

just below the groin, lodging in his purse, which was full of silver, including three Kruger coins, a half-crown, shilling, and sixpenny piece. These were considerably damaged, each coin being bent in at the edge, exactly in proportion to its relative size, just as though the work had been done by a skilful mechanic.

JOHANNESBURG AFTER THE WAR.

Letters received in Wellington from Johannesburg from Mr. G. Hutchison, M.H.R. for Patea, describe the 'Golden City' as he found it when he arrived there towards the end of September. It is, he writes, 'more like a city of the dead, with buildings fit for 100,000 inhabitants, and not a third of that number here, while thousands upon thousands are impatiently waiting for admission. Most of the places of business are boarded up or sheeted in iron. No outward sign of damage appears beyond a few broken panes which had not been protected. Displays in shop windows that were left in a hurry remain with twelve months' dust upon them—a restaurant, for instance, with a plate of mouldy toast and an egg that had not burst.' The mines, he says, with perhaps one or two exceptions, are intact so far as machinery goes, but some have been worked and the shareholders thus laid under contribution. The tales about scarcity of provisions are, Mr Hutchison adds, not to be believed.

THE USE OF SULTRY LANGUAGE BY COLONIALS.

In the *Daily Telegraph* Mr. Bennet Burleigh discusses the comparative effect on track-oxen in South Africa of the swear words of Tommy Atkins and of the colonial. He writes:—

Alas, these Boer tracks, how they encourage vain words, and the practice of profanity! Drivers or passengers, who think they have a gift of free vernacular, are bailed with joy when they voice fellow-sufferers' unspoken anathemas. It is welcome, as in the nature of relief to one's own pent-up feelings, to hear another who swears easily pour fiery contempt upon 'the whole boiling' of bumbledom and Boerdom. Admittedly, our Mr. Thomas Atkins has a jarring, curdling vocabulary of expletives, and Sailor Jack can even give him points, for though he knows not how the army swore in Flanders, I wot they've learned in 'furrin' parts.' But at a pinch, when we look for variety, vigor, and vilification, we call upon the colonials to give due lurid expression to exacerbated feelings. There is no monotonous reiteration about their extensive diction, and Tommy and Jack keep silent, lost in admiration of their talent. Nay, the very dumb brutes acknowledge their giftedness, for oxen and mules, which would not strain a pound nor budge an inch for native British objurgations, the instant a colonial takes up his parable, hasten to break thaws, muscles, and bones, rather than stand stuck in a drift and have such abuse showered upon them. I have seen teams shift an ox-wagon bogged in a sluit where the track sloped like an old-fashioned gable, in a twinkling, upon the first persuasive 'slanging' of an Australian driver.

Diocesan News.

ARCHDIOCESE OF WELLINGTON.

(From our own correspondent.)

November 10.

Rev. Father Ainsworth opens the mission in the Hutt district to-morrow.

The Rev. Father Hehir, whose arrival in New Zealand I noted last week, left for Masterton on Wednesday. He is to relieve Rev. Father Osborne, who returns to England.

At a recent Wellington Shorthand Writers' Association examination Misses Isabel O'Galligan and Rose Falconer, pupils of St. Mary's Convent, gained Pitman's speed certificate for 160 words a minute. This is, I believe, the highest certificate granted to a pupil of any school in New Zealand.

At St. Mary of the Angels' on last Sunday about 80 children received their first Holy Communion. Mass was celebrated by the Rev. Father O'Shea, who also preached a short sermon appropriate to the solemn occasion. Hymns were sung at the Mass by the children of the schools. The ladies of the parish provided an excellent breakfast for the communicants. The renewal of baptismal vows was made at St. Joseph's Church after Vespers.

At the Oddfellows' Hall, Lower Hutt, on Wednesday evening an entertainment was given by the Petone Amateur Dramatic Club in aid of the convent schools. Vocal and instrumental music, contributed by Misses Ashcroft, Minogue, McGuirk, Pearce, Cairns, and Bowman, Messrs. D. Campbell and J. McKinnon, filled in the first part of the programme, and in the second part selections from the opera 'Maritana' were given. The character of Maritana was ably sustained by Mrs. Adams, that of Lazarillo by Miss Fraser, Don Jose, Mr. Adams, and Don Caesar by Mr. O. D. Avison. At the conclusion of the performance a dance was held, the music being supplied by Mr. J. McMenniman.

The interim report of Mr. Charles Edwards, examiner of practical music on behalf of Trinity College, London, shows that each of the four candidates from St. Mary's Convent obtained a teacher's certificate. Misses M. Sullivan and K. Connell are now Vocal Associates, and Misses R. Falconer and Sheila Clarry are certificated pianists. The following are the additional results: Senior Division.—Honors (singing)—Gwendoline Flanagan, Rose Mildred Bennett, Constance Macloskey. Senior Division.—Honors (piano)—Nettie Drummond, Winnie Richardson, Lily White; pass—Rose Bennett. Intermediate Division.—Honors (piano)—Mary McKeown; pass—Irene Webb. Junior Division.—Pass (piano)—Teresa O'Connor, Nora Lavery. Preparatory Division.—Pass (piano)—Honoris Doherty.

