

school systems of England, Australia, and New Zealand impart a special interest to the fate that has befallen it in Holland. The law under which it was introduced into Holland was passed in 1857. Its fundamental idea (says the 'Catholic Times') 'was that all the children of the State should be educated in the same schools. The Christian and social virtues were to be imparted by the teachers without trenching on dogmas, and the schools were called "neutral" schools. The Catholic Bishops of Holland issued a Pastoral in which they proclaimed their refusal to accept the law. A struggle ensued which was continued for years. In the end many who had been favorable to the "neutral" schools, recognised that they were injurious to the State, and in 1889 a law was passed, on the initiative of Premier Kuyper, giving to the denominationalists the rights for which they had been contending. They now arrange their own school hours, select their own school books, and are responsible for their own teachers. All the Government asks for in making grants is secular efficiency.'

DIOCESE OF DUNEDIN

Father O'Donnell, of Queenstown, tenders his heartfelt thanks for the numerous telegrams of condolence that reached him from various parts of New Zealand on the occasion of the death of the late Rev. John Ryan.

The diplomas, medals, prizes, and certificates won in connection with this year's examinations of the Dunedin Centre of Trinity College of Music, London, were presented on Monday evening. Among the recipients of awards were Agnes Brown, a pupil of the Sisters of Mercy, South Dunedin, and Violet Leary, a pupil of the Sisters of Mercy, Mosgiel.

The members of St. Joseph's Choir held their annual social gathering in the Oddfellows' Hall, Rattray street, on Thursday evening. There was a fair attendance. Songs were contributed during the evening by Mrs. Flynn, Miss Bryant, Messrs. Carolin, Miles, and Woods, and recitations by Messrs. J. B. Callan, jun., and Etheridge.

On Thursday evening last the St. Joseph's Harrier Club were entertained by Mrs. Jackson at her residence, Leith street, when a most enjoyable evening was spent. During the evening occasion was taken to present Mr. J. Swanson with Dr. O'Neill's championship trophy. After votes of thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Jackson had been enthusiastically carried, a very pleasant evening was brought to a conclusion by the singing of 'Auld Lang Syne.'

The Children of Mary held their annual reunion on Wednesday evening, the 17th inst., at St. Joseph's schoolroom, when a most enjoyable evening was spent. Among those present were his Lordship the Bishop, Rev. Father Coffey, Adm., Rev. Father Cleary, and Rev. Father Corcoran. The following contributed to the programme:—Songs, Misses Kennedy, C. and J. Hughes, Brady, Carter, Rodgers, Doyle, Keogh; pianoforte solos, Misses McGowan, Murphy, and Power; recitations, Misses Heley and Brady. At the conclusion of the programme refreshments were handed round. The president (Miss Falkner) is to be congratulated on the successful manner in which everything was carried out.

Invercargill

(From our own correspondent.)

October 22.

On Wednesday last, the members of the St. Mary's Ladies' Club held a social evening in St. Joseph's schoolroom. A cordial invitation was extended to the congregation generally, resulting in a large attendance. Mr. Shepherd officiated as chairman. The proceedings opened with an orchestral overture followed by an address on Irish wit, by the Very Rev. Dean Burke. This item was thoroughly appreciated, and the amusing stories with which it was interspersed caused much enjoyment. The following ladies and gentlemen also contributed items:—Quartette, Messrs. Cahill, Fitzgerald, McGrath, and Morton; songs, Misses McMineman, Hishon, Kirwan and Connor, Master Crawford, Messrs. McGrath, and Morton; duet, Messrs. Fitzgerald and Cahill; pianoforte duet, Misses Kane and Barry; recitation, Miss Collins. Each item was rendered in first-class style, and the ladies' committee is to be complimented on its entertainment.

Oamaru

(From an occasional correspondent.)

