

the parish contingents in the following order:—Marist Brothers' School, St. Patrick's parish, Parnell, St. Benedict's, Newton Band, Star of the Sea Orphans, Onchunga, Otahuhu, Devonport, Ellerslie, Newmarket, Remuera, and Takapuna orphan boys. They walked three abreast, and marched via Wyndham, Albert, Quay, and Queen streets, Karangahape road, Grafton bridge, Carlton Gore road, to the Domain Cricket Ground. It was a magnificent spectacle, the procession extending over three-quarters of a mile in length. Footpaths, verandahs, windows, and roofs en route were thronged with eager onlookers. At the top of Upper Queen street his Lordship the Bishop, accompanied by Rev. Fathers Hunt, Whelan, and Gilmartin (Redemptorists) and Rev. Father Holbrook, viewed the immense gathering from his motor car. He was most emphatic in his praises, and said that the display exceeded his most sanguine expectations. On arrival at the Domain each parish contingent moved off to its own tent, where willing lady and gentlemen workers had provided refreshments for them. Children's sports were then entered upon with zest. Shortly after 2 o'clock Bishop Cleary entered the ground, and was cordially welcomed by the officials, and the Sacred Heart College Cadets presented arms. Each cadet wore a sprig of shamrock. Several amateur running events were run off, followed by events for the Hibernians, Marist Brothers' Old Boys, and the confraternities, and the two mile championship race between Fitzgerald (Canadian champion) and Ornstein (a local runner). There were now fully 10,000 persons present, and the event of the day was a display by 800 odd children from the Catholic schools in massed form. They marched from the eastern end until they reached opposite the pavilion, and there gave an exhibition of dumb-bell exercises, moving with clock-like precision, which evoked rounds of applause. They were next formed into squads and went through several splendid evolutions, under the direction of Brother George, who gave his orders through a megaphone. The children marched splendidly, and their movements were enthusiastically applauded. Then followed other displays, which evoked still greater enthusiasm. From a number of intricate manoeuvres there was evolved the form of a Celtic harp, the frame of which portrayed by the boys, each of whom carried two green bannerets, and the strings by the girls, each of whom bore two golden colored bannerets. When the harp was completely outlined, the whole of the children seated themselves on the grass, with the bannerets held over each head, and the effect was splendid. Rising at a signal to their feet, the bannerets were waved in the glistening sun, and the spectacle aroused the vast concourse to the highest pitch of enthusiasm. The tableau, especially amidst such beautiful natural surroundings and happy circumstances, made a picture which will be long remembered by those who saw it. For this display we were indebted to the untiring energy, care, and patience of the Sisters of the various religious Orders, and to the Marist Brothers. It was only last month the particulars and plans were obtained from the St. Patrick's Day celebration committee in Sydney, and to have achieved such results in so short a period redounds to the credit of teachers and pupils. The exhibition has ever since been a topic of conversation in the city.

The national concert in the Choral Hall fittingly closed a memorable festival. Long before the performance commenced the Corporation building inspector ordered the sale of tickets to stop, and insisted upon those standing in the passages to leave the building. The committee provided some with seats on the stage. As his Lordship the Bishop entered the hall the vast assembly stood up, and the orchestra and organ played 'All praise to St. Patrick.' The boys and girls in chorus sang 'O'Donnell Aboo' and 'My land.' Vocal items were splendidly rendered by Madame Basier, Misses Lorigan, Pritchard, Cooper, McCafferty, Carrigan, and Knight, Messrs. Bourke, Egan, and Dobbs. Mrs. Martin recited 'Shamus O'Brien,' and Mr. Casey 'Emmet's speech from the dock.' The concert closed with 'Hail! Glorious St. Patrick' by the children in chorus, in which the audience joined. Miss Hutchinson was harpist, and Mr. Harry Hiscocks accompanied. The conductor (Mr. P. F. Hiscocks) was untiring in his efforts to promote the success of the concert. Before the last item his Lordship Dr. Cleary addressing the audience, said his first thanks were due to the children, who during the day and evening played so conspicuous a part in the proceedings. He thanked them and their excellent teachers, the adults who assisted, and lastly the committee, who by zeal and business capacity, had engineered the whole concert. He felt grateful and very proud of them all.

MASTERTON.

(From our own correspondent.)

