

A concert in aid of the Catholic school, Mosgiel, was held on Tuesday evening of last week. The programme submitted (says the 'Tairāh Advocate') was very good, showed careful preparation, and was greatly appreciated. The following was the programme:—Pianoforte duet (two pianos), 'Sans Souci,' Misses Wilkie, Leary, Hawke, and Murray; action song, 'Merry sailors,' schoolgirls; instrumental selection (organ, two pianos, and four violins), 'Advance Guards March,' Misses Hawke, Cheyne and Walshe; Masters Hawke, Daly, Wilkie, and Cheyne; humorous recitation, Masters V. Hawke and V. Kidd; pianoforte trio, 'Rondino,' Misses Turnbull, Cheyne, and Walshe; action song, 'Screen song,' schoolgirls; comic song, 'My wife's relations,' Masters Wilkie and Hawke; chorus, 'Gleaners,' Misses O'Neil, Gilligan, Fitzpatrick, Walshe, Cheyne, Knott, Murray (2), and Hawke (2); dialogue, 'The Professor,' Masters Wilkie, Daly, Hawke, Cheyne, O'Brien, and Smellie; Chorus, 'Come where my love lies dreaming,' choir; instrumental selection (piano, organ, and violins), 'Cycle Parade March,' Misses Wilkie and Hawke, and Masters Wilkie, Cheyne, and Hawke; song, 'True till death,' Mr. Walls; comic song, Masters V. Hawke and V. Kidd. Misses Wilkie and Hawke acted as accompanists.

## CORRESPONDENCE

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for the views expressed by correspondents.]

### A SUGGESTED FORWARD MOVEMENT ON THE EDUCATION QUESTION

To the Editor.

Sir,—With reference to the most important question of the moral and religious education of the children of this Colony, I sincerely trust something may be done towards instilling Christian ideas into their minds. I would go so far as to say that I should prefer seeing any sort of Christian teaching given to them—no matter how fragmentary—rather than seeing so many of them brought up in indifferentism and almost complete ignorance of Christianity. Anybody going about the country, as my duties for years have compelled me to do, and who keeps his eyes open cannot help noticing the ruinous moral results of education without any religion. Not merely Catholics, but large numbers of Protestants, speak about this evil. An appeal to the latter numerous class might lead to some change which would be an improvement upon the present bad state of things, and might at the same time bring about an alleviation of the hardships and injustice under which the Catholic body—especially the heads of families—now lie. Personally, I can speak feelingly as to these hardships for, Mr. Editor, as you know, I am one of these heads of families at present going through this grinding mill.

Mr. Scott, in his letter published in your issue of 18th ult., proposes, to my mind, a sensible mode of procedure towards carrying out the idea expressed above—an idea pretty generally held. His suggestion is an excellent one, viz.:—that some representatives of the Catholic body should approach the official heads of the other denominations, who are seeking some measure of religious education, in order to set up a representative committee to thresh out the whole situation and arrive, if possible, at a mutual understanding with a view to secure the much desired end. The business of approaching the Protestant denominations requires careful handling, as, unfortunately, many Protestants even still look upon the Catholic Church as children look upon the bogey-man. However, if the thing were done tactfully there is no reason why good results might not be expected. All sensible people might now be expected to understand the old lesson:—'Quarrelling with your neighbor and abusing him is not the way to convince him that you are in the right and he is in the wrong; it is more likely to convince him that you have not a Christian spirit. Hold fast to what you are convinced is the truth, and don't treat harshly those whom you think in error.'

We can easily infer, from the evil moral and religious effects produced in the United States of America by a godless system of education similar to ours, what we may expect in another generation or so in New Zealand. In the States religion and morals have, in a great measure, with large classes become things to sneer at. See the reports, in the single matter of divorce, for instance, which come to us by cable from that country. Those who have opportunities to know say that scarcely a boy or girl leaves the public schools in America with minds and morals uncorrupted. They allege abundance of proof for this fearful statement.

