

were fortunate in having so devoted and accomplished ladies to teach their children. Mr. Bossence, the State inspector, had examined their school in August, and his report had been of a most satisfactory character. Their chief object in teaching their own children was to lay the foundations of their faith and morals, to teach them to be good boys and girls so that they would later develop into good men and women, and, as they knew, religion was the foundation of morality. In conclusion, he hoped the children and the good Sisters would enjoy their vacation and return at the beginning of the year strengthened physically by their rest. He expressed also the sincere thanks of the good Sisters to the donors of prizes.

The following is the prize-list:—

Class Prizes.—Standard VII., D. Hart; Standard VI., K. Leslie; Standard V., N. Donohue; Standard IV., J. Hoare; P. Standard III., A. Higgins; P. Standard II., C. Hart; Standard I., M. Naughton.

Reading.—P. Higgins, E. Roughan, A. Paget, M. Nieper.

Writing.—J. Neilan, M. Leslie, T. Hoare, M. White.

Arithmetic.—L. Higgins, J. O'Leary, J. Casey, M. Real, K. McKeown, T. Roughan, M. White.

Composition.—D. Naughton, G. Laffey, F. Kennedy.

Recitation.—T. Nieper, J. Oliver.

Drawing.—W. Kennedy, G. Laffey.

English.—T. P. Hoare, M. Paget.

Word-building.—M. White, M. Nieper.

Geography.—R. Donohue, J. O'Leary, R. Neilan, D. Naughton.

Bible History (Monsignor O'Leary's prize).—D. Hart; second division, A. Higgins.

Christian Doctrine.—M. Leslie, R. Donohue, G. Laffey, M. Leslie, L. Higgins, K. Neilan, D. Hart, W. Kennedy, T. Roughan.

Special prize for composition (presented by Rev. Father Morkane).—L. Higgins.

Good Conduct.—W. Kennedy.

Attendance.—M. Leslie.

Calisthenics.—P. Higgins.

Sewing.—M. Leslie.

French.—D. Hart.

Pianoforte (silver medallist).—K. Leslie.

ST. JOSEPH'S SCHOOL, DUNEDIN

On Wednesday afternoon, 16th inst., the children of St. Joseph's School, Dominican Priory, Dunedin, assembled to receive their prizes. The Right Rev. Mgr. Mackay, Rev. Father Coffey, Adm., and Rev. Father Corcoran honored the event by their presence, and encouraged both the Sisters and their pupils by the interest they showed in the scholastic report, and also in the little performance given by the children. A number of parents and friends were also present. Several pretty items—musical, elocutionary, and physical—were gone through by the various grades of the school, from the senior girls to the wee ones who gave great amusement by a recitation in which they compared the loved dollies with the living 'baby' at home, ending by 'I think I love baby best.' Among the recitations were 'Life's album,' 'A psalm of life,' and 'A Christmas message,' and all were given clearly and with expression. Those present could not fail to notice the gentle manners and quiet orderly conduct of the children and the self-possessed and simple way in which they carried out their little programme without direction from their seniors.

In addressing the children after the prizes had been awarded, Monsignor Mackay said it gave him much pleasure to be with them, and he had especial pleasure in learning from Mother Priorress how satisfactory a year they had passed. Their conduct had been extremely good, their attention to religious instruction and Christian doctrine classes very satisfactory, the report of the Government inspectors had been most satisfactory, all the Sixth Standard had gained the proficiency certificates. The little girl, May Vaughan, who had gained the junior attendance prize, had not missed a single day that year. In conclusion, Monsignor Mackay said that in giving them a parting word of advice both as to their conduct during vacation and in their future lives he could not say anything truer or more beautiful than the words of the poem they had recited with such expression and feeling, 'A psalm of life.' He would ask them to remember it always, and so take it as a guide through the years to come.

The Sisters wish to thank most cordially all those friends who so kindly contributed towards the prizes, and also the gifts on the Christmas tree.

The following is a list of the prize-winners:—

Christian Doctrine.—Senior, R. Wakelin; second division, J. McLoughan, R. Newman; third division, E. Smith; junior division, E. McLellan, M. Hessian.

