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MESSAGE OF POPE LEO XIII. TO THE N.Z. TABLET.

Pergant Directores et Scriptores New Zealand Tablet, Apostolica Benedictione confortati, Religionis et Justitiæ causam promovere per vias Veritatis et Pacis.
Die 4 Aprilis, 1900.

TRANSLATION.—Fortified by the Apostolic Blessing, let the Directors and Writers of the New Zealand Tablet continue to promote the cause of Religion and Justice by the ways of Truth and Peace.
April 4, 1900.

LEO XIII., P.M.

LEO XIII., Pope.

Current Topics

AT HOME AND ABROAD.

TIGERS AT PLAY.

LONDON has, within the past few weeks, afforded a rare field of observation for those who are interested in that curious study which has come to be known as the philosophy of crowds. It was an opportunity such as has rarely been presented since the days when Lord George Gordon's fanatics held possession of London in 1782, and when the 'Carmagnoles des Royalistes' was sung by packed mobs of human wild animals in the streets of Paris in 1793. The recent occasion in London scarcely warranted such an exhibition of the kinetic energy of a mob. Two thousand City Imperial Volunteers were returning from the war in South Africa. The gallant warriors did not, during any period of the campaign, happen to be in the vicinity of any serious fighting. They had but scant experience of

the perils that do environ
The man that meddles with cold iron,

and only nine men out of their total of 2000 dropped under Boer fire in the sundry small skirmishes that occasionally enlivened the monotony of their leisurely marches across the veldt. The sublime tomfooleries in which London engaged on Mafeking day have enriched local slang with a word—'to maffick'—which may yet, like another historic word—to boycott—receive the dignity of citizenship of the English tongue. But no single word appears to have been yet devised to express the hideous chaos that held possession of the streets of the world's commercial metropolis when its own particular Johnnies came marching home.

The London correspondent of the *Otago Daily Times* gives a lurid description of the 'utter chaos and anarchy' into which London was plunged on 'that discreditable day.' The city, he says, was 'delivered to the unrestrained licence and rowdiness of the lowest class of the population, with the result that more than 2000 people were injured, many very seriously, and several killed outright, while the final scenes were more than a foretaste of Pandemonium.' The principal thoroughfares were 'defiled' by a 'vast army of rowdies, male and female.' 'As the afternoon wore on, the crowd became wholly unmanageable. . . . Disorder and anarchy rode rampant. . . . The scene of desperate fighting and struggling and gasping humanity, the shouts of men and the shrieking of women made up a general experience one would be sorry to meet with a second time.' Military and police alike lost control of the mob, and narrowly escaped being forced into the Thames. This was the state of London when the sun was high. The horrors of the dusk and darkness are thus described:—

Throughout the whole of that Monday evening and well into the small hours of the next morning the main streets of London were paraded by vast mobs of drunken, hooting, yelling, blasphemous roughs and Hooligans, male and female, who insulted everyone they met, and often assaulted their victims as well. Numbers of respectable women who had to pass along the streets that evening were mauled and pulled about and kissed and slobbered by these ruffians, sometimes in full sight of knots of policemen, who seemingly were afraid to interfere, or, perhaps, had been instructed not

to do so, as it is the fashion to be gentle with those foul wretches for whom hanging is too good and who one of these days will wreck and pillage London itself unless they be taken in hand betimes and taught what a cat-o-nine-tails is for. . . . One of the saddest features to my mind in the obscene riot of last Monday was the large number of drunken women and girls who took active part in the worst excesses. Mere girls of 15 to 20, grossly intoxicated, were among the vilest of the noisy and foul-tongued crew. Their special delight was to thrust filthy peacocks' feathers into people's faces, or to bang passers-by with bladders tied on sticks. Their least harmful amusement was the dancing of furious cancan or some other indecent gambols. Many of these unsexed females were quite respectable in dress and appearance. That fact made their conduct seem all the more horrible and revolting.

The noisy and fickle mob had gone out to huzza their throats hoarse in welcome to the City Imperial Volunteers. In the snapping of a gun it turned its dangerous energies to riot and violence and uproar. Two hundred and fifty years before the same streets were lined by another closely-packed mob of enthusiastic sight-seers waiting to welcome other conquering heroes home. It was in 1650. And Cromwell and his Ironsides were marching through the vociferous streets on his return from his campaigns in Ireland. Oliver understood the weathercock populace of his day better than the London police authorities understand those of the present day. 'What a mighty crowd,' somebody remarked to him. 'Yes,' said the grim old Puritan; 'but if it were to see me hanged how many there would be!' The London mob is still the same old mob of Cromwell's days, but bigger and more massive and with more of the devil in it, and more dangerous. 'Where it comes from,' says Dickens in his *Barnaby Rudge*, 'or whither it goes, few men can tell. Assembling and dispersing with equal suddenness, it is as difficult to follow to its various sources as the sea itself. Nor does the parallel stop here; for the ocean is not more fickle and uncertain, more terrible when roused, more unreasonable, or more cruel.'

TOWARDS the close of 1898 a 'Non-Treating A NON-TREATING Club' was formed in Chicago. It started

with one member—a remarkably live one, by the way: one Mr. Monett, the founder of the association. In three months it had drawn into its net a membership of 60,000 men. It was not a total abstinence, nor even what is commonly called a temperance, movement. Its card of membership contains the pithy injunction: 'When you want a drink, take it, and don't imagine you will offend anyone by not asking eight or ten to join you.' Members pledged themselves simply to avoidance of the pernicious habit of treating—in colonial, 'shouting.' Well, one act of the flattery of imitation is worth a dozen morganatic compliments. A club or association on similar lines has been started in Australia. It is sorely needed across the water. Customs of this kind are described in the Old Law as the plague of wise men and the idol of fools. Members of the new association—to which we wish God-speed—will probably have to stand for some time the odium of the idolators of the old treating custom, and an abundant pelting with that variety of 'chaff' which hits as hard and cuts as deep as sparrow-shot. But the movement deserves attention as an upstanding fight against a grave social abuse.

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Some twenty months ago Judge Kettle gave, at Palmerston North, a little homily on the prevalence of 'shouting' in New Zealand. He does not view the habit with very marked approval. So much, at least, we infer from his remark that it is 'a foolish, stupid habit, and one of the curses of the country.' He at the same time expressed regret that some legislation could not be devised to stamp the custom out of existence. With all our reputation as a (relatively) temperate people, there are, even among the most moderate drinkers in this Colony few who have the courage to say 'no' in answer to the customary phrase: 'Have one with me.' Some years ago—so the story runneth—a French immigrant, who was in a state of baptismal innocence as to English and colonial drinking customs, asked a New Zealand squatter: 'What must I say eef a man asks me to drink?' 'Oh,' said the man of acres, 'you just say "All right," or "Don't care if I do"—and just sail in.' 'Yes. But eef I no want to drink?' The squatter cudgelled his brains for a few moments. Then he said: 'Well, Frenchy, you've fairly floored me this time. Never knew a man to refuse.' 'Bacchus has drowned more than Neptune.' So runs the Spanish proverb. A far-reaching non-treating organisation would save many a youth from looking too often on the wine when it sparkleth in the glass, and would do more for the cause of temperance in these colonies than a dozen regiments of prohibitionists. It would at least teach our young men to say 'no' at critical moments and snap their fingers in the face of old and evil custom. And, after all, much of personal virtue and character-formation depends on the capacity to say 'no' and mean it at the proper time.

A BURNING QUESTION.

EARLY in 1898 Wellington had its burning question, when the local cremationists agitated for the erection of a crematorium by the rate-payers of the Empire City. A similar agitation is now bubbling in Dunedin in a small way, and has boiled over into the columns of the daily papers. Cremationists and anti-cremationists have been administering sounding thwacks to each others' polls, sometimes, it must be confessed, with the weapon of the court jester, sometimes with that of Sampson. To the great body of people cremation is both unsightly and repulsive. And, as usual in discussions on this subject, the supporters of the old primeval system are serenely confident that the strength of public opinion is, and long will be, too great to permit of any extensive change in the principle of returning the bodies of our race to the earth from which the Creator compacted them.

The subject has been debated in all the moods and tenses from the days of Julian the Apostate down to Sir Henry Thompson and Erichsen. Since 1874 over 3000 books and pamphlets have been written on cremation. They have searched the sanitary, legal, economical, and religious aspects of the question from Dan to Beersheba—and left it pretty well where they found it. During the discussions of the subject in Dunedin, as in Wellington over two years ago, the sanitary side of the question came uppermost, and the lingering putrefaction of earth-burial, as at present generally practised, was made the theme of strong, and we may add, generally well-merited, condemnation. In other words, the abuses of earth-burial have furnished the cremationists with the best plea for the propaganda of a mode of disposing of the dead which many barbarous nations abandoned when civilisation spread among them. The whole case against earth-burial hangs by practices which are accidental to it. We refer more especially to heavy and durable wooden and leaden coffins, vaults, brick graves, and, generally, to all attempts to shield the bodies of the dead from the dissolvent and disinfectant action of air and mother earth. Earth to earth burial (without coffins) was the usual method followed by the early Christians, and the long and crowded corridors of the underground cities of the dead that stretch outside the walls of Rome are to-day as sweet and free from evil odors as if their *loculi* were filled with the cinerary urns which became fashionable in pagan Rome in the days when the simple ways of the olden days had been abandoned and manners had become corrupt.

The era of strong coffins began in England in the closing years of the Second Charles. A remarkable judgment by Lord Stowell shows the strong objection with which the official mind of the period viewed this effort to secure an unnatural survival of the crude outward form of the corpse and vain resistance to the law of dissolution. The custom still endures—in the interests of the undertakers. The unnatural and unsanitary condition of bodies enclosed in coffins of lead or heavy wood or in brick graves was exemplified in a horrible way when the burial-ground of St. Andrew's, Holborn (London), was removed to make way for the present Viaduct. 'Little difference,' says a writer in the July *Quarterly*, 'as to condition could be perceived between the coffins of Charles II.'s time and those recently used, or between the coffins which were of lead and those which were of wood. In the coffins which were intact, their contents were also intact, but unrecognisable. 'In

one part of the cemetery,' says another writer, 'was a plague-pit, where the bodies of the dead had been thrown in just as they had come carted from the neighboring street. Fear was abroad in the land, and there was no time to think of coffins. The result was that when the pit was opened the poor uncared-for corpses had wholly disappeared, enfolded in the bosom of mother-earth, and through her embrace restored to the world as the elements of life.'

Those best versed in sanitary science are unanimous in holding that nothing more injurious than carbonic acid is given off by cemeteries. And for this the surrounding vegetable world has such a voracious appetite that it is instantly absorbed. The huddled corpses of the victims of the great bubonic plague of London were probably covered with a light top-dressing of only one or two feet of earth! And yet their shallow and crowded sepulchre was never known to have served as a centre of infection. The same holds true of the old and narrow roofed cemetery of the Capuchins in Rome. There a thin covering of earth from the Holy Land closely embraced the coffinless forms of the dead. After a brief period of this true earth to earth sepulture, nothing but the clean, dry bones remained. These were disinterred and were placed around the rooms in niches, or they were separated and wrought into grotesque adornments for the walls and ceilings. The little cemetery was daily visited by the curious, or by pious people intent upon meditation on the last things. But king microbe does not seem to have molested them particularly, and some of the monks who spent hours daily in this anatomical museum lived to a great old age. Early in 1873 the Prussian Government sent a secret commission to examine into the condition of the dead that were slain on the battlefields of the Vosges in 1870. The results are briefly summed up in the following words: 'In some cases as many as 800 soldiers had been hastily thrust into a shallow trench. And yet after an interval of two years the bodies had disappeared and only the bones and accoutrements remained. To this rule there was one significant exception: the dead officers had been buried in mackintoshes, and the result was very much as if they had been buried in coffins. To put the thing shortly: the decomposition of a body depends upon the porousness of the soil and coffin.' And the moral of it all is this: what we need is not the frying-pan or destructor method of disposing of our corpses and of those of our sisters and our cousins and our aunts, but a reform of our funeral customs—the abolition of heavy wooden and leaden coffins, vaults, brick graves, and all attempts to retard the swift and wholesome action of the earth on the bodies of the dead. In other words, a return to the good old rule, the simple plan of firm-y, perishable coffins and earth to earth burial.

The legal objections to cremation have never been satisfactorily answered. Briefly, it would put a premium on crime by destroying evidence such as has, over and over again, brought to justice poisoners like Mrs. Webster, Mary Anne Cotton, and others such. Numerous instances in which murderers have been brought to justice through the exhumation of the lawfully interred bodies of their victims are given by the writer of the article in the *Quarterly* for July. Dr. Bond, of the Westminster Hospital, furnishes several cases in point. And he adds that he 'has no doubt that many persons skilled in the use of poisons would more frequently resort to them if it were not for the knowledge that their operations were liable to be handicapped by exhumation.' Dr. Braxton Hicks, one of the two experts examined by the House of Commons Commission, gave it as his opinion that a post-mortem examination should be held on every body brought to Woking for cremation; that it would be 'a criminal act' to destroy a body without such inquiry; that earth-burial is 'better from a sanitary point of view' than cremation; that, in fact, 'in a sanitary point of view it is perfect'; that it tends 'absolutely in no way whatever to spread infectious disease'; and that 'any statement to the contrary is a statement which is not warranted by fact.' The writer in the *Quarterly* points out that it takes two hours to turn a single corpse into its residuum of grey ash, and a whole working day to destroy half a dozen. From these figures we can roughly estimate the delay and the enormous cost of roasting the dead of a great city.

In the Vienna crematorium, the dead are treated like parcels of meat and grocery: they are shot through pneumatic tubes from the city to the roasting establishments. Under their present anti-clerical management the bodies of paupers and of the unknown dead in the great hospitals of Paris are first consigned to doctors and medical students. After they have been duly hacked and scarified and dissected they are returned to the hospitals, carted pell-mell to the Père Lachaise crematorium, dumped into the furnaces without religious rites—to the number of some 27,000 a year. For Catholics cremation is strictly forbidden by decree of Pope Leo XIII., dated May 17, 1886. Curiously enough, about the same time a similar prohibition of cremation was issued to the Jews of Italy by the General Consistory of

the Rabbins at Turin. Those who give directions—after the manner of Edmund Yates and Du Maurier—for the incineration of their bodies after death are deprived of the Sacraments before passing away and of Christian burial afterwards. Among the reasons which prompted this decree was the fact that cremation had been notoriously adopted by the Freemasons and other infidel associations of Continental Europe as a public expression of their disbelief in the doctrine of the resurrection and of the truer and higher life that lies beyond death and the grave. It is, of course, needless to remind our readers that the reduction of the body by fire offers no impediment to its future resurrection, for God's almighty power can effect its reintegration whether it be merged in the earth from which it was taken, or devoured by wild beasts, or dissolved into gaseous elements by the action of a furnace. The catacombs of Rome were the receptacles of the ashes of some of the early martyrs. But a general feeling has during all times existed in favor of committing the bodies of our dead to the kindly earth. Christians have thus long tacitly expressed their belief that, in the Scripture phrase, our body is planted as a seed in the earth, out of which we hope it will rise on the last day to a glorious immortality. 'It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption' (1. Cor., xv., 42).

The Church has never condemned cremation in itself. She permits, and even encourages, the burning or calcining of the bodies of the dead in times of pestilence, as the Jews did (Amos, vi., 10), and on battlefields, where great numbers of festering bodies corrupt the atmosphere. Her prohibition arises partly from the motive given above, partly from reasons connected with her ritual, her processes of canonisation and veneration of relics, but chiefly, perhaps, because she looks upon even a lifeless Christian body as something different in nature and destiny from the remains of a brute. It is not in every sense dead. Like Lazarus, it 'only sleepeth'—awaiting the hour of its resurrection. And she is convinced that our soulless bodies are treated with greatest respect when consigned to mother earth with placid face, with form unaltered, to await the great day when the dry bones shall clothe themselves again with human shape and in the flesh the newly risen creature shall see God its Savior.

THE FLOWERY KINGDOM.

BITS OF CHINA, OLD AND NEW.

A PECULIAR STRIKE.

A very peculiar 'strike' is recorded as having been in progress in Canton, China. The executioners, who do the beheading, are complaining that, unless they get more money, they will starve. It appears from their complaint that they are paid 500 cash (1s) per head, and they demand 2s. One shilling is a small fortune to a poor Chinaman, but it seems that business has fallen off to a deplorable extent, or there is too much competition, and the executioners are suffering.

THE EARLY MISSIONARIES.

The *Attache at Peking* is a book recently published in London from the pen of Mr. A. B. Freeman-Mitford, C.B. The *Spectator* of September 29 had a lengthy review of the work, in the course of which it said:—

'In a preface written since the relief the Legations, he (Mr. Freeman-Mitford) expresses the decided opinion that the hostility of the Chinese towards Europeans is not due to missionary enterprise, and he fortifies this opinion by a singularly interesting sketch of the relations of the early Jesuit missionaries, such as Ricci, Schall, and Verbiest with the court of China. Father Ricci's treatise on the "True Doctrine of God," written in admirable Chinese, and revised, oddly enough, by a Minister of State called Sin, was included in an Imperial list of the best Chinese books. The daughter of one of his converts, baptised Candida, built 39 churches, and the Emperor gave her the title of "the virtuous woman." This, it is true, was early in the seventeenth century. Fifty years later Father Schall was actually tutor to the young Emperor, Kang Asi, afterwards one of the greatest of Chinese rulers, under whom Father Verbiest became court astronomer and constructed those beautiful bronze instruments which are still among the wonders of the observatory at the southern corner of the Tartar city.'

[A few weeks ago we were informed by cable that these instruments had been removed by some of the representatives of the Powers, and were to be sent to Europe.]

CHINESE POLITENESS.

The Rev. Bertrand Cotonay, O.P., writing in the *Dominicana*, says:—We have all heard of Chinese politeness as something exquisite. Indeed, it is remarkable! One of the literati comes to see me. He bows in a gracious manner. I acknowledge it. Afterwards he addresses to me some conventional, stereotyped platitudes, to which I am bound to make the conventional answers. He will ask what is my precious name, and I must answer that my vile name is such. He will tell me that he admires my palace; I must answer that my wretched hut is not worthy to receive his excellency. I must not inquire for his wife; it would be scandalous. Besides, he may have three or four.

However, if the turn of the conversation brings my visitor to speak of his wife, he will not call her by name. Generally she has

no name. He will mention 'the abject creature of my interior apartments,' or 'the vile enclosed one,' or something similar. Nor may I inquire for his children; it is not permitted. They are so little to him! Nor may I ask for anybody else; it would be an injury to him! During the conversation he freely expectorates, regardless of surroundings; he despises a handkerchief, but in meanest ways avails of one's tablecloth or curtains. Tea having been served, he first rinses his mouth with it and ejects it on the floor. Then another deep bow and more conventional sentences, and he departs.

THE FIGHT AT TIEN-TSIN.

Colonel Meade, who commanded all the American forces at Tien-tsin, arrived at Honolulu on September 1 on the transport *Solace en route* to San Francisco. Colonel Meade, who is a soldier of 35 years' experience, says the slaughter of Chinese at Tien-tsin was the worst he ever saw. 'I have been in the war business for 35 years, and went through the American Civil War,' said Colonel Meade, 'and I never saw such slaughter as was inflicted at Tien-tsin on the 13th and 14th of July. When we finally entered the walled city there were dead and mangled bodies every few feet, it seemed. They lay all over the streets. There was no special attempt made to get the figures of the enemy's loss. The dead were simply buried as quickly as possible, and the Chinese started along the Peking road with what wounded they could look after. There were about 2000 of these.'

The Japanese troops are most enthusiastically praised by Colonel Meade. He says that their behaviour was simply splendid. They showed themselves as brave as any of the forces engaged, and their discipline and intelligence were up to the highest standard.

FAIR STATEMENT OF THE POSITION.

A correspondent of *Harper's Weekly*, writing from China says: The Roman Catholic Christians were often oppressed by non-Christians, members of their community, and as a result the Church appointed two of her priests to attend to no other duties except the investigation of evidence in case of litigation, and the conduct of such cases as they thought unjust before the official. The fact that they had official rank, and the other very important fact that they were foreigners, added to their power, and they were thus able to meet the official not only on his own ground, but with the additional power of understanding foreign law. The Christians were, therefore, enabled to obtain justice.

CHINESE CUSTOMS.

Among the peculiar customs that prevail among the Chinese (says an exchange) a not interesting one is that of the Merit System, or keeping account of the merits or demerits of a man. For the loaning of an umbrella, or freeing a bird from imprisonment, he is entitled to one merit. If he gives a coffin to a bereaved family he may add 30 merits to his list. If he pays the debts of his father 10 merits go to his list. It is worth 50 marks to save a child's life. Two good works that each entitles a man to 100 marks is first to publish a good book; second, to marry after having become rich, an unattractive girl whom he had promised to wed before he had acquired wealth.

One of the minor sins is to dig an insect out of its snug nest in winter. This unkindness is punished with one demerit. The penalty of five demerits is attached either to having blotted a book or become intoxicated. In some parts of China it is considered just as wicked to eat beef as to kill a child. Either offence is punished by 100 demerits.

THE FUTURE OF CHINA.

Colonel Charles Denby, late Minister Plenipotentiary of the United States to China, has an article in a recent issue of the *Forum* entitled 'The future of China and the Missionaries.' Having stated that for 250 years (he might have said many more) the Catholics had been in China, while the Protestants came only in this century, he goes very straight to the Berthemy Convention, saying: 'France, the natural protector of the Catholic missionaries, secured the adoption of what was called the Berthemy Convention, under which the French missionary has the right to go into any province and buy land, build houses, and permanently reside.' And now he says that the world declares the missionary to be the cause of the recent outbreaks in China, and that one of the problems is whether his work there shall be given up; to which Colonel Denby replies categorically, first, that he does not find, in the accounts published of existing disturbances, that a distinct anti-missionary feeling was the impelling force of the riots; nor, secondly, that the missionary was driven out because he was a missionary, but because he was a foreigner. Then, in regard to the question whether the work should be abandoned, he says that the undoubted fact should be recognised that the Catholic powers—the Pope, Spain, Italy, France—will never consent that their missionaries shall be driven from Chihli. Their interests there, he says, are immense, with twenty-eight bishops in the empire, three being in China alone, and with vast establishments over the country, with schools, colleges, asylums, industrial schools, carpenters' and other shops, and all the forms of labor. The chief religious societies—Jesuits, Benedictines, Augustinians, Lazarists, Franciscans—are found in many places. 'You cannot turn the dial of progress back. You cannot revoke all the treaties. You cannot undo the work of the three centuries. . . . It is not in Christian nature to disregard the divine command to go into the world and teach all nations. The subject transcends the scope of human laws.' And then Colonel Denby again declares his belief that the troubles were not caused by missionaries, but by racial feeling. He cannot think such serious disturbances arose from antagonism to men and women with lives mostly devoted to charity.

The McCormick Harvesting Machine Company built and sold 213,629 machines in the season of 1899. This is the greatest sale of harvesting machines ever made by one company.—*N.Y.*

Diocesan News.

ARCHDIOCESE OF WELLINGTON.

(From our own correspondent.)

December 15.

Fathers Mahony and O'Reilly, of St. Patrick's College staff, have gone for a short trip up the Wanganui River.

Rev. Father George Mahony, who was here for some weeks in connection with the Stoke Orphanage cases, returned to Nelson on Thursday.

At the Technical School Drawing examination the following students from St. Mary's Convent were successful in the second grade:—Freehand—L. Meagher (excellent), E. Crombie, M. Goulter. Model—M. Goulter (good), I. Evans, C. Gray.

Prior to their departure for home the students of St. Patrick's College who took part in the production of 'The Two Orphans' were treated to a special picnic. They were conveyed in brakes to Titahi Bay, where a very pleasant day was spent. On their leaving the Bay cheers for their hosts, Rev. Fathers Clancy and Herbert, to whom the boys were deeply grateful, were lustily given.

The end of the Stoke Orphanage cases has at last been reached. The trial of Brother Wybertus, charged with indecent assault on a boy named Gucker, occupied the Supreme Court, over which Chief Justice Sir Robert Stout presided, on Monday. A verdict of 'not guilty' was returned. The results were anticipated by unprejudiced people of all denominations here and the verdicts of the jury have brought from the Press and people expressions of approval. A word of praise is here due to a local 'Defence Committee,' in which Messrs. O. McArdle, T. J. Davis, and L. Dwan were the prime movers, for the many services rendered to the Brothers during the trials. Though the Brothers have triumphed the costs of the defence are necessarily very heavy, and for the purpose of raising funds for the payment of these subscription lists are being forwarded to the principal towns in New Zealand. Already in Wellington there is, I am informed, a good sum subscribed, but as this is considered to be a colonial affair it is hoped that sympathisers from all parts of the Colony will subscribe and that the Brothers will not be put to the expense of repelling an attack on the whole Catholic body. Subscriptions may be forwarded to Rev. Father O'Shea, S.M., Boulcott street, or to Mr. O. McArdle, Botanical Road. A grand social and conversation as an expression of sympathy with the Marist Brothers are to be held in the Skating Rink on next Wednesday, when doubtless there will be a large attendance.

