

George Clutsam may almost be claimed as an Auckland'ed, as he practically commenced his musical career in this city and was always looked upon as a promising pianist. He left Auckland with Miss Amy Sherwin's Company some years ago, and went round with her, visiting Australia, India, China, and the Continent, ultimately arriving in London, where he brought out a symphony which received very favourable notice. The last number of the *Musical Times* states that Mr. Clutsam was one of the pianists of a strong company of which Mr. Sims Reeves is a member. Now we learn that he has played before Royalty, and as Mr. Clutsam is still quite a young man—under 30—he should have a promising future before him. Mrs. Clutsam—the mother of this talented pianist—resides at Ponsonby, and, it will be remembered, took a leading part in the performance of 'The Sorcerer,' by the Amateur Opera Club. —Mr. Clutsam once lived with his mother in Dunedin. We remember it clearly. He was Master Clutsam then, and one day one of our Catholic boys—a wild sort of a hero he was—knocked the hat off him in the street. His mother, who, at the time, sat under the squat Minerva on the top of the Lyceum, wrote to the newspapers declaring that all connected with the boy in any shape or form were a terrible set of yahoos. She did not exactly use that language, which would not have been either ladylike or musical on her part, but such was her suggestion in the words she did write. We made an inquiry into the matter and all the explanation we could get was that Master Clutsam, as he appeared in public, was rather a temptation to boys in general, and that boys in particular, whether they would or no, felt they must have a shy at him. Hence we conclude that Master Clutsam, even at that early age, bore outward marks of genius. Anecdotes of this kind are commonly told of distinguished men by their biographers, and, therefore, we record the facts so that they may be at hand when the time comes for their employment.

THE reception of the Irish delegates in America was magnificent, as we had foreseen. Everywhere enthusiastic crowds welcomed them, and eminent men were present to meet and support them. At a meeting in New York, 33,000 dols were subscribed and 4000 dols were taken at the door. In Philadelphia the receipts amounted to 20,000 dols, in Boston to 7,500 dols, and everywhere they were liberal and generous in the extreme. The *Pilot* is referring to the matter speaks as follows:—"The sneers of the London *Times* and the impertinent meddling of the London *Tablet*, in regard to the mission of the Irish envoys in America, have had their legitimate effect. The assertion of Joseph Chamberlain, that the bulk and respectability of American public opinion were opposed to the Irish Home Rule struggle, has had its legitimate effect. . . . They are welcomed and helped by the State and city officials; by Americans of every ancestry and creed, by the American Catholic clergy, who have always been prominent in every legitimate movement for Irish Home Rule. The *Times* and the *Tablet*, Messrs Balfour and Chamberlain, have indeed proved themselves great formative forces on American public opinion."

THE appointment of Dr. Magee, Anglican Bishop of Peterborough, to fill the archiepiscopal See of York is one of the sizes of the times. We do not as a rule concern ourselves about such matters relating to the Church of England, but this is an exceptional occasion. It is the first time that an Irishman has been so honoured. Dr. Magee, as an Irishman, could indeed have had no hope of promotion to an English bishopric had not the party interested in retaining the Irish Establishment thought to strengthen their hand by showing the existence of an intimate connection between the branches of their Church, respectively, in England and Ireland. This it was that brought about the appointment of that eloquent Irish divine to the see of Peterborough. It may be reckoned of credit to the Irish nation that the Bishop in that position has so proved his abilities and established his reputation that the greater honour—the greatest except one—is now conferred upon him. The full significance of the appointment may be realised by those who recollect that, until the appointment of Archbishop Trench, the immediate predecessor of the present Anglican Archbishop of Dublin, no Irishman, or man of Irish parentage—for Dr. Trench was that alone, and even that partially—had been allowed to occupy that See. Indeed, properly speaking, Lord Plunket may be said to be the first Irish Protestant Archbishop of Dublin, and his appointment took place after disestablishment. Some people, however, labour under the delusion that it is Irish Catholics alone who are an object of contempt and suspicion on the other side of the Channel.

AMONG the deaths reported this week is that of Mr Clifford Lloyd. Well, peace be to his ashes. The less said about him the better. If we can be nothing else, we can at least be charitable—so far, that is, as holding our tongues goes.

A FUND organised by the Lord Lieutenant and Mr Balfour for the relief of Irish distress is apparently meeting with general support. Why, however, charity rather than right and justice should

be called into play, it is not so easy to see. Still, let us rejoice that the needy are succoured in any way. At the same time, whatever our feeling respecting the traditional Greeks may be, we retain a sneaking suspicion of the living Sassenach—at least, when he adheres to his time-honoured methods.

WHAT is the meaning of the release of the Invincibles, Mullett and Moroney? The National papers explain that of D. Janry as the reward of services rendered during the Parnell Commission. Are the other men set free merely to contradict this explanation? It looks rather like it.