If Germany, Belgium, Great Britain, Canada, with their vast populations, have been able to establish a public system of education wherein is given religious teaching, satisfactory to all parents desiring it, surely a small country like ours should be able to arrive at a like agreement. Undoubtedly, if the large numbers of people in New Zealand who still desire that their children should be brought up Christians were induced to combine their political power, the difficulties in the way of religious education would soon be removed. Sincerity and effort would accomplish amongst us what has been accomplished elsewhere. Mr. Scott's proposal suggests a first feasible step towards an end which all earnest Christians in the Colony desire—viz.:—the religious and Christian upbringing of the children of this young and hopeful country.—I am, etc.,

November 5, 1906.

J. C.

## The New Secretary to the Treasury

(From our Wellington correspondent.)

The friends of Colonel Collins—and they are many throughout the Colony—will be pleased to hear of the promotion that has just come his way, and that all will admit has been earned by sterling ability and zeal in the discharge of the responsible duties that have devolved upon him during recent years. Owing to the retirement of Mr. J. C. Gavin from the post of assistant Controller and Auditor-General, and the consequent advancement to that position of Mr. James B. Heywood, Colonel Collins has attained to the highly responsible post of Secretary to the Treasury and Receiver-General of Revenue for the Colony.

Colonel Collins is a son of Captain Robert Collins, formerly of H.M. 57th Regiment, who served with distinction in the Crimea, India, and New Zealand. Mr. Collins was born in Cavan, Ireland, and came to the Colony with his parents from India in 1861. At the age of fifteen he entered the Government service as clerk in the militia and volunteer service at New Plymouth. He was employed as paymaster's clerk and substorekeeper to the Public Works Department up to 1877, and then was transferred to the Stores Audit Department at Wellington. In the following year he entered the service of the Treasury Department. His rise since then has been rapid. In 1879 he became first clerk in the Paymaster-General's Branch; in 1885 he was promoted to the charge of the Pay and Revenue Branches; and in 1890 secured the important office of Assistant to the Treasury. In 1903 he was appointed Assistant-Secretary in addition to his position as Accountant. Mr. Collins has been in the service for about forty years, and is recognised on all sides as one of its most efficient officers. In addition to his purely official duties Mr. Collins, as is well known, has been the life and soul of volunteering in this city. He has also taken a keen and active interest in rifle-shooting, the present rifle-range at Trentham, with its splendid appointments, being largely due to his active efforts. In 1904 he went Home in charge of the Bisley team, that won the much coveted Kolar Cup. During that visit he travelled through Ireland, visiting the scenes of his early boyhood. He has the hearty congratulations of the members of the public service on the promotion that has been given him, for they all recognise that he richly deserves it.

## INVERCARGILL

(From our own correspondent.)

October 31.

The Invercargill Catholic Club wound up its literary and debating session last evening with a musical programme. Despite the inclemency of the weather, there was a fair attendance of members of the congregation. Mr. Sheppherd presided, and in a short address dealt with the progress of the club. The programme included piano solos by Misses Barry, McGrath, and Stokes; violin solo by Miss Stone; recitations by Miss Donovan; and songs by Misses Kirwan and Connor, and Messrs. Fitzgerald, Bailey, Morton, Durham, and McNamara. Miss Stokes kindly played the accompaniments.

The following pupils from the Nelson Convent were successful in passing the practical examinations, held in connection with the Trinity College and Royal Academy of Music:—Preparatory grade, Elsie Archer. Junior grade, Mary Stevens, Norman Millar. Intermediate grade, Miriam Storey, Mary Moule, Eulalie McCartney, Eileen Arnold, Primary, M. Adams, Gladys Cooper, Barbara Hunter, Marjorie Reid; Mary Duff. Elementary, Flossie Saunders, Ira McDonald.

**J. C. CALDER**, CARGILL ROAD & CUTTEN STREET, will open Dental Rooms at Cargill's Corner, South Dunedin, on October 8th. All dental work undertaken. Teeth extracted One Shilling.