlon scored a decided success in his recitation 'Wilfred Denver's dream,' which was enthusiastically encored. The accompaniments were played by Miss Moloney and Messrs. F. H. Stokes and J. C. Easton.

OBITUARY.

MRS. RODGERS, CHRISTCHURCH.

It is with deep regret we have to announce the death of Mrs. Rodgers, wife of Mr. W. Rodgers, senr., of the Railway Department, Christchurch, which occurred on the 9th inst. The deceased lady was born in Belfast, Ireland, in 1826, and was the daughter of the late Captain Feeney, of Carrickfergus. Mrs. Rodgers arrived in New Zealand in 1875. She resided for a time in Timaru, where she was well known and respected, but later on settled down in Christchurch. The funeral took place on the 12th inst. in the Catholic portion of the Linwood Cemetery, the Rev. Father Crotty, who attended the deceased during her illness, officiating at the grave. The remains, which were followed by a large number of friends, were borne to the grave by four sons of the deceased—Mr. W. Rodgers (Invercargill), Mr. J. Rodgers (stationmaster at Oxford), Mr. E. Rodgers (Timaru), and Mr. C. Rodgers (Invercargill). The deceased leaves also two daughters (Mrs. Jones, of Sydenham, and Mrs. Maher, of Oxford). The family received several letters of condolence, including one from the local branch of the Hibernian Society, of which society Mr. W. Rodgers, junr., and Mr. C. Rodgers are past presidents.—R.I.P.

His Lordship Bishop Doyle, of the Grafton Diocese, celebrated his fiftieth birthday on December 5. The 25th anniversary of his landing in Australia will take place on the 31st of next month, he having landed in Melbourne on January 31, 1875. On the voyage he was shipwrecked on the Spanish coast, and had to return to London. On his arrival he was appointed to take charge of the Armidale Cathedral, where he remained until June 24, 1878. On that date he left for his new mission, arriving in Casino on June 29, the Feast of St. Peter and St. Paul. Seeing at once the central position of Lismore he made it his headquarters, and one of his first acts was to agitate for the establishment of a municipality there. It was with difficulty that 500 souls were obtained in an area of six square miles. Now the population is over 5000. It is the intention of his Lordship's friends to celebrate in a fitting manner the 25th anniversary of his landing on the last day of next month.

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A NEW ZEALAND RELIGIOUS ORDER.

THE DAUGHTERS OF OUR LADY OF COMPASSION.

The year that is so fast drawing to a close was marked by an event that is freighted with many benefits for the Catholic Church in New Zealand. We refer to the holding of the first Provincial Synod of this Colony. But just two months before the date of meeting of that grave and reverend assembly at Wellington there were laid in the same fair city the modest beginnings of a fresh form of religious activity which marks a new departure in the field of applied Christian charity in New Zealand, and promises, under God, to become a permanent and important factor in the applied charity of the Catholic Church in this Colony. We refer to the work of the Daughters of Our Lady of Compassion, a New Zealand religious Order which was founded some time ago by Mother Mary Joseph Aubert, with the approval of his Grace the Archbishop of Wellington. The scope of this new Order of Charity is limited only by its possibility of doing good, and its ready and practical sympathies go out to every form of human misery and distress. Among its manifold activities, it undertakes the nursing of the sick in their own homes, the care of orphans, and of aged poor of every creed and colour, the providing of food, clothing, etc., for them, visiting the poor in their homes, keeping children from the perils of the streets, sending them to school, etc. Sixteen years ago Mother Mary founded an Order for works of charity among her beloved Maori. The title of the Order has since been altered, but the work remains the same, with this difference, that the colour-line has been eliminated, and henceforth the expansive charity of the Daughters of Our Lady of Compassion knows no bound or bar save only the limit of its possibilities for doing good.

Some two months before the opening of the Provincial Synod, the new departure in the work of Mother Mary's Institute was inaugurated in Wellington. This was in January of the present year. A small house was rented next St. Joseph's, Buckle street. Four Sisters from Jerusalem, Wanganui River, occupied the little convent. Two others were added at a later date. Later still—in July—three adjoining houses in the same block were purchased. Possession was taken in September. A fresh impetus was thus given to the new charity, and the good work has progressed at such a rate that the six Sisters are all too few to meet with the ever-growing demands upon their labours. In a conversation with the foundress of the institute some time ago we learned that their visits, etc., have revealed the existence of a far greater degree of distress among the deserving poor than most people would imagine. In fact, some of their best and most consoling work is that which is done among the very poor who suffer and are silent, unwilling that their distress should come to the knowledge of their neighbours. The womanly tact and evident sympathy and sincerity of the Sisters have won their way to many a troubled heart and desolate home and brought comfort to many a struggling widow and many a hungry and ill-clad child. When able, the destitute of every age and creed come for relief to the little house in Buckle street. When unable to come, the Sisters go to them, watch by them, and tend and nurse and care for them in a thousand thoughtful ways.

Mother Mary's needy and deserving institute is still burdened with a millstone of a pretty considerable debt. Among the scores of Christmas appeals we know of none that should strike a chord of true sympathy among Catholics than those among whom Mother Mary's apostolate is cast—her destitute white poor and her beloved Maoris. We may, in this connection, appropriately conclude by quoting the following words, from a current issue of *Our Fernery*, the annual published by the Sisters of Mercy, Wellington: 'Our Lady of Compassion.'—Under the heading of 'Beginnings' we would draw the attention of our dear 'old' girls, and the public in general, to the poor little convent of the above Order lately established in Wellington. Since the 6th of January, in one of the smallest houses in Buckle street, six Sisters of Our Lady of Compassion have lived and worked, solely for the deserving indigent and sick of the city—irrespective of creed. They are thankful for anything and everything that is given them to help on their work. Mother M. Joseph Aubert is so well known by her years of devotion amongst the Maoris of Hawke's Bay, her Jerusalem establishment, and her marvellously efficacious medicines, that it is enough to say that she is their head, to elicit sympathy. Friends of the poor and the afflicted! You who are firmly on your feet, help this beginning! That fine old Scotch saying, 'Many mickles make a muckle,' is exemplified when the 'wicker' in charge of two of the Sisters, and wheeled from door to door, returns home laden. There, in the little back kitchen, soup and dainties for the sick are made and cooked every day. Garments are also turned and mended. And what may seem to some the most important point—homes are visited, the inmates comforted and taught how to make the best of this world's few favours that are theirs. The convent rent, fuel, light, furniture, etc., are quite dependent on voluntary contributions. But as other beginnings as lowly have triumphed in the face of hardships and difficulties, so will this, having the Divine blessing and the patronage of a generous and appreciative people.

Rev. Mother Mary Joseph Aubert writes from Wellington:—'It may interest your readers to know that we are putting a large addition to our place here for the reception of those poor incurables whom hospitals will not keep and the charitable homes will not admit. The contract for the bare addition is £700. Including the furniture and other requisites, it will cost between £900 and £1000, for which we have to trust entirely on Divine Providence and the generosity of charitable souls. We expect to open this new home about the beginning of February. There will be a ward for men and one for women, each accommodating six patients. It is a humble beginning, which I hope will be blessed by the Father of the poor and protected by the Comforter of the afflicted.'

NEW ZEALAND: GENERAL.

In consequence of pressure on our space several reports of school entertainments and distribution of prizes are held over.

THE Lyttelton election, which took place on Friday last, resulted in the return of Mr. Laurensen, a Government supporter, by a very large majority.

THE *Charleston Herald* apologised for its non-appearance on a recent Saturday, on the score that the 'staff had the misfortune to get struck with the influenza on Friday.'

THE Wellington Education Board has decided to extend tuition in cooking to all schools of whatever denomination applying for it, so far as the resources at its command will allow.

THE *Westport Star* understands a telegram has been received from the Premier intimating that the Government is not disposed to accept Mr. O'Regan's resignation of his seat on the Westport Harbour Board.

TRIAL runs of the new dining-car for the Christchurch-Dunedin express are being made on the north line. The car is, according to the *Lyttelton Times*, most conveniently fitted, there being table accommodation for 24 persons at a sitting.

REV. Mother Mary Joseph Aubert, of Wellington, desires to gratefully acknowledge receipt of £5 from 'Well-wisher,' for the Foundling Home at Jerusalem, and 5s from 'A Friend,' Greymouth, for the same object; also £5 and a quantity of clothing from the St. Elizabeth Society for the poor of Wellington.

FROM a private source we learn that the Right Rev. Monsignor Hoyne, V.G., Ballarat, and the Rev. Father Kelsch, of Tasmania, who left Dunedin on Monday week, have arrived safely in Hobart. They were accompanied on the journey by the Very Rev. Father Ginaty, of Mount Magdala, who was on his way to Melbourne and Sydney.

