

Marist Brothers' Old Boys' Association, Auckland

(From an occasional correspondent.)

The annual meeting of the Marist Brothers' Old Boys' Association, Auckland, was held in the clubroom, Queen street, on Thursday, February 4, when there was a good attendance. Mr. E. Noonan was voted to the chair, the president being unavoidably absent. The annual report and balance sheet, which were read and adopted, disclosed a satisfactory state of affairs. The election of officers resulted as follows: Patron, his Lordship Bishop Cleary; vice-patrons, the clergy of the Auckland diocese and the Marist Brothers; president, Right Rev. Mgr. Brodie; vice-president, Mr. F. Carrington; secretary, Mr. P. Sheehan; treasurer, Mr. L. O'Malley; committee—Messrs. A. Lees, T. O'Sullivan, R. Casey, W. Miller, J. O'Brien, C. McDevitt; auditor, Mr. E. Mahoney; chaplain, Very Rev. Father Holbrook.

Mr. D. Dennehy, representative of the *Tablet*, was asked to address the gathering, and in doing so congratulated the club on the possession of such a fine room, and wished it every success.

A resolution was passed expressing appreciation of the great services rendered to the club by the Rev. Brother Phelan, who was elected a life member.

The new clubroom, which was recently acquired, is very comfortable, and should be well patronised by the members, being situated in the heart of the city. The official opening took place in December last, with a smoke social, at which there was a record attendance.

It was reported to the meeting that the musical branch was arranging to give a concert at the Theatre, the proceeds to go towards purchasing a piano for the club. It was decided to place the *Tablet* in the clubroom, and Mr. E. Noonan generously donated a half-year's subscription for the same. Before the meeting concluded 25 new members were elected, which is a good sign that a prosperous time is not far off. Hearty votes of thanks were passed to the retiring officers, and a similar compliment to the chairman terminated an enthusiastic meeting.

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Condemned are ye accusers who proclaimed
That misjudged Ireland in the hour of need
Would fail or hesitate; your words are shamed
By Irish loyalty and Irish deed—
When Britain called for aid shall we be told
That Ireland's faith was dead, her answer cold?

No! ready when the call of duty came,
For King and Empire Ireland's sons arose,
Patriot hearts with loyalty aflame—
By such shall Britain overcome her foes:
What men are ye whose libel would disgrace
The dauntless spirit of a noble race?

The isle of Erin holds no craven heart,
Search ye the graven record of the past,
And mark how Irishmen have borne their part
In deeds of Empire that shall ever last.
Search ye the honored scroll of Britain's pride,
And see how Erin's loyal sons have died.

'Twas even so when cruel injustice reigned,
And persecution filled the land with woe,
With Irish blood your battlefields were stained,
For England's enemy was Ireland's foe;
In every land, beneath the rolling deep,
The warrior sons of loyal Ireland sleep.

How oft in Empire's cause hath Ireland bled!
How deep her heart is pierced by the sword!
Yet not in vain a nation's blood is shed—
When freedom's crown shall be the just reward—
Yea now upon the field her blood runs free
For Britain's cause, and British liberty.

Then who shall cast dishonor on her name?
Upon brave hearts the stain of cowardice?
Ye shall not rob her of her heroes' fame,
The age-long years of sacrifice:
For truth shall triumph, Britain proudly tell
How Ireland—loyal Ireland—served her well.

- HAROLD GALLAGHER.

Dunedin.

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