The midsummer entertainment and distribution of prizes at St. Mary's Convent took place before an assemblage which packed the large schoolroom on last Monday evening. Instrumental and vocal items, quite up to the excellent standard set at previous concerts by the convent pupils given by Misses Kenny, Rowe, N. Long, Macloskey, Ritling, Campion, N. Drummond, Bennett, and Reilly, and recitations by Misses Duignan and Parsons, occupied the first part of the programme. In the absence of his Grace the Archbishop, the Very Rev. Father Lewis presided. Before presenting the prizes he congratulated the Sisters and their pupils on the excellence of the entertainment. The convent now had a colonial reputation as the premier school of music. That this reputation was well merited was conclusively proved by the triumphs of pupils under the tests of the English examining institutions. Nor was it only, he said, in music that the convent was successful: it imparted a sound secular education, and, above all, it gave to pupils a solid religious knowledge—that knowledge which gave lustre to all education and was the foundation-stone of society. The Catholics of New Zealand were proud of their schools, which for more than twenty years they had maintained in spite of the monetary sacrifices which were thereby entailed. He complimented the Sisters and pupils on the progress made during the year, and wished them all a pleasant holiday. [The prize-list appears in another part of this issue.]

The annual entertainment by the pupils of the Dixon street Convent school was given at St. Patrick's Hall on Thursday and Friday evenings. The hall was altogether too small for the large audience present. 'Beauty and the Beast' was the play staged and the cast of characters was as follows:—Zimri, F. Maher; Azor; E. Murphy; Anna, T. Myers; Loloo, M. Mitten; Beauty, I. Barry; Silverstar, D. McGrath; Attendant Fairies,—A. Foster, D. Fonks, N. Maher, G. McArdle, K. Hickey, H. Flanagan, M. Edmunds, M. Tobin, A. McKenzie, W. Palmer, M. Outtrim, E. O'Brien, B. Foster, C. Tandy. The Sisters deserve every praise for the training of the youthful performers each of whom went through the allotted part in first class style. During the intervals the following items were given:—Fan Drill and recitation, infants; duet (piano), B. and R. Coleman; chorus, school children; solo (piano), G. McArdle; song, A. Segrief; chorus, children; solo (piano), M. Weavers; duet, B. and R. Coleman; song, A. Foster. A special word must be given to the infants for their performance of the Fan drill. The sympathetic singing of the Misses Segrief merited encores for their different numbers. The proceeds of the entertainment go towards the fund for prizes and school requisites.

A highly enjoyable and successful entertainment in aid of St. Bride's Convent, Masterton, was given by the pupils in the Opera House there on Thursday evening. The first part of the programme gave convincing evidence of the good work done in musical matters by the nuns, and reflected great credit on them as teachers. The presentation of a drama, entitled 'Lord Darnley' as the second part was equally successful. The programme of musical items was as follows:—Pianoforte duet and solo (three pianos), Misses Hourigan, Eccleton, Holloway, Richards, and Jones; vocal chorus, Misses Eccleton, Parsons, Daly, Holloway, O'Connell, Holmes (2), Jago, O'Malley, Collier, D'Arcy and Smythson; accompanist, Miss Elsie Richards. Pianoforte solo, Miss Elsie Richards. Vocal solo, Miss

McKenzie; accompanist, Miss Olive McKenzie. Pianoforte solo (four pianos), Misses Eccleton, Hourigan, Richards, and Jones. Vocal duet, Misses McKenzie, Holloway, and King; accompanist, Miss Eccleton. Pianoforte duet, Misses Parsons, Daly, Williamson, O'Connell, Jago, Richards, Collier, and Jones. Vocal chorus, Misses Eccleton, McKenzie (2), Holloway, King, O'Malley, and Jago; accompanist, Miss Elsie Richards. Pianoforte solo, Miss Eccleton. Vocal solo, Mr. Walter Jago; accompanist, Miss Eccleton. Pianoforte duet, Misses Collerton, Eccleton, Hourigan, Holloway, Stempa, and Jorns (2). In the drama the following took part:—Misses Holloway, E. King, Polly Mallabarr, Florence D'Arcy, Reside, Power, Eccleton, Collerton, Chapman, Murray, Parsons, Hooper, Hourigan, Chapman, Stempa, and Vida O'Connell.

REEFTON.

(From an occasional correspondent.)

December 7th.

An account of Reefton doings since last a contribution from this quarter appeared in the TABLET may not prove uninteresting to its readers. The newly-appointed parish priest at once after his arrival took in hand the more urgent parochial works. The financial position first claimed attention, and, thanks to the loyal assistance of the congregation, Father Hickson was soon able to announce that an arrangement had been come to with the Bank of New Zealand, which bade fair to prove satisfactory to all parties. A rapidly increasing outward movement of the walls in the Reefton Church made it imperative to take protective measures. Accordingly strong iron tie-rods were put in and the walls were well braced together. A new main altar was provided and the sanctuary painted and re-decorated. Attention was then turned to the boys' school, a building which in the early days did duty as a church. This has been transformed into a really fine building, well suited to the purposes to which it is turned. Just now a handsome picket fence is being erected around the grounds of the presbytery, and our parish priest hopes in the very near future to have the presbytery repainted. None of these works have added anything to the parish liabilities as appeals for the different undertakings were specially made, to which the congregation responded with their usual generosity. Over and above these improvements, the general surroundings of the church and presbytery have been attended to, so that the Catholic property in Reefton bears quite a creditable appearance.

Three socials were held during the winter months with a view to improving the financial position, and the working committees brought such unanimity and energy to bear upon their labors that a great success was scored, the net result being £60.

The Government inspector a few weeks back examined the pupils of the sixth standard, and Father Hickson himself conducted the test for the lower standards. The result was eminently creditable alike to the pupils and to their painstaking teachers, the Sisters of Mercy. The children are now earnestly bent upon giving further proof of their educational capabilities in the public entertainment which is to come off at an early date.

One of our local medicos, Doctor Whitton, recognising the excellent work done by his daughters at the Sacred Heart High School, especially at the recent examinations, gave a delightful outing to all the pupils. Queen's weather prevailed, and when in the cool of the evening the pleasure-seekers returned to town they made the welkin ring with their joyousness.

The beautiful devotion of the Quarant Ore took place in Reefton last month. The local pastors were aided by brother-priests from neighboring parishes—Rev. Father King (Ahaura), and Rev. Father Malone, S.M. (Greymouth). On the second night of the Exposition Rev. Father Malone gave a very fine discourse on some devotional aspects of the Real Presence.

It must have been very gratifying to the friends and well-wishers of the assistant priest here—the Very Rev. Dean Rolland, S.M.—to notice that on the recommendation of the Petitions Committee, the Cabinet recognised in a tangible way the services rendered by the worthy priest in the wars of the sixties. Dean Rolland was in 1865 appointed chaplain to the regular forces in Taranaki and in that capacity and with the rank of captain ministered to the 43rd, 70th and 10th regiments and the 18th Royal Irish. Subsequently he was attached to the Colonial forces, was several times under fire and was taken prisoner at Opunake. In the storming of Ngutu-o-te-Manu in 1868 where the gallant Von Tempsky was killed Dean Rolland had actually to take up the duties of officer commanding the retreat with the ambulance, those on whom the duty would otherwise have devolved having been killed or being still engaged in the storming of the pah. Mr. Gudgeon in his *Heroes of New Zealand* records that Father Rolland saved several lives. Last Christmas the Auckland *Weekly News* contained a full-page illustration of the gallant priest attending the wounded under fire. He was also present at Rewa-Rewa, and followed the militia under Lieut. Colonel McDonnell lately deceased, Major Hunter and Colonel now Sir George Whitmore. While with the Colonial forces the good priest received from the Government no remuneration whatsoever though he was still rated as a Captain with an orderly in attendance, and it was only in 1873 that he ceased his services as chaplain. Small wonder then that the Cabinet has voted a sum of £100 to be paid to the Very Reverend Father as some slight recognition of the great services he rendered to his adopted country in the Taranaki wars. He is still hale and hearty and will, it is hoped, be long spared to continue his ministrations in this district.

Death has been very busy with his sickle during the past winter in Reefton and has been particularly unsparing with the old identities. West Coasters in other parts may be anxious to hear the names of those taken from amongst us: John Patrick Harris, Thomas McKenna, Patrick McLarry, Peter O'Neill, Matthew Walker

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(received into the church on his deathbed), Michael Lynch, Denis Quigley, George O'Neill, Mrs. Coghlan, Mrs. Dawson, Mrs. Heaphy, Philip Bannan, John Gannon. On whose souls sweet Jesus have mercy.

DIOCESE OF AUCKLAND.

(From our own correspondent.)

December 13.

Three aspirants were received into the Children of Mary Society at St. Patrick's last Saturday morning. The ceremony was performed by the Right Rev. Mgr. O'Reilly.

The Hon. J. G. Ward attended Mass at St. Patrick's last Sunday accompanied by his son, and subsequently paid his respects at the presbytery to his Lordship the Bishop and Mgr. O'Reilly.

The boys of the Marist Brothers' High School are holding a picnic to day at St. Helier's Bay. The devoted Superior, Rev. Brother Basil, and Brothers Jerome and Edward accompanied the lads who went out in brakes.

His Lordship the Bishop has received the vestments, copes, and church ornaments, etc., which he secured during his recent visit to Ireland. They are all of a very high order of merit, and the churches throughout the diocese will benefit largely through the Bishop's exertions and kind thoughtfulness.

The church at Puhoi has, through the indefatigable exertions of Rev. Father Brodie, been considerably enlarged and improved. The Bishop, at the first favorable opportunity, will journey thither and officiate. Father Brodie, since his advent to his widely scattered parish, has devoted great attention to the improvement of the many churches under his charge.

'The General,' a weekly contributor to the *Herald*, has discovered that the uprising of the Irish peasantry in 1798 has a parallel in the present Boer war, though he graciously admits that the Irish had more justification. He would be a poor student of history who denied the justice of the cause of Ireland's peasant soldiery of '98.

Large tracts of native lands, hitherto locked up, will soon be opened to the public in various parts of the Auckland province. Around about Kawhia, a port on the West Coast likely in the near future to be of importance, some 80,000 to 100,000 acres will be open for selection about March next. Some 4000 acres will be ready next month at Tokatoka, Kaipara, and 15,000 acres at Wharepepa, West Taupo, South Kihikihi. All this should prove to be an inestimable boon up this way.

Great satisfaction was evinced by our people throughout the city and suburbs at the successful termination of the disreputable charges made against Brothers Wybertus and Killian. The Superior, Brother Basil, and his colleagues here were the recipients of many hearty congratulations. Amongst the first of the callers upon our respected Brothers was his Lordship the Right Rev. Dr. Lenihan.

At St. Patrick's Cathedral last Sunday evening his Lordship the Right Rev. Dr. Lenihan administered the Sacrament of Confirmation to fully 200 children. The majority of them had received a long course of regular instruction from the Right Rev. Mgr. O'Reilly as well as from the Sisters and Brothers in their respective schools. First Communion was given on the previous Saturday morning, when Mgr. O'Reilly delivered an appropriate address. Breakfast was provided in St. Patrick's for the children. Next day, Sunday, the Bishop made his annual visitation to the cathedral. Rev. Father O'Carroll celebrated a *Missa Cantata*, Rev. Father Purton, O.S.B., being master of ceremonies. After the first Gospel the Bishop entered the pulpit and explained the object of his annual visitation. Since his last visit many changes had taken place, which were rendered necessary by the scarcity of priests throughout the diocese, consequently the younger priests were drafted into the country. While abroad he had not forgotten them and he had brought back many necessary and useful articles which would adorn their church. In the evening the girls for Confirmation assembled in St. Patrick's Convent Schools under the care of the Sisters of Mercy, and the boys at St. Patrick's Hall under the Marist Brothers. Twenty each from St. Mary's Orphanage, Ponsonby, and St. Leo's Academy, Devonport, also arrived under the care of the Sisters of Mercy. The girls, all dressed in spotless white, occupied the front seats on the right, and the boys in red sashes on the left. The church was thronged. When all were seated the Bishop addressed the children in simple but very effective language, telling them they were about to be enrolled soldiers of Jesus Christ. At the conclusion of the ceremony the Bishop again spoke to the children. They were now, he said, fortified for the battle of the Cross, and around its standard they should ever rally to defend and uphold it; as good children of the Church they should always strive to be a credit to it and to their parents and friends. If they at all times remembered the day upon which they received their first Communion and Confirmation and the instructions and the good intentions then formed depend upon it, they would be good Catholics and good members of society. The Bishop subsequently gave Benediction, assisted by the Right Rev. Mgr. O'Reilly, Father Corcoran being deacon, Father Carroll subdeacon, and Father Purton master of ceremonies.

DIOCESE OF CHRISTCHURCH.

(From our own correspondent.)

December 17.

His Lordship the Right Rev. Dr. Grimes, accompanied by the Very Rev. Dean Foley, visited Timaru during last week to be present at the centennial celebration of the establishment of the Sacred Heart Order.

Sunday last, the 16th inst., was the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of Canterbury, and the event was observed in an especial manner in the Pro-Cathedral. At 11 o'clock Pontifical High Mass was celebrated by his Lordship the Right Rev. Bishop Grimes, the Very Rev. Father Le Menant des Chesnais was assistant priest, Rev. Fathers McDonnell and Leen deacon and subdeacon respectively, the Very Rev. Dean Foley assistant priest at the throne, and Rev. Father Gallais master of ceremonies. The music was Weber's Mass in G, the soprano solos being sung by Miss Ross, of Wellington, Miss Bryant (alto), Mr. D. Roche (bass), and Mr. McKay (tenor). Schmidt's 'Ave Maria' was sung at the offertory. Miss Funston presided at the organ, and Mr. H. H. Loughnan conducted. His Lordship the Bishop preached, his remarks having reference to the Jubilee with reminiscences of early missionary efforts and the progress of the Church during the comparatively brief period of the history of the province. In the evening the 'Te Deum' was sung in thanksgiving for blessings so bountifully bestowed.

The annual distribution of prizes, exhibition of work, and entertainment prior to the Christmas vacation of the pupils attending the High School of the Sacred Heart Convent, Barbadoes street, conducted by the religious of Our Lady of Missions, took place on Friday last. His Lordship the Bishop presided and presented the prizes, eulogising in a short address the good work accomplished each succeeding year by the Sisters, complimenting the pupils on their success in qualifying for prizes, and wished those present all the joys of a happy Christmas. There was a very large attendance, among those present being the Very Rev. Father Le Menant des Chesnais, V.G., the Very Rev. Dean Foley, the Rev. Fathers McDonnell and Leen. The space of two large class rooms was occupied in the display of art needlework, plain sewing, paintings, modelling, etc., the whole being quite up to the standard of previous years and eliciting the praise and admiration of the numerous visitors. The entertainment consisted of the following programme, which was remarkably well given:—Duet (four pianos), Misses Picken, E. Lieske, M. Lieske, North, Brick, Restell, Bourke, and Wasbourne; trio (vocal), Misses Bourke, North, and Picken; instrumental selection (pianos), Misses I. Arenas, N. O'Malley, M. Irvine, H. Round, (violins) Misses M. O'Malley and M. Picken, (harp) Miss I. Thomas, (organ) Miss Coakley; duet (four pianos), Misses R. Young, E. O'Malley, Bell, Smith, Rich, Holmes, Worthington, and Gardiner. In the operetta, 'The White Garland,' the following took part:—Misses K. and M. Dicken, M. and N. O'Malley, K. Bourke, M. O'Connor, G. Bell, W. Harrington, E. Perkin, Hatfield, and M. O'Callaghan. The following items concluded the entertainment: Quartette (violins), Misses Mullin and Picken, (organ) Miss Brick, (piano) Miss Picken; chorus, with instrumental accompaniment, (harp) Miss N. O'Malley, (organ) Miss Coakley, (piano) L. Brick; instrumental selection, (pianos) Misses Dunn, Stratz, Perkin, O'Connor, Parsonson, Young, O'Malley, and Coakley, (violins) Misses Picken and Mullin, (organ) Miss Brick.

The following is the prize list:—

Good conduct (presented by his Lordship Dr. Grimes)—Prizes awarded to Katie Gill and Cissie Cassidy.

Christian Doctrine—Prizes awarded to Mary O'Callaghan, Mary O'Connor, Lily Donohue, May Pope, Agnes Nelson, Cissie Cassidy, and Margaret Hay.

Diligence (to be drawn for)—Katie Gill, Lizzie Brick, Mary O'Callaghan, Maggie Coakley, Gussie Smith, Mary O'Connor, Lily Donohue.

English—Matriculation class, Agnes Ryan; Civil Service class, Gertie Adams and May O'Halloran; sixth class: Clara Morkane, Madge O'Malley, Katie Guiney, and Mary O'Connor; fifth class: Elsie Perkin, Vernie Young, and Cissie Cassidy; fourth class: Gladys Bell, Irene Arenas, Lily Kennet, and M. Hay.

Reading and Recitation—Sixth class: Phena Stratz, Mary O'Connor, Mary O'Callaghan, and Agnes Nelson; fifth class: May Gardiner, Cissie Cassidy, Vernie Young, and Norrie O'Malley; fourth class: Gladys Bell, Madge Donohue, Winnie Harrington, and Nina Carroll.

Writing—Seventh class, Clara Schumacher; sixth class: Mary O'Callaghan, Phena Stratz, Madge O'Malley, Mary O'Connor, and Katie Guiney; fifth class: Lily Donohue, Elsie Perkin, Norrie O'Malley; fourth class: May Pope and Maggie Bourke; third class: Josephine Geoghegan, Irene Arenas, Gladys Bell.

Arithmetic—Matriculation class, Agnes Ryan; Civil service class, Gertie Adams; seventh class, Lizzie Brick and Katie Gill; sixth class: Mary O'Callaghan, Clara Morkane, and Maggie Coakley; fifth class: Maggie Tasker, Lily Donohue, Vernie Young, and Nellie Dunn; fourth class: Gladys Bell, Madge Donohue, Irene Arenas, and Lily Kennet.

Algebra—Matriculation class, Agnes Ryan; Civil Service class, May Byrne and May O'Halloran; seventh class: Lizzie Brick, Katie Gill, and Nellie Murphy; sixth class: May O'Callaghan and Mary O'Connor.

Geography—Matriculation class, Agnes Ryan; Civil Service class, May Byrne; seventh class, Katie Jones; sixth class: Hilda Round, Mary O'Connor, Mary O'Callaghan, and M. Coakley; fifth class: Lily Donohue, Norrie O'Malley, Frances Evans, and M. Bourke; fourth class: Mabel Harrington, May Wrenn, Irene Arenas, and Violet Hall.

History—Sixth class: Hilda Round, Clara Morkane, Maggie Coakley, and M. O'Callaghan; fifth class: Elsie Perkin, Lily Donohue, Cissie Cassidy; fourth class: Mabel Harrington, Margaret Hay, and Gladys Bell.

Science—Matriculation class, Agnes Ryan; Civil service class, May Byrne; seventh class, Lizzie Brick and Katie Jones; sixth class: Mary O'Callaghan, Mary O'Connor, Hilda Round, Maggie Coakley; fifth class: Lily Donohue, Cissie Cassidy, Vernie Young, and Frances Evans; fourth class: Mabel Harrington, Gladys Bell, Madge Donohue.

Drawing—Seventh class: Clara Schumacher and Mary Kirkpatrick; sixth class: Phena Stratz, Maggie Coakley, and Mary

O'Connor; fifth class: Elsie Perkin, May Gardiner, and Lily Donohue; fourth class: Josephine Geoghegan, Violet Hall, Irene Arenas.

Shorthand—Prizes awarded to May Byrne and Katie Burke.

Book-keeping—Prizes awarded to Jessie Mace, Annie Gordon, Mizzie Brick, Madge O'Malley, Mary O'Callaghan, Maggie Coakley and Mary O'Connor.

French—Prizes awarded to Miss Washbourne, Agnes Ryan and Gertrude Adams.

Drawing and oil-painting—Prizes awarded to Misses Washbourne, Hatfield, Bourke and Mace.

Music.—Piano—Special prize awarded to Katie Picken for passing the senior practical Examination conducted by Professor Edwards. First class, Maria Lieske and Lizzie Brick; second class, Mary O'Connor and Nellie Dunn; third class, Irene Arenas and Clara Morkane; fourth class, Gladys Bell and Ouida Worthington; fifth class, Geraldine Rich and Rima Young. Violin—Marion Picken and Madge O'Malley. Harp—Norrie O'Malley.

Sewing—Madge O'Malley, Katie Gill, Clara Morkane, Teresa Fitzgerald, Maggie Tasker.

Fancy work—Misses Washbourne, Coakley, Annie Gordon, Teresa Fitzgerald and Agnes Nelson.

Point Lace—Marion Picken.

Flower making—Ada Hatfield.

Singing.—Katie Picken, Marion Picken, Katie Bourke.

R O S S.

(From an occasional correspondent.)

December 8.

Our fellow Catholics in Rimu are, I hear, renovating their church.

The local Church Committee are sparing no expense in making St. Patrick's a better structure than ever. Instead of the flimsy scrim and papering, the church is to be boarded and varnished from top to bottom. Our worthy priest, Father Bogue, is indefatigable in his efforts, and the work, which will be finished by Christmas, will be a lasting souvenir to his zeal.

West Coasters are, of course, proud of the Premier, and his visit to Ross on Tuesday last was made the occasion of a more than hearty welcome. He was met at the Half-Way House by the Mayor and councillors, and on his arrival in town was greeted by hearty cheering.

The commencement of the working of the deep leads of the Ross Flat has been for years past the hope of the people here. A new era has apparently set in, as a wealthy and powerful syndicate from your part of the world has taken the matter in hand, and a six months' option having been given we are once more living in hopes of a restoration to that state of prosperity which should have been ours long ago. We are of course, all anticipation, and trust that our hopes will be realised.

SACRED HEART HIGH SCHOOL, ASHBURTON.

The distribution of prizes at the Sacred Heart High School, Ashburton (says the *Mail*), took place on Thursday afternoon in the presence of a large number of the parents and friends of the pupils. The room was very prettily decorated for the occasion, and in two adjoining rooms there was a large and most interesting display of paintings in oils and water colors, together with art needlework, which reflected the very highest credit on the pupils and the good Sisters, who evidently take the greatest pains to bring out to the best advantage the talents of the children who are placed under their charge, as much of the work would rank high in any exhibition. The distribution of the prizes was preceded by a most enjoyable concert. The rendering of a number of the items drew forth warm applause. Following is the programme:—

Duet (2 pianos), Misses Lagan, Dowling, Johnston, and Bourne; song and chorus, senior pupils; quintet (instrumental), violins Misses J. Brick, W. Brick, McKay, harmonium Miss Bourne; pianos Misses Johnston and Lagan; recitation, Miss A. Shrimpton; duet (2 pianos), Misses Johnston, White, McKay, and Paul; song, senior pupils; solo, Miss J. Brick; 'The fairies and the flowers'—fairies, Misses McKay, O. Shrimpton, F. Brophy, and A. Langley; flowers, Misses Devlin, Walsh, Shrimpton, Denshire, Hanmer, and Kathleen Denshire; duet (2 pianos and harmonium), Misses Lagan, McKay, Walsh, and M. Brick; song and chorus, senior pupils; solo (violin), Miss Cullen; recitation, Miss F. Brophy; solo (2 pianos), Misses Johnston and McKay; duet (violin)—1st violins, Misses Brick and Cullen; 2nd violins, Misses McKay and W. Brick.

At the conclusion of the programme the Very Rev. Dean O'Donnell addressed a few kindly words to the children, thanking them for the enjoyable entertainment they had so ably given, warmly complimenting them on the excellent work which was displayed in the adjoining rooms, and expressing a hope that they would all enjoy their holidays. He further mentioned that the school had this year been inspected by an outside examiner, and though the result was not yet to hand there were very good indications that the children had not been idle.

The prizes were then distributed as follows:—

Good conduct—(boarders), Teresa Leddy and Maggie Duncan. Both being equal, lots were drawn, when Miss Duncan drew the prize. Day pupils, Mildred Brook and Ila Paul; regular attendance, Ila Paul; Christian doctrine: first prize—Lena Lagan, second—Winifred Brick.

Seventh class—Reading and recitation, Violet Johnston; writing, Teresa Leddy; arithmetic, Annie Dowling; Algebra, Annie Dowling; geography, Margaret Duncan; history, Violet Johnston; grammar, Hilda Friedlander; composition, Teresa Leddy; drawing, Teresa Leddy.

