

"The History of Our Own Times."

The years since he left politics have been kind to Mr. Justin McCarthy (says the 'Book Monthly'); they have touched him lightly and graciously, as became them. His outlook is the bright outlook of youth, and his health is admirable, as his bronzed face tells. His single burden is a weakened eyesight which does not permit him to read, because he has to rubsand it for actual literary work.

Our talk fell upon the 'History of Our Own Times,' and how that book came to be written. It is a story which has been told before in one form or another, but Mr. McCarthy was good enough to give me the full and true particulars of a little chapter in English literature.

'I had,' he said, 'a general idea of writing a history of our own day, and my friend the late Sir John Robinson knew this. He happened to hear that Cassells were thinking of publishing what they meant to be a history of the life and reign of Queen Victoria. Well, he brought Cassells and myself together, as it were, and it was arranged that I should go on with my book, which they would publish. They were to buy it outright from me, and I was to receive in payment £500. How long it would be it was difficult to say, but it was understood that it was certain to run to more than one volume. I was very little known in those days, being simply a worker in the world of London journalism, and I was glad of the opportunity which this task implied.'

'Everything had been settled, and I was making progress with my MS., when one day there appeared in the papers the announcement that some Irish constituency was likely to ask me to be its Home Rule candidate, and that, if I accepted, I was sure to be elected. Home Rule at that date was a sort of brand, and I received a communication from Cassells saying they were afraid my going into Irish politics might prejudice the history, and that they would prefer to abandon it. Eventually we had a sort of literary court to arbitrate on how much I should be paid for what I had written, and the arbitrators named £100, which quite satisfied me. Being free to do with my MS. what I liked, I took it to Mr. Chatto, whose firm had somewhat earlier published a novel for me. He looked over it, heard what I had to say, and then turned to me with the words, "I think this is going to be a big thing, Mr. McCarthy. We'll do it." They did, and I hope neither Mr. Chatto nor myself has had cause to regret a bargain which was completed almost within half an hour.'

'Two volumes came out pretty soon, and I was a trifle disappointed, perhaps, that they were scarcely reviewed at all. Meanwhile, however, the public had somehow taken to them, and before a single review, worth speaking about, had appeared, Chatto's were advertising the third large edition. I have sometimes thought that circumstance a reflection upon all of us who think we guide the world by writing reviews. Be that as it may, the history went surprisingly well, and my election for an Irish constituency in no way hurt it. When I took my seat and went to shake hands with Speaker Brand, he said to me, leaning over the side of his historic chair, "I am glad to see you here, Mr. McCarthy, and I congratulate you upon the success of your history." These words of the Speaker of the House of Commons almost healed the little sore in my heart caused by the absence of reviews, only now they were coming thick and fast.'

Our Schools.

MARIST BROTHERS' SCHOOL, CHRISTCHURCH.

(From our own correspondent.)

His Lordship the Bishop presided at the distribution of prizes at the Marist Brothers' School, Barbadoes street. The Very Rev. Father Le Menant des Cheneais, V.G., and Rev. Fathers Mahony and O'Connell were also present.

After the distribution of the prizes His Lordship congratulated the prize-winners on their success, and expressed his sympathy with those who were not successful. He pointed out to the boys the advisableness of making good use of their schooldays, and even of their vacation time, by reading with attention the valuable books they had just received. Brother Basil, Di-

rector, on behalf of the Brothers and the boys, thanked Bishop Grimes for his presence, and said that the spirit of study shown by the boys during the year was very satisfactory. The boys' energies were not exclusively devoted to books. They took a keen interest in sports, and were very successful. They won the Public Schools' Football Banner, and in the cricket competition tied for first place with two other schools.

The following are the prize-winners:—

Good conduct (prize presented by Bishop Grimes), P. Dwyer. Dux of the school (gold medal), P. Dwyer 1, J. M'Albon 2, W. Murphy 3. Christian doctrine, P. Dwyer 1, J. McAlbon 2. English, J. M'Albon 1, P. Dwyer 2. Essay, J. M'Albon 1, D. Fouhy 2. Arithmetic, P. Dwyer 1, J. M'Keefrey 2. Orthography, F. Poff 1, J. M'Albon 2. Heat, P. Dwyer 1, Leo Poff 2. Magnetism, W. Murphy 1, W. Birmingham 2. French, P. Dwyer 1, D. Fouhy 2. Reading, E. Cummings 1, J. O'Brien 2. Writing, E. Poff 1, W. Birmingham 2.