A GREAT many readers of the *Dunedin Evening Star* of Friday last must have wondered what was the meaning of the term 'Scottish habits,' which appeared in a news item from Wellington. The paragraph ran thus:—Our Wellington correspondent wires:—'Replying to the Rev. L. M. Isitt's recent assertion that ten members of the present Parliament had contracted "Scottish habits," the *New Zealand Times* says, &c.' The words used by Mr. Isitt, according to the *New Zealand Times*, were 'sottish habits.' Our Scottish friends should receive an ample apology from somebody.

THE Government experimental station at Momohaki, which was started for the purpose of investigating diseases in stock, testing seeds and plants, raising economic plants for distribution to settlers and ascertaining the feeding value of grasses, etc., comprises 380 acres, and the expenditure on buildings, fencing, cultivation, stock, and other purposes since its inception amounts to £1842. The wages paid amounts approximately to £750 per annum. The returns, in addition to a number of vines and seeds distributed gratis, were £771. The expenditure in connection with the poultry farm recently established has been £496 and the receipts £108.

THERE was a large attendance at Mr. O'Regan's committee meeting last evening (says the *Inangahua Times*, December 12), and it was unanimously resolved to present the late member for Buller with a suitable testimonial in recognition of his services to the district and as a token of personal respect. Correspondence was read and received from all parts of the electorate promising assistance, and it was finally decided that, as the Westport electors had already taken the initiative, the Inangahua electors should make a presentation on their own account. It was decided to communicate with the secretaries of the different committees in the Inangahua portion of the electorate. The date for the presentation will be decided later on, and it is safe to predict that Mr. O'Regan will not be allowed to sever his connection with those whom he has served so well without substantial evidence of appreciation.

THE Rev. Father Kelsch, of Tasmania, contributes another letter to the *Monitor* on his holiday tour in New Zealand. Regarding the Magdalen Asylum near Christchurch he says: Mount Magdala is the title by which the Good Shepherd Convent and Magdalen Asylum here is generally known. Situated about four miles from the city, on a plain of 200 acres, one wonders at first blush whence came the name of Mount Magdala. There is, however, a slight rise on one side of the institution which offers at least an excuse for the title. Founded about 13 years ago as a branch from the well-known Abbotsford Convent, near Melbourne, through the zeal and energy of the Very Rev. Father Ginaty, S.M., the New Zealand Convent and Asylum has advanced not slowly but surely, and is now one of the chief attractions of the Christchurch diocese. The Sisters are 22 in number, and the penitents, or 'children,' as they are termed, under their care are 130, gathered from all parts of New Zealand. The buildings are of brick with Oamaru stone dressings and are quite imposing. A new distinct structure for the better classification of the 'children,' and costing £2,300, is nearing completion. It is needless to dilate on the care bestowed on the inmates of this fine institution by the Good Shepherd Nuns, nor on the nature of the laundry work turned out by them. A visit to our Tasmanian branch at St. Canice's, Sandy Bay, will give inquirers across the Tasman Sea the best idea of the worth of the homes or refuges under the management of the Good Shepherd Sisters. The farm work at Mount Magdala, however, is on a much larger scale than at St. Canice's, as the whole 200 acres are now attended to by the farm hands and inmates with marked success. In one respect the New Zealand Government deserves to be copied by that of Tasmania, in the generous support extended to Mount Magdala, an annual vote of £500 being passed by Parliament as a grant-in-aid.

SPEAKING at Woolston, Mr. Laurensen, the successful candidate for Lyttelton, said that while interested in a certain boys' club at Lyttelton he had asked the boys to choose by ballot which of a number of prominent men they would like to be. The result of the polling showed that J. L. Sullivan, pugilist, received about five times as many votes as any of the others, although such men as Gladstone were included.

A MEETING of upwards of 200 shareholders of the J. G. Ward Farmers' Association was held at Invercargill on Saturday, when Mr. Ward made proposals for the repayment to old shareholders of the amount they had been called upon to pay on their shares in consequence of liquidation. He stated that on the date the liquidator took charge—namely, June 23, 1896—the total net indebtedness of the association to their bankers under all heads, including debentures, amounted to £78,363, and the total receipts up to June 30 last, as filed by the liquidator with the registrar, were £71,657; so it was clearly demonstrated upon these results that the statement originally made by him, and which he always maintained, that the business never should have been liquidated, was more than borne out, and they had still further collections to make. He read letters from English firms confirming payments made by him to them. At the conclusion of the meeting the shareholders unanimously resolved to support Mr. Ward in re-forming the Ward Farmers' Company, and the following resolution was carried unanimously:—That Mr. Ward be accorded cordial thanks for the lucid and able explanation of the affairs of the association, the mover remarking that they were all deeply indebted to him for the information given and for the offer. It was unanimously resolved:—That it is with pleasure we learn that the business of the Ward Farmers' Association is to be revived, and that we will do all we can to promote their interests.

A WRITER in the *Hawke's Bay Herald* accounts as follows for the defeat of Mr. McLean and the election of Mr. Fraser for the local electorate: 'The real cause [of the defeat of the Opposition candidate, Mr. McLean], frequently mentioned in conversation, though I have not yet seen it in print, was the strange conduct of the Chairman of the Education Board a few months ago in reference to the Catholic school question. It will be remembered that Dr. Sidey then objected to have Mr. Hill examine the Catholic schools of this district; that he objected to the Education Board giving the Catholic children their 'class passes,' to which, in Mr. Hill's good judgment and scholarly abilities, they had a strict right, and 'to add insult to injury,' as we say, Dr. Sidey drawing on his fossilised and ill-advised ideas of 100 years ago thought fit to call the Catholic religion 'a hybrid religion.' Such conduct in this enlightened age with current facts before our eyes, was a gross insult to every Catholic in this province, and one considering how Catholics have been treated since the passing of the present Education Act, which required retributive punishment, the Catholics of the district, aware that the views of Mr. R. D. D. McLean in religious matters, amongst which I class the education question, were usually those of Dr. Sidey and Mr. P. S. McLean, took the first opportunity. Who can blame them? It is a question of self-defence, and one of paramount importance for them. Perhaps the fact was overlooked that the Catholic vote in this constituency is over 1000 strong, not an easy matter for rather a weak candidate to ignore. This question might be developed a little further, but the above may be read between the lines, and suffices to account for the result of the late election.'

INTERCOLONIAL.

During the absence of the Rev. Father Walsh, the Rev. Father Fitzpatrick will act as administrator of St. Francis' parish, Haymarket.

An anonymous Protestant gentleman of Sydney some time ago presented the Cardinal with a painting of great value by a famous Dutch artist.

At a distinguished gathering of the citizens of West Melbourne an address and purse of sovereigns was presented to the Rev. Denis Murphy previous to his departure for Ireland.

Mr. Herbert Wardell has been appointed by Cardinal Moran to succeed his father, the late Mr. W. W. Wardell, as architect of St. Mary's,—a graceful tribute to his father's memory, as well as to Mr. Wardell's capacity.

The Rev. Father M. P. Malone, of the Sacred Heart Church, and for over seven years chaplain to St. Vincent's Hospital and Convent, Sydney, has, owing to ill health, been granted 12 months' leave of absence. He intends to visit Ireland.

On the evening of November 28 St. Mary's schoolroom, North Melbourne, was crowded by the parishioners and friends of the Rev. Denis Murphy, who assembled to witness the presentation of an address and a purse of sovereigns to the rev. gentleman previous to his departure for Ireland.

The death is reported of the Rev. Father O'Callaghan of the archdiocese of Hobart, which took place on the 4th inst. The deceased was born in 1832 at Ballyclough, County Cork, and pursued his studies at All Hallows College, being ordained in St. Joseph's Cathedral, Hobart, in 1854. After over 40 years of missionary labours Father O'Callaghan went on a holiday trip to Melbourne a few weeks ago and while there contracted influenza, the attack proving fatal. The venerable Archbishop Murphy expressed a desire that the remains should be taken to Tasmania for interment, but his Grace waived his desire in deference to the wish of the brother of the deceased. The obsequies were celebrated in St. Francis' Church, Melbourne, his Grace the Archbishop of Melbourne presiding.

Sister Mary Cecilia Lee died at the Convent of Mercy, Kyneton, recently. The deceased Sister, who was about 43 years of age at the time of her death, was a native of the West of Ireland. After coming to Victoria she entered the Geelong Convent, where she made her profession 19 years ago, and had been at the Kyneton Convent for the past five or six years.

On Sunday, December 5, his Grace the Archbishop of Melbourne blessed and re-opened St. Ambrose's Church, Brunswick. The sermon was delivered by the Very Rev. Father O'Farrell. The church, with its handsome additions, which have been carried out at a cost of £6000, forms a conspicuous landmark of this important suburb. The building is unquestionably the finest church in the district, and compares favourably with the parish churches of the archdiocese of Melbourne.

