

The concert given on Wednesday evening in aid of the Home of Compassion was successful in every respect. The Town Hall was well filled by people of every creed. Lady Plunkett and party from Government House occupied seats in the gallery. The most talented of Wellington's artists had placed their services gratuitously at the disposal of the committee, and as a result a musical treat was afforded. The programme consisted of the following items, among which those given by the pupils of St. Mary's Convent were specially attractive: 'Wherever you walk,' Mr. E. J. Hill; 'Spinning chorus,' Pupils of St. Mary's Convent; 'Life,' and 'Life's epitome,' Miss Leonore Pulsford; 'With my guitar,' Miss Buckhurst (St. Mary's Convent); 'There's a land,' Mr. Wilfrid Harper; 'Caro Mio Ben,' and 'The silver ring,' Miss Norah Barrett; 'A Gipsy maiden I,' Miss Amy Hyde; 'The worker,' Miss McIntosh; 'Ave Maria,' Miss V. Daniel, with violin obligato by Mr. C. Cimino; 'The world went very well then,' and 'An old bachelor,' Mr. T. M. Wilford, M.H.R. The accompaniments were played by Miss Kate Moloney. As an overture the Garrison Band played selections from Donizetti, and in the second part a Wagner piece, introducing a trombone quartette. Mr. J. Parker contributed as a cornet solo Gounod's 'Serenade.' Herr Max Hoppe contributed a violin solo, a meditation and a mazurka. The Sisters desire to thank all who in any way contributed to the success of the concert. A word of special credit is due to the committee, who, under the able direction of Father Kimbell, left nothing to be desired in the arrangements. As usual, Mr. John Hyland was secretary.

DIOCESE OF CHRISTCHURCH

(From our own correspondent.)

June 19.

'One of the keenest, most trustful, and energetic police officers we have had in the Colony.' This was Mr. P. Pender's tribute to a former comrade, ex-detective O'Connor.

His Lordship the Bishop was at Fairlie on an episcopal visitation over Sunday last. His Lordship returns to the city towards the end of the week and afterwards resumes his pastoral visitations of the diocese, probably in South Canterbury.

You will invariably find (said Mr. P. Pender during the course of his lecture at the Catholic Club) a boy or a woman associated with every police court case of any importance. In 50 out of every 60 cases you are certain to find a boy, and he often proves the best witness.

The Marist Brothers' boys are still maintaining their reputation on the football field. Of the two matches so far played in the schools' competition this season, the Marist seniors against Sydenham won by 21 points to nil, and against West Christchurch by 38 points to nil. The juniors, a necessarily weak team owing to this being their first season as a separate team, have lost both their matches by very close play.

A solemn Triduum in honor of the feast of Corpus Christi, patronal feast of the Cathedral, and of the feast of St. John the Baptist, patronal feast of the diocese and also of the Bishop, will commence in the Cathedral on Thursday. Special sermons will be preached on Thursday and Friday evenings. The solemn observance of both feast days is to be transferred to the following Sunday, on which occasion there will be Pontifical High Mass and Pontifical Vespers, sermon, procession, and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament in the evening.

The annual diocesan collection in aid of the Seminary Fund was made on Sunday last. In the Cathedral, at all the services, reference was made to the increasing work of the clergy and the altogether inadequate number of priests now laboring in the diocese. At 11 o'clock Gounod's 'Messe Solennelle' was sung, the principal solo parts were taken by the Brescians. Miss Antonio Martinengo sang the soprano solos. Miss Domenico Martinengo the contralto, Mr. C. Read was tenor, and Mr. A. Medhurst bass soloist. At the offertory Miss Antonio Martinengo sang Gounod's 'Ave Maria,' the violin obligato being beautifully played by Miss Adelina Martinengo. At the conclusion of the Mass these talented ladies sang the unaccompanied trio from Handel's 'Messiah,' 'Lift up thine eyes.' At Vespers Miss Domenica Martinengo sang Mendelssohn's 'O Rest in the Lord.' Miss Katie Young was organist, and Mr. H. Rossiter conducted.

