

THE examination of the pupils of the Reefton Convent School by Mr. Edwards, of Trinity College (says the *Inangahua Times*), has just been concluded and is very satisfactory, reflecting great credit on their painstaking teachers, the Sisters of Mercy. The results are:—Senior division: Violin, Miss Ruby McDonald (honors); singing, Miss Ruby McDonald (pass); pianoforte, Miss Annie Horn (pass). Intermediate division: Pianoforte, Miss Montgomerie and Miss Horton (honors); singing, Miss Eva Scott (pass). Preparatory grade (honors): Alice Anderson, Maggie Dykes, Pansy Whitten, James Grange, (pass) Mary Duffy. The examiner particularly praised Miss Anderson, she having secured the maximum number of marks. Miss McDonald was also highly complimented for her higher examination as Associate of the Trinity College of Music. In addition to the above five pupils were sent up for theoretical examination in June last, when all succeeded in passing.

A CORRESPONDENT of the *Grey Star*, referring to a visit paid to the oil springs at Kutuku, 22 miles from Greymouth, says:—The oil was oozing out so much that you could see it flowing down the stream, showing all the beautiful tints of a rainbow. About 10ft from here a few holes had been made about 1ft deep, and in all of these the pure oil was found, and no difficulty was experienced in scooping it up to fill sample 'jars.' It is of a dark brown green color, and smells strongly of kerosene. We were then taken up a bush track, and after an hour's walking arrived at a spot where, in a tributary of the creek, the flow is so great that the color of the water is entirely changed to that of a dark red. The stones are all coated with a dark green color. Evidence is shown that an enormous pressure must be working to force this continual sweating through the rock. The company has consolidated six 100-acre blocks to organise a public company to start boring on an extensive scale. Abundance of timber is to be had on the spot, and nature has provided every facility for working the oils.

THE Ladies of the Sacred Heart Convent, Timaru, will celebrate, on December 12, the first centenary of the foundation of their congregation. The Society of the Sacred Heart was founded at Amiens (France) in the year 1800, under the direction of Father Joseph Varin, S.J., by Mademoiselle Madeleine Sophie Barat. It was approved by Pope Pius VII. in 1826. The community is semi-cloistered, and follows the rule of the Society of Jesus. The ladies of the Sacred Heart devote their lives to the Christian education of youth by conducting boarding schools and parochial schools, as well as by taking charge of orphan asylums for girls. The mother house is in Paris. The Convent of the Ladies of the Sacred Heart at Timaru is one of the finest establishments of the kind in New Zealand, and in the *Catholic Directory* for 1900 the number of religious in the community is set down at 21. The first centenary of the Ladies of the Sacred Heart will be made memorable by the beatification of their holy founder, Madame Barat, who has already been declared 'venerable' by the Church.

THE trial of Brothers Wybertus and Kilian on a charge of having assaulted lads, ex-inmates of the Stoke Industrial School, was begun at the Wellington Supreme Court on Monday. The case of Brother Kilian was taken first. Messrs. Bell and Myers conducted the prosecution, and Messrs. Skerrett, Wilford, and Fall appeared for the defence. At the commencement of the proceedings Mr. Skerrett made an application that the cases be tried separately. He pointed out that there were six charges of assault each against separate individuals, and alleged to have been committed at different times, and contended that a fair trial could not be had if the cases were taken together. Mr. Skerrett further submitted that his Honor could exercise his discretion in every case in which it could be shown that the prisoner would be prejudiced by the hearing of the indictments together. These cases were wholly distinct and separate one from another, and the hearing of them all together would result in considerable embarrassment. Mr. Justice Edwards said he would give a decision without much hesitation if his decision could be reviewed. But as it could not he naturally desired to consult the other judges, and he would accordingly telegraph to them for their opinion on the point. The cases were then adjourned until Wednesday morning.

A NIGHTCAPS correspondent writes:—Thursday and Friday of last week were red-letter days in the history of this township on the occasion of his Excellency the Governor's visit to this place. On the arrival of the train at the terminus all the residents of Nightcaps, young and old, assembled to do honor to the representative of her Majesty Queen Victoria. His Excellency was met on the platform by Mr. Handyside (Nightcaps Coal Company), Mr. J. Lloyd (mine manager), Mr. J. Forde, Mr. J. A. Hall, Mr. Knox, Mr. McAnelly, Mr. J. Mason, and Mr. T. Lloyd. The school children, under their head teacher, marched in procession, each carrying a tiny Union Jack and singing the National Anthem. It was a pretty sight and seemed to please his Excellency immensely. Mr. Handyside in a handsome speech welcomed the Governor to Nightcaps. His Excellency thanked the people assembled for the honor they had done him, and said he was sure it was due to the loyalty of the people for her Most Gracious Majesty, whom he represented. His Excellency was afterwards entertained at a banquet at Mrs. Griffen's Hall, where quite 100 people sat down to a splendid supper, got up on only 24 hours' notice and in a style only known to the gifted hostess of the Railway Hotel. After the usual toasts were proposed and responded to, the Chairman, in a capital speech, suitably thanked Mrs. Griffen for the able manner in which she had provided so sumptuous a supper, and asked the company to drink success to Mrs. Griffen, their talented hostess, who had done so much to make everything a success. The toast was received with acclamation by the company, his Excellency Lord Ranfurly included.