Sixth class—Reading and recitation, May McKay; writing, Ila Paul; arithmetic, May McKay; algebra, May McKay; geography, May Delvin; history, May Delvin; grammar, May Delvin; composition, Lena Lagan; drawing, Ethel Walsh.

Fifth class—Reading and recitation—Augusta Stephenson; writing, Evelyn Hanmer; arithmetic, Augusta Stephenson; algebra, Augusta Stephenson; geography, Eva Anderson; history, Minnie Costello; grammar, Winifred Brick; composition, Kathleen Denshire; drawing, Evelyn Hanmer.

Third class—Reading and recitation, Florence Brophy; geography, Madeline Brick.

Second class—reading and recitation, Alberta Shrimpton; geography and arithmetic, Hannah Langley.

Extras—Music (piano), first prize, Mary McKay; second, Lena Lagan; (violin) first, Julia Brick, second, Winifred Brick; singing, Julia Brick and Henrietta Denshire. Painting (oils), Annie Davis; (water colors), Ila Paul. Needlework, Ila Paul and Hilda Friedlander equal. Lots were drawn, when the prize fell to Hilda Friedlander.

CONVENT SCHOOL, TEMUKA.

The annual concert, which winds up the year's work at the Convent School, Temuka (says the *Leader*), was held on Thursday evening in the Volunteer Hall, which was crowded. The programme began with a duet (four pianos and a harmonium), played by Misses Connolly, Gaffaney, Blyth, Roulston, Earl, Beri, Prattley, Barrett, and Scannell. A number of pupils sang a chorus with spirit, after which a dialogue was given by Misses Carr, Sughrue, Dunn (2), Tozer, Williams, Scannell, Tarrant, and Masters Spillane and Twomey. Masters Bourke, Knight, Rooney, Tangney, O'Loughlin, Wareing, Lawlor, Twomey, Clarke, Flynn, and O'Shea sang an amusing action song. Misses Dwyer (2), Taehan, Daly, Simpson (2), Brosnan, Flynn, Collins, and Perry, little girls, prettily attired and carrying brooms, sang 'Buy a broom' very tunefully. An enjoyable item was a piano trio (four pianos and harmonium) of Scotch airs by Misses Comer, Harrison, Story, O'Donohue (2), Twomey, Beri, Blyth, Prattley, Gaffaney, Earl, and Masters Gapper and Austin. Master G. Twomey scored a decided hit with his song 'Barney O'Brien.' In the second part he was equally successful with a comic song. A charming item was a French minuet performed by Misses O'Donohue, Gillespie, Connolly, Harrison, and Twomey (2). Misses Connolly, Coughlan, and Earl contributed a vocal trio, and the two former young ladies sang the duet 'Floating away.' An action song was capably sung by Misses Cunnard (3), Sughrue (2), Donn (2), Tozer, Williams, Scannell, and Tarrant. Misses Connolly, Gaffaney, Gillespie, Scannell, O'Donohue and Beri took part in a dialogue. A very pleasing item was the maypole dance by Misses Harrison, Story, Scannell (3), Twomey (2), O'Donohue, Connolly, Beri, Leary, Demuth, Z. Gillespie, Sughrue, Dunn, and Carr. In the second part the first item was 'Mirror Drill,' by Misses Twomey (2), Leary, O'Donohue, Scannell (2), Gillespie, Harrison, and Story. Following this was 'Star Drill,' by Misses Gaffaney, Scannell (2), Story, Beri (2), O'Donohue, O'Brien, and Ardagh. Another clever pianoforte trio was given by Misses Beri, Gaffaney, Prattley, Gaze, Gillespie, O'Donohue, Harrison, Scannell, Comer, Farnie, Earl, and Masters Austin and Gapper. Masters Twomey and Beri and Misses Gillespie, Demuth, Beri, and Twomey recited 'Little helpers' capably. A change in the programme was a drama, 'Whittington and his Cat.' In this the characters were taken by Masters Twomey, Bourke, Clarke, Knight, Rooney, Lawlor, and Wareing, and Misses Twomey (2), Connell, Scannell, Beri (2), E. O'Donohue, Leary, and Gillespie. A piano duet (four pianos and harmonium) was brightly played by Misses Roulston, Gillespie, Connolly, Prattley, Barrett, Earl, Beri, Blyth, and Gaze. An action song by Masters Fitzgerald, Clarke, Geany, Hogan, Rooney, Wareing, Carr, Spillane (2), Sharp, and Twomey was perhaps the best effort the boys made. The programme concluded with a charming drill, song, and tableau 'Kil-larney.' The performers were Misses Earl, Ardagh, O'Donohue, Beri, Gaffaney, O'Brien, Gillespie, and Connell. Miss Quinn, as usual, kindly acted as accompanist throughout the evening.

Messrs Arthur Briscoe and Co., of Dunedin, are sole agents in this Colony for Wunderlich's celebrated patent metal ceilings, which are very artistic, besides being durable and fireproof. They are also the agents for Marseilles roofing tiles, which are in general use in the Australian colonies, where their durability and other good qualities are fully recognised.—*.

The Commissioner of Crown Lands, Dunedin, notifies that small grazing runs in the Waihemo, Naseby, Sutton, Nenthorn, and Strath-Taieri, Maruenua, and Mount Hyde districts will be open for lease on application at the Dunedin office on and after January 16. Further particulars will be found in our advertising columns.—*.

Housewives will consult their interests by asking their grocers for Houdai-Lanka tea, which is grown in one of the finest tea-producing districts in the sunny isle of Ceylon. It is packed in that colony, and therefore practically comes direct from the grower to the consumer, a fact which is a guarantee of its purity and excellence.—*.

The railway authorities notify that holiday excursion tickets will be issued in connection with the Christmas and New Year holidays from December 18 to January 2, which will be available for return up to and including February 19.—*.

Pastoral runs in the Tuapeka, Clutha, Bruce, and Lake Counties will be submitted to public auction for lease at the Crown Lands Office, Dunedin, on Wednesday, January 16. Sale plans and full particulars can be obtained at the Crown Lands Office, Dunedin.—*.

Friends at Court.

GLEANINGS FOR NEXT WEEK'S CALENDAR.

(Written for the N.Z. TABLET.)

December 23, Sunday.—Fourth in Advent.
 " 24, Monday.—Vigil of the Nativity of Our Lord.
 " 25, Tuesday.—Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ.
 " 26, Wednesday.—St. Stephen, first Martyr.
 " 27, Thursday.—St. John, Apostle and Evangelist.
 " 28, Friday.—Holy Innocents, Martyrs.
 " 29, Saturday.—St. Thomas, Bishop and Martyr.

ST. STEPHEN, DEACON AND PROTO-MARTYR OF THE CHURCH.

ST. STEPHEN, the first martyr of the Christian Church, was the foremost among the seven deacons who were chosen by the assembly of the faithful to assist the Apostles in the daily distribution of alms. By the imposition of the hands of the Apostles they received the grace of the Holy Ghost, and were ordained as ministers of God with power and grace for the discharge of some of the inferior duties of the sacerdotal office. The extraordinary zeal displayed by Stephen in preaching the word of God, the success which crowned his labors and the miracles which accompanied them excited in the highest degree the fury of the Jews. They accordingly conspired to take his life, and for this purpose accused him before the Sanhedrim as a blasphemer against Moses and against God Himself. The indictment having been read, Caiaphas, the high priest and president, asked him what he had to say in his defence. Meanwhile all present were amazed at the singular beauty and brightness which shone in his countenance, so that it appeared more like the face of an angel than of a man. Standing thus in the midst of the assembly, Stephen preached boldly the Name of Jesus, reminding his hearers of the wonderful dealings of God with their fathers, and how all the events of their history, the types and figures of the Old Law and the inspired words of the Prophets, were intended to prepare the hearts of men for the coming of the Redeemer. And now, when He had come, they had rejected Him, and like their forefathers who had persecuted and slain the Prophets, they had betrayed and murdered the Just One, who was the promised Messiah and the Incarnate God. While thus he spoke, being full of the Holy Ghost, he raised his eyes to heaven, which opened before him, revealing to him the glory of God and Jesus standing by His Father's side. Whereupon he exclaimed, 'Behold I see the heavens opened and Jesus standing on the right hand of God.'

Upon hearing these words the members of the Council cried out with a loud voice and, stopping their ears as if he had been guilty of some frightful blasphemy, with one accord rushed upon him, and, dragging him outside the city gates, stoned him to death. Meanwhile the holy martyr with his dying breath invoked the name of his beloved Master. 'Lord Jesus,' said he, 'receive my spirit. And falling on his knees, he cried out with a loud voice saying: 'Lord, lay not this sin to their charge.' And when he had said this he fell asleep in the Lord.

The dying prayer of this blessed martyr, remarks St. Augustine, bore speedy and abundant fruit in the conversion of St. Paul, the great Apostle of the Gentiles, who in the ardor of his mistaken zeal participated in the murder of St. Stephen by charging himself with the garments of those who were employed in stoning him.

THE HOLY INNOCENTS.

A few days ago we listened at Bethlehem to the angelic song, 'Glory be to God in the highest and on earth peace to men of good will,' and we beheld in spirit the holy shepherds within the peaceful sanctuary of the stable adoring their new-born Saviour. To them succeeded the three royal pilgrims from the east, who were bidden by Herod to bring him word when they had found the Messiah, that he also might come and adore Him. Warned, however, by an angel that Herod wished to find the Child only in order to destroy Him, they returned by another way into their own country. Finding his crafty project thus frustrated, Herod became transported with rage and tormented by an anxious fear for the security of his throne. To ensure the removal of his fancied rival, he despatched a band of armed men to Bethlehem and its neighborhood, with orders to put to death all the male children under the age of two years. His cruel mandate was at once put into execution, and the innocent babes were ruthlessly slaughtered before the eyes of their mothers. This sad scene had already been predicted by the prophet Isaiah. 'A voice in Ramah was heard, lamentation and great mourning; Rachel bewailing her children and would not be comforted because they are not.'

'Weep, wretched mothers,' says a holy writer, weep 'because your children are not. Or rather, do not weep, O happy mothers, because they still exist. They are dead, it is true, but they died for Him who is the Light of the World. They were the first to die for Him who died for all. They are the first fruits among the martyrs of Jesus; they will be His delight in the kingdom of heaven and will accompany the Lamb of God wheresoever He goeth. Weep not, happy mothers, for your children yet live in the sight of God.'

Dunstan Times says:—Messrs. W. Gawne and Co. have for warded us a bottle of their Worcestershire Sauce. The sauce is quite equal in quality to Lea and Perrin's, and is only half the cost of the imported article. It has also a delicate piquancy all its own, which must make it an epicurean's delight and a joy for ever. We asked a number of people to sample the Sauce sent us, and they were charmed with it. Our readers should ask for the Sauce and try it for themselves.—*.*

E. W. DUNNE, BOOKSELLER,

43 GEORGE STREET, DUNEDIN.

JUST REMOVED TO NEW PREMISES.

Special inducements are now offered to Customers and the General Public to kindly inspect our NEW STOCKS in every line.

Just Opened:

THE LATEST IN BOOKS, STATIONERY,
AND ALL DESCRIPTIONS OF GENERAL & FANCY GOODS.

Inspection freely invited.

V.



R.

SMALL GRAZING RUNS OPEN FOR LEASE ON APPLICATION.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Small Grazing Runs in the undermentioned Districts will be open for lease on application at this Office on and after WEDNESDAY, 16th January, 1901:—

WAIHEMO DISTRICT: 1378 acres; £25 16s 9d half-yearly rental. Valuation for improvements, £413 1s 6d.

NASEBY DISTRICT: 196 acres; £4 1s 8d half-yearly rental. Valuation for improvements, £501 7s 6d.

SUTTON DISTRICT: 2176 acres; £27 4s half-yearly rental. Valuation for improvements, £171 12s 2d.

NENTHORN AND STRATH-TAIRI DISTRICTS: 4300 acres; £62 14s 2d half-yearly rental. Valuation for improvements, £1421 14s.

MARUWENUA DISTRICT: 1019 acres; £10 12s 4d half-yearly rental. Valuation for improvements, £318 5s.

MOUNT HYDE DISTRICT: 4500 acres; £56 5s half-yearly rental. Valuation for improvements, £132 5s.

MOUNT HYDE DISTRICT: 1254 acres; £11 15s 2d half-yearly rental. Valuation for improvements, £280 5s.

Sale plans and full particulars may be obtained on application at this office.

J. P. MAITLAND,
Commissioner of Crown Lands.

Crown Lands Office,
Dunedin, 10th December, 1900.

V.



R.

PASTORAL RUNS FOR LEASE BY PUBLIC AUCTION.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undermentioned Pastoral Lands will be submitted to public auction for lease at this Office on WEDNESDAY, the 16th January, 1901, at 11 o'clock, a.m.:—

Runs 179, 163, and 163A (grouped, Class 1), Tuapeka County, 15,200 acres; term, 21 years; upset annual rental, £100;

Run 96 (Class 1), Clutha County; 2900 acres, term, 14 years; upset annual rental, £30.

Sections 13, 14, 15, and 17, Block VII, and Sections 18 and 21, Block V., Table Hill District, Bruce County; 1128 acres; term, 14 years; upset annual rental, £14.

Possession of above runs will be given on 1st March, 1901.

Run 333 (Class 1), Lake County; 51,560 acres; term, 21 years; upset annual rental, £25.

Run 333A (Class 1), Lake County; 28,780 acres; term, 21 years; upset annual rental, £30; Valuation for improvements, £36.

Possession of Runs 333 and 333A will be given on day of sale.

The above Runs will be sold generally in accordance with the provisions of Part VI. of 'The Land Act, 1892.' Purchasers must deposit statutory declarations required by section 62 of 'The Land Act, 1892,' and pay the first half-year's rent, together with license fee (£1 1s) on fall of the hammer. Valuation for improvements must be paid before purchasers will be allowed into possession.

Sale plans and full particulars may be obtained at this Office.

J. P. MAITLAND,
Commissioner of Crown Lands.

Crown Lands Office,
Dunedin, 10th December, 1900.

Wanted, about 50 clerks to help read testimonials re Tussieura. Sole manufacturer, S. J. Evans, 2s 6d.—*.*

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Specialties in Hunting, Race, and
Steeplechase Saddles.

Ladies' and Children's Saddles in variety.
Every description of HARNESS made on the
premises by first-class workmen.
No piecework.

PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO REPAIRS.
Horse Clothing and Covers—Own make and
Best Imported.

Direct Importer of Stable Requisites
of every description.

Noted for well-fitting & durable Collars.

QUEEN STREET, AUCKLAND.

J. F. WILSON,

DENTIST

(Late R. J. B. Yule),

SPEY STREET, INVERCARGILL.

MR. WILSON, having purchased the
goodwill of Mr. Yule's practice, would like
patients to understand that any contracts
entered into by Mr. Yule for mechanical
work or otherwise, will be carried out by
him without any difference in fee. Any
alterations and so on free of charge.

HOURS OF CONSULTATION—9 a.m.

5.30 p.m., and 7 to 8 p.m.

Hospital patients attended to Tuesday and
Friday mornings from 9 to 9.30.

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THORNDON QUAY, WELLINGTON.

JAMES DEALY ... Proprietor

This well-known Hotel is in close proximity
to both Railway Stations, thereby offering
great facility to the travelling public of
being able to leave by the early trains.

Guests may depend upon being called in
time, a porter being kept for that purpose.

The Bedrooms are well and comfortably
furnished, and the Fittings and Accommoda-
tion throughout is all that could be desired.

The Wines and Spirits are all of the
Choicest and Best Brands. Dunedin XXXX
Beer always on tap.

Table d'Hôte daily from 12 to 2, and Meals
at all hours for travellers. Free Stabling.



MURRAY AND CO.

(Late J. Gardner and Co.),

32 PRINCES ST. (Opposite City Hotel),

Are showing New Goods in

**MEN'S HARD FELT, FRAME, AND
STRAW HATS.**

Novelties in Ties, White Shirts, Tennis Shirts,
White and Colored Fancy Washing Vests.

Men's and Youths'

White Cricket and Tennis Trousers

And all up-to-date

GENTS' UNDERWEAR.

MOUNTAINEER HOTEL,

QUEENSTOWN,

LAKE WAKATIPU.

Proprietor - P. MCCARTHY.

This New and Commodious Hotel has been
well furnished throughout and is now one
of the most comfortable Houses in Otago.
Suites of Rooms have been set apart for
Families, and every attention has been paid
to the arrangements for carrying on a first-
class trade. Hot, Cold, and Shower Bath.

TERMS MODERATE.

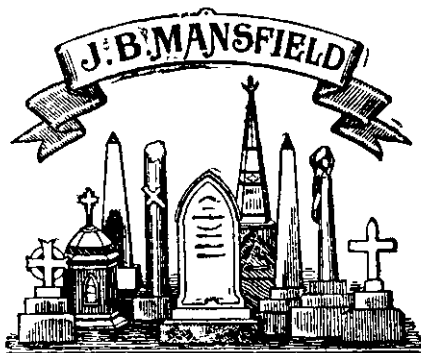
Best Brands of Wines, Spirits, and Beers.

FIRST-CLASS SAMPLE ROOM.

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Arrival and Departure of Steamers.

First-class Stabling.

Horses and Buggies for Hire.



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Near Railway Station,

CHRISTCHURCH.

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DUNEDIN.

RODERICK MACKENZIE,

Late of the Oban Hotel, Dunedin,
Bids to notify that he has taken Donaldson's
(Excelsior) Hotel, at the corner of Dowling
and Princes streets, Dunedin, where he will
be glad to meet his friends.

The Hotel is newly built, has excellent
accommodation for families, and all the
appointments and sanitary arrangements,
including hot, cold, and shower baths, are
first class.

The position is central to post office, rail-
way station, and wharf.

The famous Tobermory Brand Whisky
drawn from the tap.

All the Liquors kept are of the best
brands. Charges moderate. Telephone 784

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quality is now reduced to 1s 10d, and,
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Tea of Special Value. The price of the
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ORDINARY TEA, AND GOOD READING
FOR NOTHING.

GLADSTONE HOTEL,

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JOHN COLLINS (late of the AI Hotel,
Pelichet Bay), PROPRIETOR.

Having leased the above centrally situated
Hotel, the proprietor is now prepared to offer
First-Class Accommodation to the general
public. The building has undergone a
thorough renovation from floor to ceiling.
The bedrooms are neatly furnished and well
ventilated.

Tourists, Travellers, and Boarders will find
all the comforts of a home. Suites of rooms
for families.

Hot, Cold, and Shower Baths.

A SPECIAL FEATURE—1s LUNCHEON
from 12 to 2 o'clock.

The Very Best of Wines, Ales, and Spirits
supplied.

CHARGES MODERATE.

Accommodation for over 100 guests.

One of Alcock's Billiard Tables.

JOHN COLLINS - PROPRIETOR.

GRIDIRON HOTEL,

PRINCES STREET SOUTH,
DUNEDIN.

JAMES CONNOLLY - PROPRIETOR.
Under the Management of Miss M. J. Fahey,
Late of the Pier Hotel.

Having purchased the above popular and
centrally-situated Hotel, and having con-
siderably added to and improved the accom-
modation, the Proprietor hopes, by strict
attention to the requirements of his cus-
tomers, to obtain a fair share of support.
Tourists, Travellers, and Boarders will find
all the comforts of a home. Suites of Rooms
for Families. Charges strictly Moderate.

A SPECIAL FEATURE—

1s LUNCHEON from 12 to 2 o'clock.
Hot, Cold, and Shower Baths. The very best

of Wines, Ales, and Spirits supplied,
A Night Porter in attendance.

JAMES CONNOLLY - PROPRIETOR.
Accommodation for over 100 guests.

BEATH AND CO.,

DRAPERS, CHRISTCHURCH.

Are worthy of our Support.

Irish News.

ANTRIM.—Presentation to the ex-Lord Mayor of Belfast.—Sir Otto Jaffe was on October 30 the recipient of an address and portrait in recognition of his services as Lord Mayor of Belfast during the year 1899. A representative body of gentlemen assembled in the Town Hall to join in the compliment to the ex-Chief Magistrate, and the list of subscribers to the testimonial included citizens of all chief denominations. Sir Otto (says the *Belfast Weekly*) did his duty as a citizen to the best of his ability, and with an honest desire to maintain the best traditions of the office. He has a right to feel gratified at the honor done him by his fellow-citizens, who judge of the worth of a Chief Magistrate not by isolated mistakes but by the whole tenor of his office.

CORK.—Naval Activity at Queenstown.—A Queenstown correspondent states that a naval pier is to be constructed at Castle-town. At Bere Island the fortifications are being rapidly completed, and in Cork Harbor naval and military stores are being accumulated.

CLARE.—A Small Calendar.—The County Court Judge at Ennis had only to direct the Grand Jury with reference to one case, and that a miserable charge of larceny. And yet Clare has been repeatedly held up to the people of Great Britain as an awful example of criminal depravity.

The First Chairman of the County Council.—The Secretary of the Clare County Council has presented that body with a fine portrait of the late Mr. M. A. Scanlon, the first Chairman of the Council.

DONEGAL.—Annual Reunion of Donegal Men in Glasgow.—The Donegal men in Glasgow gave enthusiastic testimony of their Catholic and patriotic spirit on October 23, when 3000 of them assembled in the City Hall for their annual reunion, and listened to an eloquent and forcible address from the Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell, Bishop of Raphoe. His Lordship said it was of the utmost interest to Christianity that Ireland should be contented and prosperous, but this could not be unless the drain of wholesale emigration was stopped, and the demon of intemperance prevented from enslaving the people.

DUBLIN.—Proposed Presentation to Mr. T. D. Sullivan.—Arrangements are being made in Dublin for the presentation of an address and testimonial to Mr. T. D. Sullivan on his retirement from Parliament, and in recognition of his prolonged services in connection with Irish literature and politics. At the preliminary meeting the chair was occupied by Mgr. Byrne, P.P., V.G., D.D., Dean of Armagh. Promises of support and co-operation were received from several influential gentlemen throughout the country.

GALWAY.—Death of the Mother of Four Jesuit Priests.—A lady belonging to one of the oldest and most respected families in County Galway has just passed away in the person of Mrs. Daly, of Daly's Grove (maiden name Miss Dolphin, of Turoe). The funeral was attended by a large number of the clergy and laity, the poor especially testifying their love and gratitude to 'the old mistress.' Four of Mrs. Daly's five sons are Jesuit priests—Fathers Hubert, Oliver, James, and Francis Daly. One of her daughters is a nun at Rhyl. Her eldest son is Mr. Peter J. Daly, of Daly's Grove, and her eldest daughter is married to a Belgian gentleman, the Baron de Coppin.

Death of a Galway Man in Philadelphia.—Mr. William O'Brien, who died in Philadelphia on September 20, was signal-master on the cruiser Raleigh during Dewey's great victory in Manila Bay. He had been in the American Navy 25 years; was born in Galway, in whose Queen's College he graduated. His wife, who was a daughter of the late Mr. Michael Cooney, of Claremorris, County Mayo, survived her husband but 15 days.

KERRY.—The Representative for the Western Division.—Mr. T. O'Donnell, the new M.P. for West Kerry, has arranged for a series of meetings in his constituency, at which he will speak only Irish. This is only as it should be, for in West Kerry it is said over 80 per cent. of the people are Irish-speaking.

Death of a Killarney Lady.—General regret was felt in Killarney on the announcement of the demise at her residence, Convent View Hotel, of Mrs. Julia O'Mullane, after a very long and painful illness borne with Christian fortitude. The deceased, who belonged to a very old and respectable family, was always generous and charitable to the poor, whom she assisted by every means in her power, and was a devout Catholic.

LIMERICK.—Silver Jubilee of the Catholic Literary Institute.—The silver jubilee of the Catholic Literary Institute, Limerick, was celebrated during the last week in October. Looking over the long years during which the Institute has flourished, one cannot but feel regret that so many of those who participated in the foundation of the Institute have passed away. Still, there remain the Most Rev. Dr. O'Dwyer, Mr. Richard O'Shaughnessy (formerly Member of Parliament for Limerick), and some others. Father O'Dwyer, as the present Bishop was then familiarly called was the heart and soul of the movement in its initial stages.

Swindling a Pawnbroker.—Mr. Robert Parker, pawnbroker, Limerick, has been the victim of a very clever swindle by telegraph. A wire for money, purporting to have been sent by his son in London was answered by a telegraph order. A similar request was responded to in the same way. The following day Mr.

Parker found that his son was in Belgium, and that the wires had come from a clever swindler.

A Former Resident Mayor of Capetown.—The Limerick papers express satisfaction that the Mayor of Capetown for the current term is Mr. Thomas J. O'Reilly, stockbroker. Mr. O'Reilly, who is son of the late Gerald O'Reilly, Upper Gerald Griffin street, Limerick, was the first Catholic elected to that important office some years ago, and represented Capetown, for a number of years in the Legislative Assembly.