The annual examination of the Marist Brothers' (Boys') School was made last week by Mr. Foster, Inspector under the North Canterbury Board of Education. The official report is not yet to hand, but the results

revealed an exceedingly satisfactory rate of progress. Out of 94 per cent. of the pupils presented, 93 per cent. obtained passes, and in a general way the Inspector expressed entire satisfaction at the work done during the term. Of the advanced pupils, 17 were presented and 15 passed out of the Sixth standard. The two remaining, although educationally qualified, have not yet reached the age limit. Most of those pupils are going on to the Civil Service class, conducted by the principal, Brother Basil. During the year the director has procured suitable apparatus for illustrating magnetism and electricity, a practical method of instruction which greatly impressed the Inspector, together with the demonstrations in this branch of physical science given by the pupils.

In responding to a cordial vote of thanks accorded him at the Catholic Club rooms on Tuesday evening, Mr. P. Pender said: 'It is now verging on seventy-eight years ago since I was born close to Vinegar Hill, a locality intimately associated with some of the most stirring and strenuous times in Irish history, and but thirty years after the memorable '98. It was a time when education of any kind was difficult of attainment, and what little was possible to secure was acquired under the most depressing and distressing circumstances. Could the young men of the present day but adequately realise the advantages they possessed but blindly ignored, they would more fully appreciate the opportunities afforded by societies and clubs such as their own to raise themselves above the ordinary level. Their forefathers were good Irishmen; why not maintain the splendid standard set them and prove their determination to be good men too? Now is the time for our young Catholic men to assert themselves, and as ably fill the ranks from which their fathers are slowly but surely, one by one, passing out. These are strenuous times, and will continue so, and Catholics must assert themselves. The battle of faith as well as of life must be fought; stand up as men and assert your rights and prove yourselves worthy sons of the men who fought for faith and liberty.' It seemed fitting that Mr. Sub-Inspector Dwyer, as representing the new order, should preside at the lecture, which his veteran comrade delivered before members of the Catholic Club and their friends. An admirable chairman he made, and the audience were not slow in expressing their appreciation of the great interest Mr. Dwyer takes in the young men and in the wellbeing of the club generally.

At the Catholic Club rooms on last Tuesday evening, Mr. P. Pender, ex-police inspector, entertained a good audience of members and their friends with some reminiscences of his official life. Mr. Sub-Inspector Dwyer (vice-president) occupied the chair, and in introducing Mr. Pender said that with an unprecedented record of 41 years' service no one was better qualified to briefly speak of the stirring events of the early days in the Colony, on the goldfields of the South Island, and elsewhere than he whom he had the privilege of introducing, if indeed an introduction were necessary. Mr. Pender said he did not pose as a lecturer, but rather he would endeavor to be a narrator of an event which at the time was the cause of considerable excitement. He was desirous, in his own humble way, of assisting the club, an effort which he conceived it to be everyone's duty. The club had made and was making great efforts to justify its existence, and he trusted on this occasion to at least interest them. Mr. Pender then related the facts concerning an old time sensation, the 'severed hand mystery.' He gave the history of the case, the incidents relating thereto, and described the extraordinary excitement it aroused twenty years ago. Speaking of Howard, the principal actor in the great conspiracy to defraud the insurance companies, Mr. Pender said that so far as his judgment of criminal tendencies led him, he found these singularly absent in regard to Howard. He was a man of good education, and was the father of two boys, aged respectively at the time 11 and 13 years. To these boys he was deeply attached, and his desire to educate them far above what his means would allow was the incentive to perpetrate a fraud to render such a course possible. At the termination of the narrative, an enthusiastic vote of thanks was accorded Mr. Pender on the motion of the Rev. Father Mahoney.

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