On Wednesday, November 29, at the Good Samaritan Convent, Pitt street, Sydney, Mother Mary Genevieve (Miss Helena Ennis), who has held the office of Mother-assistant for the past 22 years, passed away at the age of 78 years, and 37 of her religious life. The deceased nun was a daughter of Mr. Ennis, of Meath, Ireland, and a niece of Mr. Ryan Brennan, of 'Garryowen,' Limerick, Ireland. She was born in County Meath in 1821, and entered the Convent of the Good Samaritan on October 1, 1862. Mother Mary Genevieve was beloved by all who had the happiness of knowing her.

Mr. John Dunn, who is said to be the oldest Australian native in the colonies, died in the Castlemaine Benevolent Asylum recently. Deceased, who was born in Sydney in 1799, was present at the A.N.A. banquet when the annual conference was held in 1897, when he was accorded a great ovation. The old man thought so much of the honour paid him on that occasion that in his belongings was found a menu card of the banquet wrapped up in several sheets of paper, and enclosed in a leather pouch he had specially made for the purpose, and yet the A.N.A. (says the *Catholic Press*) allowed him to die in the poor-house. Another instance of our reverence for old age.

THE WAR IN SOUTH AFRICA.

THE position in South Africa during the past week has become grave, but there is nothing to be alarmed about. The Boers are occupying certain strategic points which they will not vacate until driven out of them. As there is no likelihood of an advance on their part, matters will remain as they are until the British commanders find they have sufficient forces at hand to drive the enemy back.

The British column for the relief of Kimberley met with a serious reverse in the early part of last week. Early on Monday morning Lord Methuen's forces, with six howitzers, enfiladed the enemy's trenches at Magersfontein, near Spytfontein, on the western frontier. General Cronje commanded the enemy. The Highland Brigade attacked at daybreak the south end of the kopje occupied by the enemy. The British troops held their ground until dusk, the position extending six miles. The fight continued all next day, and on Tuesday evening the British force had to retire to the Modder River, the enemy occupying their entrenchments. The London newspapers described Lord Methuen's repulse as the most serious of the war. The Highlanders suffered very severely. Two hundred of them were mowed down in attempting to drive the enemy from their entrenchments. The Black Watch on reforming after the terrible onslaught mustered only 160 men. The total of the British loss throughout the engagement was 833 killed and wounded, including 703 officers and men belonging to the Highland Brigade, and of this latter number 69 were officers. The Boer losses were estimated in killed and wounded at 2000 men. Major-General Wauchope was shot close to the Boer trenches.

It is estimated that General Cronje's force has now reached 20,000.

General Buller met with a serious reverse at Chieveley, between Estcourt and Colenso, on Friday last. He moved with his full strength to Chieveley early on Friday morning, intending to force the passage of the river. Finding that it was impossible to carry out his intention he was compelled to withdraw, but not until some of the brigades suffered dreadfully. Ten guns were abandoned, and out of 12,000 troops engaged it is reported that 82 were killed, 337 are missing, and 667 were wounded, including Lieutenant-colonel Long and the Hon. F. Roberts, son of Lord Roberts, who were both dangerously injured, and 37 other officers. Out of 37 officers wounded at Chieveley 26 of them are seriously hurt. Lord Roberts' son has since succumbed to his wounds.

According to the *Times*, Sir Charles Warren replaces Lord Methuen in charge of the Kimberley relief column, while Major-General Tucker succeeds General Gatacre in command of the column near Stormberg.

To show that the Home authorities realise the gravity of the situation, Lord Roberts has been appointed Commander-in-Chief in South Africa, with Lord Kitchener as Chief of Staff. They have also summoned the remainder of the reserves. The despatch of the 7th division is forthwith ordered. Cavalry and artillery reinforcements will be prepared forthwith, including a howitzer brigade. They further authorise General Buller to raise local mounted corp., and will allow 12 militia battalions to volunteer for service outside the kingdom, and embody an equivalent militia for home service. A strong force of yeomanry volunteers for service will be enrolled. They have decided to accept the offers of the colonies of further troops, especially of mounted contingents.

The official report of the total British casualties to date gives the following figures:—Killed, 728; wounded, 2784; prisoners, 2265.

O X F O R D.

(From an occasional correspondent.)

A mission conducted by the Right Rev. Dr. Grimes and the Very Rev. Dean Foley was opened at Oxford on the 5th inst. His Lordship celebrated Mass every morning at 7.30, Dean Foley at 6.30, and the mission Mass was said at 9.30 by Father Hyland. The mission sermon was preached each morning by Dean Foley, who so devoted all the afternoon to the preparation of those about to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. Each evening the service consisted of rosary, sermon by the Bishop, and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. The mission was excellently attended. On Sunday at the Mass celebrated by Bishop Grimes a very large number received Holy Communion, a circumstance which gave his Lordship great pleasure and consolation. At the 11 o'clock Mass, celebrated by Father Hyland, the Sacrament of Confirmation was administered to 70 persons. Prior to the ceremony, his Lordship preached an excellent explanatory sermon on the Sacrament. His Lordship also made his appeal on behalf of the Diocesan Cathedral Fund, and the collection realised £140. After the Gospel, Mr. J. McCormack read and presented to his Lordship Dr. Grimes an address on behalf of the Catholics of the Oxford district, in which they expressed their pleasure at his visit, and their delight at the success which had attended his efforts in collecting funds for the erection of a cathedral in Christchurch. The address was signed on behalf of the congregation by Messrs. J. McCormack and H. Hoare.

In replying, his Lordship expressed the great pleasure it gave him to be amongst them and the gratification their kindness afforded him, and assured them of a continual remembrance in his prayers.

The mission was closed at Sunday night's service, consisting as it did of rosary, sermon, Papal blessing, renewal of Baptismal Vows and Benediction. The Church could not contain the number of people who attended—the sanctuary and sacristy having to be appropriated to provide sufficient accommodation. His Lordship delivered an eloquent sermon on 'Perseverance,' with was listened to with rapt attention.

Mr. McCormack conducted and led the choir at all the services, and Miss Donovan presided at the harmonium.

DOMINICAN CONVENT, LAWRENCE.

THE annual entertainment by the pupils of the Dominican Nuns, Lawrence, was held in St. Patrick's Schoolroom on Friday evening. The *Tuapeka Times* speaks in very laudatory terms of the performance, the manner, voice, and gesture of the children, even of the youngest, being excellent. The entertainment was an unqualified success, and the crowded audience testified their appreciation by frequent applause. The programme opened with a pianoforte trio, very successfully played by Misses Leslie, King, and Moody. This was followed by the first scene in a two-act drama, 'Dolores,' in which a number of the pupils took part, the principals being Misses Bridget Devine (Pauline Norton), Mary Devine (Mrs. Norton), Maria Roughan (Augusta Norton), Alice Kelleher (Mrs. Worthington), Kate Roughan (Aunt Betsy), Ethel Kelleher (Nellie and

Sally Anne), Lily King (Grace), Maggie Real (Fanchette), and Mary Colligan (Pincher). There were some very pretty scenes in the play, as well as some very pretty bits of dialogue, and the young players did the fullest justice to everything. Of the music and the singing we can only speak in the most complimentary terms. The pianoforte duet, 'Les jolis Oiseaux,' was very cleverly played by Misses E. Hart, L. King, M. King, and Moody, and Miss Woods was very warmly applauded for her very fine playing of the piano solo 'Polka de la reine.' Misses Delany, E. Hart, Woods, and Hart played with singular evenness and spirit 'Concordantia,' and the Misses Hart gave a very pretty rendering of the vocal duet, 'Venetian boat song,' for which they were warmly applauded. A piano duet was very nicely played by Misses M. King, N. and A. West. Miss and Mr. H. Woods were applauded for a capital rendering of the vocal duet 'Nocturne,' and Misses M. and G. Taylor gave a clever rendering of the piano duet 'Maritana.' Romberg's toy symphony brought a very picturesquely attired company of school children on to the stage, who entertained the audience with music representing the notes of various song birds. In this part of the entertainment the following ladies and gentlemen assisted:—Misses Wood and E. Hart (piano), Dr. Bauchop (cello), and Messrs. J. J. Woods (violin), R. Walker (violin), John Kirby (clarinet), and E. Tambllyn (bass). The concert closed with the singing of the New Zealand National Anthem, after which

The Rev. Father Keenan returned thanks to the large audience present for their patronage, and to the people of Lawrence generally for the readiness with which they had always come forward to assist the nuns. They were entirely indebted to the Sisters for the excellent entertainment they had the pleasure of attending, the manner in which the children had acquitted themselves showing the excellent training they had received. He asked them to join in a hearty vote of thanks to the nuns for the entertainment they had provided, and to the children for the very clever manner in which they had acquitted themselves.