Standard VI.—Aggregate merit, John Steinmetz (silver medal) 1, F. Ruck 2, T. Hannan 3. Christian doctrine, J. Steinmetz. English, W. Rogers. Composition, W. Dobbs. Arithmetic, T. Hannan. Orthography, J. Walsh. Geography, Leo Beary. Drawing, A. Dunn. Reading, F. Woodham. Writing, R. Boswell.

Standard V.—Aggregate merit, M. O'Malley 1, M. M'Keefrey 2, A. Mason 3. Christian doctrine, M. M'Keefrey. Arithmetic, C. Barrett. Essay, L. Clancy. Writing, J. Moran. Orthography, J. Crooke.

Standard IV.—Aggregate merit, E. O'Brien 1, T. Dwyer 2, J. M'Keefrey 3. Christian doctrine, Edward O'Brien. Arithmetic, J. Yedoon. Composition, A. Rodhe. Writing, J. Marshall. Orthography, J. Barron.

Standard III.—Aggregate merit, J. M'Albon 1, E. Brosnahan 2, M. Riordan 3. Geography, F. Cronin. Reading, K. Boswell. Arithmetic, J. Foster. Writing, C. Churtney. Christian doctrine, C. M'Swiggan.

Standard II.—Aggregate merit, D. Evans 1, H. Cronin 2, M. Murnane 3. Reading, W. Mullane. Writing, W. Gregory. Arithmetic, F. Wain. Composition, W. O'Loughlin.

Standard I.—Prize-winners were—H. Sutton, C. Lawrence, M. O'Loughlin, J. O'Dowd, H. Stratford, Leo O'Donnor, and C. Williams.

MARIST BROTHERS' SCHOOL, WELLINGTON.

(From our own correspondent.)

The prizes at the Marist Brothers' School were distributed in the presence of Very Rev. Father Lewis, V.G., Ven. Archdeacon Devoy, Rev. Fathers O'Shea and Kimbell, and the parents and friends of the boys. A short musical entertainment was given, in which the pupils were assisted by Miss Amy Hyde. Brother Paul in a few words thanked the donors of the various prizes, which were won as follows:—

Civil Service Class.—The Archbishop's gold medal for general proficiency, awarded to Raymond Fahy; Christian doctrine, gold medal presented by Old Boys, Bernard Ryan; good conduct medal, R. Fahy; English composition medal, John Dwyer; algebra medal, Hilary Henderson; geometry, R. Fahy; English history, Thomas Davis; geography, Richard Davis; orthography and writing, James McGrath.

Standard VII.—General proficiency, James Hopkins; Christian doctrine, Joseph Devlin; good conduct, Ernest Mulhane; English composition, James Walsh; English grammar, Thomas McElligot; English history, George Newton; writing, Leonard King and Valentine Ross; orthography, Joseph Stratford; diligence, John Gosling; drawing, James Hopkins; arithmetic, Thomas McElligot; reading, Joseph Devlin; science, William Dwyer; geography, James Hopkins; mental arithmetic, James McKeegan; home exercise, Valentine Ross. Second prizes were also awarded to Robert Daniel, L. King, D. O'Donovan, and E. Ryan.

Standard VI.—General proficiency, John Scott; Christian doctrine, Geoffrey Hill; good conduct, Charles Meachen; English composition, John Scott; English grammar, William Buckley; writing, Henry Flanagan; orthography, Peter Cimino; diligence, Percy Cashman; drawing, Walter King; reading, Patrick Parker; science, John Scott; geography, John Scott; mental arithmetic, Walter King; home exercise, Donald McKay; arithmetic, Francis Galvin. Second prizes were also awarded to F. Brown, H. Carruthers, L. Devine, P. Tracy, and J. Young.

Standard V.—General proficiency, James Smith 1, Patrick Lawlor 2; arithmetic, John Devlin 1, F. Davis and C. Murphy 2; reading, John James 1, George Ness 2; writing, James Kelly 1, A. McGreal 2; orthography, John Carrigan 1, John Helgesen 2; composition, F.