LOUTH.—Death of an Aunt of the Late Lord Russell.—Sincere regret was felt in Dundalk when it was reported that one of the oldest members of the local community of Sisters of Mercy had passed away. The deceased nun, who was a sister of the late Dr. Russell, of Maynooth, and an aunt of the late Lord Russell, of Killowen, and of Father Matthew Russell, S.J., entered the Order of Mercy in 1852, a few years after the establishment of the Dundalk Convent, and was professed in 1864.

SLIGO.—Appointment of Crown Prosecutor.—Mr. R. J. Kelly, J.P., B.L., the author of a recently-published digest of the Act constituting the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction and of several other legal treatises, has been appointed junior Crown Prosecutor for Sligo. Mr. Kelly, who is a Catholic, is also a journalist, being proprietor and editor of the *Tuam Herald*.

Death of an Old Resident of Cliffoey.—Wednesday, October 16, was a sad day in Cliffoey, County Sligo. A familiar figure was laid to rest in the old cemetery of Ahamlish, Mr. John Hannon, for 40 years beloved and respected in the parish where his life's work was done. Deep was the regret for the departed, first on the part of his numerous family and relatives; secondly, on the part of the poor tenants and workmen, who felt that by the death of the Master, as he was lovingly called the country over, they had lost a friend who was ever sincere, sympathetic, and practical; thirdly, amongst the host of men with whom he had business transactions.

TYRONE.—Death of an Army Officer.—The death is announced of Colonel Armor G. Lowry, J.P., Farlough Lodge, Newmills, in his 68th year. The deceased officer saw a great deal of war service, having served at Alma, Inkerman, and Sebastopol, and the attack on the Redan.

WATERFORD.—A Successful Student.—A student of St. Mary's Preparatory College, Waterford, Master E. Fleming, has received an exhibition of £20 from the Commissioners of Intermediate Education. Amongst his class-mates last year at St. Mary's were Masters D'Eamond and Denis O'Connor, of whom the former carried off an exhibition of £20, whilst the latter this year gained conspicuous distinction at the Oxford Local Examination. He was too young last year to compete for the Intermediate.

Landlord and Tenant.—Addressing his tenantry at Dromore, County Waterford, Captain Villiers Stuart said that from the signs of times he believed that before another generation had passed away there would be a great change in the relations between landlord and tenant in Ireland—in fact, their relations would no longer exist.

WICKLOW.—Sale of the Parnell Estate.—In the Land Judges' Court, Dublin, recently, before Mr Justice Ross, the house and demesne of Avondale and portion of the lands adjoining were put up for sale. Chief interest, of course, centred in the sale of the house, at one time the residence of Mr Charles Stewart Parnell. The bidding for the mansion house and lands of Avondale was first proceeded with. The purchaser was Mr Boylan, William street, Dublin—stated to be a friend of Mr John Howard Parnell—to whom the property was sold at £8000.

GENERAL.

Presentation to the Holy Father.—The committee of the Catholic Truth Society of Ireland are to present the Holy Father with an illuminated address and a beautifully bound volume of the society's publications. The presentation will be made by the Most Rev. Dr. Healey, Bishop of Clonfert (president), who will be supported by Mr Rochford, hon. secretary.

Derelict Farms.—A cable message received last week stated that the Lord Chief Justice of Ireland had declared that there are 731 farms in the province of Munster from which the tenants had been evicted. One-fifth of these farms are derelict and the rest are occupied by the police who protected the tenants. The juries refused to convict in intimidation cases, and he advises a change of venue and special juries to deal with such cases. This is altogether contrary to the opinion of the Attorney-General for Ireland, who, in a speech delivered recently in Belfast said: 'They (the Government) had been condemned and accused of allowing Ireland to remain in a state of anarchy, and had heard a lot about crime in this country, but he said that there was never so little crime in Ireland, either agrarian or non-agrarian, than at the present time. There were in the whole of Ireland only 32 cases of boycotting, and yet if they believed what was said by the *Daily Express* they would imagine that farmers in the South of Ireland were in terror of their lives, and that in Mayo and Kerry no one could purchase an evicted farm. At the time the *Express* spoke of, farms were being taken at the rate of six a month, and 110 had been taken until January, 1898, when the United Irish League came into existence. Mr Justice Andrews had stated that in Mayo things were very peaceful, and there was not the slightest difficulty in letting grazing land. There was a lot of talk about William O'Brien's United Irish League and the duty of the Government to put in force the Crimes Act, but these views were favored only by politicians who could not see beyond their own noses.'

The Catholic World.

BELGIUM.—A Double Sacerdotal Jubilee.—An event so unusual as that which has just been celebrated at the little town of Fauquemont, in Dutch Limburg, deserves a brief record. Two priests of the diocese of Liege, the Revs. Hubert and Pierre Van den Boorn, twin brothers, commemorated the fiftieth anniversary of their ordination, and as both clergymen are extremely popular in their native town, the occurrence was made the occasion of a sympathetic demonstration. Fauquemont was *en fête* for the day, work was suspended, and all the schools closed to enable everybody to take part in the celebration. The houses were gaily decorated with flags and greenery, and in the principal streets triumphal arches were erected bearing appropriate inscriptions.

Holiday Classes for Poor Children.—The town of Liege (writes a Brussels correspondent) has taken the initiative in a scheme for 'holiday classes' for children of the poor. It is an admirable plan, for, as we in Belgium are painfully aware, the streets become intolerable through their continued use as a playground, and certainly neither the manners nor the morals of the children are improved by their sports in the highways and byways of busy towns. All honor, then, to the authorities of Liege, whose first effort has been a full success. Upwards of 1700 children have regularly presented themselves at these classes, where there is neither reading, writing, nor arithmetic, but only amusing games, singing, gymnastic exercises, and an occasional excursion to the country under proper superintendence.

ENGLAND.—Appreciative Visitors to the Passion Play.—A number of English visitors to the Passion Play (says the *Daily Chronicle*) have resolved to give concrete shape to their admiration for the many ethical and aesthetic excellences of the simple villagers by some appropriate gift to the parish church. This memento will probably take the form of a chalice or ciborium, and the movement is being actively supported by Lord Halifax, Canon Randolph of Ely, and other leading High Churchmen. The church at Ober-Ammergau already possesses an organ, which was presented to the village 10 years ago by some enthusiastic Anglicans who had made pilgrimage to the 'Passion-Spiel.'

A Catholic in Command of the Pacific Squadron.—Rear-Admiral K. Bickford, a Catholic officer, has been appointed to the command of the British Pacific Squadron.

Ordination of a Sub-deacon.—The Rev. Mr Chase, a prominent Church of England clergyman well known in Plymouth, was ordained sub-deacon on Sunday morning, October 28, in the private chapel, Archbishop's House, London, by his Eminence Cardinal Vaughan. It was only about nine months ago the Rev. Mr Chase joined the Catholic Church.

Profession and Reception of Nuns at Sunderland.—Two interesting ceremonies took place on October 27 in the pretty little church of St Bede's Convent of Mercy, Sunderland. The first was that of profession by two novices—Miss Lily O'Mahoney, of Cork, and Miss Helena English, of Limerick. The Auxiliary-Bishop of Hexham and Newcastle, Right Rev. Dr. Preston, officiated. Afterwards a reception took place, Bishop Preston again officiating. The postulant prepared for reception was Miss Annie McCormack, of Kells, Ireland.

Benediction Ceremony at Ampleforth.—The election of the first Abbot of Ampleforth, which took place on October 3, was speedily followed by his benediction at the hands of the Bishop of the diocese, for although Benedictine Abbots enjoy the full privileges of their rank apart from the ceremony, yet it was the express wish of the Holy See that the Superiors of the newly-erected Abbeys should receive solemn episcopal benediction. Father Oswald Smith, who has now by the suffrages of his brethren been called to the abbatial office, received the monastic habit at Belmont some 28 years ago. After going through his novitiate and early ecclesiastical studies, he returned to Ampleforth, where he was ordained priest, and where he filled the offices of Prefect of Studies and Discipline. After some years he went back to Belmont as Professor of Philosophy, became a Canon of Newport and Menevia, and during this period found time to go to Rome to take his doctorate in Philosophy at the Gregorian University. Chosen to the Priorship of his monastery in January, 1898, he now receives a final proof of his brethren's confidence in his election as first Abbot of Ampleforth; and he has the distinction of being the first English Benedictine Abbot to receive solemn Episcopal Benediction since Feckenham was installed in Westminster under Queen Mary. His election and that of his brother Abbots is further interesting as marking the restoration of the monastic hierarchy in England, which thus comes into existence at the bidding of the Holy See just 50 years after the revival of the Episcopal Hierarchy by Pius IX. The Benediction took place at Ampleforth in the Abbey Church, on Wednesday, October 21, the Feast of the Archangel St. Raphael.

A Pleasing Circumstance.—Mr. A. H. Scott (writes a correspondent of the *Catholic Times*), who contested East Manchester in the late General Election against the Right Hon. A. J. Balfour, M.P., and who is now seeking the suffrages of the electors of St. Luke's Ward, Manchester, is a Nonconformist and comes of an old Wesleyan stock, yet his election committee consists amongst others of the Rev. David Power, of St. Aloysius', Rev. C. Rothwell, of the Holy Family, and Messrs. J. Allison, D. McCabe, J.P., D. Boyle, Dr. O'Doherty, T. Carroll, M. Molloy, W. Molloy, J. M. Sheerin, Messames Rose, Hyland, Sile, and other well-known Catholics. Mr. Scott, unlike some others of his creed, is a broad-minded and tolerant gentleman and a friend to all that Catholics hold dear.

ITALY.—Genoa's Act of Homage.—A singularly impressive act of homage to Our Lord has been performed by the venerable Archbishop of Genoa and members of his flock. A local periodical conceived the idea of promoting a movement for the erection of a cross on Mount Fiasce as a memorial of devotion to the Redeemer during the Holy Year. The proposal was heartily taken up, the cross was duly set in place, and on the day appointed for blessing it no less than 6000 people climbed the mountain side. A lusty band, consisting of members of the Catholic Society of Genoa, carried the Archbishop to the summit. At the foot of the cross a temporary altar had been prepared, and there the Archbishop, in presence of the Mayor of Genoa, the clergy, and representatives of Catholic societies and confraternities, offered up the Holy Sacrifice and then solemnly blessed the cross. A hymn specially composed for the occasion was sung, and after the mountain had resounded with shouts of applause, the descent was made. The cross, which is of immense size, bears upon its base an inscription stating that it has been erected by the citizens of Genoa during the Holy Year as an act of homage to Christ the Redeemer. At a time when genuine religious feeling is so frequently conspicuous by its absence, this signal act of faith by the people of 'Genoa the Superb' should not be left without recognition.

ROME.—The Last Mass of the Century.—It is stated that his Holiness Leo XIII. has decided to personally celebrate, at midnight, on December 31st, and with the utmost solemnity, the last Mass of the century. All the pilgrims then in Rome will attend, and to it will be invited the great personages then in the Imperial City, the Roman aristocracy, and the diplomatic corps accredited to the Holy See.

SCOTLAND.—The Catholic Truth Society.—The Archbishop of Glasgow presided at the seventh annual Conference of the Catholic Truth Society of Scotland, held in Glasgow on 30th October. Addresses were delivered by the Archbishop-Elect of St. Andrews and Edinburgh, the Bishop-Auxiliary of Glasgow, Lord Ralph Kerr, and others. A musical programme was provided by the United Glasgow choirs.

A Windfall for Catholic Industrial Schools.—By the recent dissolution of the Edinburgh Industrial Schools, and the division of their funds amongst institutions of a more or less similar kind St. Joseph's Catholic Industrial School, Tranent, and the Catholic Working Boys' Home, Edinburgh, have become beneficiaries to the extent of £2,000 and £1,000 respectively.

Opening of a new College Chapel.—On Saturday, the 13th October, the new chapel in connection with the College of Notre Dame, Glasgow, was solemnly opened by his Grace the Archbishop. The chapel forms part of a wing which comprises practising school, class rooms, lecture room for the Pupil Teachers' Centre, etc. The whole is after the design of Messrs. Pugin and Pugin, and from its prominent position and architectural beauty forms one of the most striking features of the district. Long before the ceremony began, the chapel, which is capable of holding over 300 persons, was filled, chiefly with the present and former pupils of Notre Dame.

SOUTH AFRICA.—The Vicar Apostolic of the Eastern District.—Bishop MacSherry of the Eastern District, Cape Colony, celebrated on August 2 the silver jubilee of his ordination and the fourth anniversary of his elevation to the Episcopate. From the testimonies of affection offered to him it is evident that his Lordship is a great favorite with his priests and people. Some came hundreds of miles to tender their congratulations. The priests, through Mgr. Fagan, presented an illuminated address expressive of cordial feeling. The Bishop received presentations also from the Sisters of the Assumption, the Sisters of Nazareth, the Dominican Sisters and the Marist Brothers, and quite a sheaf of congratulatory messages, including some cables from Europe.

UNITED STATES.—The Galveston Disaster.—The Archbishop of New York notified Bishop Gallagher, of Galveston, that New York will provide for all the Catholic orphans who were left homeless by the recent disaster. Ten Sisters of Charity lost their lives in the storm. The Most Rev. Archbishop Feehan, of Chicago, has headed the Catholic subscription in aid of the Galveston sufferers with a personal donation of 1000 dollars.

Installation of the Archbishop of Dubuque.—The Most Rev. John J. Keane, D.D., first Rector of the Catholic University of America and second Archbishop of Dubuque, Iowa, was formerly installed in the latter office, in the Cathedral of his Metropolitan City, on Thursday, September 27. There was enthusiastic rejoicing in Dubuque at the announcement of Archbishop Keane's appointment to the See left vacant by the death of Archbishop Hennessy. Dr. Keane's fame as administrator, orator, and, above all, a devoted and self-sacrificing man of God, had long preceded him. Mgr. Nugent, of Liverpool, who was in Dubuque when Archbishop Hennessy was invested with the Pallium, went from St. Paul to Dubuque to be present at the installation of his friend the Archbishop, and the act was greatly appreciated. The Catholics of Dubuque desired to give a magnificent reception to their new Archbishop, but as he had expressed a contrary wish to the Right Rev. Mgr. B. Ryan, Vicar-General and Administrator, their plans were somewhat modified. Archbishop Keane was born at Ballyshannon, in Ireland, on September 12, 1839. He went to the United States with his parents in 1846. Dr. Keane was transferred from the See of Richmond and appointed to the Rectorship of the Catholic University in 1890, and held this high position until October, 1896 when he was elevated to the titular Archbishopric of Damascus and called to Rome, where he served as a Consul of the Propaganda and a Canon of St. John Lateran. A year ago Archbishop Keane was granted leave of absence from this duty for the space of two years and sent to the United States to complete the endowment of the Catholic University. He has been very successful in gathering large contributions.

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Natural Leaf, Pure Uncolored Ceylon, "Golden-Liquored," it has a deliciousness no blended tea possesses, and for this the tea-menders petition to tax it 2d. extra duty. "The people's favorite,"

Largest "Pot-Still" Distillers in the World.

THE DUBLIN DISTILLERS' COMPANY, LTD.

The Popular Brands of this Company are
WM. JAMESON & CO.'S "HARP BRAND,"

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Guaranteed absolutely Pure Malt Whisky.

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£20 for a NAME

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we intend placing on the market to
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Good Wearing Tyre at a Low Figure.

CONDITIONS of COMPETITION.

The *Name* to be concise and appropriate.

The Competition is open to all.

Competitors may send in as many selections as they like, provided that they are sent in separately, with the selected name on one side of a sheet of paper and the senders name and address on the other.

Should more than one Competitor select the winning *Name*, the award will be made by priority. All letters will be numbered and filed as received, so that it is advisable for Competitors to send in their selections as soon as possible.

Letters to be addressed to "A," care of any of our Australasian Depots.

The Competition will close on December 31st, and our award advertised early in January.

The Dunlop Tyre Co. to be sole judge of the winning *Name*, which will be the property of the Coy.

A cheque for £20 will be forwarded to the successful Competitor as soon as our award is made.

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Fire and Marine Risks accepted at Lowest Current Rates. Losses settled with promptitude and liberality.

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GLOBE HOTEL,
OAMARU.

P. KELLY Proprietor.

P. KELLY wishes to inform his friends and the public generally that he has purchased the Globe Hotel, and will be happy to meet them there. Country Visitors and the Travelling Public will find every convenience. The Hotel, which is being renovated throughout, has accommodation for a number of Boarders; has its Private Sitting Rooms, Billiard Room, Bath Room, etc. Convenient to the New Railway Station and opposite the Theatre Royal. A good table kept. All Wines and Spirits of the Best Quality. Free Stabling accommodation.

MUSICAL EXCHANGE
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Either for Cash or very easy Time Payments.

R. FRANCIS,

159 & 161 MANCHESTER STREET
CHRISTCHURCH.**RAILWAY HOTEL,**
MANCHESTER STREET,
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(One minute from the Railway Station).

MR. WILLIAM JOHNSTON, late of Timaru Refreshment Rooms, has taken over the above favourite house, and offers every comfort to his patrons and friends.

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BAKER BROTHERS,
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Direct Importers of Best and Latest Designs in Funeral Furnishings.
FUNERALS Conducted with the greatest Care and Satisfaction, at most Reasonable Charges.
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CRAVEN'S SEEDS GROW.Sound, pure and reliable seeds are
WHAT YOU WANT,

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CHEMISTS, INVERCARGILL.

A Complete Stock of Everything that is looked for in a first-class Pharmacy

Sole Agents for the supply of
PURE NATURAL LYPH FOR VACCINATION.P.O. Box 120, Telephone 90,
INVERCARGILL.**JOHN GILLIES**
Furniture, Carpet, Floorcloths, and
Linoleum Warehouse,

8 GEORGE STREET, DUNEDIN.

Has just landed Brussels and Tapestry Carpet of magnificent designs, Floorcloths and Linoleums, all widths up to 12 feet in new designs and various qualities.

Bedsteads and Bedding, all kinds fresh and new.

A large assortment of Bamboo Tables, Whatnots, Brackets, Screens, Stools, new colourings and designs.

A large stock of New Furniture of latest new styles.

Houses Furnished on the Time-Payment System. Terms very easy. Everybody in town and country cordially invited to visit and inspect our immense Stock.

FLETCHER, HUMPHREYS & CO.,

WINE, SPIRIT, & CIDER MERCHANTS.

Also Importers of

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WAREHOUSE AND BONDED STORES:

CATHEDRAL SQUARE,**CHRISTCHURCH.****W A V E R L E Y H O T E L ,**
QUEEN STREET,
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MAURICE O'CONNOR (late of Christchurch and Dunedin) begs to notify that he has taken over the above favourite hotel, close to Train and Wharf. Splendid view of Harbour.

Best brands of Wines and Spirits always on hand.

MAURICE O'CONNOR.

J A S . S P E I G H T A N D C O

MALTSTERS AND BREWERS,

CITY BREWERY, DUNEDIN.

VETERINARY SHOEING FORGE,
WASHDYKE, TIMARU.

JOHN ROBERTSON, PROPRIETOR

(Late of Oamaru),

Begs to return thanks for the liberal support accorded to him since coming to Washdyke, and trusts by strict attention to business and good workmanship to merit a continuance of favors. All work received promptly attended to.

HORSE-SHOEING A SPECIALITY.

THOMSON, BRIDGER AND CO.,
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MERCHANTS AND MANUFACTURERS.

Importers of Fencing Wire (plain and galvanised),
Barbed Wire, Sheep and Rabbit Netting, Fencing
Standard 'Kiwi' and 'Reliance',
Rabbit Traps, etc., etc., including all
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STANDARDS PUNCHED

True to gauge. Net weight after punching only charged.

Manufacturers of Doors, Sashes, and all Building Requisites, also
of Churns, Butter Workers, Printers, Milk Vats, and all
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General, Builders', and Furnishing Ironmongery, Electro-Plated
Ware, Cutlery, &c., &c., in great variety.

PRICES LOW.

QUALITY EXCELLENT.

Building Timber of all kinds supplied direct from Sawmills when
required.

Totara and Black Pine, to any description, from our own mills at
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NOTE.—Shipments of the cream of the World's Markets constantly
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THAT YOUR BOOTS
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FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS

FIRST.
Boots with this Brand on the heel are Guaranteed to Fit and Wear Well.

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On this Brand only the Very Best of Workmen are employed.

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Only the Very Best of Materials are used in this Brand of Boots and Shoes.

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Farmers, Miners, and all who want to keep their feet dry, try this Brand.

FIFTH.
The "STANDARD" Brand Boots and Shoes are known from Auckland to the Bluff for sterling quality.

Commercial.

(For week ending December 19.)

PRODUCE.

Napier, December 13.—Messrs. Nelson Bros., Tomoana, have received the following cable from the C.C. and D. Company, London, to-day:—'Frozen meat market: To-day's quotations are—Best Canterbury, 4½d; Napier and North Island, 4½d per lb. Lamb is not quoted.'

London, December 14.—Butter: The market for Colonial butter is a shade weaker—at 110s to 112s; Danish is unchanged.

Rabbits.—25,573 crates of Victorian were offered by auction. 158 were sold at 14s and 25 at 14s 3d per crate. The remainder were withdrawn.

Wheat.—The market is steady. Australian January and February shipment parcels, 29s 3d; cargoes, 30s 3d; off-coast, 31s 3d asked, 30s paid.

London, December 16.—Frozen mutton—Crossbred and maiden ewes—Canterbury, 1½d; Dunedin and Southland, 1½d; North Island, 1½d. Lamb: None offering. New Zealand beef (180lb to 220lb for average quality): Ox hinds, 3 15-16d. River Plate crossbred or merino wethers: Heavy, unchanged; light, 3½d.

SOUTHLAND PRODUCE MARKET.

Invercargill prices current:—Wholesale: Butter, fresh, 6d, factory, bulk, 10d; pats, 10½d; eggs, 10d per doz; cheese, farm, 3½d; bacon, farm, 7d; do (rolled) farm, 6d; hams, 8d; potatoes, 14 per ton; barley, 2s to 2s 6d; fowl wheat, 2s; chaff, L2 10s; flour, L6 10s to L7 5s; oatmeal, L9 10s to L10; pollard, L4; bran, L3 10s, including bags. Retail—Fresh butter, 8d, factory, bulk, 1s; pats, 1s 0½d; eggs, 1s per doz; cheese, 6d; bacon, rolled, 8d, sliced 9d; hams, 10d; potatoes, 5s per cwt; flour, 200lbs, 14s; 50lb, 4s; oatmeal, 50lb, 6s; 25lb, 3s; pollard, 6s 6d per bag; bran, 4s per bag; chaff, L3 per ton; fowls' feed, 2s 9d per bushel.

MR. F. MEENAN, King street, reports:—Wholesale prices only—Oats: Fair to good feed 1s 4d to 1s 6d; milling, 1s 6d to 1s 7d. Wheat: milling, 2s 5d to 2s 6d; fowls', 1s 9d to 2s 1d. Potatoes: Northern, L4; Southern, L3 15s. Chaff: Inferior, 30s to 40s; good to prime, 47s 6d to 50s. Straw: pressed 27s; loose, 28s. Flour: Sacks, L6 10s; 50lbs, L7; 25lbs, L7, quiet. Oatmeal: 25lbs, L9 10s. Butter: Dairy, 6d to 8d; factory, 9½d to 10½d. Cheese: Dairy, 5d; factory, 5½d. Eggs, 10d. Onions: Melbourne, L9.

Messrs. Stronach Bros. and Morris report as follows:—

WHEAT—Market unchanged. Prime milling, 2s 6d to 2s 7d; medium, 2s 2d to 2s 5d; fowl wheat, 1s 11d to 2s 1d per bushel (sacks in).

OATS—No change to report. Milling, 1s 6½d; to 1s 7d good to best feed, 1s 5d to 1s 6d; medium, 1s 3½d to 1s 4½d per bushel (sacks extra).

CHAFF—Prime oaten sheaf, L2 10s to L2 12s 6d; medium, L2 to L2 7s 6d per ton (bags extra).

POTATOES—Best Derwents, L3 10s to L4 per ton (bags in).

LIVE STOCK.

DUNEDIN HORSE SALEYARDS.

Messrs. Wright, Stephenson and Co. report as follows:—

There was a moderate entry of horses for this week's sale, only some half-dozen draughts being forward, and about a score of useful hacks and harness horses. Good young horses, both draught and light, continue very scarce. On Saturday we sold a

few aged draughts at from L35 to L44, and several useful harness horses at from L8 to L19. We quote: Superior young draught geldings, L45 to L52; extra good prize horses, L53 to L60; medium draught mares and geldings, L30 to L40; aged do, L22 to L28; upstanding carriage horses, L25 to L30; well-matched carriage pairs, L50 to L60; strong spring-van horses, L25 to L32; milk-cart and butchers' order-cart horses, L16 to L20; tram horses, L12 to L15; light hacks, L7 to L10; extra good hacks, L18 to L25; weedy and aged hacks and harness horses, L2 to L5.