The annual art exhibition of the pupils took place in St. Patrick's schoolroom on the previous Wednesday, and throughout the afternoon and evening was inspected by a large number of persons. The exhibition was of a varied character, and included oil paintings, fancy work, and specimens of wood carving. Not a few of the paintings displayed considerable artistic taste and careful tuition, and the examples of wood carving gave evidence of skill, and originality of design, whilst the various objects of needlework were very highly spoken of by the lady visitors. Among the exhibitors were Miss Lomas, Miss R. Pearson, Miss W. Roughan, Misses Mary and Maggie Colgan, Miss Hart, Miss Johnston, Miss M. Byrne, Miss M. Devine, Miss A. Murdock, Miss M. Franklin, Miss McKenzie, Miss Matheson, Miss Tuckey, Miss Airey, and Miss L. Pearson.

Speaking generally (concludes the local paper), the exhibition was the best we have had the pleasure of seeing in Lawrence, and reflects the highest credit on the Dominican Nuns as teachers of art in all its various branches, while it must be said that exhibitors have shown that they take the fullest advantage of the splendid opportunity afforded them of increasing the number of their accomplishments.

God is not against man. He is a God of infinite love, compassion and mercy. He is more willing to save than we are to be saved.

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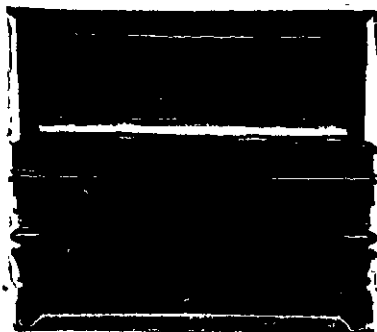
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The Storyteller.

THE SINGER'S CHILD.

CHAPTER I.

'WELL, I do believe that is another of those children, after I forbade them to enter the garden again!' exclaimed Sister Angela, as she walked down the path leading to the poor-school. Yes, a tiny morsel of humanity was certainly standing among the flowers, but Sister Angela soon discovered that she had been wronging her poor mites, as she was wont to call them, for this child was a stranger to her. Its appearance, as she stood quite still by a bed of scarlet geranium, looking up into the nun's face with doubtful eyes, was sufficiently striking, and Sister Angela noted with surprise the strange beauty of the baby countenance, for the child could not be more than three years of age. A tangled mass of dusky curls shaded a delicate, olive-tinted countenance, to which eyes of unwonted darkness and brilliancy added an air of unusual distinction. A red velvet frock set off the little lady's charms to perfection. There were traces of tears upon her face, which wore a touching expression of childish trouble. Sister Angela laid her hand caressingly on the dark locks.

'Well, my little one, what's the matter?' she asked so kindly that the child could hardly refrain from bursting into tears.

'My mamma! my mamma!' she sobbed. 'I want my mamma!' Then she looked into the nun's eyes with an air of sudden expectancy and asked: 'Did 'oo see mamma?'

'No, darling, I did not see her,' but noting the shadow of pain that flitted across the baby face, 'we may be able to find her, you and I. Come, now, tell me where you live.'

The child seemed puzzled for a minute, then she said, pointing towards the street door:

'In de house der. But we came a long, long way; mamma and Rosie.'

'And who is Rosie?' asked Sister Angela, smiling.

'Ise Rosie, of oo-se,' answered the little one in surprise.

'Oh, I see,' laughed the nun. 'Well, Rosie, how long is it since you lost mamma?'

Rosie puckered up her forehead and thought a moment, then began eagerly:

'Oo see, mamma went out last night, and she did not tum back to Rosie at all. And she's gone all the long, long day, and Rosie all alone, so I tum and look for her myself, but I can't get her at all, and the tears flowed afresh.

'Now, Rosie, you mustn't cry. If I only knew where she lives,' murmured the nun to herself. Rosie looked up again.

'Oo see, I tought she would tum here to the lovely f'owe's. Mamma is so fond of f'owe's.'

A thought struck Sister Angela.

'Tell me, Rosie,' she said; 'did you see the flowers from your house?'

'Es,' answered Rosie confidently; 'de door open,' pointing to the door leading into the street; 'and Rosie saw the f'owe's from the window, so I tum over to look for mamma; but mamma not here.'

'Ah,' thought the nun, 'she is probably staying at Mrs. Griffith's.'

Mrs. Griffith kept a private hotel on the opposite side of the street. Sister Angela took the child by the hand and led her to the school door with the intention of sending one of the children with her to Mrs. Griffith's to inquire if she and her mother were staying there. She encountered one of the bigger girls on the stairs, and was instructing her to take the little one across the street when she was interrupted with:

'But, Sister Angela, she's the singing lady's little girl—the singing lady that was burned to death last night.'

Sister Angela's face showed how shocked she was.

'Are you sure, Maggie?' she asked anxiously.

But Maggie was quite sure. She lived next the convent, and had often seen the child go in and out from Mrs. Griffith's with her mother. The nuns had of course heard of the catastrophe in the town hall on the previous night—how the temporary stage had suddenly caught fire, and how one singer—a stranger who had but a few days before joined the touring company—had sustained injuries to which she succumbed after a couple of hours. But they had heard nothing about her leaving a child.

'Poor little thing,' murmured Sister Angela, gazing down compassionately into the tear-washed face.

Wishing to ascertain the truth of the story, she despatched Maggie to ask Mrs. Griffith to step over to her for a moment. That good lady lost no time in doing so.

'Yes, it was quite true,' she said.

'An' 'twould make your heart ache, Sister Angela,' she continued, 'to hear the poor creature asking all day for her mamma. An' the worst of it is none of the other singers have any notion who the young lady was. It was only a week ago that she joined them, and she never said a single word about herself, only gave her name as Madame Vestris. An' what will be done with the child? The singers will have nothing to do with her, an' they don't know if the mother had friends. I suppose the poor dearie will have to be taken up by the parish.'

At this point Rosie, as if she understood the meaning of these last words, plaintively reiterated:

'Rosie wants mamma. 'Oo get mamma,' looking at the nun so earnestly that the tears welled up into her eyes.

'Rosie must wait for mamma a little while,' said Sister Angela, soothingly.

The trouble vanished suddenly from the little girl's face.

'Rosie likes 'oo,' she said decidedly. 'Rosie stay with 'oo till mamma comes,' and she nestled up to her.

'But, Mrs. Griffith,' said Sister Angela, taking up the conversation where it had been broken off, 'had Madame Vestris no belongings—no letters by which her friends could be traced?'

'Oh, there's plenty of letters—the inspector examined them all a while ago, but every one of them is to Isabel from Harry—always from Harry, no other name, an' there isn't a single envelope in the lot; so they're no good. The inspector has got a gold locket an' chain, an' in the locket the picture of a fine young man, an' at the back the words, 'From Harry to Isabel.' He must be her husband, for the child there is as like him as two peas.'

Then Mrs. Griffith went on to tell the nun how the police were to advertise for Madame Vestris' friends, if the report of her untimely end in the papers elicited no information as to her identity. Meanwhile she was to keep the child. If no friend came forward to claim her, well, of course, the parish would take her up, or perhaps she would be sent to an industrial school.

Sister Angela sighed as Mrs. Griffith finished.

'Well, Mrs. Griffith, it is to be hoped the child's friends will turn up. I shall tell Rev. Mother about it, and in case of failure she may be able to do something for her. Good-bye, Rosie,' to the child, 'you must come to see me again.'

But Rosie clung to her and refused to be led away.

'Me stay with 'oo,' she sobbed out. 'Me like 'oo, and 'oo find mamma for Rosie,' and no amount of coaxing would induce her to go with Mrs. Griffith.

'Well,' said the nun at length, 'perhaps it would be better to leave her with me awhile. I will take her to Rev. Mother and tell her the story. You can come back for her in the evening.'

So Mrs. Griffith departed and Sister Angela took Rosie up to the convent.

CHAPTER II.

A month had passed and the numerous advertisements for the friends of the unfortunate Madame Vestris had ended in failure. It was clear that the name had been assumed, and the little girl, on being questioned, was quite ignorant of her surname. Rosie—that was all the name she had ever known. There was no mark on the dead woman's clothing, though the child's were all marked 'Rosie D.'—a proof that Vestris was not their real name. In any case the search had to be given up as hopeless. The question now became—what was to be done with Rosie? Orphaned, nameless, unclaimed, the little gipsy-faced child was truly an object of pity.

Since that evening on which she had first strayed into the garden, Rosie had been a constant visitor at the convent. She had conceived a special attachment for Sister Angela, and, indeed, seemed quite happy when with any of the nuns, though Mrs. Griffith declared that she was constantly calling for her 'Mamma' when with her.

However, as was but natural in so young a child, these inquiries became less frequent in time, and during the last week had been rarer than ever. Yet whenever she was not at the convent she seemed lonely and discontented.

'I don't like 'oo,' she would say when Mrs. Griffith would bring her home in the evening, 'but I do like de nuns.'

And when Rev. Mother said to her one day, 'Rosie will soon be going away to a grand school where there are a lot of other little girls,' she had cried, and clinging to her had said, 'Rosie won't go. Rosie stay always with 'oo.'

