

aye, to the very hour—the second coming of Our Lord, and forthwith, accompanied by a number of cranks like himself, he hied to Ellerslie Racecourse, where a good view of the Second Coming was to be seen. This is the kind of fellow who commits outrages of the kind now reported.

Rev. Father Golden, of Kaikoura, has written me under date April 6 from Chicago, and says: 'Here I am, after a long journey by sea and land. I landed in San Francisco on March 24, the voyage having been very pleasant and favorable to my health, though an occasional relapse gave me some trouble. The same happened in San Francisco, but the attack was not very serious. I visited Vancouver (British Columbia) and saw my brother there. He had been very dangerously ill, but I found him better than I expected. After a very long and tiresome journey by train from Vancouver I arrived here yesterday, Palm Sunday, and will leave in a few days for Buffalo and Philadelphia, where I expect to be with my relatives on Easter Sunday. . . I hope to see my friends in New Zealand soon again.'

## Southland News Notes

(From our own correspondent.)

May 18.

Steps are being taken locally to comply with the wishes of the late Dean Mahoney, of the Stoke Orphanage, Nelson, about which I shall have more to say later on.

A popular marriage took place at St. Mary's last week, the parties being Mr. P. O'Byrne (brother of Mr. T. O'Byrne, the well-known athlete) and Miss Lizzie Maher (daughter of Mr. John Maher, J.P., of Kew). Owing to a late bereavement in the bride's family the nuptial festivities were dispensed with, but the large number of costly presents betokened the popularity of the couple. The honeymoon is being spent in Timaru.

Great interest is being taken in the formation of a branch of the Hibernian Benefit Society at Invercargill, and Mr. Giffedder (who is undertaking the work by special request) informs me that Grove Bush, Rakahouka, and West Plains people are also eager to join. There is no reason why the membership should not be some hundreds, especially in these days of competition and unionism, while it is the choicest of all the friendly societies. The opening night is to be celebrated by a banquet.

A prominent Irish visitor, in the person of Mr. Thomas Pettit, champion wood-chopper of the world, was tendered a farewell banquet last week prior to his departure for his home in Tasmania. Mr. Thomas O'Byrne, the popular president of the Sawmillers Union, occupied the chair, and amongst the many present were Sir J. G. Ward, K.C.M.G., Mr. A. L. Fraser, M.H.R., and prominent citizens. The speech of the evening was that of Chairman O'Byrne, who has world-wide information and statistics at his finger-ends. On behalf of the people of Southland he wished Mr. Pettit a safe return and long life, health, happiness, and prosperity in his home beyond the Tasman seas.

The Invercargill Catholic Literary Society gave another 'literary evening' in St. Joseph's last week. The Very Rev. Dean Burke presided and the building was crowded to the doors, which shows the popularity that surrounds such functions here. Mr. J. Robertson (formerly of Waikanae) contributed a paper dealing exhaustively with the state of slavery in America. His contribution showed great care and study in its preparation, while the crisp and racy style of the paper made it very interesting and attractive. The rev. chairman paid a high tribute to Mr. Robertson's efforts, and the plaudits which followed his remarks echoed the sentiments of the appreciative audience. Mr. James Eagar also gave a paper, his subject being 'Sir Charles Gavan Duffy,' into which he entwined anecdotes and reminiscences connected with the brief but memorable existence of the 'Young Irish Party.' Mr. Eagar being so much at home in literary matters and so broad-minded on political questions, it goes without saying that the subject received full justice at his hands. He held his audience at times spell-bound and at other times moved them to hearty laughter, and his paper was instructive in a high degree. During the evening Mr. G. W. Woods (of the Massey-Harris Co.) gave some splendid selections through the medium of Edison's giant phonograph, and at the conclusion of the meeting he kindly treated the nuns and the convent boarders to several choice items. An orchestra of the best talent procurable, under the leadership of Mr. A. R. Wills, rendered selections admirably. Miss Hishon presided at the piano.

## BALCLUTHA.

There was a good attendance at the Oddfellows' Hall on Friday evening (says the Clutha 'Leader'), on the occasion of a concert and lecture in aid of the funds of the local Catholic church. The first part of the programme was devoted to miscellaneous items. The Balclutha Orchestra played the opening selection and were accorded well-merited applause. Mr. J. P. Walls sang 'Eileen Aghamah.' Master R. Angus received an encore for the excellent manner in which he danced a sailor's hornpipe. Miss Pearson (Dunedin) had to respond to an encore for her rendition of 'The slave song,' giving 'Erin, my country.' Mr. Deaker sang 'Ada's serenade' and in response to an encore sang 'The wearing of the

green.' Mr. J. C. Macdonald was very successful as a reciter. Miss Nora Angus had to reappear for a Highland fling. Miss K. Moloney (Lawrence) was heard to advantage in 'O dry those tears,' for which she was recalled. Mr. E. P. Lavery (Kaitangata) introduced a novelty by giving an Indian club exercise, and was also encored.

