

leave 'Somebody's mother' on the kerb in the snow, where that estimable but unfortunate old lady is always found when the audience makes her acquaintance. Anyway, he kept studying the pattern of the carpet, until the promise of a sixpence caused him to change that occupation for the more congenial one of figuring out how much damage he could do with two packets of crackers. The outlook must have been promising, because he stepped forward, took the coin, examined it, deposited it in the depth of his only pocket and began. He worried through the whole three pieces with a superb disdain for punctuation that makes me think he will some day be a reporter. And he mixed up 'The boy' that 'stood on,' and 'The warrior' that 'bowed,' and the maternal progenitor of some person or persons unknown so inextricably, that you needn't be surprised to read of a marriage one of these days, in which 'Somebody's mother' will be made Mrs. Casabianca, and at which the Spanish Champion will be best man.

#### 'Teddy' Roosevelt.

If history repeats itself, and if our Henry does not wish to be a reporter, he may become President of the United States. It appears that Roosevelt, when at school, was not exactly what the boys would call a 'dab' at reciting. Once he had to recite a piece beginning:

At midnight, in his guarded tent,

The Turk lay dreaming of the hour

When Greece, her knees in supplication bent,

Should tremble at his power.

'Teddy' only got as far as 'When Greece, her knees,' when he came to a halt. Twice he repeated 'Greece, her knees,' 'Greece, her knees,' and then broke down. The old teacher beamed on the future President over his glasses, and remarked: 'Grease her knees once more, Theodore; perhaps she'll go then.'

#### Signalling Mars.

A number of people, who would be better employed weeding purple-tops, are 'worrying' their one-donkey power brains trying to signal to the people on Mars. Just fancy, and they haven't been introduced! Such awfully bad form! I shouldn't care to be introduced, anyway. The only native of the fiery planet that has passed this way was a travelling play-actor in Mr. Hawtrey's Company. He was very deficient in 'bong tong,' as I read in the newspapers that he used to identify himself with Tom, Dick and Harry in every town he passed through. Those who know say that a signal made with a mirror 3,000 feet in diameter could be seen in Mars. Anyone who doubts it can make the experiment for himself some sunny day—that is, if he happens to have a mirror of the requisite dimensions about the house. He may find one hidden away in some drawer. But even if the signal could be seen, the Martians would not know what it meant. There ought to be a code. I suggest that a code be arranged, and that Marconi be requested to make the preliminary arrangements. Should he be too busy, a message-boy might be despatched with it next time Mars is in apposition. It would be just as well, however, to wrap up a bit of lunch for the boy to take with him, because, considering that Mars is in apposition is 35,000,000 miles away, and that message-boys are prone to loiter, it is hardly likely the little fellow would be back by dinner time.

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H. G. Wells, in the 'War of the Worlds,' depicts the Martians as very undesirable acquaintances; so it might be well to warn the scientists, even as the 'Skibbereen Eagle' warned the Czar of Russia. According to Mr Wells's nightmare, the Martians are flabby monsters, who mount themselves on huge tripods and discharge flashes of light that shrivel up buildings like brown paper in a furnace, and whose only mission on earth could be destruction. Wasn't it Flammarion who proposed that there should be drawn upon the earth a huge diagram of the forty-seventh proposition of the first book of Euclid, containing an imperishable mathematical truth that the Martians would instantly recognise and 'cap' with the forty-eighth? If the quasi-scientific guesses about Martian development are at all near the truth, the inhabitants of the fiery planet must be as far beyond the forty-seventh proposition as ordinary terrestrial people are beyond the numeration table, and they would find great difficulties in getting down to our level of intelligence.

*Quips*

By the will of the late Mr Alexander Wright, of Williams-town, Victoria, St. Vincent's Hospital receives £115 and the Little Sisters of the Poor are left £52.

Building operations in connection with St. Mary's new hall, East St. Kilda, are well under way. The hall will be in every way suitable for such a large and important parish, the estimated cost of the building and ground being £6500.

## DIOCESE OF DUNEDIN.

The Month's Mind for the late Rev. Father Headen takes place in St. Joseph's Cathedral this (Thursday) morning.

His Lordship Bishop Verdon will administer the Sacrament of Confirmation in St. Patrick's Basilica, South Dunedin, on Sunday afternoon.

The mission, now being conducted at St. Patrick's Basilica, South Dunedin, by the Vincentian Fathers will be continued during the coming week. All the services have been well attended.

The ceremonies at St. Joseph's Cathedral on Holy Thursday will commence at 7.30 a.m. On Good Friday Mass of the Presanctified will be celebrated at 10 o'clock, and the Stations of the Cross will be held in the afternoon at three o'clock. On Holy Saturday morning the ceremonies will commence at seven o'clock. The sermons on the Blessed Eucharist on Holy Thursday, and on the Passion of Our Lord on Good Friday will be preached by the Vincentian Fathers.

