

be more lucid. He seems to have reached a certain phase of his existence in which, barring accidents or complications, the *statu quo* may be kept up for a long period. It need, therefore, surprise no one if the Pontiff should realise his ardent desire of living to be one hundred years of age.

SAMOA.—Damage to the Marist Fathers' Mission Station.—Shortly before the prorogation of Parliament Mr. Hogan, M.P., put a very pertinent question to Mr. Balfour as to the damage done to the mission stations of the Marist Fathers in Samoa when the British war vessels shelled villages supposed to be occupied by the adherents of the rightful King of the Samoan archipelago, the Catholic chief Mataafa. Mr. Balfour, in reply, acknowledged that damage had been done, though he endeavoured to minimise it to the utmost in the usual official fashion. Mr. Balfour added that according to the principles of international law there was no liability to make compensation for losses caused by the necessary operations of war. But where was the necessity for British war vessels to identify themselves with the cause of the usurper Malietoa Tanu? That is the point, and we (*Catholic Times*) hope Mr. Hogan, who has rendered such excellent service as the champion of Catholic interests in Samoa, will press it home when the House re-assembles. There can be little doubt that, through the blind partisanship of the American arbitrator, Chief Justice Chambers, the Governments of Great Britain and the United States were induced to take up an absolutely false position with regard to the rights of the rival claimants.

SOUTH AFRICA.—Departure of Missionaries.—Just now, when matters are somewhat disturbed in South Africa, it is interesting to learn that three young Irish priests sailed recently from Southampton for the Cape, bent on a mission of peace and apostolic charity. They go to take up missionary work in the Eastern Vicariate, under the Most Rev. Dr. MacSherry. The three young priests, who were ordained last June in Maynooth College, are the Rev. Thomas McCann, of the Archdiocese of Armagh, Rev. Joseph Early, of the Archdiocese of Dublin, and Rev. Frederick Keane, of the Diocese of Killaloe.

The Sisters of Notre Dame in Rhodesia.—The Sisters of Notre Dame who have gone to Rhodesia are now working with great success. In the current issue of the *Zambesi Mission Record* one of them writes: The native population is very scattered, they live at two or three miles, and even greater distances from the church. They are in a most savage state, quite friendly, but simply live as animals with no wish beyond living, their highest ambition being to get a little meat, for they have nothing but porridge made with Kaffir corn.

THE PHILIPPINES.—The Catholic Church Property.—Archbishop Chapelle, Apostolic Delegate to the Philippines, in an interview with a pressman lately, said: 'The Church property in the Philippines belongs exclusively to the Church. The Queen and Government of Spain had not one cent. of interest in that property, and the United States, therefore, acquire nothing. As to education, the *per capita* of illiteracy of the island of Luzon is less than that of the State of Massachusetts.'

UNITED STATES.—Annual Meeting of the Archbishops.—At the annual meeting of the Archbishops of the United States held at the Catholic University, Washington, several topics of absorbing interest were considered. Contrary to expectation, the Philippines received little attention, as it was thought best to leave that matter until Archbishop Chapelle had fully investigated the question and made his report. The Pope's letter on 'Americanism' was, of course, the subject of comment, but, so far as learned, it was merely considered in an informal manner. The most important action was the decision to appeal to the Congregation of the Propaganda to persuade that body to allow the Christian Brothers to maintain their course of study as pursued for some years past in the United States. A set of resolutions will be sent to the Vatican, of which Archbishop Riordan, who leaves shortly for Rome, will be the bearer. The question of the maintenance of the Indian Mission Schools was also considered. The report of Mgr. Joseph Stephen was heard and approved. The last Government appropriation for Indian schools, under which the Church has been acting, will expire June 30, 1900. The Board agreed to continue the work for another year, even if the Church bore the entire burden of the schools.

A Generous Donor.—Mrs. Thomas F. Ryan, of New York city, has purchased a plot of ground adjoining the lot which she recently presented to the Sisters of the Perpetual Adoration. Mrs. Ryan's gift covers half a block of ground, on which will be built a 100,000 dollar convent, to be known as the Convent of the Blessed Sacrament. Ground has been broken for a handsome structure, and the corner-stone was to be laid with appropriate ceremonies in December. Mrs. Ryan is an enthusiastic member of the Tabernacle Society, which was founded in Washington by Archbishop Keane, herself, and Miss Fannie Whelan, in 1876. The object of this Society is to provide altar service for the poor churches, and Mrs. Ryan's convent will be its future permanent home.

When a responsible authority like the *British Medical Journal* speaks in approval of a medicine, the public may rest assured that such medicine deserves all that is said of it. In the issue of the above journal, of March 11, there is an interesting article by Dr. J. C. Ross, physician to Ancoats' Hospital, Birmingham, on influenza and its successful treatment by the Cinnamon Cure. He reports having treated thousands of cases during the past five years, and invariably the cure has been complete in a couple of days. Townend's Cinnamon Cure is a specific for influenza and all bronchial and lung affections.—*

ST. JOSEPH'S SCHOOL, TEMUKA.