ADDINGTON STOCK MARKET.

The entries at Addington consisted of 2200 fat sheep, 1650 fat lambs, 650 store sheep, 530 cattle, and 332 pigs.

FAT CATTLE—216 head yarded, all of which were of good quality, and last week's prices were well upheld. Best steers brought L9 10s to L11 10s; others, L7 to L8; heifers, L5 2s 6d to L8 10s; best cows, L7 to L9 5s; others, down to L4 10s.

STORE CATTLE—There were not many store cattle yarded, and the demand was less. There was a good sale for good sorts of dairy cattle up to L8 10s.

FAT SHEEP—There was a mixed yarding, and most of them were shorn. All good sorts showed a rise of from 1s to 1s 6d per head. Wethers in wool brought 20s 9d to 22s; shorn, 16s 9d to 22s 6d and up to 36s for Mr Garforth's prize Southdowns; shorn ewes, 17s to 19s 6d for best and 13s 5d to 16s for others.

FAT LAMBS—These were mostly of good quality, and freezing buyers were very keen, over 1000 being taken for export. Sales were made at 13s 6d to 16s 6d for ordinary and 17s 3d to 18s 7d for extra good; unfinished down to 11s 9d.

STORE EWES—Only two lines of store ewes with lambs were penned, and these sold at 10s and 12s 1d, all counted.

PIGS—The short entry of pigs caused a keen demand and a rise in prices. Baconers fetched from 30s to 48s 6d, or equal to 3½d per lb; porkers, 21s to 32s, or equal to 4d per lb; stores, 13s to 20s; suckers and weaners, 5s 6d to 12s 6d.

WOOL, SKINS, TALLOW, ETC.

London, December 12.—At the tallow sales 1125 casks were offered, and 400 sold. Mutton: Fine, 28s 6d; medium, 26s 9d. Beef: Fine, 27s 3d; medium, 26s.

London, December 14.—Bradford wool is tending upwards. Common sixties, 18½d; super, 19½d.

Christchurch, December 14.—The second wool sale of the season was held yesterday. 10,270 bales were catalogued, and there was a large attendance of buyers. The wool was in very good order, being bright and clean, but light in grease. Buyers and sellers were in better agreement as regards values than on previous occasions, and the sale proceeded briskly, all superior lots of halfbreds and crossbreds showing about ½d to ¾d advance, but merinos were without change. The woollen companies were large purchasers of fine wools, and the bulk of coarser wools were taken for shipment, local fellmongers getting a fair proportion. Halfbred sold up to 8½d, Allendale clip topping the market. Crossbred realised 6½d, and merino 7½d.

London, December 16.—At the sheepskin sales 4264 bales were offered, and all sold. Combung, merinos, and fine crossbreds advanced ½d to ¾d; clothing merinos, ½d; and coarse crossbreds showed ¼d rise.

Messrs. Stronach Bros. and Morris report as follows:—

RABBITSKINS—Market firm. Winter greys, 16d to 17d; medium, 14d to 15½d; blacks to 22d. Other lots in proportion.

SHEEPSKINS—Market unchanged.

HIDES—No change to report. Prime heavy ox, 4d to 4½d; medium, 3½d to 3½d; cow hides, 3½d to 3½d per lb.

TALLOW—Market firm. Best rendered mutton, 16s to 17s 6d; medium, 14s to 15s 6d; rough fat, 11s to 13s per cwt.

J. G. WARD & CO.

WOOL, GRAIN, SEED, AND
MANURE MERCHANTS,
AUCTIONEERS AND STOCK AGENTS,
Invercargill, Gore and Bluff.

Full Stocks of Cornsacks, Woolpacks, Manures, Seeds, etc.,
kept, and Farmers are asked to call upon as before
purchasing their requirements.

AGENTS FOR—Massey-Harris Implements, Huddart, Parker Steamers, Manchester Fire Insurance Co., Lawes' Dips and Manures.
MANAGING AGENTS FOR—Ocean Beach Freezing Works, (Birt & Co., Limited, Proprietors).

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THREE FIRST AWARDS AND SPECIAL GOLD MEDAL AT
THE AUCKLAND EXHIBITION, 1899.

These Awards were gained by work manufactured on our
premises, Symonds street, and distanced all competing work, both
local and imported. We invite inspection of our large stock of

MONUMENTS, TOMBS, HEADSTONES, CROSSES, ETC.

The Largest Stock of Designs of IRON TOMB RAILINGS in the
Colony. Designs and Prices forwarded Free on Application.

Lowest possible Prices consistent with Good Work and Material.

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WELLINGTON.

Money Invested, Loans Negotiated, and entire Management of
Properties and Collection of Rents undertaken.

The firm have Special Facilities for disposing of Town and
Country Properties.

Correspondence invited from property owners also persons wish-
ing to buy.

SCOTIA HOTEL

Corner of
LEITH AND DUNDAS STREETS, DUNEDIN

MICHAEL O'HALLORAN (late of the
Police Force, Dunedin and
Ashburton), Proprietor.

Having leased the above well-known and
popular Hotel, which has undergone a
thorough renovation. Mr O'Halloran is now
prepared to offer first-class accommodation to
families, boarders, and the general public.

The very best of Wines, Ales, and Spirits
supplied.

NEW BUTCHERY.

JOHN MCINTOSH
(For many years salesman to City Co.),

Opposite Phoenix Company,
MACLAGGAN STREET, DUNEDIN,

Has opened as above.

Only the best of meat at lowest possible
prices.

Families waited on for Orders.

A TRIAL SOLICITED.

GEORGE DENNIS,

Late of Park Hotel, Newtown, Wellington
and West Coast South Island,

Has taken over BARRETT'S HOTEL
Lambton Quay, WELLINGTON, where he
is prepared to provide for his old patrons
and the public generally every accommoda-
tion.

Two minutes' walk from Post Office and
wharf.

Tram passes door.

WAIMATE HOTEL, WAIMATE

T. TWOMEY ... Proprietor.

T. TWOMEY (late of the Grosvenor Hotel,
Christchurch) having now taken possession
of the above favorite and centrally-situated
house, will spare no pains to make the place
as comfortable as possible.

Wines and Spirits of the best brands.

The Hotel is being refurnished and re-
novated throughout.

J. AND W. GRANT
Blacksmiths, Wheelwrights, and
Coachbuilders, Temuka.

J. and W. G., in thanking the public for
their support in the past, beg to solicit a
continuance of the same. As we have now
a very complete stock for carrying on our
several branches, and having secured the
services of one of the best painters in the
Colony, we have now a very strong staff of
men in their different lines.

Shoeing, as usual, a specialty.

HUGH GOURLEY
desires to inform the public he still
continues the Undertaking Business as for-
merly at the Establishment, corner Clarke
and MacLaggan streets, Dunedin.

Funerals attended in Town or Country
with promptness and economy.

SANITARY PIPE
AND STONEWARE FACTORY,
KENSINGTON.

The undersigned, having purchased the
above Works, is prepared to sell at Lowest
Current Rates.

J. H. LAMBERT,
NORTH-EAST VALLEY AND KENSINGTON.

IMPERIAL DRAPERY COMPANY.

KILROY AND SUTHERLAND,
176 and 178 PRINCES STREET (near Stafford St.)

Extensive alterations and additions to above premises have now
been completed, making them in every way quite up to date.
Special attention to light has been given, and we have now secured
a well lighted interior. Everything has been ordered FRESH AND
NEW FOR THE COMING SEASON. A distinctive and leading
feature of our stock will be goods of British manufacture. At
Home there is a strong impulse in favor of goods made within the
British Empire, and we feel confident all true Imperialists will help
us in this matter.

OPENING DAY: FRIDAY, AUGUST 24TH.

NEW SHOPS! NEW GOODS!! NEW IDEAS!!!

IMPERIAL DRAPERY COMPANY,
176 and 178 PRINCES STREET, (near Stafford Street).

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

DUNEDIN PAWN OFFICE,
5 GEORGE STREET, DUNEDIN.

(Late A. Solomon.)

W. G. ROSSITER (for the last 15 years Manager for the late
Mr. A. Solomon) having bought the old-established and well-known
pawnbroking business of the late Mr. A. Solomon, begs to announce
to the public of Dunedin and Suburbs that he will carry on the
business with the same attention and fidelity as formerly.

Note Address:

W. G. ROSSITER.

PRACTICAL WATCH AND CLOCK MAKER,
No 5, GEORGE STREET, DUNEDIN.

UNION STEAM SHIP COMPANY OF NEW ZEALAND LIMITED

Steamers will be despatched as under
(weather and other circumstances
permitting):

LYTTELTON and WELLINGTON—

Monowai	Thurs., Dec. 20	2 p.m. D'din
Te Anau	Fri., Dec. 21	3.35 p.m. tr'n
Mokoia	Mon., Dec. 24	4.30 p.m. D'din

NAPIER, GISBORNE and AUCKLAND—

Te Anau	Fri., Dec. 21	3.35 p.m. tr'n
Talune	Fri., Dec. 26	5 p.m. D'din

SYDNEY, via WELLINGTON—

Monowai	Thurs., Dec. 20	2 p.m. D'din
Mokoia	Mon., Dec. 24	4.30 p.m. D'din

SYDNEY via AUCKLAND—

Talune	Wed., Dec. 26	5 p.m. D'din
Mararoa	Tues., Jan. 8	3 p.m. D'din

MELBOURNE via BLUFF and HOBART—

Waikare	Dec. 23	4 p.m. D'din
Monowai	Mon., Jan. 7	4 p.m. D'din

GREYMOUTH via OAMARU, TIMARU,

LYTTELTON, WELLINGTON, and
NEW PLYMOUTH.

Cargo only.
Janet Nicoll Wed., Jan. 3 3 p.m. D'din

WESTPORT via OAMARU, TIMARU,
WELLINGTON.

Cargo only.
Upolu Fri., Dec. 21 3 p.m. D'din

SOUTH SEA ISLAND SERVICE.
TONGA, SAMOA, FIJI, and SYDNEY.

(From Auckland.)
Manapouri Thurs., Dec. 27

RARATONGA and TAHITI,
(From Auckland.)

Ovalau Tues., Jan. 15, 1901
For FIJI (From Auckland).

Taviuni Wed., Jan. 2

"DEAR ME!

I've forgotten that SYMINGTON COFFEE ESSENCE, whatever shall I do? Call at the nearest
Store you pass; they All Keep it,

ENTERTAINMENT BY THE PUPILS OF ST. DOMINICK'S COLLEGE, DUNEDIN.

THERE was a large audience in the Agricultural Hall, Dunedin, on Friday night when the pupils of the Dominican Nuns gave one of those enjoyable entertainments for which they are distinguished. The audience, bearing in mind the high reputation which the good Sisters hold for the excellence of the musical education imparted by them, naturally expected an entertainment of more than ordinary excellence, and in this they were not disappointed. It may be here mentioned that during the past four years there has not been a single failure amongst the candidates sent up from St. Dominick's College for the various musical examinations, whilst many succeeded in getting honors and distinctions. The opening item was a chorus, 'Night bells,' nicely sung by about 50 of the pupils. Misses Seelye, Liston, O'Connell, Griffen, Carey, and Meenan contributed a pianoforte duet in a finished manner, and the same might be said of a pianoforte trio by Misses Jackman, Montague, and Wood. A pianoforte solo by Miss Curtis, a duo (three pianos) by Misses Ward, Baker, Liston, Seelye, Curtis, and Paton, and a solo (three pianos) by Misses Ward, Paton, and Curtis were excellently played, and left nothing to be desired. Miss O'Connell displayed considerable elocutionary talent in her recitation, 'The Fool's Prayer,' for which she was warmly applauded. In addition to the opening item there were two other choruses—'Little flower girls,' by the junior pupils, and a 'National anthem' by all the pupils—both of which were admirably sung, the latter being especially effective. Miss Ewing got a well-deserved encore for a finished rendering of her song, 'Dear heart.' The balance of the programme was made up of 'Pas des Echarpes,' by the kindergarten, and 'Moonlight fairy revels,' by the college pupils, both items being gone through in a style which denoted careful training. Miss Moloney accompanied Miss Ewing's song and Miss Guffie the children's exercises.

During an interval his Lordship Bishop Verdon read the report of the directors of the college on the work during the past year. St. Dominick's College has been a centre for the musical examinations (practical and theoretical) for the past six years, and an analysis of the results obtained during that time will speak for itself.

A thorough musical training has always been a feature of the college.

The art studio has turned out good work during the past year, and the system of drawing from models throughout the school has proved very successful.

The study of modern languages keeps well to the fore, notably conversational French.

The much-coveted prize, the wreath for amiability, is awarded by the votes of the students, who are almost invariably unanimous in their estimate of the winner. This year it has been won by Miss Geraldine O'Connell, who received 90 per cent. of the votes of her school companions. A prize of equal distinction is that awarded by the nuns themselves, for fidelity to school discipline, and has been won by Miss Jessie Kelman.

TIMARU.

(From our own correspondent.)

It was a pleasing sight on Sunday last to see a number of children from the Sacred Heart and Marist Brothers' parochial schools—about 80 in all—receiving their First Communion. The children were well prepared by their respective teachers for the solemn occasion and had to undergo examination by the Rev. Father Tubman to ensure that they had a thorough knowledge of the Christian doctrine. After Mass the communicants were entertained at breakfast in the girls' schoolroom and in the afternoon were again brought together and every effort made to make them remember the day as the happiest in their lives. In the evening the church was crowded when the renewal of baptismal vows by the children and adults and the admission of six aspirants to the Sodality of the Children of Mary took place. The Rev. Father O'Connell, of Waimate, before conducting the ceremonies, preached a practical sermon to the children on their First Communion, and also explained the different ceremonies about to take place. The renewal of baptismal vows by the first communicants was a most pleasing and edifying sight. An act of consecration to the Blessed Virgin was clearly read by a little girl (Mary McAteer) a similar act to St. Joseph being read by a little boy (E. Dennehy) after which the first communicants in a body took the pledge of total abstinence. What a debt of gratitude parents must acknowledge to those good teachers, when comparing the meagre means at their disposal for educating their children a few short years back and the priceless advantages they now possess in having their children trained by the good Nuns and Brothers, and spiritually and secularly equipped to fight the battle of life.

The Hibernian Society held its fortnightly meeting on Thursday last, the president (Mr. M. F. Dennehy) in the chair. The next meeting, on Thursday, 27th, is the quarterly one, and will be held in the branch's new rooms, near the Priory (St. John's Hall). A resolution was unanimously passed conveying the congratulations of the branch to Brothers Wybertus and Kilian in their triumph over their calumniators, and sympathising with them in the suspense and suffering they underwent previous to and during the trial. A practical testimony of the sympathy of the branch will also be forthcoming. The branch's banner (painted by Madam Ryan) has been forwarded to Christchurch, and will be unfurled in the Jubilee procession by the members of the Timaru and Christchurch branches.

In connection with the celebration of the foundation of the Order of the Sisters of the Sacred Heart Pontifical High Mass was celebrated by his Lordship Bishop Grimes on Wednesday morning,

Rev. Father Cleary (Dunedin) being assistant priest, Very Rev. Dean Foley (Christchurch) deacon of the Mass, Rev. Father Tubman subdeacon, and Rev. Fathers Regnault and Aubry deacons at the throne. The Gregorian Mass was sung by the convent boarders in a finished and devotional manner. In the evening solemn Benediction was given by the Right Rev. Dr. Grimes, preceded by an admirable and touching discourse on the origin, aims, and characteristics of the Institute of the Sacred Heart, and the lessons to be derived from the life and virtues of Mother Barat, the foundress. On Wednesday evening an entertainment of a semi-private character, consisting of musical items and 'The Salve Regina,' a play in five acts, was given by the pupils. The following was the musical programme—'Entrée, 'Festal March' (piano); action song, 'The cat in the school' (encored); spinnies (piano), Miss Eileen Dennehy; impromptu, Miss Eileen Toomey; song, 'The singing lesson,' the second division. In the play the characters of Edith D'Astrog (a Polish young lady), and Count D'Astrog (her uncle) were admirably impersonated respectively by Misses Mechtilde and Cecily Kennedy. The part of Lady Beatrice (a friend of the late Countess D'Astrog) was well played by Miss Madeline Kinnerney, and Miss Clare Smith was very bright and most amusing as Fritz the valet. Miss Pearl Grace was highly successful as the Tartar Chief, Abdul Bey, and Miss Mary Twomey's presentation of the character of Hassan was very natural. Misses Stella Murray, Gladys Kennaway, Mary McShane and Lizzie Brosnahan put plenty of animation into their parts as Tartars. The piece was very nicely staged and well played, the production being very creditable to both teachers and pupils. The proceedings closed with the singing of a chorus 'Laudate,' after which his Lordship the Bishop delivered a brief address. At the conclusion of Dr. Grimes's remarks Miss Edwards, on behalf of the pupils, presented his Lordship with a floral bouquet studded with sovereigns. The play was repeated in the parish school on Thursday afternoon in the presence of the children and a number of their parents and friends. The boarders left for their holidays on the same day.

OBITUARY.

SISTER MARY URSULA MINTERN.

On Sunday, December 16, there passed away at the Dominican Convent, Queenstown, Sister Mary Ursula Mintern of the Order of St. Dominic. The deceased was the daughter of Mr. Mintern, a wealthy merchant of Cork, in which city she was born in 1875. She was educated first at the Convent of the Sisters of Mercy, St. Mary's of the Isle, and completed her course of studies at the Convent of Sittard, Limburg, Holland. Immediately on leaving Sittard she returned to Ireland, but only to bid farewell to her relatives and her native land in order to carry out her cherished wish to enter the Dominican Novitiate, Dunedin. Here, after the customary period of probation, she made her vows to God. Sister Ursula now began to show increasing signs of delicate health, and it was thought prudent to send her to the Dominican Convent in Queenstown in the hope that the salubrious air of the mountain and lake district would strengthen her. She improved so rapidly that she was chosen to be one of the foundresses of the Convent of the Order at Cromwell, her many gifts and talents, developed by refined culture, made her a host in herself among a small staff of workers. Unfortunately an attack of influenza, during an unusually severe winter season in Cromwell, reduced Sister Mary Ursula to such weak health that she was at once ordered back to Queenstown. The devoted attention and skilful care of the physicians failed to restore her and after a period of lingering weakness the patient succumbed. Sister Mary Ursula passed peacefully away on the morning of Sunday, December 16. The Sisters returning to Dunedin for the holidays, formed the mournful cortege that accompanied the remains to Dunedin for interment. On Tuesday morning a solemn Requiem Mass was celebrated in St. Joseph's Cathedral by his Lordship the Right Rev. Dr. Verdon, the Rev. Father Cleary being assistant priest, Very Rev. J. O'Neill deacon, Rev. Father Lynch subdeacon, Rev. Father Murphy master of ceremonies. The solemn music of the Mass was exquisitely rendered by the Dominican Nuns. In the choir also were the Rev. Father O'Donnell (Queenstown), the Rev. Fathers Ryan and Headen (Holy Cross College), and many of the local clergy were present in the sanctuary. The interment took place in the Southern cemetery when his Lordship the Bishop officiated assisted by the clergy present at the Requiem Mass.—R.I.P.

Particulars of the train services on the Government railways on December 22, 24, and 25 will be found in our advertising columns.—*.

MYERS AND CO., Dentists, Octagon, corner of George street. They guarantee highest class work at moderate fees. Their artificial teeth give general satisfaction, and the fact of them supplying a temporary denture while the gums are healing does away with the inconvenience of being months without teeth. They manufacture a single artificial tooth for Ten Shillings, and sets equally moderate. The administration of nitrous-oxide gas is also a great boon to those needing the extraction of a tooth. Read advertisement.—*.

The enormous output of McCormick machines defies the mental grasp of man. If the machines they manufacture were to issue from the gate of their works (the largest in the world), the spectators would see throughout the working day a McCormick machine emerging at full gallop every thirty seconds.—*.

Tussicura.—The most wonderful remedy of the age for coughs, colds, bronchitis, influenza, and all other affections of the throat and lungs. Those suffering should obtain it at once. Give it a trial.—*.

Ashburton Residents

and the public generally are reminded that T. H. UNDRILL & CO., Tancred Street, Furnishing Warehousemen and UNDERTAKERS, deserve your patronage.

WHITAKER BROS.,

NEW ZEALAND CATHOLIC DEPOT,

WELLINGTON AND GREYMOUTH.

NEW BOOKS.

NEW SUPPLIES.

Just Landed from New York.

s.	d.	s.	d.
The Catechism Explained, Spirago	10 0	Christian Philosophy, God, Driscoll	6 0
Devotions and Prayers for Sick Room	4 0	Business Guide for Priests, Stang	3 6
Four Last Things, Cocham	3 0	Natural Law and Legal Practice, Holand	7 0
The Perfect Religious	4 0	Our Monthly Devotions, Lings	4 6
New and Old Sermons, Wirth (8 vols.)	75 0	New Testament Studies, Conaty	2 0
Outlines Jewish History, Gegot	7 0	Outlines New Testament History, Gegot	6 0
Compendium Sacrae Liturgiae, Wapellhorst	10 0	Comedy of English Protestantism, Marshall	3 6
Sermons on B. Sacrament and Forty Hours, Scheurer	6 0	Crown of Mary	2 6
Crown of Thorns	1 9	Goffin's Devout Instructions	4 6
History of the Mass, O'Brien	5 0	Confessional Register	15 0
Meditations for Every Day, Hamon (5 vols.)	20 0	Introduction to the Holy Scriptures, Gigot	8 0
Little Manual St. Anthony (illus.)	2 6	Meditations for Every Day Verduyasa (2 vols.)	14 0
Meditations for Secular Clergy, Chaignon (2 vols.)	16 0	Sermons for Children of Mary, Callerio	6 0
Way of Interior Peace	5 0	Striving after Perfection	4 0
Characteristics True Devotion, Gron	3 0	True Politeness, by Abbe Demora	2 6
Kellus, St. Anthony, Blessed Virgin, Sacred Heart, Blessed Sacrament, each	3 0	Interior of Jesus and Mary, Gron (2 vols.)	8 0
How to Comfort the Sick	4 0	Manifestation of Conscience	2 0
Glories of Divine Grace, Schubert	6 0	Meditations for Retreats	3 6
A College Boy	3 0	Round Table French Catholic Novelists	6 0
Round Table American Catholic Novelists	6 0	Pere Monnier's Ward	5 0
Round Table English and Irish do do	6 0	Mr. Billy Buttons	5 0
Marcella Grace, Rosa Mulholland	5 0	How to Get On	4 0
Passing Shadows	5 0	Fabiola's Sisters	5 0
Fabiola	4 0	Legends Holy Child Jesus	3 0
		Fred's Little Daughter	2 0
		True Story Master Gerald	5 0
		Let no Man put Asunder	4 0
		An Every Day Girl	2 0
		A Hostage of War	2 0
		Jack O Lantern	2 0

Complete list now preparing. Customers may rely on having a splendid Selection this year of the best Catholic Books published.

ST. JOSEPH'S PRAYER BOOK.

Can be had from all who Sell Catholic books or direct from the Publisher,

J. MURRAY, TABLET OFFICE, DUNEDIN.

Prayer Book only, One Shilling. By post, 1s. 2d.

Prayer Book and Catechism bound in one, 1s. 2d. By post, 1s. 5d.

CALEDONIAN SOCIETY OF OTAGO.

ANNUAL GATHERING,
JANUARY 1 AND 2, 1901.
SOCIETY'S GROUNDS, KENSINGTON.

£480 GIVEN IN PRIZES.

Running and Walking	...	£175 0 0
Bagpipe Music	...	19 10 0
Wrestling	...	90 0 0
Cycling	...	75 0 0
Hammer, Caber, and Ball...	...	12 0 0
Vaulting with Pole	...	14 0 0
Wood-chopping Competition (second day)	...	22 0 0
Quoiting	...	8 10 0

FOR DETAILS SEE PROGRAMME.

Entries for Running and Walking close at the Society's Office 27 Rattray street, at 8 p.m. on SATURDAY, 15th December; Cycling, on THURSDAY, 27th December, at 5 p.m.; for all other events on THURSDAY, 27th December, at 8 p.m.

Entry Money for Dunedin and Caledonian Handicaps, 3s 6d each distance; all events with prize money exceeding £6 for 1st prize, 3s 6d; Wrestling, 3s 6d; for all other events, 2s 6d; Youths' races, 1s.

Programmes can be obtained from the directors or at the Society's Office, 27 Rattray street.

Side Shows of every description will be on the ground, and all the fun of a Scottish Fair.

WILLIAM REID, Secretary,
27 Rattray street.

WANTED TEACHER for the ROMAN CATHOLIC SCHOOL, ST. BATHANS. Must be able to lead the Choir. Salary, £65 per year; which can be considerably increased by Private Tuition. Services to commence on the 7th January. Applications, together with Testimonials, to be forwarded to

MR. SEXTON,
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NEW ZEALAND RAILWAYS.