When, some days later, Mrs. Griffith brought her to say good-bye, she tightly clutched Sister Angela and declared she would not go.

'Rosie never, never leave 'oo,' she sobbed; 'Rosie want to stay here always.'

The nuns were deeply touched. Even the policeman who had come to take her to the Industrial School had not the heart to force her to go with him.

The Rev. Mother, in deep distress, called the senior nuns around her. According to their Rule they were bound to educate every year five or six children free of cost. This had hitherto been carried out in the boarding-school, into which Rosie was too young to be received. But instead of one of these boarders, could they not maintain Rosie at Mrs. Griffith's while she attended the day school attached to the convent?

The idea seemed feasible and was acted on at once, to the delight of the nuns, who had all grown fond of the motherless child. So the policeman was dismissed, and Rosie became the adopted child of the convent.

Her education began next morning in the day school or the 'Academy' as it was called in the town, and thenceforth, except that she slept and took her meals at Mrs. Griffith's, she might be said to have lived there entirely. She was never happier than when trotting about the schoolroom after one of the nuns, except, indeed, when Sister Angela took her down to the garden—and then her happiness was truly perfect.

She became a prime favourite with both teachers and pupils; she was the 'baby' of the Academy and her lovable ways and pretty chatter endeared her to all. But it was her extraordinary beauty that perhaps fascinated them most—a beauty which unlike that of ordinary childhood became more evident as she grew older. Signs of unusual precocity, too, became apparent. It was marvellous with what ease she understood things that are stumbling-blocks to other children. But from the beginning music was her special forte. She had not been many days at the Academy before it was noticed that whenever anyone was practising she was sure to sidle up to the piano, listening all the while with rapt attention. And when the player chanced to be proficient she would clap her hands and cry with dancing eyes:

'Oh, dat's lovely—Rosie like dat.'

So it was decided that she should be taught. Sister Bernardette never forgot the delight of the child at her first lesson. She had

learnt the scale in a quarter of an hour; by the time she was a small maid of eight she played better than most people at treble her age.

At this time it was discovered that she possessed a voice of surpassing sweetness, and the nuns, fully alive to the fact that she would want all the talents she possessed, put her, when old enough, under the tuition of the German singing-master attached to the school. This worthy man, though but the organist in an obscure cathedral town, had in him some of the divine fire of genius, and his compositions, unpublished through lack of money and patronage, ought to have made him famous. Certainly, in comparison with the inane 'inspirations' of latter-day musicians, his indeed breathed real harmony. Tired of the monotony of training second-rate voices, Herr Scheren was charmed with Rosie's full, clear notes. Ah! here was something to work for at last. This girl would be a credit to him—would make his name renowned in musical circles, for, of course, with such a voice, cultivated as it should be by him, she must go on the stage. The nuns would not like it perhaps, but the little one was friendless, and she would have to work for her living. True, it would take long years of patient trouble before such a thing could be thought of, but what cared he? Fame awaited him in the end. She would be a great singer, and he, her master, would share in her triumph.

So the years slipped by till Rosie was a tall maiden of eighteen. Look at her this evening as she paces under the lime trees on the terrace in earnest conversation with Rev. Mother. She is a fine specimen of early womanhood as she steps gracefully along, her dark head erect, her brilliant eyes gleaming from under their long, black lashes, her slender, well-shaped figure showing through the loose folds of her simple school dress. Looking at her thus you would not think her a nameless orphan. Yet so it was, for there had been no trace of kith or kin during these fifteen years.

'I agree with you, Rosie,' Rev. Mother is saying. 'It is time that you should take your place in the world. Yet I had hoped you would never leave us, but you say that is not to be.'

'No, Mother,' answered the girl. 'I don't think I have a religious vocation. You have been too kind to me always, and now you would receive me among you without a penny, without even a name. Oh, Mother, if I could only know who I am.'

'Don't fret about it, Rosie. I felt bound to tell you your history now that you are old enough. Besides, who knows but you yourself may find your relatives? That,' touching the locket which was suspended from Rosie's neck by a thin, gold chain, 'is certainly the miniature of your father, for the features are yours. Then I have carefully kept all your mother's letters and things and your own little clothes marked "Rosie D." God's ways are wonderful, you know.'

'Yes, I know,' said Rosie humbly; 'and I must only keep on praying for the best. But, Mother, in a changed tone, 'why cannot you consent to what I proposed?'

'Because, Rosie,' gravely returned the nun, 'the life is full of dangers. You know too little of the world to understand what I mean. I would rather try and get you a situation as governess, or singing mistress in some school.'

'Ah, Mother,' but Herr Scheren is so sure I should be a success if I went on the stage. He has set his heart on it. He says I must do it—that I owe it to him as well as to myself.'

'That is what he has been filling your head with, that wily Herr Scheren. That is why he was so dreadfully afraid you would want to be a nun, "like so many of your young ladies," as he says. Well, I suppose I must not blame him. Rosie,' earnestly, 'are you very much set on this?'

'Oh, so much!' was the eager answer. 'And yet the very thought of singing in public makes me shiver, but you see Herr Scheren so wishes it, and I really think singing is my vocation. I suppose it is in my nature.'

'Perhaps so,' assented Rev. Mother; 'yet I don't think your mother was a singer by profession. I may be wrong, but from all I heard about her at the time I think she must have been a lady. Well, Rosie, we must take time before deciding—I must think the matter well over.'

'Then I know you will consent,' joyfully exclaimed the girl. 'That is what "thinking it over" always means with you. How glad Herr Scheren will be. But oh, Mother!' with a sudden note of sadness, 'how shall I leave you all—the nuns, Mrs. Griffith, the children, my happy home!' and the tears sprang into the girl's eyes.

'We all had to leave happy homes, Rosie, real homes. You have but to endure the same pang in a minor degree, for after all you are not parting from your own flesh and blood.'

'This has been dearer to me than any real home,' said Rosie tearfully, 'and instead of my poor, dear mother, I have had, not one, but many mothers.'

(To be concluded next week.)

Mr. George X. Segar, of Liverpool, a well-known Catholic barrister, has been appointed Recorder of Oldham.

Among the nurses who have been sent out by the Army Nursing Service to the Transvaal is an Irish lady, Miss A. A. Murphy, who has been attached to the Royal Infirmary, Phoenix Park, since 1894. She was trained at the Adelaide Hospital (Dublin), where she was afterwards a staff nurse.

The name of Mr. R. M. Houston, representing the Bay of Islands, has been before the public ever since the General Election in connection with a vacant Ministerial portfolio. Mr. Houston is the son of a clergyman, and was born in Belfast, Ireland. He came out to New Zealand thirty-six years ago, and for several years was engaged in teaching at Otira School, Otahuhu. He afterwards went to Mongonui and started a general store, a business at which he was engaged for about fifteen years. He is largely interested in the kauri gum and timber trade. He is fifty-five years of age.

The Catholic World.

ENGL'ND.—Clerical Appointment.—The Rev. F. Fortescue (brother of Miss Fortescue, of the Catholic Social Union), who has been studying at Innsbruck, has been appointed to the German Church, Whitechapel.

Death of a Religious.—Sister Claude, for forty years a member of the Community of Little Sisters of the Poor, Portobello road, Notting Hill, London, died on October 23.

Help for the Widows and Orphans.—In all the Catholic churches in London, on Sunday, October 29, collections were made on behalf of the widows and orphans of the soldiers who have fallen in South Africa, and in several sympathetic references were made to the losses incurred by the Dublin Fusiliers in their charge at Glencoe. Cardinal Vaughan, preaching at the Carmelite Church, Kensington, said nursing institutions had been established at Johannesburg and Kimberley by a Catholic community of nuns, who had refused to leave their posts of danger, but had stayed in their institutions in order to nurse the wounded not only of the British army, but also the Boers.

The Red Mass in London.—The Red Mass celebrated for the opening of the Laws Courts at the Sardinian chapel in Lincoln's Inn Fields was more largely attended this year than on any occasion since its revival. Cardinal Vaughan was present, and the celebrant was the Rev. M. Fitzgerald, Rector of the church. There were present the Lord Chief Justice, Mr. Justice Mathew, Mr. Justice Day, in their full robes, Mr. Bowen Rowlands, Q.C., Mr. Hugo Young, Q.C., Mr. Joseph Walton, Q.C., Sir Sherston Baker, Mr. Arthur O'Connor, Q.C., M.P., Mr. Aspinall, Q.C., Mr. P. B. Abraham, Mr. J. H. Murphy, Mr. St. John Clerke, Mr. J. P. Wallis, Mr. P. Blackwell, Dr. Connell, Dr. Bernard O'Connor, Mr. Eyre Thompson, Mr. Theobald Mathew, Mr. Charles Mathew, the Hon. Arthur Russell, Mr. George Blackwell, the Hon. Frank Russell, Mr. Paul Strickland, Mr. T. V. Scully, Mr. J. Parikh, Mr. Bullen, Mr. Lister Drummond, Mr. Guy Ellis, and many others.