The second portion of the programme was devoted to an address by the Very Rev. Father O'Neill, on his travels in the old country and on the continent of Europe. The preliminary interlude was a pianoforte solo, 'Killarney,' which was tastefully rendered by Miss Mary McCorley. Mr. Dunne (Mayor) occupied the chair and moved a very hearty vote of thanks to the performers for their assistance. He then introduced

Very Rev. Father O'Neill, who said that he had left New Zealand on his homeward trip with pleasurable anticipations, and was not disappointed. After describing his experiences at Fremantle, Colombo, Naples, Genoa, and London, he referred to his arrival in Ireland, which he found in a very peaceful state, the judges at the Assizes and Quarter Sessions being the recipients in various places of white gloves because there were no criminal cases to be tried. Agrarian crime had disappeared. The police had nothing to do, and were interesting themselves in philanthropic works. There was a good future in store for Ireland; the time for no redress was passing away, and there is appearing an entire change in the attitude of the ruling powers. The ruling powers were going to adopt similar land laws to those of New Zealand, and there was no doubt that the King was at the bottom of it all, and that he was determined that Ireland should no longer be a thorn in the side of Britain. There were thirty or forty thousand Irish soldiers in the British army—and they were the best soldiers—but there would have been more if it were not owing to the arbitrary nature of the land laws, which compelled her young men to cross the ocean to seek a home under a new government. He visited Glasgow, and saw the beautiful crypt of St. Mungo's. The structure strikes the visitor as of massive build, and to the credit of the Glasgow people, be it said, they were determined that the beautiful old building should not be destroyed when a city improvement scheme was contemplated. He took the Highland railway past Dumbarton Rock on the Clyde, and on to Oban. He then proceeded to the Island of Iona. All true Scotchmen dwell with pride on this craggy rock from whence came that Christianity which had spread over the world. From thence to Glencoe, and saw the monument which was erected in memory of men, women, and children who were massacred by an unfortunate transaction during the reign of William of Orange. He visited Aberdeen, the city of granite, which bore evidence of great prosperity. From thence to Dundee, and on to Edinburgh, the latter city having special charms for a visitor, and, as the rev. gentleman remarked, one visits there with great pleasure, and leaves with feelings of regret. He then brought the audience back to Dunedin, the 'Edinburgh of the South,' and concluded a very interesting address of 40 minutes' duration by remarking that having seen other countries at their best he returned to New Zealand more an admirer of it, and with a firmer conviction that it was the finest country in the world.

The address, which was listened to with rapt attention throughout, was interspersed with humorous anecdotes. A hearty vote of thanks was accorded Very Rev. Father O'Neill on the motion of Mr. J. Dunne, seconded by Mr. James Hogg, and a vote of thanks to the chairman closed the proceedings.

## The Drink Bill of the United Kingdom

According to a well-known authority on the subject, the drink bill of the United Kingdom was, in the year 1902, £179,499,817, as against £181,738,245 in 1901. The average expense per head of the population was £1 5s 0½d, divided up into £1 7s 10½d on spirits, £2 10s 4½d on beer, 6s 7d on wine, and 8½d on other liquors. Scotland takes the bad pre-eminence of spirit-drinking with £2 8s 6d per head expense, Ireland is next with £1 8s 2½d, and England last with £1 4s 11½d. England makes up, however, with far pre-eminence in beer-drinking, her population spending £2 17s 3½d per head on beer. Ireland is second also in this, but by a long interval, the consumption of beer per head in the Green Isle being to the value of £1 12s 10½d. Scotland is a small third with 17s 4d on beer per head. England is also first in wine-drinking, though the expenditure all through is not heavy—7s 1½d against Scotland's 6s 1½d, and Ireland's 3s 1½d. There is one satisfaction in the figures. Ireland spends on drink less per head than the other nations, but her £3 4s 2d is still too much. The amount spent by the people of the three countries per head of population is as follows—England, £4 9s 4d; Scotland, £3 11s 1½d, Ireland, £3 4s 2d.

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