The following are the results of the practical examination, by Mr. Edwards, Trinity College, London, at Rosary Convent, Oamaru:—Senior division—Amy Gilligan, 85, honors (recommended for higher examination); C. B. Ormiston, 80, honors (recommended for higher examination); Veda Slee, 78, Intermediate—Annie Kay, 78, Junior division—Aileen Welsh, 85 (honors); Mollie Dore, 81 (honors); Cissy Rooney, 75; Kathleen Gallagher, 71. Preparatory—Jamie Pringle, 100; Eva Miller, 92; Aggie Pringle, 88; Christabel Murray, 85; Dorothy Sweeney, 78; Ellen Pratt, 72. Fourteen candidates were presented, all of whom passed.

The pupils of two of our Catholic teachers were also successful. M. Whillans, a pupil of Miss Cartwright, gained 100 marks in preparatory, and L. Stevens, a pupil of Miss Falconer, 76 marks in the same grade.

DIOCESE OF AUCKLAND

(From our own correspondent.)

October 19.

The Bishop at the time of writing is at Whakaitane, Bay of Plenty.

The members of the Marist Brothers' Old Boys' Association are to approach the Holy Table in a body at St. Patrick's Cathedral on Sunday, 28th inst., and will afterwards assemble for breakfast in the convent schools, Hobson street.

Last Monday evening in the Royal Albert Hall an 'At home' was given by the Marist Brothers' Old Boys' Association. There were about 150 persons present. Part of the evening was devoted to progressive euvre. A most enjoyable evening was spent. In the early part of the evening the Rev. Fathers Holbrook, McMillan, and Farthing were present.

Two old identities, in the persons of Mrs. Gough and Mrs. Edward McDonnell, have just passed away to the great majority. The former was well known in Catholic circles in the city, and was mourned by a wide circle of friends. One of her daughters, Miss Catherine Gough, has for many years attended to the decorations of St. Patrick's altars. In her sad loss widespread sympathy is shown. Mrs. McDonnell was better known at the Thames. A few weeks ago she was brought to Auckland but never rallied, and died here this week. Her remains were accompanied to the Thames steamer by a large number of friends. The chief mourner was Dr. Murphy, a nephew of deceased. The interment took place at the Thames, where the Right Rev. Mgr. O'Reilly, V.F., officiated.—R.I.P.

Last Tuesday in the Orange Hall, under the auspices of the Auckland District Grand Lodge, the Rev. James Wilson gave a lecture on 'Protestant Heroes.' Amongst the galaxy of 'heroes' the lecturer sorted out three for special commendation, viz., Luther, William the Silent of Orange, and William III. of England. The first-named was a noble character. He would like Orangemen to remember Luther's toleration. William the Silent was designated 'the soldier of the Reformation; to whom, and his son Maurice of Nassau, the country owed much.' William III. and the Boyne came next, and the lecturer recommended the 'saffron sash' fraternity to read 'the finest account of that struggle written by a Roman Catholic, Frank Hugh O'Donnell.' And (graciously added the rev. gentleman), 'it was a mistake to think there were no fair-minded spirits in the Church of Rome. He had met some grand characters in the Roman Catholic Church.' Now, if Mr. Wilson received a whack from a paving stone or an iron nut during the dog days in Belfast he would receive the best object lesson in toleration as understood by the average Orangeman.

An interesting story in connection with old St. Patrick's has come to light. Mr. T. H. White, J.P., district manager of the Kauri Timber Company, was many years ago in San Francisco, and there came in contact very often with a well known local architect and builder. One day the American showed Mr. White a book of plans, and, stopping before one sketched plan, asked the New Zealander if he recognised it. It was familiar, but Mr. White could not recall it. 'That,' said the Yankee, 'is the interior of the roof of St. Patrick's in your city of Auckland. I have travelled over a great portion of the world, and as you see I have taken the plans of many buildings in my journeyings. That ceiling for design and workmanship struck me as far above the average, hence I brought away with me the plan of it.' It should here be mentioned that the whole work was done by the late Mr. Mahoney, the well known architect, father