Death of Bishop Butt.—His Lordship Bishop Butt, who for many years occupied the See of Southwark, died at Arundel on all Saints' Day. The Bishop was born at Richmond, Surrey, on April 20, 1826. His father and uncle were converts. He was ordained on July 15, 1849, by Cardinal Wiseman, then Vicar-Apostolic of the London District. He was for a time Bishop's secretary, then assistant-priest, and next as a military chaplain at the front in the Crimea, where he was prostrated amidst the snow by fever. On regaining consciousness he learned that Father Sheehan, who had administered the last Sacraments to him, was dying, and he insisted on being taken to the tent of his brother priest to give the last Sacraments. He was carried on a sick-bed to the tent of Father Sheehan by eighteen of the Connaught Rangers, Major Herbert and Colonel Vaughan (the Cardinal's father) leading the way. Father Sheehan died soon afterwards. Dr. Butt was Bishop of Southwark from January, 1885, till a couple of years ago. He won the esteem and sincere affection of his flock, and the record of his episcopate was one of constant progress.

Commendable Generosity.—The St. Marylebone Poor Law Guardians have with very commendable generosity and liberality built at their own expense a chapel at the St. Marylebone Infirmary for the Catholic inmates who since the opening of that institution in 1881 have had their spiritual needs attended to by the Oblates of St. Charles Borromeo, Baywater, Mass being celebrated in one of the day rooms. The total average number of inmates is 750, about a fifth of whom are Catholics.

The Rector of St. Bede's College to Lecture at Louvain.—The Rev. Dr. L. Casartelli, Rector of St. Bede's College, Manchester, who is a Doctor of Oriental Languages of Louvain as well as a Master of Arts of London, has accepted an invitation from Mgr. Heblélynck to give the course of lectures on Zend and Pehlvi at the University of Louvain formerly directed by the late Mgr. de Harlez. The course will occupy three months beginning in February. Dr. Casartelli retains the rectorship of St. Bede's College.

FRANCE.—Honours for Chinese Jesuits.—Two Chinese priests of the Company of Jesus have recently received the honours of the French Institute for their narratives of their missionary careers and work.

Remarkable Vocations.—There have been some remarkable instances of ecclesiastical vocations in France of late. A few years since a father and son celebrated Mass together, served by members of their family, in the chapel of the Jesuits in the Rue de Madrid. Down near Montélimar, where President Loubet comes from, a landed proprietor of the district having lost his wife, studied for Orders, and he is now parish priest of Granges-Goutardes. Furthermore, one of his sons has become a monk in the Trappist foundation at Aiguebelle, and another is a secular priest in the parish of Tulette.

The Basilica of the Sacred Heart, Montmartre.—The ceremony of blessing the cross now crowning the dome of the Basilica of the Sacred Heart, Montmartre, was very imposing. The cross is the gift of a devout Catholic nobleman, the Comte de Franqueville. Père Augier, brother of the Superior General of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate, aptly said in his sermon that never since the beginning of Paris was the Cross of Christ placed so high, or hymns of praise sung so near heaven. It may not be out of place, in connection with this subject, to give a little ancient history about the origin of the Church at Montmartre, for the benefit of those who may not know much or anything concerning it. We hear a good deal, from time to time, from the anti-clericals

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about the inutility, and so on, of the big building on Montmartre Hill. Now, it is not among the things generally known that the strongest opposition was offered to the project of the church both by Mgr. Darboy and by his successor, Cardinal Guibert of the Oblates. The promoter of the plan was a pious Catholic, M. Legentil, and Mgr. Darboy gave him but little encouragement. After the murder of the Archbishop by the Communists, and on the appointment of his successor, M. Legentil went to see Mgr. Guibert about the plan, but was at once told that Catholics were crushed already by expenditure on churches and institutions which they had to keep up. Subsequently, and after some pressure, Mgr. Guibert gave way, directed that the church should be a monument of expiation, and, as he said, a sort of 'holy lightning-conductor' to preserve the city from the visitations of Divine justice. Next followed the sanction by the State, and money then began to flow in for the construction. The edifice will, when finished, have cost 40 million francs, according to the estimates. As a recent writer pointed out, the miracle of collecting money for the monument in order to bring it to a successful completion has been practically accomplished by the Oblate Fathers, who have charge of the basilica, and who, as the same authority says, smiled complacently the other day, owing to their triumph in doing their rival the Devil out of so much money.

ROME.—The Pope and the South African War.—His Holiness the Pope celebrated Mass on Sunday, October 29, for the repose of those killed in the South African War, and offered up special prayers that the struggle might soon cease. His Holiness is keenly interested in the war, and has, it is stated, sent a telegram of condolence to Lady Symons.

Proposed Swiss Pilgrimage.—A great pilgrimage of Swiss Catholics will go to Rome next year. Preparations are being made for it by the Helvetic Federation of Catholic Societies. At the ninth assembly held by this Federation at Basle, the programme of the pilgrimage was discussed and approved of.

SCOTLAND.—Death of a Catholic Journalist.—It is with sincere regret (writes the Glasgow correspondent of the *New Era*) I put on record the death, at the early age of twenty-seven, of Mr. John Aloysius McArdle, eldest son of the late Mr. James McArdle, Springburn. The deceased was educated at St. Mungo's Academy, Townhead, Glasgow, and besides being an excellent scholar, always occupying a prominent place in the prize-list, he was popular with his fellows. He began his journalistic career on the *Springburn Advertiser*, from which some years later he joined the staff of the *Glasgow Evening Citizen*. On the latter he made an excellent name for himself, and it seemed but the just reward of his talents when a little over two years ago he was offered and

accepted a sub-editorship on the *Evening Chronicle*, Manchester. Before leaving he was made the recipient of many marks of favour from his co-journalists and various Catholic societies of which he was an able member. Mr. McArdle, however, did not long enjoy his promotion. About eighteen months ago he was compelled through ill-health to send in his resignation, and the interval was spent in retirement at his residence, Woodburn place, Milngavie, where death visited him. He was a ready writer, of considerable abilities, and in press circles much respected. As an essayist, or lecturer, his services were frequently in request. Many articles from his pen found their way into the columns of Catholic newspapers.

The Marquis of Bute's Generosity.—The Marquis of Bute has generously offered to Father John McElmail, of St. Andrew's, Rothesay, to build a new school and presbytery, and also to defray the expense of enlarging the church so as to provide about double the present accommodation. The offer is conditional on the congregation contributing five hundred pounds. The total cost is likely to be close on three thousand pounds.

A Popular Priest.—The Rev. Joseph Bader, S.J., succeeds the Very Rev. Edward Whyte, S.J., as Rector of the Church of the Sacred Heart, Edinburgh. Father Bader, who is in his fiftieth year, is a Welshman of German extraction, as his name indicates. His early education was obtained at Stonyhurst, from which in 1872 he sought admission to the Society of Jesus. Three years' residence in Laval, France, was followed by his appointment to the teaching staff at Mount St. Mary's College, from which seven years later he was transferred to St. Beuno's College. Ordained in 1888, Father Bader began his missionary labours as an assistant at Our Lady's and St. Andrew's, Galashiels, being afterwards promoted to the Sacred Heart. In the latter mission his chief care has hitherto been the schools. A non-Catholic weekly writing of 'one of the best known and most popular Jesuits in Scotland' thus describes this phase of his work:—'His genius of management raised the schools to the position of premier Catholic schools in the archdiocese. The same paper (*People's Journal*), in an illustrated sketch of his career, speaks of Father Bader's appointment as being 'to the great gratification of his many friends, Protestant and Catholic.'

The Catholic Truth Society's Demonstration.—The yearly demonstration of the Catholic Truth Society of Scotland was held in Edinburgh on Thursday, October 26. The principal speakers were his Eminence Cardinal Logue, Archbishop of Armagh, the Archbishop of Edinburgh, and the Rev. Bernard Vaughan, S.J., etc. The Bishops of Scotland and a large number of priests and laymen from all parts of Scotland attended. Cardinal Logue was the guest of his Grace the Archbishop of Edinburgh.

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CHRISTIAN BROTHERS' SCHOOL, DUNEDIN.

