

Spanish Columbian Festival, Dunedin.

The good work which the Sisters of Mercy are doing in South Dunedin, where they provide all the comforts of a home for over eighty children, is well known to all. The manner in which the spiritual and temporal wants of these children are attended has received well-merited praise from all who visit the orphanage. For some years after the establishment of the institution the Sisters were accommodated in a small cottage, which was altogether unsuitable for the purpose. A few years ago the community decided to erect a new convent, which would provide the necessary accommodation for the Sisters in charge of the orphanage and also of the parish school. To do this they incurred a heavy liability, and the festival now taking place has been organised to assist in liquidating this debt. Although there has been an annual appeal on behalf of the orphanage, this is the first time the Sisters of Mercy have asked for assistance on their own behalf, all money realised for the orphanage being kept strictly for that purpose. That the committee of management worked with considerable zeal and energy was patent to all present at the opening ceremony on Monday evening, as His Majesty's Theatre had undergone a complete transformation—flags, banners, bunting, and Chinese lanterns being used to produce a most artistic effect. A cursory inspection of the stalls was sufficient to show that the stallholders and their assistants had done their part; the stock of goods on exhibition being as varied as it was artistic and valuable. It was a credit to local art, industry, and talent.

The committee consists of the Rev. Father Howard as chairman and treasurer, and Mr. J. J. Marlow, secretary, with Messrs. W. Carr, J. Saunders, J. McCurdy, P. Fitzgerald, T. Hoare, C. A. Shiel, J. O'Connor, J. Mooney, J. Hill, R. McLean, J. Rattigan, J. McDavitt, M. Mulquin, W. Fulton, J. Mulholland, C. Columb, J. Hally, F. Fitzpatrick, and J. Hughes.

The following is a list of the stallholders and their assistants:—Stall No. 1.—'Barcelona.'—(dolls and lollies). Stallholder, Miss A. Heley; assistants, Mrs. Herbert, Misses Faulkner, Columb, Hughes (2), Farleton, Leyburn, Bagley, Macdonald, Black (2), Keogh, Lestrangle, Collins, Murphy, Salmon, Messrs. Herbert and Leyburn.

Stall No. 2.—'Castille.'—Stallholders: Miss Mackay, Mrs. Mowat, Mrs. Cornish; assistants: Messdames Crow, Breese, Misses Lamb, Mowat, Cotter, Cameron, Wyinks, Bunbury, Heffernan, Anderson, McCarty, McDonald, O'Brien, Mount, Wilson, Jay, Rodgers, Messrs. Callan and Mowat.

Stall No. 3.—'America.'—Stallholders: Mrs. Mee, Miss Faulkner, Mrs. Scott, Mrs. Jackson, Mrs. Bernech; assistants: Misses Mahoney (2), Brennan (3), Heffernan (2), Mulholland, Tot Butler, Leonard (2), Francis, Nora McDermott, Keir, Edwards, Lucy Mee, Quirk, Reid, Messrs. Connors (3), Brennan (2), Mee (3), McLean, J. Mulholland, Quirk, Master T. Heffernan.

Stall No. 4.—'Madrid.'—Stallholders: Mrs. Milne and Miss Carroll; assistants: Misses Simmonds, Black, Flynn, Mellick, Crow, Brown, Bourke, Otto, Collie, Carter, Doswell, Lemon, Dormer, Kilmartin, Wood, O'Sullivan, Lawlor.

Stall No. 5.—(Children of Mary, South Dunedin).—'Santiago.'—Stallholders: Mrs. Marlow and Miss Dunford; assistants: Misses Long, Sheridan (2), Perkins, Dunford, McGowan (2), Rodden (2), Francis (2), McBride, Messrs. Dumm, McCurdy, Turley, Gibbons, Rodden, Lynch, Fitzpatrick.

Stall No. 6.—'Monte Video.'—Stallholders: Messdames Meenan, Salmon, Major, Foster; assistants: Misses Dickinson, Hemsley, Slattery, Tanner, N. Tanner, Pounds, Smith, Brennan, M. Brennan, Sweeney, J. Sweeney, Hart, Griffin, O'Connor, A. O'Connor, Salmon.

Stall No. 7.—(tea rooms, flower stall and fernery).—'Fonda Espanola.'—Stallholder: Miss Staunton; assistants: Misses Bryant (3), Hannan (3), Brady, O'Neill, Purton, Milligan, Dougherty (2), Johnson, Brennan, Tracey, Emslie, Swanson, Quirk, Clancy, Power, Hannigan, Messrs. Corcoran, Millea, Turner, Miles.