Class Prizes.—Standard VI., R. Wakelin; Standard V., P. Salmon, S. McQuillan; Standard IV., J. Wilson;

Standard III., O. Coughlan; Standard II., M. Hill; Standard I., E. O'Brien.

Attendance.—E. Barry, J. Salmon, W. Salmon; junior, M. Vaughan; attention to study, Ivy Ross; good conduct, Vera McKaeness; junior, Della Salmon; neatness and politeness, Sylvia Metcalfe.

A TERRIBLE EARTHQUAKE

DISASTER IN ITALY AND SICILY

A terrible earthquake occurred in Sicily and in the province of Calabria in the south of Italy last week, resulting in great destruction of property and loss of life. Cable messages received on Wednesday stated that two-thirds of Messina was destroyed, and thousands of people were killed. Extensive damage was done in Bagnara, Gioia, Palmi, and other towns. The shock was of very long duration and of frightful intensity. A tidal wave over-ran most of Messina, leaving a layer of mud and rendering it very difficult to extricate the injured. Fires also occurred owing to gas explosions. Violent shocks occurred between half-past 5 and 6 in the morning at Catanzaro, and Reggio di Calabria. The terrified inhabitants, half-clothed, poured into the streets in the rain.

Messina, the second city of Sicily (its population is about 160,000) stands on a good harbor opening upon the straits of the same name. It occupies a narrow strip of land between the sea and the hills. Messina is an important trade centre. Reggio stands on the Italian coast of the Straits of Messina. It has a fine cathedral and museum. Its population is about 45,000. Bagnara is on the coast of Calabria, north-east of the Straits of Messina. Its population is about 10,000. Catania is a large city of about 120,000 people, situated near the foot of Mount Etna. It has been often ruined by earthquakes and eruptions of Etna, and its streets are paved with lava, and its public buildings built of the same material.

Of the 45,000 residents of Reggio 40,000 perished. The deaths at Messina number 135,000, including 200 visitors. Two-thirds of the Palmi district was destroyed, the deaths there numbering 14,000. Of these 3000 were interred in a common grave. Twelve thousand perished at Bagnara. The town of Scylla has vanished. There were 1500 deaths at Seminara. The railway station at Reggio in falling crushed 400 and the barracks 2000 soldiers. Immense fissures were opened at Reggio.

Refugees declare that Reggio was not only wrecked by the shock, but that the lower parts were swallowed up by the earth opening with a tremendous detonation like the firing of a hundred guns. Simultaneously the sea, with a terrific roar, rose to a tremendous height, and, running in, swept away the most beautiful part of the town (including the Cathedral, the Prefect's Palace, and all the main thoroughfares).

British and Russian bluejackets performed wonders in the way of rescue work at Messina.

Out of 200 Customs guards at Messina only 41 escaped, and out of 280 railway employees, only eight were saved. Out of 100 post office employees only six were saved, and the garrison has been reduced to a small number.

For 11 miles south of Reggio the face of the country has been completely altered.

A few of the refugees report that the greater part of Reggio is in ruins. Most of the public buildings, including the barracks, which in falling killed hundreds of the troops, are destroyed. The dead number at least 18,000. The Prefect reports that the centre of Reggio settled down to the sea level, and only the villas situated on the highest points remain. Most of the pupils of the Lyceum perished, also the Bishop of Reggio. The earthquake swallowed the railway between Lazzaro and Marino.

The King and Queen of Italy visited Messina, and Queen Helena worked devotedly in the local hospital.

Messages of sympathy have been received by the Italian authorities from all parts of the world. On Thursday last Sir Joseph Ward sent a cable message to Italy conveying the sympathy of the people of this Dominion.

Subscriptions are now being raised in all parts of the world for the relief of the sufferers. The Holy Father, according to the *Temps*, has opened a credit of one million lire (£40,000) in addition to his other gift, and is also establishing a hospital of 500 beds at San Marco. President Roosevelt has asked Congress to appropriate 500,000 dollars, in addition to which both Houses voted 300,000 dollars, representing the steamers Celtic and Culgoa's supplies. The American Red Cross Society telegraphed 390,000 dollars to the American Committee at Rome to charter a steamer with supplies and to fetch the survivors to safety. The London Mansion House fund amounts to £40,000. The Italian Parliament intends to vote £1,200,000. The Government of New Zealand has forwarded £5000.