THE annual entertainment and distribution of prizes in connection with the Christian Brothers' School, Dunedin, took place in St. Joseph's Hall on Friday evening. There was a very large audience present, including the Very Rev. Dean Mackay and the Rev. Fathers Murphy, McMullen, Moloney, Cleary, O'Donnell, and Ryan. A comprehensive programme was submitted, consisting of elocution, solo singing, and gymnastic contests, with choruses by the singing class. The programme was no doubt drawn up with the idea of giving the parents of the children and the Catholics of Dunedin generally an idea of the education imparted to the pupils of the school. The choruses 'Believe me,' 'Wearing of the green,' and 'Love at home' were very nicely rendered by the singing class. In the elocution contest P. Wilson was given first place, the other competitors being H. Hungerford and T. Pound. The three boys acquitted themselves admirably, and their distinct enunciation and appropriate action showed that they had been carefully taught. James Collins secured the prize for the best humorous recitation. F. Bevin and E. Durning running him very closely. Mr. T. W. Whitson acted as judge in the elocutionary competitions, and considering how very well all the pieces were delivered he must have had some difficulty in making his award. The Rev. Father Moloney, of St. Patrick's College, acted as judge in the solo singing contest, and decided in favour of T. Hughes, the piece selected being 'The last rose of summer.' The other competitor was D. Fogarty. The gymnastic contests were watched with very keen interest by the audience, and the general opinion was that the boys acquitted themselves in a very creditable manner, and that their instructor, Mr. J. C. Smith, under whose direction the exhibitions were carried out, had brought his classes to a high state of efficiency. The judges were Messrs. James Brown and H. Marshall. In the senior gymnastic contest Sarsfield Clancy secured first place and H. Hungerford second; and in the junior T. Smith was adjudged the winner, with J. Skinner next. The accomplishments during the evening were played by C. Thomas and J. Tobin. The entertainment was thoroughly enjoyed by the audience, who were most liberal in their applause.

At the conclusion of the entertainment Rev. Brother Fogarty thanked the audience for their attendance, and the judges for the trouble they had taken in arriving at their decisions. In reviewing the work of the school during the year just closed he was pleased to say that it was in many respects highly satisfactory. They began well by having a large number of the boys confirmed by their good Bishop before his departure for Europe. When the results of the University junior scholarship examination were published early in February the name of John B. Callan was found amongst those who had 'passed with credit.' John Hungerford passed the matriculation examination, and six of the boys passed the junior civil service. The following was a summary of the report of the Rev. Brother Whitty, of Dublin, who examined the school in July:—

'I examined our Dunedin school in the early part of July, and, considering that it was mid-winter, and the weather cold and rainy, I found a high average present. The school made a very good examination, and afforded ample proof of having been well and efficiently taught. The boys of the various standards answered particularly well in Christian doctrine, Bible and Church history, English composition, English history, grammar, and geography. The students of the Matriculation and Civil Service class answered brilliantly in almost every subject. The conduct of the boys was excellent, and their manner and appearance, as well as the order and discipline of the school, impressed me very favourably. The English essay prize offered by the *Dominican Star* was carried off by one of the pupils—Master Peter Francis Rogan, a leading member of the Boys' Library and Literary Society. The physical training of the pupils received its due share of attention. Many availed themselves of the gymnastic class, so ably conducted by Instructor J. C. Smith. In August last a very successful entertainment was held which enabled them to make considerable additions to their gymnasium. The prize list had been compiled from the results of the various examinations held during the year. The dux medal is reserved. One pupil has presented himself for the medical preliminary examination. Should he be successful, the dux medal will go to him. Otherwise it will be given to the most successful candidate at the junior civil service examination if he be one of the first 30 on the list. The two gold medals presented by Mr. Maurice Coughlan are awarded to John Hastings for general excellence and Christian doctrine and to William Higgins for general excellence and Irish history. Mr. Shain's two silver medals go to the winners of the elocution contests,

and Instructor Smith's four silver medals are given to the successful competitors in the gymnastic contests. Messrs. W. Scoular and Co.'s special prize falls to the winner of the first place in the sub-matriculation class.

The Very Dean Mackay, before distributing the prizes, congratulated the Brothers on the success which attended their efforts. He also congratulated those who had been successful in the contests they had witnessed that evening, and he trusted that the voices they had heard raised so eloquently in the elocutionary contests would one day be heard raised for greater ends in the Parliament of the country.

The following is the prize list:—

Civil Service Class.—John Hastings 1 (Mr M. Coughlan's gold medal); John O'Leary 2, John Scanlan 3, Peter Skene 4.

Examination Honours (first in subject).—Christian doctrine, J. Hastings; Latin, S. De Beer; French, S. De Beer; English, J. Hastings; geography, J. O'Leary; arithmetic, James Scanlan; algebra, P. Skene; Euclid, S. De Beer; penmanship, Cornelius Collins; shorthand, P. Skene; bookkeeping, James Scanlan; type-writing, F. Woods.

Sub-Matriculation Class.—M. Rossbotham 1 (W. Scoular and Co.'s prize); J. O'Sullivan 2, Claude Thomas 3, F. Bourke 4, J. Burke 5.

Examination Honours (first in subject).—Christian Doctrine, M. Rossbotham; Latin, F. Burke; French, M. Rossbotham; English, M. Rossbotham; geography, C. Thomas; arithmetic, J. O'Sullivan; Euclid, T. Pound; penmanship, J. Heffernan; typewriting, J. Garvey; shorthand, M. Rossbotham; bookkeeping, M. Rossbotham; English composition, P. Rogan; elocution, T. Pound; algebra, J. O'Sullivan.

Sixth Class.—W. Shain 1, J. Wilkinson 2, M. Garvey 3, W. Wedge 4, S. Clancy 5, J. Beard 6, J. Japp 7, J. Todd 8.

Examination Honours (first in subject).—Christian Doctrine, M. Garvey; Bible history, S. Clancy; reading, M. Garvey and S. Clancy equal; recitation, J. Swanson; dictation, S. Clancy and J. Wilkinson equal; handwriting, W. Shain; arithmetic and mensuration, W. Shain and J. Mulholland equal; grammar, J. Todd; composition, E. Campbell; geography, J. Wood; mapping, W. Wedge; English history, J. Swanson; home exercise, M. Garvey; drawing, J. Wood; bookkeeping, James Collins; Euclid, W. Shain and J. Mulholland equal; algebra, J. Todd; French, J. Japp; Latin, W. Shain; typewriting, W. Knott.

Fifth Class.—J. Tobin 1, J. Lynch 2, A. Macdonald 3, F. Bevin 4, G. Metcalfe 5, J. Hart 6. Examination Honours (first in subject).—Christian doctrine, F. Bevin; Bible history, J. Tobin and P. Wilson equal; reading, T. Garvey; recitation, G. Byrne; dictation, F. Bevin and F. Freed equal; handwriting, P. Skene; arithmetic, F. Bevin; grammar, J. Tobin and P. Wilson equal; composition, John Collins; geography, J. Tobin; Australian history, J. Lynch; home exercise, F. Freed; drawing, F. Bevin; bookkeeping, John Collins; Euclid, J. Tobin and J. Mahoney equal; mapping, C. McCluskey and F. Freed equal; English history, J. Tobin.

Fourth Class.—W. Higgin 1, A. Davis 2, R. Ward 3. Examination Honours (first in subject).—Christian doctrine, R. Bourke; reading, T. Meyer; arithmetic, S. Bourke; Grammar, C. Hanagan; geography, H. M'Hugh; Irish history, W. Higgins; writing, A. Davis; home exercise, R. Ward; drawing, T. Rogan; spelling, J. Skinner.

Third Class.—T. Day 1, C. Poppelwell 2, F. Fogarty 3, J. Walsh 4, M. Moloney 5. Examination Honours (first in subject).—Christian doctrine, T. Day; reading, J. O'Sullivan; arithmetic, F. Moloney; grammar, J. Ryan; geography, C. Tothill; writing, J. Fox; home exercise, J. Walsh; drawing, O. Lewis; spelling, G. Bevis.

Second Class.—D. Fogarty 1, E. Poppelwell 2, W. O'Connor 3, W. Fraser 4, Thomas Smith 5, John Fogarty 6, C. Tarleton 7, P. Anderson 8, B. Connor 9, A. Dean 10, D. Murphy 11, David Burke 12, H. Black 13, Alf. Moore 14, A. Adlam 15. Examination Honours (first in subject).—Christian doctrine, W. O'Connor; reading, Alf. Moore; writing, W. O'Connor; arithmetic, Alf. Moore; exercise, W. O'Connor.

First Class.—F. Power 1, T. Laffey 2, C. Keenan 3, M. Coughlan 4, H. Freed 5, Thomas Mee 6, B. Long 7, R. Hungerford 8, J. Tarleton 9, W. Ryan 10, C. Crichton 11. Examination Honours (first in subject).—Christian doctrine, C. Keenan; reading, H. Freed; writing, M. Coughlan; arithmetic, H. Freed.

Four prizes were given for attendance. At the conclusion of the distribution of prizes a hearty vote of thanks, proposed by Rev. Father Murphy and seconded by Mr P. Halley, was accorded the Very Rev. Dean Mackay, after which the proceedings terminated.

DUNEDIN WOOL SALES, 1899-1900.