The Fabian Dramatic Club began their 'Arrah-na-Pogue' season at the Opera House on Thursday evening, when there was a large audience. Good as was their presentation of 'Conn, the Shaughraun' the present performance is a decided advance on their initial effort. Miss A. Marshall gave a most creditable impersonation of the heroine. As Shaun the Post Mr. R. A. Keenan was thoroughly at home, his interpretation of the part being marked by vigor and originality. The thankless part of Michael Feeney, an informer, was entrusted to Mr. W. Healy, who made the most of it. The minor parts were all well filled, and the fine scenery used was from the brush of Mr. A. Ingelson. The orchestra was under the baton of Mr. F. J. Oakes, and Mr. F. Roberts had charge of the mechanical effects. The performance was in aid of the furnishing fund of the Newtown Convent. The complete cast of characters was as follows:—Colonel Bagenel O'Grady, Mr. M'Lauchlan; Beamish M'Coul, Mr. R. Marshall; Major Coffin, Mr. W. L. Dickens; Michael Feeney, Mr. W. P. Healy; Irish Secretary of State, Mr. G. H. King; Winterbottom, Mr. E. Freeman; Shaun the Post, Mr. R. A. Keenan; Sergeant, Mr. H. Blake; Ciny Farrell, Mr. W. Knox; Andy Regan, Mr. C. Gamble; Lanigan, Mr. F. Swift; Tim Cogan, Mr. J. M'Phea; Patsy, Mr. J. Gibbs; Denny, Mr. L. Richardson; Mike, Mr. N. Ewart; Fanny Power, Miss Marshall; Katty, Miss Ready; Arrah Meelish, Miss Agnes Marshall.

The sixteenth annual sports meeting of St. Patrick's College was held on the Basin Reserve on Thursday and was a most successful gathering. The places in the Grand Handicap were filled by J. Quill, 10 points, 1; D. Twohill, 8 points 2; M. O'Brien and D. O'Malley tying for third.

The results of the various events were as follows:—

St. Patrick's College Grand Handicap. First distance, 100 yards.—J. Quill, 1; M. O'Brien, 2; A. Garvey, 3.

100 Yards Race, for boys under 14.—J. Dignan, 1; H. Bridge, 2. High Jump Handicap.—A. Evensen (4in) and M. O'Brien (3in), tie, with a jump of 5ft 2in, including handicap; J. Kelliher (sor), 5ft 1in, 3.

100 Yards Handicap, under 12.—H. Bridge, 1; Du Moulin, 2. Bandmen's Race, 150 yards.—M. Hannon, 1; J. Kelliher, 2.

100 Yards Race, under 16.—J. M'Govern, 1; J. Quinn, 2; J. O'Connell, 3.

St. Patrick's College Grand Handicap. Second distance, 200 yards.—J. Quill, 1; D. Twohill, 2; A. Garvey, 3.

220 Yards Handicap, under 14.—J. Dignan, 1; E. M'Cardell, 2.

250 Yards, under 16.—J. M'Govern, 1; J. Quinn, 2; A. Evensen, 3.

Potato Race.—M. Murphy, 1; C. Arthur, 2.

150 Yards Championship.—D. O'Malley, 1; F. Tymons, 2; W. J. O'Kane, 3.

Bicycle Race, one mile.—D. Twohill, 1; C. O'Connor, 2; I. Bridge, 3.

120 Yards Open Handicap.—J. M'Govern, 1; M. O'Brien, 2; M. Hannon, 3.

440 Yards, under 16.—J. M'Govern, 1; J. O'Connell, 2.

Half-mile Race.—J. Conlan, 1; J. Prendeville, 2.

Grand Handicap, third distance, 140 yards.—D. Twohill, 1; C. O'Malley, 2; F. Tymons, 3.

Old Boys' Race, 150 yards.—J. Smith, 1; J. Brady, 2; B. Weybourne, 3.

One Mile Handicap.—J. Prendeville, 1; P. Gillon, 2; G. O'Kane, 3.

PALMERSTON NORTH.

For years past the Sisters of the Palmerston North Convent (says the *Manawatu Standard*) have been struggling against heavy odds in their endeavor to make the school connected with St. Patrick's Church the success their efforts deserved, and although improvements have been contemplated for years past, it has been left for the Rev. Father Tymons to take the practical steps needed. During the short period he has been stationed here, Father Tymons has won the sincere affection of a large congregation, and the esteem of the public generally, for his unostentatious good work, his kindly concern for his churchfolk, his devotion to the duties of his office, and his courteous demeanor to everyone with whom he has come in contact. He has now earned a debt of gratitude from the young people for the provision he has made for their comfort without any special effort to obtain the funds requisite for the work or calling on the congregation to provide the money. The old school has been taken to pieces and converted into one of the most modern educational establishments in the district—well-lighted, particularly lofty, roomy, capably ventilated and suitable for the work in every respect—while the outside conveniences for both sexes are built in an up-to-date manner conducive to the best interests of the children. In building the school every attention has been paid to comfort and labor-saving methods, while the accommodation is equal to an attendance of 186, instead of the 120 now on the roll. The infant room is modelled on something the same principle as that at College street, the gallery having rows of desks provided for the more advanced infants. The rooms are named after different saints, the infant room, which will easily accommodate 80 children, being called St. Joseph's. In this room, like all the other class rooms, blackboards are let into the wall, as well as ordinary blackboards on easels being provided. The next room is called St. Patrick's, and has accommodation for 46, all furnished with dual desks, while the third room (St. Mary's) has provision for 60 pupils similarly seated. The fourth room, to be used for music-teaching, known as St. Cecilia's, is as large and roomy as the last one referred to, and will be of great assistance in the branch of education the Sisters have already made their name famous in. A passage runs right through the building, with doors at each end leading outside, protected at the main entrance by a porch. The walls are harmoniously painted in