THE annual entertainment given by the pupils of St. Joseph's Convent School was held in the Volunteer Hall, Temuka, on December 18. The building was crowded, and the frequent applause testified to the appreciation of the audience. The entertainment opened with an instrumental item (four pianos and organ) played by Misses Batters, Prattley, Coira, Roulston (2), Gaffaney, Brosmean, Earl, and Beri. The remainder of the programme was as follows:—Chorus, the girls; solo, Master Spillane; march, song, and drill, the senior pupils; solo, Miss Coira; trio (four pianos and organ), Misses Beri, O'Donohue (2), Twomey, Coira, Farnie (2), Comer, Harrison, Larcombe, and Burke, and Master Coira; part song, Masters Spillane, Lavery, Twomey, Bourke, Rooney, Horgan, Tangney, Spillane, and Wareing; song, the infants; solo, Miss Connolly; cantata, 'Too Bad,' children; instrumental duet (four pianos and organ), Misses Coira, Gaze, Blyth, Scannell, Beri, O'Donohue, Harrison, and Farnie (2); drill, Indian clubs, Masters J. Rooney, Creedy, Fitzgerald, O'Shea, Elkins, Clarke, Knight, Carr, Flynn, and Tangney; solo, Master Spillane; song, with whistling chorus, boys; dance, Master Lavery; song and drill, junior pupils; song, Master Twomey; solo (four pianos and organ), Misses Gaffaney, Coira, Earl, Prattley, and Roulston; drama, Masters Twomey, O'Donovan, Spillane, Hargan, Lavery, Rooney, and Burke; dance, Misses Twomey (2), Lavery, Story, Scannell, Connolly, O'Donohue, and Beri; song, Misses Connolly, Coira, Connell, and Earl; solo, 'Where the grass grows green,' Master Spillane; National Anthem.

OAMARU CONVENT SCHOOLS.

THE distribution of prizes to the pupils attending the Oamaru Convent High School took place on December 18, the Rev. Father Howard, in the unavoidable absence of the Very Rev. Dean Mackay, presiding. Several recitations, solos, and choruses (says the *Mail*) were very creditably rendered. The pianoforte solos of the Misses Hannon, Duggan, and Duguid deserve special mention. The duets by the Misses Cartwright, Rodgers, Corcoran, Desmond, Curran, Molloy, and Masters Wise and Fitzgerald were also well played. At the conclusion of a very pleasing entertainment Father Howard distributed the prizes, and in a few well-chosen words thanked the pupils for their musical treat, and congratulated them on the progress they had made during the year. He wished them a very happy Christmas and pleasant holidays.

There was a very fine display of works of art and needlework in the schoolroom, but not for public inspection, as they are reserved for a bazaar and art union to be held shortly. Among the works of art in drawing and painting were some by Misses Roberts, Bee, Hille, Tomkins, Golding, Atkinson, O'Connor, McNaught, Ford, Rowland, Hamilton, Hannon, and Delargy. The exhibitors of needlework were Misses Wright, Corcoran, Rodgers, Desmond, O'Connor (2), Boyle, McMullin, and Rowland.

The following is the prize list:—

KINDERGARTEN.

First year's course.—Brick-building—Lelia Benson. Spelling—John Corcoran. Construction of Forms—Katie Dwyer. Color and Form—James Corcoran.

Second year's course.—Gift VIII and Reading—Mary Healy, Gift X and Spelling—Dan Kelly. Gift VI and Arithmetic—James Spiers. General improvement—Eugene Fitzgerald. Religious Knowledge—James Spiers.

Third year's course.—Gift XI—Cissy Rooney. Gift XIV and Arithmetic—Eddie Rooney. Gift XII and Drawing—Osborne Wise. Gift XVIII and Spelling—J. Fitzgerald. Recitation—Cissy Rooney. Improvement in Music—Osborne Wise. Mental Arithmetic—John Fitzgerald. Religious Knowledge and Good Conduct—E. Rooney.

ST. MARY'S HIGH SCHOOL.

Intermediate Grade, Class A.—English—Nellie Corcoran; hon. mention: M. Fagan, Nellie O'Connor, A. Wright, F. James. Mathematics—Maggie Fagan; hon. mention: N. Corcoran, N. O'Connor. French—N. Corcoran; hon. mention: E. Desmond. Science—N. Corcoran.

Junior Grade, Class A.—English—Elsie Desmond; hon. mention: M. M'Mullin. Arithmetic—E. Desmond. French—Mary M'Mullin; hon. mention: M. Gilligan.

Junior Grade, Class B.—English—May Molloy; hon. mention: L. O'Connor, N. Curran. Arithmetic—Lizzie O'Connor. French—Nellie Curran.

General Prizes—Class singing: M. Gilligan; hon. mention, M. Fagan. Music (instrumental)—N. Corcoran; (theoretical), Stanley Roberts. Model Drawing—N. O'Connor. Drawing from Nature—Horace Benson, Calisthenics—Elsie Desmond. Deportment—Nellie Curran. Attendance—N. Corcoran and M. Molloy. General Improvement—Flossie James. Art Needlework—Edith Gray. Book-keeping and Phonography—Sara Taylor. Composition—Maggie Fagan. Botany and Gardening—N. Corcoran 1, May Molloy 2, N. Curran 3. Politeness and Order—Elsie Desmond. Christian Doctrine—Annie Wright. Good Conduct—Mary M'Mullin. The Wreath, awarded by the votes of the pupils to the most amiable girl in the school—A. Wright.

ST. JOSEPH'S SCHOOL.

The children attending St. Joseph's School passed a most successful examination, and the Inspector's report was an excellent one. The prizes were distributed by Rev. Father Howard. The following is the list:—Good Conduct—Mary Murphy. Christian Doctrine—E. Ongley. Attendance—Amy Gilligan. Special Prizes for Singing—Nelly Magee and Nellie Cagney. Special Prizes for Punctuality—Maggie Connell, Maggie Fodie, E. Ongley. Special Prize for Darning—Bridget Wright. Prize for Amiability—Eliza Diver.