

musical examinations in which the pupils of the good Sisters of Mercy so highly distinguished themselves. The young lady in question is a daughter of the late Mr. John B. Dungan, who was formerly for some years editor of the N. Z. TABLET. We see with pleasure that the talents which had earned for this gentleman a high place among colonial journalists are inherited by his children.

THE drawing of the art-union in aid of the convent building fund at Kumara has been unavoidably postponed until the first week in April. Persons who have kindly consented to dispose of tickets will, therefore, do well to make good use of the interval.

THE death is announced of Sir William Fitzherbert, K.C.M.G., late Speaker of the Legislative Council, which occurred at the Lower Hutt, Wellington, on Saturday afternoon. The deceased gentleman was a colonist of high distinction, and his long career in New Zealand was in every respect honourable and worthy of admiration. He is survived by two sons, Messrs. H. S. and W. A. Fitzherbert, and a daughter, who is the wife of the Hon. P. A. Buckley, our present Attorney General.

A CONCERT will be given at Port Chalmers in aid of the Catholic Presbytery fund on the 18th inst. From the preparations now in hand a brilliant success may be looked for. Hours will be regulated to suit the trains.

A PUBLIC meeting was held in the Town Hall, Dunedin, the other evening to consider the steps necessary for the relief of the distressed relatives of the men lost in the Kakanui. His Worship the Mayor occupied the chair, and several very feeling speeches were made. It was resolved to establish a fund for the purpose referred to, and to appoint a committee of management. The object is one that must commend itself to us all, and we may confidently expect successful results.

"Baron Hirsch has given 12,000,000 francs (£480,000) to promote Hebrew emigration to America." The generosity of the Baron is princely. There are, however, two sides to most questions. What will American protectionists say to the wholesale immigration of a population whose inroads, to a much less extent, have greatly helped towards starving the London masses. We fancy there will be something more to be said about this matter.

NOTWITHSTANDING Mr. Gladstone's openly expressed scorn of the Temporal Power, he proves himself more friendly towards the Catholic Church than the Tories, who, nevertheless, allow it to be gathered that they would not be unwilling to see a Papal restoration. Proof of this has been given in the Bill introduced by Mr. Gladstone for the removal of the disabilities forbidding any Catholic to fill the place of Lord Lieutenant of Ireland or Lord Chancellor of England. The Bill has been thrown out by a majority of thirty-three. In opposing it, by the way, the Right Hon. W. H. Smith made a very suggestive remark or two, and which, in more than one point, seems worthy of note. "In the event of Home Rule being granted to Ireland," he said, as reported by the cable, "the Viceroy would be the only link connecting the country with the Throne, and it was essential that he should be a Protestant, as Catholics regarded their allegiance as due to the Pope before the Queen." Does the Right Hon. gentleman therefore believe the concession of Home Rule inevitable? If not, there is little pertinence in his point. At any rate, his allusion to that stale old calumny respecting the allegiance of Catholics proves how completely Lord Salisbury's attempt to influence the Vatican has failed. It is plain, as we have said, that Mr. Gladstone, openly as he avows his opposition, is more favourable to the Catholic Church than Lord Salisbury, who would have it assumed that he is among the supporters of her claims.

IN order to secure the necessary funds for the purchase of a suitable uniform for the members of the Howick and Pukuranga Fife and Drum Band, (says the Auckland Star, of January 31) an interesting and very successful concert, followed by a spirited farce was given in St. Mary's Hall, Howick, on Thursday evening last. The band under the able direction of Mr. J. Smith, performed a number of musical selections in a finished manner. Mr. Haultain and Mr. Young, the promoters of the evening's amusement, are to be congratulated on the success which attended their efforts. At a suitable interval refreshments of a light nature were handed round, and the entertainment was presided over by Father Walter McDonald. . . . Father Walter visited his Auckland friends during the day, and it is needless to say that all were delighted to see him.

AN old colonist who did good service in his day has passed away in the person of the late Sergeant Finnegan, who died at North Dunedin on Tuesday afternoon. The deceased was principally distinguished in connection with the gold escort duty performed by him, to the results of hardships attending on which his death is

probably to be attributed. He was held in high esteem and is much regretted.

THE annual smoke concert and supper of the Dunedin Irish Rifles were held at Carroll's European Hotel last evening. Captain Fairbairn presided, and there were also present the Rev. Father Lynch, ex-Captain T. S. Graham, Lieutenants Murray and Dunne, and about forty members of various ranks. Lieutenant Murray apologised for the absence of Major Callan. After ample justice had been done to the repast provided by Host Carroll, the various toasts were proposed and received with musical honours. During the evening songs and recitations were contributed by various members of the company.