CANTERBURY JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

At
CHRISTCHURCH,

MONDAY, DECEMBER 17, 1900.

CHRISTMAS and NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS, 1900-1901.

EXCURSION FARES.

HOLIDAY EXCURSION TICKETS will be issued as under:—
From Clinton, and all Stations North thereof, to Christchurch, on December 14 and 15; from Any Station to Any Station, from December 18 to January 2.

The Return fares will be:—

FIRST CLASS.	SECOND CLASS.
2d per Mile.	1d per Mile.

The minimum being 4s and 2s respectively.

All the above tickets will be available for Return up to and including Tuesday, February 19, 1901.

The journey must be commenced on date that ticket is taken out, and may be broken at any station where the train is timed to stop after travelling 25 miles from the original starting station, provided the specified time is not exceeded.

Goods and Live Stock Traffic will be suspended on December 25 and 26, and January 1 and 2.

By Order.

NEW ZEALAND RAILWAYS

TIME-TABLE ALTERATIONS

On and after MONDAY, 17th December, the following alterations will be made in the Time-table:—

The Train now leaving Dunedin for Wedderburn at 8 a.m. will leave at 8.15 a.m., Abbotsford 8.40 a.m., Wingatui 8.55 a.m., Hindon 10.15 a.m., Middlemarch 11.37 a.m., Hyde 12.40 p.m., arriving Wedderburn 2.20 p.m.

The Train leaving Wedderburn for Dunedin at 11.45 a.m. will be accelerated, and will leave Ranfurly at 12.15 p.m., Hyde 1.48 p.m., Middlemarch 2.23 p.m., Hindon 3.45 p.m., Wingatui 5.0 p.m., arriving Dunedin 5.45 p.m.

A Goods Train, with passenger carriage attached, will leave Dunedin for Wedderburn at 2.10 p.m., leaving Wingatui 3.5 p.m., Middlemarch 6.40 p.m., and Hyde 8.0 p.m.

The Train now leaving Dunedin for Wingatui at 6.55 a.m. will run through to Mosgiel, arriving there at 7.40 a.m.

The Train now leaving Dunedin for Mosgiel at 5.16 p.m. will be accelerated, and will leave Caversham at 5.26 p.m., Abbotsford 5.38 p.m., arriving Mosgiel at 5.55 p.m.

The Train now leaving Mosgiel for Dunedin at 2.35 p.m. will leave at 2.0 p.m., Abbotsford 2.40 p.m., Burnside 2.50 p.m., arriving Dunedin 3.25 p.m.

By Order.

NEW ZEALAND RAILWAYS.

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS, 1900

The following ALTERATIONS IN and ADDITIONS TO the Ordinary Time-table will be made in connection with the Christmas Holidays:—

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 22.

An Excursion Train will leave Dunedin for Christchurch at 10.35 p.m., Waitati 11.33 p.m., Seaciff 11.57 p.m., Waikouaiti 12.18 a.m., Palmerston 12.45 a.m., Hampden 1.28 a.m., Maheno 2.3 a.m., Oamaru 2.35 a.m., arriving at Christchurch 8.55 a.m. on December 23. This train will stop at Upper Port Chalmers, Waitati, Seaciff, Waikouaiti, Palmerston, Hampden, Herbert, and Maheno, also at any station where required north of Oamaru to allow passengers to alight.

An Excursion Train will leave Christchurch for Dunedin at 10.40 p.m., Oamaru 1.45 a.m., Hampden 5.50 a.m., Palmerston 6.45 a.m., Waikouaiti 7.15 a.m., Seacliff 7.45 a.m., Waitati 8.5 a.m., arriving at Dunedin at 9 a.m. on December 23. This train will stop at the stations named, also at other stations where required to set down passengers from north of Oamaru.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 21.

An Excursion Train will leave Dunedin for Christchurch at 10.35 p.m., Waitati 11.33 p.m., Seacliff 11.57 p.m., Waikouaiti 12.18 a.m., Palmerston 12.45 a.m., Hampden 1.28 a.m., Maheno 2.3 a.m., Oamaru 2.25 a.m., arriving at Christchurch 9.15 a.m. on December 25. This train will stop at Upper Port Chalmers, Waitati, Seacliff, Waikouaiti, Palmerston, Hampden, Herbert, and Maheno, also at any station where required north of Oamaru to allow passengers to alight.

An Excursion Train will leave Dunedin for Oamaru and intermediate stations at 11.20 p.m., Sawyer's Bay 11.45 p.m., Waitati 12.35 a.m., Seacliff 1.10 a.m., Puketeraki 1.20 a.m., Palmerston 2.15 a.m., Hampden 3.5 a.m., Maheno 3.55 a.m., arriving Oamaru 4.40 a.m. on December 25.

An Excursion Train will leave Christchurch for Dunedin at 10.40 p.m., Oamaru 4.45 a.m., Hampden 5.50 a.m., Palmerston 6.45 a.m., Waikouaiti 7.15 a.m., Seacliff 7.45 a.m., Waitati 8.5 a.m., arriving at Dunedin at 9 a.m. on December 25. This train will stop at the stations named; also at other stations where required to set down passengers from north of Oamaru.

An Excursion Train will leave Dunedin for Invercargill and intermediate stations at 11.20 p.m., Mosgiel 12.20 a.m., Waihola 1.15 a.m., Milton 2 a.m., Balclutha 3.25 a.m., Clinton 4.55 a.m., arriving at Invercargill 8.20 a.m. on December 25.

An Excursion Train will leave Invercargill for Dunedin at 11.15 p.m., Clinton 2.45 a.m., Balclutha 3.55 a.m., Milton 4.55 a.m., arriving at Dunedin 7.10 a.m. on December 25.

The Train usually leaving Owaka for Balclutha at 1 p.m. will Not run.

Trains will leave Balclutha for Owaka at 11.30 a.m. and 8 p.m., returning from Owaka at 2 p.m. and 9.30 p.m.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 25.

A Train will leave Dunedin for Oamaru at 9 a.m., Waitati 10.15 a.m., Seacliff 10.45 a.m., Waikouaiti 11.13 a.m., Palmerston 11.43 a.m., Hampden 12.28 p.m., Herbert 12.58 p.m., Maheno 1.11 p.m., returning from Oamaru at 2.45 p.m., Maheno 3.20 p.m., Herbert 3.38 p.m., Hampden 4.5 p.m., Palmerston 5 p.m., Waikouaiti 5.30 p.m., Seacliff 6.5 p.m., Waitati 6.35 p.m.

The following Trains will run as usual:

The Express Trains between Dunedin and Christchurch, the 10.20 a.m. extra Express Trains Dunedin to Christchurch and Christchurch to Dunedin, the express Trains between Dunedin and Invercargill, the 8 a.m. Dunedin to Balclutha, the 4.10 p.m. Balclutha to Dunedin, the 11.35 a.m. Balclutha to Clinton, the 2.20 p.m. Clinton to Balclutha, the 9.35 a.m. Invercargill to Clinton, and the 1.55 p.m. Clinton to Invercargill.

A Train will leave Balclutha for Dunedin at 7.23 a.m.

On the Port Chalmers line Trains will run as on Sundays.

All other Train services between Timaru and Gore will be SUSPENDED on Christmas Day.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 26.

SPORTS AT WAIKOUAITI.

DRUIDS' PICNIC AND SPORTS AT EVANSDALE.

BLUESKIN A. AND P. SHOW AT WAITATI.

Special Trains will leave Dunedin for Palmerston at 7.50 a.m. and 9 a.m., Sawyer's Bay 8.22 a.m. and 9.32 a.m., Purakanui 8.50 a.m. and 10.2 a.m., Waitati 9.10 a.m. and 10.22 a.m., Evansdale 9.15 a.m. and 10.27 a.m., Seacliff 9.45 a.m. and 11 a.m., Waikouaiti 10.15 a.m. and 11.30 a.m.

Special Trains will leave Dunedin for Evansdale at 8.40 a.m., 9.45 a.m., and 11.15 a.m., arriving Evansdale 9.55 a.m., 11 a.m., and 12.30 p.m. These trains will Not Stop at intermediate stations.

Trains return from Palmerston to Dunedin at 4.25 p.m. and 4.55 p.m., Waikouaiti 5 p.m., 5.32 p.m., and 7.30 p.m., Seacliff 5.45 p.m., 6.17 p.m., and 8.5 p.m., Evansdale 4.40 p.m., 5.35 p.m., 6.15 p.m., 6.40 p.m., and 8.30 p.m., Waitati 4.45 p.m., 5.40 p.m., 6.20 p.m., 6.51 p.m., and 8.35 p.m., Purakanui 5.15 p.m., 6.8 p.m., 6.50 p.m., 7.17 p.m., and 9.5 p.m., arriving Dunedin 6.10 p.m., 7 p.m., 7.50 p.m., 8.10 p.m., and 9.50 p.m.

The Train usually leaving Palmerston for Dunedin at 6.25 a.m. will Not run.

Train will leave Palmerston for Dunedin at 6.10 a.m., Waikouaiti 6.40 a.m., Seacliff 7.10 a.m., Waitati 7.35 a.m., Purakanui 8 a.m., Upper Port Chalmers 8.18 a.m., arriving Dunedin 8.50 a.m.

Trains will leave Palmerston for Dunedin at 8.35 a.m., 11.10 a.m., and 8.10 p.m., returning from Dunedin at 9.25 a.m., 3.35 p.m., and 9 p.m.

The Time-table between Dunedin and Port Chalmers will be SUSPENDED. Trains will leave Dunedin for Port Chalmers at 7.5 a.m., 10 a.m., 12.10 p.m., 1.20 p.m., 2.30 p.m., 3.35 p.m., 5.15 p.m., 6.20 p.m., 8.30 p.m., 10.15 p.m., and 11.30 p.m.

Trains will leave Port Chalmers for Dunedin at 7.5 a.m., 9.5 a.m., 11.15 a.m., 1.30 p.m., 2.55 p.m., 4 p.m., 5.15 p.m., 7 p.m., 9.30 p.m., 10.50 p.m., and 12.5 a.m.

An Excursion Train will leave Dunedin for Christchurch at 8.10 p.m., Waitati 9.25 p.m., Seacliff 9.55 p.m., Waikouaiti 10.20 p.m., Palmerston 10.50 p.m., Hampden 11.35 p.m., Maheno 12.10 a.m., Oamaru 12.45 a.m., arriving at Christchurch 7 a.m. on

December 27. This train will stop at the stations named; also at any station north of Oamaru to set down passengers.

An Excursion Train will leave Christchurch for Dunedin at 8.15 p.m., Oamaru 3 a.m., Palmerston 4.48 a.m., arriving at Dunedin 7 a.m., December 27. This train will stop at any station between Oamaru and Dunedin to set down passengers from north of Oamaru.

CALEDONIAN SPORTS AT OUTRAM.

Train will leave Outram for Dunedin at 6.15 p.m. Train will leave Mosgiel for Outram at 7.10 p.m.

SPORTS AT BALCLUTHA.

Trains will leave Balclutha for Owaka at 7.30 a.m., 11.30 a.m., and 8 p.m., returning from Owaka at 9.15 a.m., 2 p.m., and 9.30 p.m. Train will leave Dunedin for Balclutha and intermediate stations at 11.20 p.m.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 27.

SPORTS AT OWAKA.

Train will leave Balclutha for Owaka at 11.30 a.m., returning from Owaka at 2 p.m.

Special Train will leave Owaka for Dunedin at 5.50 p.m., Balclutha 7.25 p.m., arriving Dunedin 11.5 p.m.

The GOODS SHEDS at Dunedin and Port Chalmers will be CLOSED on Christmas and Boxing Days, December 25 and 26.

All Goods traffic between Oamaru and Clinton will be entirely SUSPENDED on Christmas and Boxing Days, December 25 and 26.

By Order.

CONVENT OF THE SACRED HEART, TIMARU.

THE ANNUAL SPIRITUAL RETREAT FOR LADIES will begin on the Evening of MONDAY, January 7, and end on the Morning of Saturday, 12th.

The Retreat will be preached by the Rev. J. Kelly, S.J.

Ladies who wish to attend should apply as soon as possible to the Reverend Mother.



'To promote the cause of Religion and Justice by the ways of Truth and Peace.'

LEO XIII. to the N.Z. TABLET.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1900.

THE STOKE ORPHANAGE CASES.



OR some six months past a man-hunt was in progress against the Marist Brothers who till last September conducted the Catholic Orphanage and Industrial School at Stoke, near Nelson. The chase ended last week in favor of the quarry. To drop metaphor: the two incriminated religious—Brothers KILIAN and WYBERTUS—left the Supreme Court in Wellington without a stain upon their character. The prosecution—or rather persecution—to which they had been subjected failed helplessly and hopelessly and all along the line. In the words of the *N.Z. Times* (Wellington), the cases against Brothers KILIAN and WYBERTUS broke down 'with a completeness which is—when one considers the difference between expectancy and fact—absolutely staggering.' Their vindication was furnished by the very agencies which had combined for their ruin. No defence was needed. And poetic justice—which is of the retributive order—will be complete, and the story of the triumph of persecuted innocence rounded off and full, when condign punishment has been meted out to the real villains of the piece.

Story of the Man-Hunt.

The Stoke persecution is a grievous blemish to the history of a fresh young country which has not yet reached the

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fiftieth year of its national life, and which is engaged in building up the traditions and ideals upon which so much of its future moral greatness must depend. The story that reached its final chapter in the Supreme Court last week is briefly the story of a dual alliance between sectarian passion and political self-seeking—a 'Flaming Flanagan'-cum-Sadleir combination for mutual benefit at the expense of the Marist Brothers of Stoke. Certain charges were laid against the management of the institute: imprisonment, excessive punishment and overworking of certain of the boys; burial of some dead many years ago on the school grounds; scantiness of winter underwear; and insufficiency of food. It is unfortunate that when hysterical charges are levelled against Catholic institutes a noisy section of the populace follow the motto of the King in LEWIS CARROLL'S *Wonderland*: verdict first, trial afterwards. This was the case with the officially exploded charges against the Good Shepherd nuns in France. It was the case with the Stoke affair. The popular verdict was passed *instanter*. A howl went up from the North Cape to Stewart Island. The flood of sectarian passion burst its dam and ran a frothy 'banker.' In this tossed state of public feeling a Royal Commission of Inquiry was appointed.

'At first,' as the Right Hon. the Premier said in the House on July 27, 'it was represented that people were prepared to prove that something had happened within the last few weeks.' Then the Commission was empowered to extend its investigation over two years. But those who engineered the case against the Brothers soon raised a hideous outcry to have the scope of inquiry extended to five years. The reason was, in view of their first demands, admitted with somewhat brutal frankness. It was, in effect, that they had failed to rake up within bounds of the shorter period any fact that came up to the level of their expectations—anything to justify the loud whoop-halloa and uproar which they had raised. Mr. SEDDON characterised the clamor for extension of the inquiry as 'persecution,' 'a fishing commission,' an 'attempt to set up an inquisition.' But the portion of the dual alliance within the House raged with rare vehemence. The extension was granted. The 'fishing commission' thrashed the water so long as there was a nibble. 'From that ordeal,' says the *Timaru Herald*, 'the management of the Stoke Orphanage emerged, if not completely absolved from blame, at least with no dark stains on its reputation.' In the course of their report the Commissioners state that a great deal of the evidence was tainted by exaggeration, 'the result of strong personal antagonism to certain of the Brothers.' 'Yet,' as our *Timaru* contemporary points out, 'it was chiefly on that tainted evidence that the Commissioners found that in some instances there had been undue severity in the administration of corporal punishment.' The accusations on which this judgment was based were of ancient date and were subsequently proved to have been trumped up. 'But it is certain,' says the *N.Z. Times*, 'that, apart from the matter of the solitary confinement, there was nothing in the punishment inflicted at Stoke that could for a moment be considered worse than prevails in many of the English public schools.'

For the rest, flogging was abolished five years ago at Stoke, and the corporal punishment inflicted since then in the institute has been admittedly milder than in Government institutions of the same kind in the Colony. The Brothers were exonerated by the Commission of the charges of having buried any dead within the school grounds, and of having overworked the boys. (In this latter connection nothing has ever been even hinted or alleged against the Stoke Orphanage comparable to the long hours and grinding toil to which even little children are, according to the published official report of Inspector Hill, subjected from New Year's day to St. Silvester's in their own homes on the dairy farms of the Forty Mile Bush—and this without a word of protest in Parliament or the Press). The clothing of the Stoke inmates was reported by the Commission to be sufficient, though of rough material, the food abundant and wholesome. And they drew special attention to the singular fact—so rare in such institutions and so creditable to the Brothers—that 'there had been no death at the school for over six years, and no case of pulmonary disease or other illness for more than two years, and that at the

date of the report there was not a cough or cold amongst the 120 boys.' Certain reforms recommended by the Commissioners were promptly carried out. They could have been readily brought about without a public uproar: sane people do not crush their cockroaches with Nasmyth steam hammers. After the publication of the Report some of the Brothers were removed from the institution. Later on, in consequence of the Government insisting on their acceptance of resident female help, all the Brothers withdrew from Stoke and returned to the house of their Order in Sydney.

The little menagerie of Nelson intolerants who (in the words of the *Timaru Herald*) 'attacked the Marist Brothers in such savage fashion,' 'looked to the Commission to curse the Stoke Orphanage, yet their finding was more in the nature of a blessing.' Thereupon, says the same judicious and cool-headed organ, 'the malcontents raised a frightful howl, attacked the Report, and pressed the Government to stop all financial aid to the institution.' The outcry vibrated through the pores of the Colony. A prosecution was demanded. Hot-headed demagogues represented the Brothers who had gone to Sydney as fugitives from justice. Mr. T. MACKENZIE—one of the sounding-boards of the Nelson clique—hotly asked the Premier in the House of Representatives: 'Were the police taking any action to arrest the *villains* and *scoundrels* who had cruelly ill-treated the children at the school?' The Premier yielded before the hysterical outcry raised against the Brothers both inside and outside Parliament. The evidence taken by the Commission was laid before the Commissioner of Police. A criminal prosecution ensued. The two Brothers incriminated promptly returned of their own free will to face their accusers. A fair trial was impossible in Nelson owing to the strength of feeling artificially created there. The venue was therefore changed to Wellington. Almost on the eve of the trials a scandalous attempt—which was reported in the daily papers throughout the Colony—was made by a large section of the people of Nelson to influence public opinion: a public meeting was called, crowds assembled, hot speeches were made, and watches were presented to the men who had taken a leading part in bringing about the prosecution! Six charges of common assault were laid against Brother KILIAN. Two only were tried. The prosecution collapsed completely. Verdicts of 'not guilty' were returned. In one, two necessary Crown witnesses deposed that they were present at the punishment of another inmate, which took place fifteen months after they had permanently left the institute! In another, Mr. Justice EDWARDS declared that he 'would not punish a cat' on the evidence adduced by the Crown. The four remaining cases against Brother KILIAN were withdrawn. Brother WYBERTUS was acquitted on trumped-up charges of indecent and common assault. Other charges against him were withdrawn. And this, in brief, is the story of the man-hunt in Nelson and of the ending thereof.

Rabid Enemies.

The story, as told in this summary way, is, in all reason, a sufficiently melancholy one. But it conveys an altogether inadequate idea of the devil's dance of fanaticism and political chicanery that for six months whirled in a mad eddy around the Stoke Orphanage. Some of the ^{most} noisy, active, and prominent agitators against the Brothers from the first were reputed or notorious members of a secret association of fanatics—the Orange Society, to wit—who, amidst the solemn absurdities of the 'first degree' and the blasphemous and semi-indecent tomfooleries of the 'two and a half,' swear illegal oaths on bared and bended knees to do all that lies in their power to injure Catholics in their civil and social rights. These and their noisy and organised local following constitute what a respected daily contemporary styles 'the Nelson clique' and 'the rabid enemies of the Orphanage.' The head and front of the offending of the Marist Brothers was their profession of the Catholic faith. From the very first it was evident that the campaign against the Brothers was to be conducted by this knot of intolerants on strictly sectarian lines and for purely sectarian ends. Through the medium of a number of newspapers they got a grip on the lobe of the public ear. And

for a time Nelson was the busy centre of a propaganda of rapid articles, letters, etc., which were streamed out to every part of the colonies, and many of which it was a disgrace for any man to write or for any respectable editor to publish.

The Press-gang.

From the first it was likewise evident that no effort would be spared to make political capital out of the Stoke affair. 'The wave of public feeling,' says the *N.Z. Times*, 'was industriously worked up for political and other reasons.' The *Tairi Advocate* and other papers also refer to 'the political significance' of the Stoke cases. The *Nelson Evening Mail*—an Opposition paper—made itself throughout the sounding-board of the local fanatics. The chorus was taken up as if at the stroke of a conductor's baton by many other papers throughout the Colony. It was one of the most disgraceful prostitutions of the functions of the newspaper Press that has ever come under our notice. As the *N.Z. Times* points out, the Press, 'led away entirely by vain imaginings,' raised a 'hue and cry,' made 'improper and indecent' attempts, by 'comments' and 'fussy insinuations concerning pending cases,' to prejudice them before the Court, and to interfere with 'fairplay and decent legal administration.' RABELAIS' witches concealed their eyes in their slippers when at home. They clapped them into their sockets when abroad, the better to spy out the faults and foibles of their neighbors. A large section of our Press played a part similar to that of RABELAIS' withered and venomous hags. Only a little time ago they raged and raved and tore their hair and clawed like dancing dervishes because of a suspicion that ex-captain DREYFUS was not getting a fair trial in far-off France. At home in New Zealand their eyes were in their boot-heels. They did everything in their power to cloud the judicial issues of the Stoke affair with political passion and to substitute trial by popular clamor for what is deemed to be the palladium of British liberty, trial by jury.

Broomstick Politicians.

A similar course of action was adopted by broomstick politicians in Parliament. A disgraceful wrangle over the Stoke Orphanage nagged and jarred in the House at intervals for several months. A nondescript party, cemented by the feeling of the hour, sedulously fomented the public passion. Intrigue was rampant. They set the public the bad example of commenting, under cover of privilege of the House, on cases still *sub judice*. A project of panic legislation was tabled. 'A section of Parliament,' says the *N.Z. Times*, wanted '(1) to have the blackness [of the Brothers] declared without waiting for the verdict of the law courts, and (2) to have the color extended to every institute of a kindred nature, and that indiscriminately, so that every sheep of all these flocks should be punished as black.' In plain terms, an attempt was pushed to its farthest verge to place upon the Statute Book a form of legislation the obvious effect and evident chief purpose of which would be the closing of Catholic orphanages or the serious impairment of their usefulness throughout the Colony.

The ring-leaders of the wild pursuit of the Marist Brothers in the House of Representatives were Messrs. Atkinson, Hutcheson, Pirani, Meredith, T. Mackenzie, Millar, and G. W. Russell. They were supported in their happily unsuccessful attempts at panic legislation by Messrs. Arnold, Barclay, Buddo, Collins, Ell, Fowlds, W. Fraser, Graham, Guinness, Hardy, Herries, Hogg, Hornsby, Lang, Laurenson, M'Nab, Rhodes, Tanner, R. Thompson, and J. W. Thomson. One of the Members on this Black List went so far as to have alleged *fasciniles* made of chains which were falsely stated to have been used for confining boys in the Stoke institute. 'These gentlemen'—to give a fresh application to a now well-known expression of Judge Edwards'—may count on hearing from us again.

The Crown.

No comment on the Stoke Orphanage persecution would be complete without a special word of reprobation for the manner in which the case for the Crown was worked up and conducted from start to close. We refer (1) to the agents

selected for the preliminary investigations; (2) to the methods pursued by them; and (3) to the conduct of the cases when before the court. In one of the charges to the jury, Judge EDWARDS remarked that the Stoke Orphanage cases were not regarded as matters between the public and the individuals charged, but between the public and the denomination to which the Marist Brothers belonged. This latter was plainly the view accepted and acted upon by the Crown. For our part we have no objection to investigation, in these or any other cases, conducted by capable and respectable police or detectives of any creed or of no creed. On this account we have no special complaint to make regarding the apparently studied exclusion of Catholic police officials from the preliminary inquiries in connection with the Stoke Orphanage cases. But the Marist Brothers and the Catholic body, and men of every creed and party are fairly entitled to demand answers to the following pertinent queries: (1) Is notorious membership of the Orange Society with the rampant bias which is ordinarily associated with it, a qualification for conducting a delicate inquiry affecting the members of a Catholic monastic community? (2) Was it a mere coincidence that the police—like the amateur detectives of Nelson and its neighborhood—selected the great mass of the Crown accusers and witnesses from the criminal or 'committed' inmates and ex-inmates of the Orphanage; and that the charges of indecent assault rested in nearly every case on the evidence of boys of illegitimate birth, or who were brought up in houses of ill-fame, or amidst other surroundings that were favorable in a high degree to the early acquisition of a knowledge of immoral practices?

