

the overture, 'Oberon,' in which three pianos were brought into use, and presided over by the Misses O. and E. Richards, E. and R. Frost, P. Gray, and O. Nilsson. A glee, 'The hough and crow,' by the Misses K. and B. Holloway, M. Grengor, C. Cotter, E. Hooper, P. Grey, M. Boustead, K. Hennessy, N. Collier, O. Nilsson, was a very enjoyable item. The same singers contributed 'Hark, the lark,' which was well received. Two selections, 'Santa Lucia' and 'Adeste Fideles,' by an orchestra, consisting of (piano) Misses M. Cress, M. O'Neill, E. Pinhey, M. McKenna, D. Rendall, C. Smythson, (organ) Misses O. Nilsson, R. Frost, (violins) Miss K. Hennessy and Masters L. Cress, H. Fox, S. Hoar, (guitar) Miss E. Richards, ('cello) Miss K. Holloway, (banjo) Miss M. Grengor, (mandolines) Misses P. Grey and C. Cotter, proved very acceptable items. The glee party also rendered two extra items. The second part of the programme consisted of the cantata 'Laila, or the Children's Queen,' Miss Hennessy taking the principal part of Laila, Miss K. Holloway, the mountain child, Miss L. O'Malley, leader of the beggars and fairy queen. Several other girls, daintily attired as mountain children and fairies, took part, all acquitting themselves very well.

DIOCESE OF CHRISTCHURCH

(From our own correspondent.)

December 18.

To the 'Irish Catholic' of November 11, Mr. M. Nolan, of Christchurch, contributes an article entitled 'The Apostolate of the Gael,' dealing principally with the spread of Catholicism in the colonies, the education problem, and a special reference to the Christchurch Cathedral.

The oratorical contest of the Christchurch Catholic Club, in connection with the Federated Catholic Young Men's Societies, took place on last Tuesday evening. Sir George Clifford and Mr. H. H. Loughnan acted as judges. Of the six competitors, Mr. M. Kane, a recent addition to the club and lately of Melbourne, on the subject of the 'Second George,' was awarded first place, and Mr. J. R. Hayward ('Lord Russell') and Mr. D. Edmonds ('Daniel O'Connell') tied for second place. Others competing were Mr. E. Lafferty ('Cardinal Manning'), Mr. M. O'Reilly ('Gladstone'), and Mr. R. McNamara ('Washington'). The contest afforded a profitable and most interesting evening, and the club would do well to have such like programmes more frequently.

The ordinary monthly meeting of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul Particular Council was held on last Monday evening at the episcopal residence. His Lordship Bishop Grimes presided, and those present were the Very Rev. Father Le Menant des Chesnais, S.M., V.G. (spiritual director), and representatives of the Cathedral, St. Mary's, and St. Joseph's (Lyttelton) Conferences. Correspondence from the Superior Council at Sydney was read, and also a circular letter from the Vice-President General of the Society at Paris. The president submitted a comprehensive report treating of Catholic children as variously circumstanced, giving their number and the methods adopted for their well-being. Replies from the pastors of several districts, where Catholic children have been boarded out, were received in answer to communications in their regard. The president outlined the Particular Council's suggestions as proposed to be submitted to the Superior Council in connection with the Society's approaching jubilee. His Lordship the Bishop expressed great pleasure in attending the Council's meetings and learning of the practical and meritorious work in which all were engaged. The results proved abundantly how essentially useful such a body of willing co-operators were. He appreciated very highly their labors which, with God's blessing, were capable of inestimable good and far-reaching benefit.

Timaru

(From our own correspondent.)

December 18.

A team from St. John's Tennis Club journeyed to Temuka on Thursday afternoon to try conclusions with the Victoria Park Club. The game had just commenced when the rain came on, and it was agreed to postpone the trial to this day (Monday).

The final game in the second round of the primary schools' cricket competition resulted in an easy win for the Brothers' Boys over the Main school. Carroll, Serimgeour and Mason were chiefly responsible for the school's score, whilst Lynch Bros. disposed of their opponents for 6 runs and 2 byes.