In addition to a varied collection of dolls and art needlework in No. 1. Stall there were also shown some excellent panels in oils, one especially of dahlias being particularly noticeable, whilst a fine oil-painting of Lake Manapouri is sure to attract attention because of its artistic merits.

In No. 2. Stall there is a fine exhibit of artistic goods, including carved tables, screens, a carved Moorish palm-stand, carved Indian screen, specimens of poker work, hand-painted mirrors, oil-paintings, and a fine wardrobe with carved panels.

In the American Stall are displayed various specimens of art needlework, hand-painted cushions, art wood work, painted mirrors, carved tables, panels, in oils, oil-paintings, fire screens, etc.

In the Madrid Stall the principal articles are a carved teakwood screen, painted mirrors, painted fire screens, cushions in various designs, carved chairs, painted plaques, a pretty salad bowl, and other valuable articles.

In Stall No. 5. there are among other things too numerous to mention a very fine sideboard, several painted mirrors, oil-paintings, fire screens in applique and jewel work, plaques, panels in oils, besides cushions, and many fine specimens of art needlework.

In the Monte Video Stall the collection includes painted mirrors, carved tables, chairs, and coal scuttle; cushions in various artistic designs, and a comprehensive exhibit of needlework.

The flower stall and fernery and tea rooms are located in the Victoria Hall, which has undergone a complete transformation under the direction of Miss Staunton, who presides over this portion of the bazaar. Here is exhibited a very fine wardrobe, artistic in design and ornamentation.

The opening ceremony took place punctually at eight o'clock. The Rev. Father Howard, addressing the large gathering, said he had to apologise for the absence of the Mayor, who was to have opened the bazaar, and therefore he had to request the Rev. Father Coffey to perform the ceremony. The object of the bazaar was to assist those devoted ladies, the nuns of South Dunedin, in their good work. The good Sisters spent the whole of their lives in the training of the young, and in caring for the waifs and strays, the homeless and fatherless. Their lives were devoted to this glorious work, and the object was to raise funds to provide a convent for the Sisters. The object, he was sure, would appeal to all, irrespective of doctrinal feelings, and he felt sure the festival, which they were about to inaugurate, would be a great success. He had much pleasure in calling upon the Rev. Father Coffey to open the bazaar.

The Rev. Father Coffey said it was not easy for any one to address such a large audience at so short a notice. When he came into the theatre he had no idea that he would be called upon to speak that night. The Mayor had been asked and had promised to open the bazaar, and it was only when he came into the theatre he was informed by the secretary that his Worship had sent word at the last moment that he would not be present. It was unnecessary for him (the rev. speaker) to refer to the object of the bazaar, for this had been done by Father Howard. Its object appealed to every Christian—it was to assist the Sisters of Mercy in the great work they were engaged in on behalf of the children of the district. It appealed to every Christian, as far as his means would permit, to assist in making the bazaar a success. That success would not depend so much on the opening but on the close, when he hoped Father Howard would be able to hand a substantial cheque to the Sisters of Mercy. They were looking for financial results, and to bring this about they would require the sympathy, co-operation, and generosity of all. He had to apologise for the absence of his Lordship the Bishop, who had always taken a deep interest in the work of the Sisters of Mercy, and it would be a source of the greatest pleasure to him to hear of the success of the bazaar. Before going away His Lordship had shown his sympathy with the undertaking by presenting a very handsome prize, and he had entrusted a certain sum of money to himself (the rev. speaker) as his representative to be spent among the various stalls. The large audience which he saw before him augured well for the success of the bazaar, and owing to their enthusiasm and generosity he trusted it would be possible for Father Howard to hand over to the Sisters of Mercy a substantial token of the people's appreciation of the good work they are doing. Father Coffey then declared the festival open.

At the conclusion of the opening ceremony the first part of the programme arranged by Signor Borzoni was proceeded with. The entertainment was full of life and color, and was watched with intense interest throughout by the large audience. The spectacular effects were very fine, the dances were most graceful, and the intricate marches were gone through with the utmost precision. The incidental music to the tableaux, dances, and marches was contributed by an efficient orchestra under Mr. A. F. Robertshaw. It may be here mentioned that Mr. J. O'Connor, who takes the part of Columbus, and Mr. J. Mulholland, acted as joint managers of the spectacular part of the proceedings.

Very good business was done during Monday and Tuesday evenings. The bazaar will be open every evening during this week, and, apart altogether from the deserving object for which the fair is held, the spectacular display is well worth the price of admission.

J. G. 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.