The mission services conducted during the week at St. Joseph's Cathedral by the Very Rev. Father Boyle, C.M., and the Rev. Father McCarthy, C.M., have been largely attended, especially in the evenings when the sacred edifice has been crowded. This was especially the case on Sunday evening when numbers were unable to gain admittance. It must be very gratifying to the Rev. Fathers to see the large congregations that attend the Masses on week days, particularly the first Mass at half-past six o'clock. The mission will be continued during the coming week, so that there will be ample opportunity for all to comply with their Easter duties while it lasts.

## ST. PATRICK'S DAY CELEBRATIONS.

### CHRISTCHURCH.

(By telegraph, from our own correspondent.)

March 18.

THE celebrations, for which so much time and energy had for months past been expended, took place yesterday. Sports were held in Lancaster Park and in the evening a national concert was given in the Canterbury Hall. A close half holiday was universally observed in the city, and the green flag of Ireland waved from many prominent public buildings. Shortly before noon the city was reminded of the day's proceedings by the band of the Burnham Industrial School parading in Cathedral Square and marching to Lancaster Park. On their arrival the gates were opened to the public and soon afterwards the programme was commenced. Derry's Brass Band discoursed music on the lawn during the afternoon, the Burnham Band being stationed in another part of the grounds where the children's sports were held.

There was an attendance of about 3000 during the afternoon. Among those present were his Lordship Bishop Grimes and a number of the clergy, his Worship the Mayor and Mrs. Rhodes, and many prominent citizens. The weather in the early part of the afternoon was fine, but threatening, until about half-past three, when steady rain set in from the south-west, marroing to a considerable extent the enjoyment of those present. The sports programme was, however, conducted to a finish, terminating at 5 p.m.

An enormous audience attended the national concert in the Canterbury Hall in the evening. Recalls were frequent. During the interval his Lordship the Bishop made some appreciative remarks concerning the day's celebrations.

The following were the results of the various events of the sports gathering—

Cycling—One mile handicap (amateur): W. G. Hawthorne 1, G. Standring 2, D. M. Rodgers 3; time 2min. 8.2-5secs. One mile handicap (boys): F. Standring. One mile open handicap—First heat: J. Bain 1, R. J. Cooke 2, J. M. Fairbairn 3; time 2min. 9sec. Second heat: V. Ritchie 1, E. J. Ritchie 2, A. Watson 3; time 2min. 14.3-5secs. Two mile amateur handicap: D. M. Rodger 1, H. Lindsay 2, S. Boyd 3. Two mile bump handicap: J. Bain 1, R. J. Cooke 2, E. J. Ritchie 3.

Athletic events.—410yds Handicap: W. Moyes 1, A. P. Cox 2, F. T. M. Kissell 3, time 5.4-5 secs.

St. Patrick's Handicap: The winner of the Handicap was L. McLaughlan who scored 15 points, W. Dacre being second with 7 points, and W. McColl and A. E. Phillips (equal) third with 3 points each.

100yds Handicap (amateur).—First heat: J. H. Worgan 1, A. O. Keating 2, time 10.1-5 secs. Second heat: R. B. Strange 1, W. H. Moyes 2, time 10.1-5 secs. Third heat: H. S. Williams 1, F. S. Harley 2, time 10.3-5 secs. Fourth heat: W. Wallace 1, F. E. Drake 2, time 10.4-5 secs. Final: R. B. Strange 1, J. H. Worgan 2, W. Wallace 3.

Public Schools relay race: East Christchurch 1, Normal School 2, Marist Brothers' School 3.

Children's sports—50yds race (girls under eight years): Eileen Malahan 1, Eileen Newton 2.—50yds (boys under 14): J. Davis 1, H. Jackson 2. 50yds (girls under 12): O. Quinn 1, M. Grafton 2.—100yds (boys under 16): Hooper 1, Roden 2, Sheehan 3.—50yds hoop race (girls under 14): M. Grafton 1, A. Turvey 2.—Burnham boys' race: Howles 1, Gillon 2, Petersen 3.—75yds race (girls under 12): E. Ashworth 1, E. Murphy 2.—Three-legged race (boys under 14): Ziedon and O'Brien 1, Goodall and Davis 2.—100yds (girls under 14): G. Bowen 1, C. Bedford 2.

One mile handicap (amateur): W. F. Simpson 1, A. L. Jones 2, W. C. Flewellen 3. 200yds handicap (amateur)—First heat: A. D. Worgan 1, R. B. Strange 2, A. O. Keating 3. Second heat: W. Wallace 1, F. S. Harley 2, E. W. Cardale 3. Final: E. W. Cardale 1, W. Wallace 2.