On Thursday last the altar boys went on a picnic to St. Andrews, under the guidance of Father Le Floch. Rev. Fathers O'Connor, Lezer, and Mr. G. Venning also accompanied the boys and helped them to pass the time pleasantly. After lunch sports and games were indulged in, Master T. Lynch scoring 55 in a cricket match, and getting a handsome bat for his victory. The boys had a very pleasant day.

A most enjoyable concert was given in the Theatre Royal on Monday evening last by Miss E. Twomey, a pupil of Miss E. McGuinness. That the invitations issued were appreciated was evident from the fact that the circle and stalls were comfortably filled before the overture began. Miss Twomey gave quite a lengthy and varied repertoire. She plays with expression and confidence, and particularly excels in such soft and dreamy music as Chopin's 'Prelude No. 17.' She got a most gratifying reception on each appearance, and evidently obtained the sympathy and appreciation of the discriminating audience. Miss Dick and Messrs. J. P. Newman, B. B. De Looze, and J. H. Coombs also, assisted at the concert and were all recalled. Miss E. McGuinness' pianoforte accompaniments as usual gave full satisfaction.

DIOCESE OF AUCKLAND

(From our own correspondent.)

December 15.

Rev. Father Curran, of Iowa, U.S.A., arrived here by the 'Sierra' on Tuesday. He purposes visiting Australia, and going through New Zealand.

The entertainments given by the school children during the past two weeks have been very good. This refers particularly to the college and the primary school conducted by the Marist Brothers.

His Lordship has been in the Waikato district since last week, and intended to return to Auckland in the early part of the week, but owing to the death of the Rev. Father Wust, S.J., he was detained.

Mr. Flynn, for seven years Parliamentary reporter in the House of Commons, for the Dublin 'Freeman,' and the London 'Morning Post' and 'Pall Mall Gazette,' has been contributing excellent articles to the Auckland 'Star' on the new Liberal Ministry. Mr. Flynn is thoroughly conversant with his subject. He is not so sure of Mr. Bryce's enthusiasm for Home Rule, but is of Lord Aberdeen's.

Rev. Father Wust, for a time in charge of the Ngawawahia and Huntly parish, died at Hamilton Hospital last Monday after a brief illness, at the age of 50 years. He was a native of Holland, and spent 20 years in missionary work in Java, and other parts of the Netherlands Indies. He then returned to Holland, but came to the colonies for his health, and for about two years lived in Auckland diocese. He was a Jesuit. He was well liked in Waikato, where he took great interest in music. He was buried in Cambridge on last Tuesday. His Lordship the Bishop and Rev. Fathers Darby, Corcoran, and Tierney being present.—R.I.P.

At the distribution of prizes in connection with the Sacred Heart College at St. Benedict's Hall last Tuesday evening reference was made to the change of Government at Home. Sir G. M. O'Rourke said that three months ago he did not expect that there would be such a great change of Government. He was pleased to see that such a strong Government had been formed, with men like Mr. Morley and Mr. Asquith in it, men brought up in the school of the Grand Old Man, Mr. Gladstone. The speaker went on to state that it was his firm conviction that he would yet see these men fulfil the plans laid down by Gladstone for the settlement of the Irish question and 'the most distressful country' granted Home Rule. It was a matter for regret that the Grand Old Man himself could not be present when Parliament met next year. The Right Rev. Mgr. O'Reilly expressed the opinion that there was every reason to hope that it would not be very long before Home Rule was carried in Ireland. Right Rev. Mgr. O'Reilly said that all rejoiced at the advent to power of the Liberals. Sir Maurice had expressed the feelings of the Irish people upon the subject of Home Rule. Nothing, he believed, would delight the present King more than to open their old Parliament House in College Green.

A list of winners of cash bonuses in the sixth Kozie tea distribution appears in this issue....

The train arrangements in connection with the Christmas and New Year holidays are notified in this issue....

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