Again: (3) We want to know why five of the Crown witnesses were spirited away—one of them from employment with a respectable Catholic—and sent to the Burnham State Industrial School? And how, after a few weeks' stay there, they displayed under examination in the Supreme Court a knowledge of sexual anatomy (and even of its Latin technical terms) which amazed the hearers from whom our information was received at first hand? We confess to an aching curiosity to know by whom 'these young gentlemen' were 'coached.' Yet again: (4) One of the most striking facts elicited from the Crown witnesses—a fact, too, which is capable of still further proof—is this: that previous to this inquiry accusing ex-inmates of the Stoke Orphanage had spoken in laudatory terms to employers and others of the kindness of the Brothers; had written letters filled with grateful recognition of the services rendered to them; had frequently returned thither to renew old associations; and, strangest of all, had never breathed to human ear a hint of cruelty or neglect or of immoral behavior on the part of those charged with the management of the institute. In addition to this, at least *prima facie* positive evidence of collusion or conspiracy, and of intimidation or attempted intimidation and corruption of witnesses for the defence, was given by some of those who were called in support of the prosecution. Now we are entitled to ask: Is it true that the suspiciously sudden *volte-face* of certain ex-inmates of the Stoke Orphanage from open friendliness to open hostility towards the Brothers coincided with their interviews with the police who were working up the case on behalf of the Crown?

The explanation may, perhaps, be not wholly unconnected with the fact that the Crown witnesses—who in their normal employment were earning only from four shillings to twelve shillings a week—suddenly found themselves passing rich on ten shillings a day, with the (to them) joyful whirl of city life, and a prolonged holiday from work. It is scarcely necessary to point out that such terms constitute, by themselves alone, a bribe to accommodating perjury which would form a temptation of almost irresistible force to boys of the class from which the Crown witnesses in the Stoke cases were chiefly drawn. There are certain other matters in connection with the management of Crown witnesses which will take a great deal of strenuous explanation. (5) Why, for instance, were the boys—when being 'herded' by a police official at Nelson and Wellington—prevented Sunday after Sunday from going to Mass? (6) Has the Police Commissioner any explanation to offer for the fact—vouched for by the *Nelson Evening Mail*—that a crowd of the boys, (that had been kept away from the Catholic church on

Sunday morning, September 23), appeared the same evening in a Wesleyan conventicle, with the guardian constable at their head, to listen to the (previously announced) falling of water-spouts of no-Popery declamation? In the court, the Crown—with full view of the strong tide of sectarian passion that was flowing—acted throughout on the assumption that those who were opposed to the accused in religious belief were alone to be trusted with the verdict. The name of every known Catholic on the jury panel was challenged throughout. The Crown cross-examined one of the accused, with a singular display of animus, on matter which, as the *N.Z. Times* points out, was 'absolutely irrelevant.' Why this was done, says the same Wellington daily, 'unless it was for the purpose of improperly biasing the jury, is a question of some interest to those who like to believe that nothing unfair is possible in the administration of our law.' And, finally, it blundered on and on, while case after case broke down with splendid monotony, until the prosecution became so clearly a persecution that fair-minded men of every degree were sickened and ashamed of it. But happily, the means which seemed best calculated to compass the ruin of the Brothers, only served to make their vindication the more complete. The serious financial losses which they have undergone in a battle which has not been all their own give them a claim upon the purse of the Catholic body which we trust will be speedily and generously recognised.

The Lessons.

The melancholy story of the Stoke persecutions conveys to the Catholic body in this Colony lessons of the gravest import. (1) In the first place, we have learned that it is in the power of a little nest of noisy and organised intolerants in a remote and dozy town to raise from end to end of the Colony an outcry which might, in a very possible set of circumstances, attain the intensity, if not the dimensions, of the no-Popery cries which sent a tremor through England in 1850-51, and through the United States during the mad campaigns of the Knownothings and the A.P.A. In the second place (2) the story of the Stoke conspiracy has given us cause for serious distrust in the administration of justice in the Colony. Again: (3) The campaign has been made the occasion of introducing into our Parliamentary institutions the dangerous principle that lies at the root of all penal enactments: legislation under the stress of fanaticism or mere political passion. The records of the past six months prove that the danger of sectional legislation on sectarian lines is scarcely less pressing in New Zealand in the year of grace 1900 than it was in the furibund England of 1850 and 1851. The whole incident gives a fresh emphasis to our oft-repeated advice to Catholics to unite for the acquisition of the full measure of their rights. It has now become a question of defending those which we possess. One of the first of our duties is to do what lies in our power to free our Parliamentary institutions—which ought to represent the pick of the wisdom and cool judgment of the country—from the political Hooligans who are the worst menace to our liberties and to the peace and good order of the Colony.

NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS.

Subscribers are entreated to forward the amounts due by them at the earliest possible moment. The amounts due by individual subscribers are not considerable, but taken together they amount to a very large sum. The many calls that we have to meet make it imperative on us to greatly reduce the amount of indebtedness of our subscribers. We therefore ask those who have received accounts to wipe off their indebtedness to us before the close of the dying century. This will be a suitable mode of celebrating the parting of the nineteenth, and the beginning of the twentieth century.

In consequence of the unusual pressure on our space we have been obliged to hold over several news items until our next issue.

The prospectus of the Sacred Heart College, Auckland, conducted by the Marist Brothers, appears in this issue. The system of teaching is that followed in St. Joseph's College, Sydney, and the curriculum includes subjects required for Civil Service, Law, Matriculation, and other examinations. Special attention is devoted to shorthand and book-keeping.—*.*

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THE MARIST BROTHERS' FUND.

A FUND has been started in Wellington to reimburse to the Marist Brothers, late of Stoke, a portion at least of the heavy financial losses which they have been compelled to undergo in their defence against the long-continued persecution to which they have lately been subjected. The Rev. Father O'Shea, the Presbytery, Boulcott street, Wellington, is Hon. Treasurer of the fund, and will receive subscriptions forwarded to him for this purpose. We have received the following amounts for transmission to the Rev. Treasurer:—

Rev. P. Murphy, Adm., £3 3s; Rev. J. Lynch (Palmerston South) £1 1s; Rev. J. Coffey (South Dunedin), £1 1s; Rev. H. W. Cleary, £1 1s.

Per Very Rev. J. O'Neill (Milton): Very Rev. J. O'Neill, £1 1s; the Dominican Nuns (Milton), 10s; Mr T. Halpin, 10s. Smaller amounts raise the total to £5 5s, which is the first instalment from the Milton parish.

THE SYDNEY DIVORCE CASE.

THE sensational divorce case in Sydney of Coningham against Coningham, in which the Very Rev. Dr. O'Haran was named as co-respondent, after lasting several days came to an unsatisfactory termination on Friday last, the jury being unable to agree, and both parties being unwilling to accept a majority verdict. The case was tried before a judge and jury, all of the latter being non-Catholics. Our Sydney correspondent informs us that eight of the jurors were in favor of giving a verdict for the co-respondent for whom universal sympathy is felt.

THE annual spiritual retreat for ladies at the Convent of the Sacred Heart, Timaru, will begin on the evening of January 7 and end on January 12. The retreat will be preached by the Rev. Father Kelly, S.J.

At the preliminary gymnastic competition held on Monday evening in the Christian Brothers' Gymnasium the following pupils qualified to compete in the final contest which takes place at the break up on Friday evening in St. Joseph's Hall:—Junior: John Ryan, A. Dean, Eric Spain, R. McClue, W. O'Connell, E. Kiely A. Byrne, E. C. Thomas. Senior: C. J. Collins, J. O'Sullivan, H. Hungerford, H. McGregor, O. Swanson, J. Swanson, G. Metcalfe, James Collins.

A large number of members attended the quarterly meeting of the Dunedin Branch of the Hibernian Society, when a considerable amount of important business was transacted. The following officers were elected:—President, Brother J. J. Marlow; vice-president, Brother T. Hoare; secretary, Brother J. O'Connor; treasurer, Brother D. O'Mahoney; warden, Brother M. O'Connell; guardian, Brother J. Black; sick visitors, Brothers P. Williams and J. Curtin; auditors, Brothers J. Hally and W. Carr. Brothers J. J. Marlow and J. O'Connor were elected delegates to the district annual meeting to be held in Dunedin in February next, and a strong committee was appointed to arrange the necessary details for the suitable reception of visiting delegates.

A little wonder is the Broadcast Patent Seed-sower sold by Morrow, Bassett, and Co. For sowing turnip, rape, grass, and clover seed it has no equal, while for oats, wheat, and barley you have only to see it to know its value. A boy can work it. Sow four acres per hour, and any quantity up to six bushels per acre. Price only 20s.—*.*

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(Sectare Fidem.)

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No reduction may be expected in the case of absence or withdrawal before the end of a term.

For further particulars application may be made to the President, the Rector of the College, the Marist Fathers, and the Local Clergy.

N.B.—Payments are required in ADVANCE at the beginning of each term: 1st February, middle of May, and 1st September.

T. BOWER, S.M., B.A., Rector.

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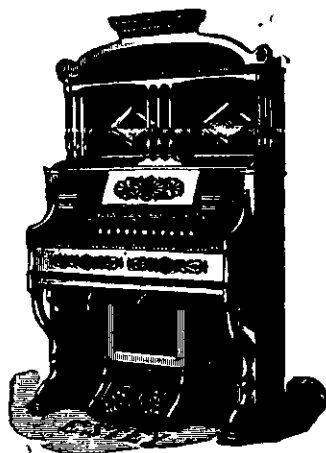
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The Storyteller.

MY CHRISTMAS ANGEL.

It was Christmas Eve, and a small cold wind blew over the frozen snow.

Dickens would have dubbed it 'The Artful Dodger,' for it met you unexpectedly at street corners, and whistled a song of 'Home, sweet home,' if you paused a moment to rest.

'Seasonable very,' said comfortable Mr Bull, in broadcloth, as he bustled along on his way to buy the turkey.

'Cruel, cruel weather,' said shivering little John, as he scuttled along like a frightened rabbit, in looped and windowed raggedness.

The shops were very bright and tempting. Poulterers, butchers, confectioners had all thought of the holly, but not of the gas bills. The toy shops were each of them a childish fairyland. Up and down the snowy streets went The Waits and Carolers, and the chimneys of Sherborne played merrily.

I cannot say that I felt very happy, for it was Monday as well as Christmas Eve, and I was rent collecting, being at that time collector for a certain Mr Green Winson, an estate agent of an old Midland city.

You will wonder how I came to have such an ungracious part to play on the stage of life. Well, beggars cannot be choosers. I was without a trade or profession, and, unlike Othello, I had to open mine oyster with whatever instrument came handy; not with the warlike sword. So, like Mr Micawber, I collected rents, and waited for something to turn up.

Sherborne had two staple industries—watchmaking and weaving. When one was up the other was down. At the time of which I am writing the looms were clacking busily, and the watchmakers were walking about disconsolately with their hands in their pockets.

This being so the weavers paid up, and wished me a Merry Christmas cheerfully, and by the time I arrived at Black Prince's Buildings my spirits had risen.

But they speedily fell again. The Buildings, you must know, were down an ancient courtyard, all dark with age, which had once, so said tradition, been the approach to a palace, in which that mirror of chivalry, Edward the Black Prince, had once stayed.

An oil lamp suspended by an iron cresset shed a dim light around. Near this lamp, by an empty niche, in which a saint had once mutely spoken of holiness and Heaven, stood a cloaked figure, and when I came up to it I recognised it as that of Kathleen Wheeler, the eldest daughter of one Eli Wheeler, a watch finisher, who had for some weeks been on half-time.

A very curious family were the Wheelers. Wheeler *per se* was either up in the skies or down in the deeps. There was no *via media* for him. When he was in the former state he spent too lavishly, and when he was in the latter he ate rue because of that which he had done in the former.

There were four children—pert Prue, roguish Dick, baby Stella, and motherly Kathleen, who was both the light and stay of the household, though she was only 11. It was Kathie who made Irish stew out of almost nothing, even as the dead mother, who was a daughter of Erin, had done. It was Kathie who kept the children tidy, and took them to Mass on Sundays and feast days. It was Kathie who sang so sweetly of the Maiden Mother in the Church of St. Winifreda, which we both attended, and I was sure that it was she who gathered the rent together.

The light from the lamp showed me that the girl's sweet, oval face, which was framed in short, dark curls, was very pale, and that the dark blue eyes were full of tears.

'Mr. Branson,' she said, 'can I speak to you a minute? Will you listen to me, please?'

'With pleasure. What is it?'

'It isn't what it is, sir; it is rather what it is not. Father's been very short of work lately, and baby Stella's been ill, and we've had to sell Sanker (Sanker was a stumpy-tailed dog, who rejoiced in the name of Sancho Panza), and though Dick has run errands and I've done odd jobs for the better-off neighbors, the ends won't meet. If it hadn't been for Mother Margaret down at the Convent I don't know what I should have done. Even as it is I've been sorely, sorely tempted on this blessed Christmas Eve. Father said that I might pawn his best tool, the mandril, till Christmas was over, so I took it to a pawnbroker, who refused to take it in because it was so old. I felt broken-hearted. No pudding for to-morrow, Sanker gone, dad in what he called the dumps. I sat down on a doorstep and sobbed. And as I cried a well-dressed woman came up and spoke to me.

'What's the matter, child?' said she. 'Have you lost any money?'

'I've none to lose, madam,' said I. 'I only wish I had.'

'So that's it, is it? I guessed as much. Well, I'll tell you how to get some.' She opened her purse and took out a sovereign. 'Run into that butcher's shop,' said she, 'and buy a pound of suet, and bring the change to me. We'll go shares. But look you, if the master rings it and looks oddly at it, say you've got some coppers in your pocket, and give him the pence I'll give you. But be sure and get the coin back. Mind.'

'I remembered hearing that a lot of coiners were about, and guessed that the coin was bad. Still, I took it. Shelton, the butcher, was a rich, hard man, and Dick had said: "No pudding to-morrow, no nuts, no anything! My, it's hard lines, Sis!"'

'I was just stepping into the shop when all at once I seemed to hear mother singing 'Lover's song,' "The angels' whisper," to Stella.

'Why, it seemed to sound quite plain. I couldn't pass false coin after that. I turned back, and flung the money at the woman's feet on the snow.

"Oh, how could you?" I panted out. "I know it's bad, and I'm so poor. How could you tempt me on a Christmas night?"

'She stooped, took up the coin, said something about "A little fool," and turned away.

'Then I made my way to St. Winifreda's and knelt down near Our Lady's shrine.

'It was very lovely there. Cares seemed to slip away as I looked at Mary, with her little white baby in her arms. I told her all my troubles about the mandril, Sanker, Dick, and the pudden. I said: "Dear Heavenly Mother, my mother has gone to you; let me live, so that I can come to you both some day." Then I looked at the Sacred Heart, and it seemed to me as if Jesus said: "Little daughter, hide in My Heart, and trust." And I said, "I will," crossed myself, and came away.

'And as I came home to the Buildings I all at once remembered that Mrs. MacCutchin, in Princes Row, would trust a rabbit, onions, and potatoes, and that I could make a Christmas dinner. So I've settled that. It's the rent which troubles me. We're a week back, and this week added on makes 10 shillings; but unless the stars drop down as gold I can't pay you, sir.'

The sweet girlish voice ceased speaking; the flickering light showed that the girl's head was bent very low—half with sorrow, half with shame.

Green Winson would want the rent; he had already blamed me for being too lenient. What was to be done?

'Go without that new overcoat,' said an interior voice,—the voice of Charity. 'Better a shabby coat and a warm heart than a grand coat and a frozen heart.'

I listened to sweet Lady Charity. I remembered that I was simply a young man in lodgings, without 'the desirable "she" and the hostages to fortune.'

So I put down 10 shillings in Winson's green rent book, and then handed another 10 to Kathleen. 'Kathie,' said I, 'you're a dear, good girl. Take this and buy Dick the pudding and the nuts.' She turned as red as a damask rose, and held out the piece of gold.

'You are very good and kind, Mr. Branson; but, excuse me, can you spare this?'

'Of course! Don't think about that. A Merry Christmas—and better luck in the coming New Year.'

She timidly laid her hand on my arm.

'Mr. Branson, you've been our Christmas Angel. What can I do for you?'

'Pray for me, child.'

'That I will. I will pray that some day I may be your Christmas Angel.'

CHAPTER II.

Seven years had passed away since I stood with Winson's rent book in Prince's Buildings, and again it was Christmas Eve—a green Yuletide this time, as it chanced.

The everlasting hills and the golden stars looked down on me as I listlessly strolled through the fields which led to Hoar Cross Railway Station.

They looked on a rich, but lonely, wifeless and childless man, did these same golden stars. For Fortune's wheel had turned in my favor. First of all, a cycle manufacturer had employed me as clerk, then as manager, and ultimately into partnership.

When the business was turned into a limited company I became managing director, and the golden tide of prosperity still came my way.

The North had been my mother's country, and having a penchant for it, for her sake, I had rented a place called Malwood Tower, just outside the small township of Hoar Cross, and here I meant to pass Nocturne in the company of my chum and fellow-director, Rudders, whom I was on my way to meet at the Junction. Half-way through the field a telegraph messenger met me and handed me the usual orange-tinted envelope, with 'Message for you, sir. Nothin' to pay.'

I thanked him, took it mechanically, and thinking it of little purport deferred reading it until I put my feet on the platform of the station.

Then I went up to a lamp at the far end, tore it open, and read as under:

'Can't come, old man. S.S. gone wrong. Fear it's all up.'

The message was brief, but to my mind it spelt ruin, for it was from the director I had come to meet, and S.S. meant the Swift-Sure Cycle Company—my company.

Every man has a weak spot—has the heel of Achilles. My weak spot was the dread of becoming poor; of having to face the world again. To one who has driven in his carriage life's stony highway looks rough.

There were only two passengers waiting. One was a lady, in a chinchilla hat and royal blue costume; the other was Macfarlane, of Clewsbury, the cloth manufacturer, with whom I had no personal acquaintance, but with whose history I was acquainted. He had a bonnie wife, three winning children, a farm, and a large going concern. Why did the sun always shine on him; why had the sudden blow fallen on me alone?

I grew stunned and dazed, and determined to go straight home by a nearer and shorter road than that by which I had come.

To do this it was necessary to cross the line (for Hoar Cross was then without a bridge connecting the platforms).

I stumbled down the wooden steps and began to cross the line. My head was bent; I did not see the two green lights coming nearer, always nearer, neither I did hear the panting and the throbbing of the iron horse, on its way to the Land o' Cakes.

But another did.

A slender form stood by me. Suddenly a hand drew me quickly and firmly backwards; a tremulous voice said quickly, 'Mind; oh, mind! the down express is coming. I am only just in time to save you!' Then I roused from my stupor, and looked round.

I was near the middle line of rails, the train was rushing on. The lady in blue had saved me from a sudden and awful death. Awed and trembling, I reclinced the steps and stood under the lamp with the woman who had saved me, whose face and voice seemed strangely familiar to me.

It must have been the same, with regard to myself, on her part. For, after scanning me closely, she said:

'Pardon me, but is your name Branson?'

'It is. May I ask yours?'

'Certainly. It is Kathleen Wheeler.'

A sudden light illuminated the situation.

'You are Kathie,' said I. 'Kathleen Mavourneen, of Prince's Buildings. Where are Dick and Prue and Stella and father?'

She smiled very pleasantly.

'Oh, they are well and happy at home—over in Rossett. I only came here to visit a sick friend. I have never forgotten your kindness. Soon after you went away from Sherborne an Australian uncle died and left us a small competency. I studied singing—became a ballad singer (under my mother's maiden name, Clare), and so, as the story books say, we all lived happily ever after. Dick went to Green Winson's and asked where Mr. Branson had gone, and Mr. Winson replied, "Gone to Jericho." That was a wide direction, but I never gave up hope. I have always prayed that I might do something to prove my gratitude. My prayers are answered to-night.'

I bent my head in reverence, and said a silent prayer; then I lifted it and said:

'It has indeed been answered. You have been my Christmas Angel.'

I have only a few words more to say. I went over to Rossett, and renewed my acquaintance with the Wheeler family.

And the New Year showed that my scare of Christmas Eve had been a bogus one.

My friend, the director, was a man quick to take alarm, and full of nervous anxiety at some foolish canards, had telegraphed at once to me.

The Swift-Sure did not burst up; and I had not to again face the world with a pencil and a little book.

Still, I must always speak respectfully of Winson's rent book, because it was the means of winning me my Kathleen's love. For, before the coming of another Noeltide, my Christmas Angel was my wife.

We were wedded in the Church of St. Winifreda's, at Sherborne—that church in which Kathie had sought comfort and balm when fresh from the furnace of temptation.

I asked my bride what she would like to give to the Church as a wedding gift; and, after a pause, she smiled her own sweet smile, and said:

'I am a daughter of Erin, on my mother's side. Our Irish—as Father Ephraim calls them—are in great force in Sherborne, and, as usual, they are poor and faithful. Let us give them a Christmas dinner every year, as well as a Christmas box to each City Robin.'

And I said, 'So be it'; and then and there gave a handsome cheque to the silver-haired shepherd of Christ's flock, who blessed us both. And even as I write my Christmas Angel is singing 'Venite Adoremus' to a sunny-haired child named Mary Angela—in memory of Our Lady and my escape.—Exchange.

CHRISTMAS IN MANY LANDS.

CHRISTMAS is celebrated among Catholics the world over as the most glorious festival of the year. How it is kept in Great Britain and Ireland most of our readers know either from actual experience or by hearing of it from their parents. Let us take a glance at some of the countries of the Continent and see how this great feast is observed.

ITALY.

In Rome the principal ceremonies of Christmas are held in the Church of St. Mary Major. It is in this church that the relics of the crib in which our Saviour was laid are preserved; these relics were brought from Bethlehem in the seventh century, under the Pontificate of Pope Theodore I. On Christmas Eve they are taken from their repository and placed on the altar in the sacristy chapel, and there are offered for the veneration of the faithful. The doors are thrown open at half-past four on Christmas morning; after the singing of the matins and lauds a procession marches to the chapel where the sacred relics are exposed, and bears them through the church, where they are placed on the Papal altar. At seven o'clock the first High Mass is celebrated, and after it the relics are held up to view. From early morn to night there is an unending stream of people in the church. From five in the morning to dawn the church is illuminated, and again, later on, in the evening. In the Franciscan Church of Ara Culi the *Sanctissimo Bambino* is venerated by thousands, and there little children, boys and girls of four and five years of age, tell in simple language of the new-born God. The streets are gay with people in picturesque holiday attire, the air, balmy as June, is filled with *confetti* (tiny seed candies), and there is a general appearance of happiness. There is no Santa Claus in Italy, but instead there is Befana, a corruption of Epiphania, supposed to be a very cross old woman. Children are told that she was invited by the Magi to help them in their search for the Christ-Child, but she waited to put her house in order, and when at last she was ready, the Wise Men had gone, and ever since her life has been spent in a vain search for the Infant God. For His sake she cares for little children, and rewards the good, but punishes the bad. There is a somewhat similar legend in Russia, but there the old woman, who is called Babonshka, only rewards the good.

SANTA CLAUS.

Santa Claus, as is generally known, gets his name from St. Nicholas, a dear saint, the patron of children, of virgins, and of sailors. He was an Archbishop, and many stories are told of his care for those in his charge. In Holland, where Santa Claus comes from, the children do not hang up their stockings, but they put their wooden shoes out and leave a window open for him. Sometimes he comes as a bishop, clad in appropriate vestments, and with him comes a colored servant, who carries a rod for naughty children. Occasionally the bishop rides through the streets on a gaily caparisoned steed, while his servant following on foot scatters cakes and candies among the children who troop after.

GERMANY.

In Germany Christmas is essentially a gala day for the children. It is the feast of the divine Child, and for His sake the feast of all children. The German mother thinks nothing a trouble which will add to the pleasure of the home circle. If on ordinary occasions she devotes herself to her family, how much does she exert herself when Christmas comes! Of course, the Christmas tree fills a prominent place in the festivities, and every one is remembered and represented in that tree of love. There is one feature of the Christmas celebration in Germany which deserves special notice. On Christmas Eve two quaintly attired figures make their round among certain houses. They are Knight Rupert and Santa Claus. At the door of the house a bag of fruit, toys, and other good things is handed to Knight Rupert. Then he enters and inquires about the conduct of the children, and if there is a good report from the parents, Santa Claus, who wears a white gown and a gilt belt, orders the contents of the bag to be emptied on the floor, and during the scramble which follows the two figures make their escape.

FRANCE.