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WEDDING BELLS.

CARVALHO—M'CLUSKEY.

A pretty wedding which attracted considerable local attention took place at the Catholic Church, Ranfurly, on November 7, when Mr J. E. Carvalho, of Waipiata, was married to Miss E. M'Cluskey. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. Father M'Mullan. The bride was given away by her cousin, Mr G. F. M'Cluskey. The bridesmaids were Misses Ellen B. and F. A. M'Cluskey, and Mr T. J. M'Carthy acted as best man.

OBITUARY.

MRS. WILLIAM MEADE, SOUTH DUNEDIN.

Within the past few years a large number of the old residents of the South Dunedin district has been summoned to their final resting place, and among the many faces that will be missed from St. Patrick's Basilica will be that of Mrs. William Meade, whose death took place at her residence, Main street, South Dunedin, on Thursday, November 15, after a long illness, at the age of 60 years. The deceased was born in Ennis, County Clare, Ireland, and left her native city for Australia over 40 years ago. She married Mr. William Meade at Geelong, and came to Otago in 1863, residing in South Dunedin for over a quarter of a century. Mrs. Meade was a most exemplary Catholic, and was ever foremost in the advancing of any good work in the cause of religion or charity. One of her principal aims was the distribution of good Catholic literature, and as a promoter she saw to the regular distributing of the *Messenger of the Sacred Heart* and other monthly books issued from Australia. Mrs. Meade was of a genial disposition, and was highly respected by all classes, a fact which was borne testimony to by the large concourse of people that followed the remains to the Southern Cemetery on Sunday last. The Rev. Father Delaney attended Mrs. Meade during her late illness, and Rev. Father Murphy officiated at the graveside. Mrs. Meade leaves a husband and grown up family of two sons and three daughters to mourn their loss.—R.I.P.

THE TROUBLE IN CHINA.

AFFAIRS have been practically at a standstill in China for some time. A few days ago the cable informed us that the representatives of the Powers had agreed on the following as a basis for a treaty of peace. China must erect a monument over the site of the murder of Baron Ketteler, and send the Prince Imperial and family to Germany, there to apologise for the murder. They must, further, execute 11 persons who were guilty of instigating the outrages, each one of whom must be either a high official or a prince. Suspend for five years all provincial examinations in the centres where the outrages occurred, and remove all those officials who did not make due efforts to prevent the outrages on foreigners. They must compensate all State corporations and civilians, including the natives employed by foreigners, for any injury or loss sustained, and substitute an office for Foreign Affairs, in place of the Tung-li-Yamen. They must permit the Ministers of the Powers rational intercourse with the Emperor personally, and they must raze the Taku and all forts along the coasts. The importation of arms and war material into China will be forbidden, and permanent foreign guards for the Legations and foreign guards for keeping foreign communications open between Peking and the sea must be maintained. Imperial proclamations for the suppression of the Boxers must be posted throughout the empire for two years. No mention is made of compensation for the injuries sustained by missionaries or native converts.

It is reported that China is prepared to concede everything demanded by the Powers with the exception of the demand for the execution of the princes and officials, which is declared to be impossible, since the Court is in the hands of these persons.

The latest news is to the effect that the representatives of the Powers are weakening, and have reduced the demand for the death of the leaders to the severest punishment under the Chinese law, forgetting that princes are not amenable to common law.

THE SOUTH AFRICAN WAR.

THE following list shows the British losses in South Africa up to the end of September —

	Officers.	Men.
Killed in action	287	2738
Died of wounds	86	813
Prisoners who have died in captivity	3	88
Died of disease	149	3653
Accidental deaths	3	108
Total deaths in South Africa	528	9400
Missing and prisoners (excluding those who have been recovered or have died in captivity)	9	799
Sent home as invalids	1279	29,957
Total, South African Field Force	1816	40,156

41,972

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