

NEW ZEALAND GENERAL

The reading matter in the 'Triad' for the current month is, as usual, entertaining and instructive, whilst the illustrations are well up to the high standard for which this monthly is noted.

Since the beginning of the present year New Zealand has exported 411,360oz of gold, valued at £1,684,003, or 6058oz, of the value of £24,261, more than for the corresponding ten months of last year.

The three pupils prepared by the Sisters of Mercy, Lyttelton, passed the following grades in the practical examination held in connection with Trinity College, London:—Senior—May McConville, 65; Kitty Purcell, 62; preparatory, Annie Welsh, 81 (distinction).

Dr. Creser, of Trinity College, London, examined in Greymouth in practical music on Wednesday, October 26. The Sisters of Mercy presented four candidates, all of whom passed. The following is the list:—Senior honors (singing), Eileen Hannan, 82, junior (singing), Elsie Rogen, 69; preparatory (piano), Mary Mahoney, 71; Teresa Mahoney, 72.

Miss May Duggan, of Oamaru (writes a Wellington correspondent), scored again as a successful teacher of music at the late examination of the Royal Academy in Wellington, when four more of her pupils passed—the Misses Gaynor in the lower division and the Misses Pilmer in the elementary, one of the latter heading the pass list. They are all boarders at St Francis Xavier's Academy.

On Tuesday evening, November 1, at St. Mary's Hall, a pleasant and happy reunion (says the Nelson 'Colonist') was spent by the members of the Catholic Society. During the evening a variety of games were introduced, and the following ladies and gentlemen contributed appropriate songs—Messrs Bunny, Houseaux, Scott, and Redwood, Misses Harris, C. Armstrong, and Scott. Miss Armstrong and Mr. Floyd presided at the piano. Refreshments, which were plentifully supplied, were then handed round by the ladies. Father Clancy, in a few remarks, spoke of the success that has been attained by the Society, and hoped next year it would still prosper. The meeting closed with the singing of the National Anthem.

In the course of a letter in the 'New Zealand Times,' in reply to a communication from the Rev. J. Gibson Smith, Mr. J. McGregor shows up the inconsistency of the Bible-in-schools advocates. He writes as follows: 'As Mr. Smith is taking rather a prominent part in the Bible-in-schools controversy, and as he is probably a stranger to most of your readers, it may not be amiss to inform them that Mr. Smith's zeal in the cause is of comparatively recent growth. It is not many years since Mr. Smith spoke as follows: "Mere Bible-reading in the schools was such a useless thing that he did not see any necessity to make a political agitation about it. What good did the mere reading of the Bible do?" For his part, if the presbytery, ordered him to go and speak to his congregation on this matter, he would have to do it, but he did not think at present that he could see his way to work up any enthusiasm amongst his people for Bible-reading in schools.' There is reason to believe that Mr. Smith's brother-in-law, the Rev. Dr. Gibb, took up a similar position, and, for reasons which are no doubt satisfactory to himself, he changed his ground, and has now placed himself at the head of the movement, which he is determined to carry to a successful issue whatever the consequences may be to our education system.'

Replying last week to a deputation, who asked that a short line should be introduced referring the Bible-in-schools question to a popular vote, the Premier expressed great disappointment at the rejection of the Referendum Bill by the Legislative Council. He believed that there were a large number of members of the House who in their hearts desired that the Council should reject the Bill, though they had not voted against it themselves. Every subterfuge and every device had been used to block the Bill. He asked the deputation to give him the names of the members of the House who stood pledged to Bible-reading in schools, but the deputation were apparently unable to do so, stating that members were only pledged to give a referendum on the subject. The Premier said that they would find there were some who might support that but who would not vote for the principle itself. But there was no chance of getting the Bill that the deputation asked for this session at any rate. Dr. Gibb then asked if Mr. Seddon would support a Bible-reading in Schools Bill, to which direct question the Premier replied that he ought not to be asked such a question. Still he did not think that the people should be deprived of their right to express their opinions on this important subject.

WANGANUI

(From our own correspondent.)