THE AUSTRALIAN PRELATES IN DUNEDIN.

ON Saturday the Bishop of Dunedin took his most rev. visitors on a drive to Portobello, going down by the higher and returning by the lower road. The beautiful scenery, as usual, evoked the special admiration of the members of the party who saw it for the first time. On Sunday morning the Archbishop of Melbourne and the Bishop of Ballarat said Mass in St. Joseph's Cathedral at 8 and 9.15 o'clock respectively. The Rev. Father Lynch, Adm., was celebrant at 11 a.m., when also the Lenten Pastoral was read, and the Most Rev. Dr. Moran preached. In the evening the Most Rev. Dr. Moore sang vespers, and the Most Rev. Dr. Higgins gave Benediction of the most Holy Sacrament; the Bishop of Dunedin presiding in cappa magna. The preacher was the Archbishop of Melbourne, who is a fluent and graceful speaker, possessed of a powerful, though well modulated and melodious voice. His Grace, moreover, owns the rare and invaluable talent of preaching a sermon adapted to the most ordinary understanding, while, at the same time, it may command the admiration of the finished scholar. He alluded to the pastoral that had been read in the forenoon, recalling the advice given in it as to fitting meditation for the holy season. The Gospel of the day, he said, also contained such a suggestion. He recommended as particularly suitable for preparation for the great anniversary which Lent was intended to introduce, meditation on the Passion of our Blessed Lord. The most rev. preacher went on to explain who Christ was, what it was He suffered, and why and how suffering was endured by him. In proportion, he said, as the body and soul of Christ were perfect, and they were the most perfect that had been or could be created. His sufferings were intense. His Grace gave a graphic illustration of the part undertaken by the Saviour, in the example of a king offended and outraged by his people, and who, though full of love and mercy, was also of so complete a justice as to demand the rigorous punishment of the offenders. The only son of the king, however, offered himself instead, and the sacrifice was accepted by his father. Would it not be thought becoming, asked the preacher, to observe the anniversary of the death thus willingly endured, and who among the people so delivered would refuse to do so? He exhorted his hearers, during Lent, the time appointed for preparation, to keep the thought of the Passion before their minds. The Archbishop added that in the pastoral of their Bishop they had been reminded of one great sacrifice that they had made. It was that made by them for the Christian education of their children. Many of them probably could not abstain, or fast, or give large alms, or perform other penitential works proper to the season. In the support of Christian schools, however, they would find ample means of supplying for all the rest. The danger of the times throughout Australasia lay in the irreligious education that was general. It was to be feared that the blight of infidelity might fall upon the colonies, marred all their prosperity and brilliant prospects. The only means of preventing this was the foundation and support of Christian schools. His Grace exhorted his hearers to continue the sacrifices they had made for this object. They would thus, he said, promote the end for which Christ suffered and died and co-operate with His Passion.

On Monday morning the prelates visited the Catholic schools. They were received by the Christian Brothers in their principal room, where a short musical programme, suited to the requirements of a limited time, was pleasingly performed. The following address was also delivered—Master John Fraser being chosen to deliver it.—My Lord Archbishop of Melbourne, my Lord Bishop of Ballarat, my Lord Auxiliary Bishop of Sydney,—in the name of the pupils of this school I bid you a hearty welcome to New Zealand. We are, as your Lordships can observe, but young, and much in the way of speechmaking cannot be expected from us. Still, on an occasion like the present, it would ill become us to be altogether silent. We young New Zealanders have here a fine country—a land of lofty mountains, beautiful lakes, fertile plains, and lovely rivers. We are proud of our country, and are glad to have its beauties known and admired by all comers, but especially by such distinguished visitors. We never had the pleasure of seeing any country but our own, yet there is another land which is very dear to our hearts—the land of our parents, the land of your Lordships—dear old, lovely Ireland. We therefore welcome you, most reverend prelates, as worthy sons of that famed old land, "the island of saints and scholars." We welcome you as exalted pastors of that holy church of which it is our glory to be members. In fine we welcome you as honoured guests of our own beloved Father and Bishop, Most Rev. Dr. Moran.

We trust that the stay of your Lordships in New Zealand may be thoroughly happy and enjoyable, and that not the least pleasant part of your sojourn in this fair land of ours may be the few brief moments passed with your Lordships' youthful admirers.

THE PUPILS OF THE CHRISTIAN BROTHERS.

His Grace the Archbishop replied to the following effect—complimenting the boys on the very beautiful treat they had afforded him and the other bishops. The manner in which they had rendered the grand old Irish melodies, the spirit they had breathed into the words, the precision with which they had observed the musical time, bespoke great pains and most careful training on the part of their teachers.