In France the Christ-Child Himself brings the gifts for the children. In the villages of Alsatia He goes from house to house ringing a little bell and distributing gifts to the little ones. In Burgundy, the young men and women of the parish meet some weeks before Christmas and practice carols until Christmas Eve. Then there is a supper at which everyone goes in for enjoyment. After supper a circle gathers round the hearth, on which there is an enormous log, call the *suche*, and the children are told: 'See now, if you are good this evening, Noel will rain down sugar plums for you, and at the proper time the little ones find parcels of candies under each end of the log. Carols are sung to Noel (Christmas). Noel! Noel! Noel! is heard on every side. The merrymaking and feasting are prolonged into midnight; then the bells ring out on the frosty air, and the company go in a body to the midnight Mass. After Mass they return home, salute the *suche* log, and resume their feast until morning, when they separate.

SERVIA AND MONTENEGRO.

Among the mountaineers of Servia and Montenegro each family chooses a young man as a guest for the Christmas festivities. He is called the Polaznik or Christmas guest. As he approaches the door of the house he calls out, 'Christ is born,' and throws some corn inside the house. 'Welcome,' calls the housewife who stands ready to meet him. 'Of a truth He is born,' and she throws at the same time a handful of corn in his face. Then he enters the house, and going to the hearth picks up the remains of the largest log, knocks it against the crane so as to make the sparks fly, saying as he does so: 'So may our house-father have all good luck and happiness.' This he repeats, with another good wish, and then places on one end of the log an orange with a small coin on it, which the housewife takes. In return she presents him before he leaves with the leggings and socks worn by the mountaineers, and with a Christmas loaf. The Christmas guest next asks his host what kind of a Christmas he has, to which he answers: 'Christmas has come as a kind guest, my brother; all have enough and all are merry.' Then the kiss of peace is exchanged with the family, the guest takes a seat at the hearth and the day is passed in innocent pleasure and feasting.

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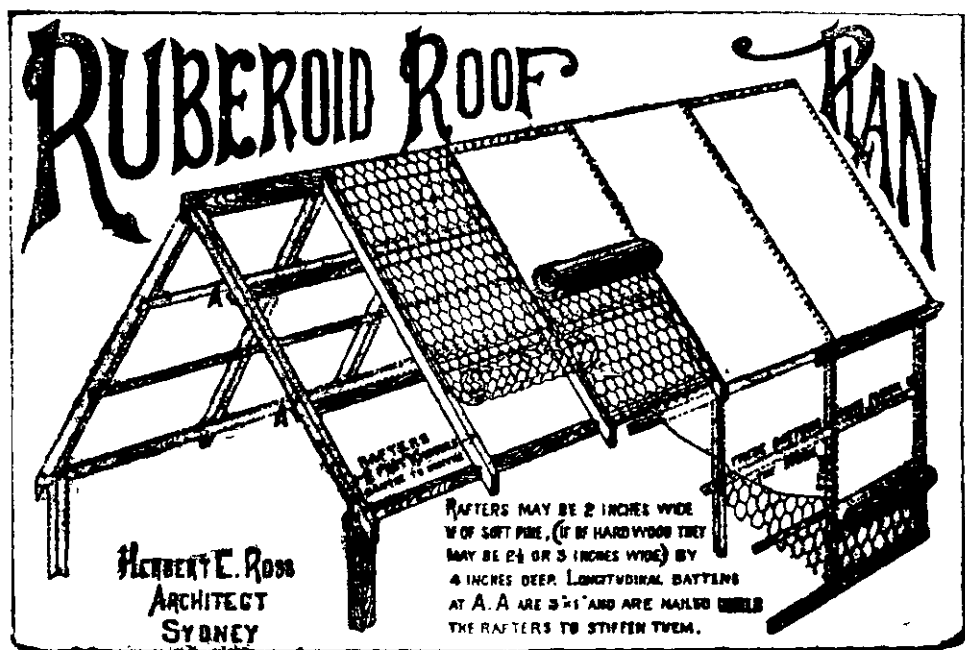
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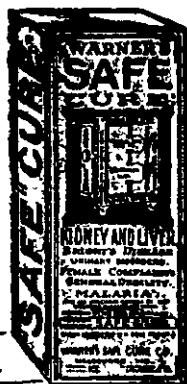
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ANNUAL DISTRIBUTION OF PRIZES.

ST. MARY'S CONVENT, WELLINGTON.

THE Very Rev. Father Lewis, in the unavoidable absence of his Grace Archbishop Redwood, on Monday evening of last week, distributed the prizes won during the scholastic year just completed at St. Mary's Convent School, Wellington. Subjoined is a full list of the awards:—

Good conduct—Boarders (silver medal, gift of Mr. White), Teresa O'Connor; day pupils (silver medal, gift of Mrs. Kennedy), Geraldine McAlister.

Christian Doctrine—First class (gold medal, gift of Mrs. O'Connor), Cecilia Guise; second class (gold medal, gift of Mrs. Gascoigne), Nora Harnett; third class (gold medal, gift of Rev. Father Lewis), Annie Feeney.

Dux—Gold medal, gift of Old Girls' Association, Ethel Crombie.

Excellence in Essay-writing—Gold medal, gift of his Grace Archbishop Redwood, Muriel Waldegrave.

Painting—Model and freehand drawing (gift of Mrs. Aloysius McDonald), Marion Goulter.

Singing—Silver medal, gift of Hon. Dr. Grace, Lily White; second prize, gift of Mr. Brookes, Constance Macloskey.

Instrumental music—Silver medal (gift of Mrs. McCarthy), Queenie Bennett; Royal Academy division (gift of Mr. Brookes), equal in merit: Madeline Mitchell and Daisy Reilly; Trinity College division (gift of Mr. Brookes), equal in merit: Bessie Flynn and Winnie Richardson; Intermediate division (gift of Mr. Brookes), Mary McKeown; Junior (first prize, gift of Mr. Brookes), Mand Parker (second prize, gift of Mr. Brookes), Kathleen Ward; Primary (gift of Mr. Brookes), Doris Haywood. Improvement in music, Mollie Laing and Madge Nathan.

Needlework—First class (gift of Mr. Whitaker), Agnes Bourke; lace-work, Mabel Bourke; second class (gift of Miss O'Connor), Lizzie Coles; third class, Eveline Collins and Stella Putnam.

Shorthand—First class (gift of Miss Williams), Cecilia Guise; second class (gift of Miss Williams), Annie Russell.

Class I.—English (gift of Mr. Corrigan), Ethel Crombie; geography, Ethel Crombie; Latin, Ethel Crombie; mathematics (gold medal, gift of Mr. McArdle), Ethel Crombie; French (gift of Rev. Father Lewis), Muriel Waldegrave; writing, Constance Reilly; mapping (gift of Rev. Father Holley), Matilda Evans.

Class II.—Arithmetic, Olive Blake; Euclid, Olive Blake; Algebra, Matilda Evans; English, Hattie Whitaker; composition, Hattie Whitaker; Latin, Wynn Pearce; French, gift of Comtesse de Courte, Ethel Crombie; recitation, Edith Richardson; mapping, Teresa O'Connor; writing, Ethel Falconer; geography, Mabel Bourke; diligence, Mabel Bourke.

Class III.—Reading and recitation, Annie Duignan; Algebra and Euclid, gift of Mr. Corrigan, Annie Duignan; composition,

Annie Duignan; Latin, Annie Duignan; arithmetic, Nellie Godfrey; French, Eileen Truman; grammar, Eileen Truman; geography, Ellen Meagher; mapping and writing, Ellen Meagher; spelling and dictation, Geraldine McAlister; history, Ida Moore; diligence, Geraldine McAlister; drawing, Ellen Meagher.

Class IV.—English and penmanship (gift of Rev. J. Holley), Becca Curtain; Latin, Becca Curtain; history, Becca Curtain; arithmetic, Becca Curtain; geography, Marion Goulter; composition, Marion Goulter; drawing, Kathleen Ward; diligence, Charlie Gascoigne; reading and recitation, Annie Feeney; French, Nora Harnett.

Class V.—Arithmetic, first division—Bath Putnam. Arithmetic, second division—Bernie Gascoigne; composition, Jessie Broadbent; history, Adile Ritteng; mapping and writing, Adile Ritteng; geography, Mary Fitzgerald; French, Mary Fitzgerald; recitation, Doris Haywood; grammar, Agnes Whitaker; reading, Agnes Whitaker; diligence, Kate Grey; drawing, Mary McDonald; spelling, Constance McAlister.

Preparatory School—Class III.—Good conduct, Rita Martin; Christian doctrine, Dorothy Grimstone; French, Dorothy Grimstone; arithmetic, Dorothy Grimstone; recitation and writing, Hilda Nathan; geography, Hilda Nathan; spelling, Ruby Poll; history, L'Estrange Edwards; composition and grammar, Mary Harnett; drawing, Mollie Laing.

Class II.—Spelling, Eveline Guilford; geography, Martha Duignan; reading and recitation, Martha Duignan; arithmetic, George Ritteng; writing and drawing, George Ritteng; composition, Gertrude Blacklock.

Class I.—Arithmetic, Kathleen McGrath; spelling and reading, Kathleen McGrath; drawing, Gordon Saunders; writing, Rita Buchanan; needlework, Doris Costall.

ST. DOMINICK'S COLLEGE, DUNEDIN.

THE distribution of prizes to the pupils of St. Dominick's College, Dunedin, took place on Friday afternoon in the refectory. The Right Rev. Dr. Verdon presided and there were also present Rev. Father Murphy, Adm. St. Joseph's Cathedral, and Rev. Father Ryan, vice-rector Holy Cross College, Mosgiel.

After the reading of the general report on the progress, diligence, conduct, etc., of the individual pupils, the prizes were distributed, the recipients being warmly applauded. The wreath for amiability was awarded on the votes of the pupils to Miss Geraldine O'Connell.

At the conclusion of the distribution his Lordship congratulated the pupils on the work done during the year, and expressed pleasure at hearing that they had been diligent and that their conduct had been very good. While enjoying their holidays they should remember the good example set by their teachers, and the encouragement they had given them in the practice of virtue and the leading of holy

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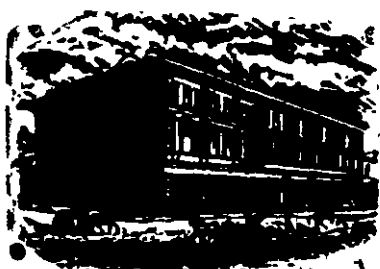
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 HOTEL to Messrs. J. J.
 CONNOR and J. T.
 HARRIS, I have to
 THANK the PATRONS
 of the 'City' for their
 LIBERAL PATRONAGE;
 and in bespeaking a Con-
 tinuance of the same for
 my successors I feel quite
 satisfied that the reputa-
 tion the Hotel has enjoyed
 will be fully maintained
 under their Management,
 J. F. NIXON

WITH reference to the above, we feel that it is hardly necessary
 to assure our Friends and the Patrons of the 'City' that no
 effort will be spared on our part to merit the Patronage so liberally
 bestowed on our esteemed predecessor.

J. J. CONNOR } Proprietors.
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 above well-known house from MR. JAMES LISTON, so long and
 favourably known in connection with its management. We need
 hardly assure our Friends and the General Public that we will make
 the CRITERION a really comfortable home for COMMERCIAL
 MEN and TRAVELLERS.

IN reference to the above announcement by MESSRS. CONNOR
 AND HARRIS, I regret that, owing to ill-health, I am com-
 pelled to retire from active business and have sold them my interest
 in the CRITERION. I have to thank all my Friends for the liberal
 support I have received in this favourite house, and now bespeak
 continuance of this support for my esteemed successors, who, I feel
 sure, will make the CRITERION HOTEL one of the best houses in
 the Colony.
 JAMES LISTON.

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lives. In conclusion his Lordship counselled the pupils to avoid bad and senseless literature and to read only good and useful books, and trusted they would come back from their vacation in the enjoyment of excellent health prepared once more to enter on another year of active work.

A very fine display of work by the senior pupils was shown in the study hall. The exhibits included landscapes and panels in oils and art needlework. The exhibition was extremely creditable to teachers and pupils, and was well worthy of the reputation enjoyed by the college in this branch of education. Among the more noticeable works were a panel by Miss Edmonds and a music ottoman by Miss Eileen Ward in French embroidery. There were several cushions worked in French embroidery, arrasene, Mountmellick, and perline by Misses Brennan, Millar, McDougall, and F. Clarke, and Miss Guffie was represented by, among other articles, a hand-painted cushion. There were shown fire screens by Miss McGregor, a pretty Spanish lounge and fire screen by Miss Guffie, and a fender stool by Miss Kelman. Miss Carmody had a music ottoman in Mountmellick work. There were some very artistic specimens of flower studies, the principal exhibitors being Miss McDougall, Guffie, McDonald, Clarke, Ward, G. O'Connell, Dunne, and Mrs. Milne. Landscapes in oils were represented by specimens from the brushes of Misses McDonald, Guffie, Ward, N. Joyce, all of which displayed considerable merit. A number of drawings were also shown, the work of Miss Kelman being worthy of special mention. Very nice samples of white needlework were also on view, those by Misses A. McDougall, M. Tobin, and M. Byrne being very good. In the kindergarten section the variety of work turned out by the pupils was remarkable, and included box modelling, embroidering in silk, weaving in cane and chip, paper laying, clay modelling, etc. The following were some of the more prominent specimens of work:—A pattern in silk by Patricia Toomey; a suite of doll's furniture, Molly Coughlan; clay modelling, Joseph Petre; a cane basket, Ila Henderson; bead embroidery, Ellen O'Connell, Vida Finlay, Dolores MacDonald, Constance Petre, and Gladys Barley; cane weaving, Bella Laffey, Mary Walsh, Jack Collins, and Molly Coughlan; painting, Mary Walsh, Ivy M'Donnell, and Annie Keily; weaving in paper, Zita Campbell and Eric Campbell; outlines in silk, Eric Campbell; weaving in chenille, Dolores MacDonald; paper baskets, Rachel Johnson; ring knitting, Vida Finlay; weaving in cloth, Zita Campbell and Bella Laffey; weaving in chip, Vera Myer; and scrap book collections by Vida Finlay, Rachel Johnson, Gladys Barley, Maggie Maher, Kitty Byrne, Annie Keily, Ellen O'Connell, and Bella Laffey.

During the afternoon the display of work was inspected by a large number of the parents and friends of the pupils.

The following is the prize list:—

SENIOR SCHOOL.

Christian doctrine—Senior grade: Goli cross (gift of the Rev. Father Murphy), T. Kilmartin; hon. mention, G. Meenan, N. Kelly, A. Plunkett, H. McKay, G. O'Connell, M. Byrne, E. Ward, and N. Joyce. Junior grade: Silver medal (gift of Mrs. Liston), F. O'Connell; hon. mention, L. Freed, A. Carmody, M. Carey, K. Byrne, M. Shain, N. Murray, and M. O'Rourke.

Painting—Silver medal (gift of Mr. Young), N. Joyce; hon. mention, Misses M'Donald, Dunne, Ward, M'Dougall, and Clark.

Drawing—Silver medal, J. Kelman.

Art needlework—Silver medal (gift of Mr. O'Connell), M. McGregor; hon. mention, I. Edmonds, E. Ward, J. Kelman, A. M'Dougall, F. Clark, and A. Carmody.

French—Silver medal, G. Meenan; hon. mention (French conversation), F. McCluskey, E. Ward, H. McKay, and M. Callan (junior school).

Music—Senior grade: Silver medal (gift of Mrs. Shain), E. Ward; hon. mention, M. Paton. Intermediate grade: Silver medal (gift of Mr. O'Connell), M. Carey; hon. mention, N. Joyce, J. Griffen, and G. O'Connell. Lower grade: Silver medal, M. Jackman; hon. mention, M. Shain, E. Wood, and F. Clarke.

Attendance—Silver medal (gift of Mr. O'Connell), J. Millar; hon. mention, H. McKay, G. O'Connell, A. Plunkett, M. McGregor, T. Kilmartin, G. Meenan, M. Shain, and Minnie Collins.

CLASS MEDALLISTS.

Intermediate grade—Class B, A. Carmody; Class A, M. Shain.

Senior grade—Class B, silver medal (gift of Mr. Shaw), A. Plunkett.

Good conduct—Silver medal (gift of Mr. Young), J. Kelman; hon. mention, M. McGregor, A. Plunkett, T. Kilmartin, M. Jackman, F. Donnelly, N. Joyce, M. Cutten, and F. O'Connell.

Wreath, awarded by the votes of the pupils for amiability to G. O'Connell.

Successes in various examinations—Civil Service: W. Heenan, Harmony (Royal Academy): C. Delargey, W. Baker, E. Ward, M. Ewing, R. Petre, N. Joyce, M. Cutten, A. Kerr, E. Kircaldy, J. Griffen, M. Jackman, I. Leslie, I. Edmonds, G. Meenan, M. McGregor, E. Wood, A. Plunkett, M. Helps, M. Carey, V. Blakely, M. Shain, G. O'Connell, and Maud Helps. (All the pupils presented at this examination passed.) Instrumental music (Royal Academy): Higher grade (distinction), W. Baker, M. Carey, (pass) J. Griffen, E. Kircaldy, and G. O'Connell; lower grade (distinction) M. Shain and M. Jackman, (pass) E. Wood. Vocal music (Local Centre, senior grade), Miss M. Ewing. (All the pupils presented at this examination passed.) Instrumental music (Trinity College): Senior grade (honors) M. Paton and E. Ward, (pass) K. Hannon; intermediate grade (honors) N. Joyce; junior grade (pass) F. Clark and M. M'Leod; primary grade (pass) M. Morrison. (All the pupils presented at this examination passed.)

JUNIOR SCHOOL.

Class A—Religious knowledge, M. Callan; English, M. Callan; writing, M. Gawne; conversational French, M. Callan and M. Gawne; drawing (freehand), I. Young; drawing (model), M. Tobin; needlework, M. Tobin; singing and calisthenics, M. Tobin; deportment and good manners, M. Callan; good conduct, M. Callan and M. Tobin; order and neatness, M. Tobin; regular attendance, F. Byrne.

Class B—Religious knowledge, G. Shain; English, N. O'Donnell; arithmetic, K. Collins; drawing (model), A. Richardson; drawing (freehand), G. Shain; conversational French, M. Morrison and K. Collins; needlework, M. Walsh; singing and calisthenics, M. Morrison; pianoforte, M. Morrison; order and neatness, M. Walsh; deportment and good manners, A. Richardson; good conduct, N. O'Donnell; attention to studies, E. Trower; general improvement, M. McDonald.

KINDERGARTEN.

Rachel Johnson, good conduct; Margaret Maher, writing and painting; Dolores MacDonald, obedience; Dolores MacDonald, excellence in kindergarten work (special); Bella Laffey, weaving in cane; Vera Meyer, catechism and reading; Annie Keily, good conduct; Kitty Byrne, arithmetic; Vida Finlay, bead embroidery and ring knitting; Ellen O'Connell, bead embroidery; Zita Campbell, box modelling; Eric Campbell, embroidery in silk and coloring in chalk; Cyril Campbell, supermounting; Jack Collins, weaving in cane; Gladys Barley, pricking and weaving in cloth; Ivy M'Donnell, weaving in cane; Ernest Salmon, paper rolling; Patrick O'Connor, weaving in chip; Constance Petre, sewing and kindergarten work; Ethel Murray, weaving in paper; Ila Henderson, embroidery in silk; Patricia Toomey, reading and drawing; Phyllis Crombie, reading; Molly Coughlan, weaving in cane; Olive Jolly, politeness and clay modelling; Mary Ward, writing; Mabel Varley, paper cutting; Eileen Collins, counting; Kathleen Campbell, stick laying; Marjory Murray, bead laying; Rose Murphy, bead threading; Evelyn Barry, paper folding; Kathleen Coughlan, comprehension; Nellie Coughlan, weaving; Myrtle Creighton, writing; Bessie Laffey, tablet laying; Gabrielle Spain, paper cutting; Hyacinth Toomey, outlining; Willie Gawne, drawing; Arthur Meenan, tables; Othmer Heuhr, cube building; Joseph Petre, knowledge of geometrical forms; Nicholas O'Neil, weaving in cane; Rowland O'Neil, paper laying; Conway Ledez, weaving; Patrick Keliber, object lessons.

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One bottle makes 5 gallons. Of all Chemists & Grocers.
Sample Bottle Free 9 Stamps & for 15 Stamps.
NEWSBELL & MASON, NOTTINGHAM.

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A Lady writes:—"The bottle of Ginger Wine Essence made several bottles of most delicious wine."
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Mason's Extract of Herbs for making delicious non-intoxicating beer. A 4-bottle makes 5 gallons simple bot. stamps or a sample of both Wine Essence and Extract of Herbs, post free, for 15 stamps. Agents wanted.

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KOOLIBAH Cures unbroken Chilblains, allays Irritation almost instantly.

BEATH AND CO., DRAPERS, CHRISTCHURCH, respectfully request your support and kind recommendation.

To the Wool Growers of Otago.

SEASON 1901.

GENTLEMEN,—Another Wool Season being at hand, we beg to again tender our best services to growers for the disposal of their clip here, or for shipment of same to London or other markets.

SHOW ROOM.—Our Show Room being fully equipped with all the latest improvements, conveniently situated and specially lighted for the proper display of the wools, buyers are thus in a position to value to the best advantage, and to operate with such confidence as must ensure a satisfactory sale, to which end no pains will be spared on our part.

VALUATIONS.—We make careful examination of every lot (large or small) prior to sale, and as every department of the business is conducted under our personal supervision, consignors may rest assured that no lot will be sold below its full market value, and sion, that their interests generally will be thoroughly protected.

DATES OF SALES.

The First Sale will be held on Thursday, 20th December, 1900.

The Second Sale " " Friday, 11th January, 1901.

The Third Sale " " Thursday, 31st January, 1901.

The Fourth Sale " " Friday, 22nd February, 1901.

ACCOUNT SALES.—Account Sales will be rendered, and proceeds paid over promptly within six days of Sale, as heretofore.

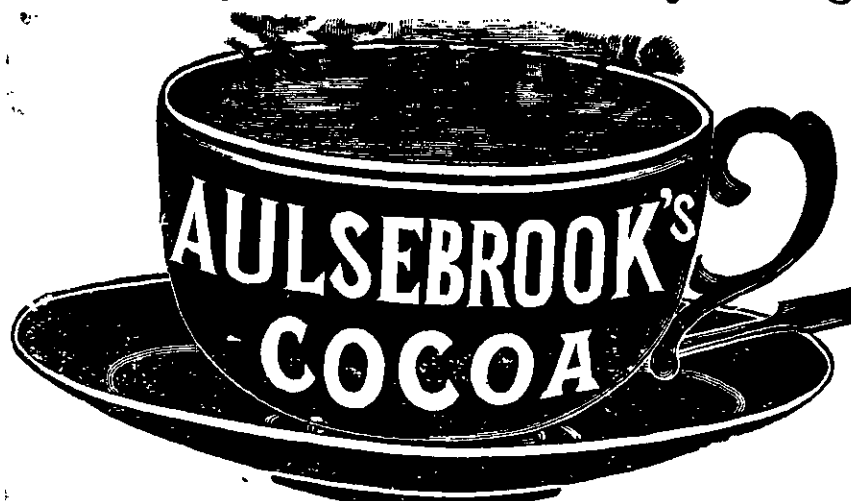
CHARGES.—All Charges throughout will be made on the very lowest scale.

INSURANCE.—All wool and other produce consigned to us is fully covered by insurance from the time it enters our Stores, and wool can be covered from sheep's back if desired. Consignment Notes, Labels, Wool Packs, and all Station Requisites forwarded at once on application.

Returning our best thanks for the liberal support we have hitherto received, and assuring you that no effort will be wanting to merit a continuance of your confidence, We remain, yours faithfully,

DONALD REID & CO., Ltd.

Build up your Constitution by taking



Full of NOURISHING and SUSTAINING QUALITIES.

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WAI-RONGOA MINERAL WATER.

Bottled only at Springs, Wai-Rongoa.

The *New Zealand Medical Journal* says

"In regard to the Water itself, as a table beverage it can be confidently recommended. Beautifully cool, clear and effervescing, the taste clean, with just sufficient chalybeate astringency to remind one that there are healing virtues as well as simple refreshment in the liquid, this Mineral Water ought soon to become popular amongst all who can afford the very slight cost entailed."

We supply the Dunedin and Wellington Hospitals, the Union Company's entire fleet, and Bellamy's with our Pure Mineral Water. Specially-made Soda Water for Invalids. For Permit to visit Springs apply Dunedin Office

THOMSON AND CO.,
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DUNEDIN, INVERCARGILL, GORE
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"CLUB" COFFEE, "ARABIAN" COFFEE
AND "FRENCH" COFFEE.
(Net weight tins.)

Also Exhibition Brand Coffee

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New Zealand.

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Favourably spoken of by all who use it as the
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SODA CRYSTALS, FLAVOURING ES-
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Opposite Knox Church).

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CAKES, in 1s Packets,

Keep the Blood pure and produce a lovely
clear skin free from pimples, blotches, etc.

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SARSAPARILLA.

A useful medicine, specially prepared from
the finest Jamaica Sarsaparilla, combined
with other remedies, esteemed for their
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