MATTERS in Ireland still continue very unsettled. Who is to lead or who is not to lead is evidently still the object of a warm contest. Mr Parnell has had an enthusiastic reception in Limerick, where he has denounced the Liberal leaders for having no land policy, and condemned the abandonment by the Radicals of the peasant-proprietory clause in the Land Purchase Bill. "He himself," reports the cable, "believed that the land question ought to be settled concurrently with that of Home Rule, or left to an Irish Parliament to deal with, otherwise it would be impossible to govern Ireland without stringent and strong coercion. Without a settlement of the land question Home Rule, instead of becoming a source of strength and freedom, would be a sham, ending in the resumption of the Government by the Imperial Parliament." He also repeated the accusations brought by him in his manifesto against Mr Gladstone, and offered to retire if his opponents would guarantee certain points—viz., (1) a charter for the settlement of the land, or power to the Irish people to settle it themselves; (2) power to secure the interests of labour and of artisans; (3) the control of the Irish police; and (4) to concede the appointment of the judges and magistrates in Ireland. As matters now are, Irish affairs stand in jeopardy. Union, moreover, the one powerful force that had advanced their interests, seems almost hopelessly broken. There is no use in minimising the miseries of the position. What a gala day has, alas, arrived for the Tories and the Primrose habitations!

How art no doubt deserves appreciation, and, they say, the study of the nude is objected to only by the prudish. A lady and gentleman, who have apparently been in swimming together, without any bathing costume however, and have come out to dry themselves sitting in close contact on the bank, may form a pretty subject for a picture or a photograph; so may a naked lady, assaulted by a half-dressed gentleman, and stretched beside the naked body of a gentleman who seems to have just been murdered; so may a young lady or her statue, becomingly but scantily attired in a garland of flowers. All this and some more of the same kind, we say, may be very pretty and appropriate and delightful in art, and all that kind of thing. What we would venture to hint, however, is that it hardly forms a becoming border for a central picture representing a sacred subject. We mention neither a local habitation nor a name. We just throw out a hint, by which perhaps good taste may be called into action.

GREYMOUTH AND BRUNNERTON CATHOLIC SCHOOLS.

THE annual entertainment and distribution of prizes in connection with St. Mary's School, All Saints' Convent, Greymouth, took place at the Convent previous to the Christmas holidays. The excellent programme carried out by the pupils spoke volumes for the training of the Sisters of Mercy, and clearly showed that our conventual institutions are far above all other educational institutions in the education and training which the young ladies receive, and which admirably fit them to take their part in any sphere of life in which their lot may be cast. The following is the programme produced, with a list of prize-winners:—Evening (vocal trio), troupe; 'Home to our Mountains' (piano duet), Misses M. Beresford, M. Smith, M. M. Ardle, S. Rowe, M. M. Ardle, T. Beresford; 'Tell me where do Fairies Dwell' (vocal duet), Misses G. Moss, Florence Moss; 'The Last Rose of Summer' (violin solo), Master P. O'Connor; 'The Mermaid's Song' (piano duet), Misses M. Beresford, S. Rowe, B. Webber, M. D. very, K. Devery, H. Beresford; 'The Reproof of the Flower Angel'—Characters: First Queen (Rose), Kate Sheedy; Second Queen (Lily), Kate Griffin; Bee, Mabel Beresford; Daisy, Rose Richardson; Mignonette, Annie M'Donnell; Violet, Nellie Dupre; Heliotrope, Maggie O'Connor; Flower Angel Lydia Peratti. —Vocal duet, 'The Angel,' troupe; piano duet, 'Thy Voice is Near,' Kate Sheedy, Maggie O'Connor, Lydia Peratti, Annie M'Donnell, Maude Bourke, Bertha Webber; vocal solo, 'Scenes that are Brightest,' Gertrude Moss; piano duet, 'Tripping through the Daisies,' Mary Lees, Alice Dorian, Emma Dungan, Jane Ryall, Kate O'Connor, Emily M'Donnell; piano solo, 'Irish Diamonds,' T. Griffin, L. Webber, S. Dupre; 'Wealth and Wisdom,'—A drama in six scenes.—Characters: Mrs Holmes, E. M'Donnell; Hattie and Jimmie, two sisters, daughters of Mrs Holmes, F. Moss and S. Dupre; Goddess of Wisdom, E. M'Donnell; Goddess of Wealth and Prudence, K. O'Connor; Mrs Fidelity, G. Moss; Lebbie, L. Webber; Susan, M. M'Donnell; Mrs Goodwin, Winnie Peratti; Dr Steuben-Benfenster, Teresa Griffin; Mrs Hopkins and children of Mrs Finlay, Mary Lee, M. Warner, M. Petrie, E. Boyd; Kate, sister of Mrs Hopkins, Cecilia Foot, Jane, a servant, Violet Foot; Mrs