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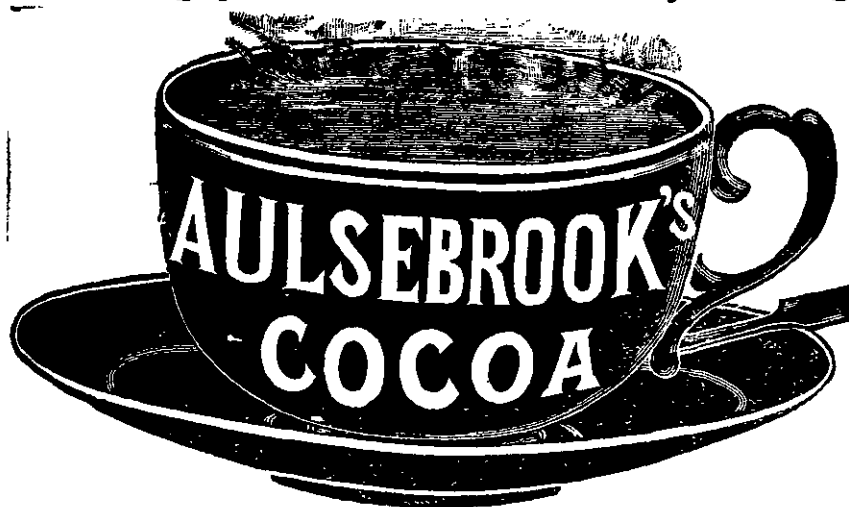
Our First Sale will be held on THURSDAY, 21st December, 1899
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Fourth Sale will be held on THURSDAY, 22nd February, 1900

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6. Constipation, with an occasional diarrhoea.
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AMONG THE BOOKS.

THE 'DOMINICAN STAR.'

In our first notice of the *Dominican Star*—the literary annual edited at the Dominican Priory, Dunedin—we gave a detailed criticism of the budget of clever short stories which constitute the chief item in its pages. It only remains for us to offer some brief remarks regarding the other features of this excellent magazine—the essays, correspondence, literary and biographical notes, etc. The essays and sketches count an even half-dozen. The first in order gives an interesting and lucid account of the Marconi system of telegraphy as used at sea, in war, etc. Under the heading 'The Fine Arts' we have a brief and chatty article on Pastel Drawing—a revival of an old method of work which promises to be very fashionable in New Zealand. The article is headed by an excellent reproduction of a fine piece of pastel work done in the Priory Studio. There is also an interesting account (illustrated) of an eight-year-old prodigy who is the youngest art student of the Otago Dominican Studio. Father Tyrrell, S.J., contributes a very thoughtful essay on 'Sympathy,' and 'Bog-trotter' gives us a lively and pleasant description of 'A Run in the Rain' past the peat-holes and other sights of a bit of Irish bog-land. Ellen E. Woodhill has an interesting and accurate description of the process of sluicing for gold, and in the concluding portion of her article gives a very readable account of the shells, sharks' teeth, petrified coral, and other strange curios that are to be found among the gold-mines of North Otago. Under the title of 'A Social Misconception' an anonymous writer—who evidently knows his or her subject—deals trenchantly with the unfair competition of 'cash amateurs' with professional artists in the sale of their pictures.

Of the correspondence, the letter from London is written in a free and easy and chatty style, and tells of the voyage thither—Colombo and its divers and traders, the Red Sea, Suez, the Suez Canal, Port Said, Naples (with its beautiful churches and its nasty smells), Vesuvius, Pompeii, Marseilles, etc. The 'Home Correspondence' is from the pen of 'Imogen,' and is a well-written description of sea-bathing and mountain-climbing adventures in and about Whangaroa. In the South African correspondence (illustrated) 'Daisy Dolly Dimple,' despite her babyish name, proves herself an adept at descriptive writing. She gives amusing character sketches of the human curiosities one meets on board a passenger steamer, and writes tempting descriptions of Cecil Rhodes' residence, Cape-town, with its famous Victorian Road, etc. 'Isidora'—of whom an admirable full-page portrait is given—contributes an illustrated letter from India. It is cleverly written and contains a singularly interesting account of Hindu and Mahomedan customs—child marriages, the unfortunate position of women both in Hindu and Mahomedan households, suttee, polygamy, the laws affecting conjugal infidelity, caste, etc. One regrets that 'Isidora'—who evidently knows her subject thoroughly—did not see her way to extend her description of native life and customs over the space occupied by the uninteresting biographies, or rather panegyrics, of this or that prince or premier. Six of the nine portraits illustrating 'Isidora's' letter, would have greatly improved the appearance of the annual had they been re-drawn in wash instead of being taken direct from coarse wood-engravings. In 'Chats in the Library' a brief and timely bit of literary criticism is followed by an able disquisition on the anti-Semite movement, in the course of which the writer pays a graceful tribute to the N.Z. TABLET. The biographical matter includes life-sketches of St. Brigid, Mother Mary Russell, an interview with Amy Castles, and a lengthy and sympathetic notice of the life of the ex-Empress of the French, Eugénie-Marie de Guzman. The writer, by the way, does not inform his (or her) readers that the mother of the beautiful Spaniard was a Scotswoman—Dona Maria Manuela Kirkpatrick, of Closeburn, Dumfriesshire, Countess-Dowager de Montijos (not Montijos or Montijo). The original poetry in the *Dominican Star* is nearly all of a high average of excellence. We except two nonsense-stanzas which are left 'in the air'—without a title—on p. 142.

One piece ('A Prayer') is from the pen of Lady Mulholland Gilbert. There is plenty of life and 'go' and merry young faces in the 'G.O.M.'s' portion of the annual, and the boys' and girls' prize essays are remarkably well written for youthful contributors. Altogether—in literary merit, in paper, letterpress, illustrations, and binding—the *Dominican Star* for 1900 marks a distinct advance on its predecessor, and is a really excellent magazine.

The *Academy* has a very poor opinion of Mr. Swinburne's sonnet on the South African war. Says our contemporary: 'It is not patriotic poetry, it is not poetry of any kind; it is hysteria.'

In a letter to a correspondent in Wellington, Sir William Preece, the well-known electrical engineer, mentions that he has succeeded in telephoning a distance of two miles without the aid of connecting wires.

It is reported from the White Nile that Major Frederick Lenox Fredergast, R.M., second in command of the Ninth Soudanese Regiment, has died from the effects of a wound accidentally received while with the Sirdar's expedition on October 24.

Sir John and Lady Arnott are shortly leaving Severnleigh Bristol, for Ireland, where they purpose in future residing, as since his father's death Sir John has become the head of the many business concerns, including the *Irish Times*, which belonged to the late Sir John Arnott.

Miss Anna Elizabeth Klumpke, of San Francisco, to whom Rosa Bonheur left her large fortune, has decided to give one-half of the amount to Mme. Bonheur's relatives, all of whom were disinherited and who were preparing to contest the will. All the paintings and other valuables left by the artist will consequently be sold.

The retirement of Messrs. Thompson and Cadman from the Ministry will necessitate the rearrangement of portfolios. Among those mentioned as likely to be called to the Ministry is Mr. James McGowan, the member for Thames. Mr. McGowan is a native of Belfast, Ireland. He went to Auckland in 1866. In the old days, when Sir Frederick Whitaker was president, Mr. McGowan was a member of the Auckland Mechanics' Institute. He went to the Thames in 1870, and was chairman of the School Committee for many years. He was the means of changing the Thames Mechanics' Institute into the first public library in the province. He has twice filled the mayoral chair and acted as chairman of the Harbour Board. Mr. McGowan filled the post of junior Government whip during the last Parliament, and has a thorough knowledge of mining and mining laws, so that as Minister of Mines he would be thoroughly conversant with the requirements of the post.

The special attention of our readers is directed to the notice in our advertising columns regarding the train arrangements for the Christmas holidays. On Saturday at 10 35 p.m. an excursion train will leave Dunedin for Christchurch, calling at various stations, and arriving at its destination shortly before nine o'clock on Sunday morning. A special train will also start from Dunedin at 11.20 p.m. on Saturday for Invercargill, and will call at intermediate stations. An excursion train will be despatched from Christchurch for here on Saturday night, and a special will leave Invercargill for Dunedin also. On Christmas Day a train will be despatched from Dunedin for Oamaru at 9 a.m., returning from there at 2.45 p.m. With regard to the other trains running on December 25, the times will be found in the official notice. The events which take place on Boxing Day, and for which special train arrangements have been made are the races at Palmerston, sports at Waikouaiti, Maori fête at Puketeraki, the Blueskin A. and P. show at Waitati, regatta at Port Chalmers, Caledonian sports at Outram, sports at Balclutha and Kaitangata. A special train will leave Owaka for Dunedin on the evening of the 27th. The goods sheds at Dunedin and Port Chalmers will be closed on Christmas Day and Boxing Day.—* * *

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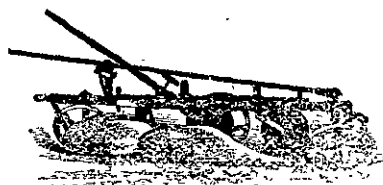
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