The recently-formed branch of the H.A.C.B. Society entertained the parishioners at a social on Thursday night, November 3. Highly creditable to all concerned was the excellent programme submitted, while the comfort of patrons was thoughtfully considered by a number of lady friends of the society, who dispensed light refreshments during the interval. The following was the programme.—'Cello solo, Mr. Holden; vocal quintette, 'Where art thou, beam of light?' Mrs. Labatt, Misses Northcote and O'Connor, Messrs. Russell and Gellately; song, 'The old plaid shawl,' Miss N. Dempsey (encored); recitation, 'The progress of Irish,' Master Walsh (encored); song, 'Auld Reekie,' Mrs. Meehan; vocal duet, 'When the wind bloweth in from the sea,' Messrs. Reade and Russell; song, 'Doreen,' Miss J. Robson (encored); banjo solo, Mr. Baldrey (encored); song, 'The king's own,' Mr. Geo. McCulloch, jun.; American sketch, Mr. G. Hallam (encored); song, 'Coon, coon,' Mr. Chiers; musical selection by the Jury family; recitation, 'The game of life,' Mr. G. Swan (encored); song, 'Bethlehem,' Miss Carroli; pianoforte solo, Miss D. Bull; song, 'Love's old sweet song,' Mr. Reade; song, 'On the banks of the Wabash,' Mr. Jury (encored). Miss Lloyd and Misses Robson, Perrett, and Carroll played the accompaniments. After the last item had been rendered, Mr. McBrearty, the president of the branch, addressed the audience. In the course of his remarks he said that he would like to impress upon the young men of the parish the necessity of joining this excellent Society. In a town of the size of Wanganui in the Old Country, there would be fully 100 members. The young men of this town seemed to lack the national spirit of their fathers, and were inclined to hang back to see how the branch would progress. Mr. McBrearty, after pointing out the benefits resulting from membership, urged every eligible young man in the parish to help towards making the branch one of the strongest in the Colony. The proceedings were brought to a close by singing the National Anthem. The proceeds of the entertainment go towards providing the branch with suitable regalia.

It is with sincere regret that I record the death of Mr. David Hogan, aged 64, who passed away on Monday, October 31, at his residence, Eastown, Wanganui. Arriving in Wanganui in the early 60's with his regiment, the 57th Foot, the late Mr. Hogan determined to settle in this Colony, and remained in the Wanganui district till his death. The deceased had always been a strong, vigorous man, and it was only lately that his splendid constitution gave signs of decay. He leaves behind a widow and a large family to mourn their loss, and to them the sincerest sympathy is extended in their sad bereavement. The funeral took place on Wednesday, when a large concourse of mourners followed the remains to their last resting place. In the church the Very Rev. Dean Grogan spoke feelingly upon the many excellent qualities of the deceased, and the Rev. Father O'Sullivan officiated at the graveside—R.I.P.

As a result of the recent alterations in the Railway time-table, the 'Tablet' reaches Wanganui on Friday afternoon instead of Saturday, as heretofore. A few years ago those who did not possess private boxes had to wait till Monday for their paper.

GREYMOUTH

(From an occasional correspondent.)

November 2.

The St. Columba Hall was opened on last Wednesday evening by the holding of a bazaar, which was a great success. The hall was crowded to its utmost, and the stallholders did a splendid business. Owing to the number of visitors the bazaar was kept open till Saturday evening. The total amount realised was £160. The stalls were presided over by Misses Hannan, Kemple, Phillips, Barry, Fogarty, and Heffernan (2), and Mrs. Wilson. The refreshment stall was in charge of Mesdames Hannan and McBrearty, and Miss Phillips. The musical programme was in the hands of Mr. Guthrie, assisted by Messrs. McCarthy, Cadzow, Doogan, Goodall (2), Fraser and Master E. Moss. The organisers of the bazaar were Misses Hannan and Kemple, who had worked zealously for months past.

On Monday evening the members of the club entertained all the ladies who so ably assisted at the bazaar. The gathering took the form of a progressive euchre party, the ladies' prize being won by Miss McGuinness (Timaru), and the gentlemen's by Mr. McCarthy. A short musical programme was gone through. Miss E. Kemple and Mr. D. Phillips played the accompaniments, and also contributed solos. Mr. William McCabe, on