The Irish national concert and social gathering, held in the Town Hall on the evening of St. Patrick's Day, were a pronounced success from every point of view. The entertainment went with a swing from start to finish, and showed that the energetic committee had worked with a will. Every year the function has proved a great attraction for both young and old; but this year it has eclipsed all its predecessors. The items on the concert programme were of a high-class order, and were all well received, the flute numbers by Miss Simpson, of Wellington, being especially meritorious. During the evening musical items and Scotch and Irish dances were given by Misses Corbett,

Hanley, McLellan, Simpson, and Messrs. Quinn, Hanley, Iggulden, and the bagpipe music was capably contributed by Mr. Donald Scott. The following was the concert programme: Overture, 'Irish diamonds,' No. 6, Miss McKenna; 1st violin, Miss Hanify, A.T.C.L.; 2nd violins, Misses Page and Smythson; song, 'The Irish emigrant,' Miss McKenzie; Irish dance, Misses Smythson, Nelson, Taylor, Symes, Jones, and Brooks (encored); song, 'The dear little shamrock,' Mr. L. E. Hill; flute solo, 'Valse impromptu,' Miss Simpson (encored); song, 'There's a land,' Mr. B. Clayson; Highland fling, Miss Daisy MacLellan (encored); Irish jig, Misses Corbett and Hanley and Messrs. Hanley and Quinn (encored); song, 'Nirvana,' Mr. Green; duet, 'Excelsior,' Messrs. Branson and Green; song, 'O'Donnell Aboo,' Mr. W. Iggulden (encored); flute solo, 'Romance,' Miss Simpson (encored); song, 'Mary of Argyll,' Mr. L. E. Hill. The Very Rev. Dean McKenna, in an appropriate speech, thanked the performers.

NAPIER, HASTINGS, AND MEANEE

A monster picnic promoted by the Catholics of Napier, Hastings, Meanee, and Waipawa was held at Farndon Park on St. Patrick's Day (says the *Napier Daily Telegraph*). Ideal picnic weather prevailed, and all who attended the great gathering were well satisfied with the day's outing. The Hastings Band played selections throughout the afternoon, and with the airs forthcoming from that body the gathering was made ever so much more pleasant. Races of all descriptions, too numerous to detail, were run and for which at the end of the day prizes were given to the successful competitors. Considerably over a thousand persons were present, and of these 100 journeyed all the way from Waipawa to participate in the day's outing. The different parishes held their sports apart from each other, and thus the sports programmes were run off without confusion. Various side shows were on the ground, the usual type being prevalent. Sheaf throwing competitions created considerable interest amongst town and country folk alike. The celebration of the great day was very enjoyable, and it is to be hoped that these different parishes will make the gathering an annual one.

Messrs. P. Barry and John Higgins presented a handsome shield for competition between the various parish schools. The events for the trophy were: A teams' relay race, 75yds and 150yds. The contest was between Napier and Meanee, the latter winning by 11 points to Napier's 7. Tugs-of-war: The Clive ladies obtained victory over a team of Hastings ladies after a good contest. In the men's tug-of-war, married v. single, the latter won after a tough struggle.

NELSON.

There was a very satisfactory attendance at the concert given in St. Mary's Hall on St. Patrick's Night (says the *Nelson Colonist*), the programme being arranged to include only items having reference to the Emerald Isle. The programme was more than ordinarily attractive and was practically doubled, many items being received with approval that amounted to enthusiasm. A considerable number of new faces were to be seen amongst the performers and several old favorites. Mr. W. T. Ward and his daughters are a great acquisition to the musical side of St. Mary's activities, and last evening this fact was amply demonstrated. Referring to the individual performers, Miss Gardener, a visitor from Christchurch, charmed her audience to the extent that they were loth to let her depart. Her first number was 'The Irish emigrant,' which was encored, and in the second part 'Oh, steer my barque to Erin's isle,' was accorded a double encore. Miss Richards was accorded an enthusiastic encore for her singing of 'The minstrel boy,' and the 'Slumber song,' which followed, was no less pleasing. Miss Mary Ward gave proof of her talent as a solo violinist in 'The harp that once through Tara's halls,' and had to reappear. Mr. Ernest Richards sang 'Believe me if all those endearing young charms,' and was recalled. Mr. John Scott gave 'The dear little shamrock,' and he had to repeat the last verse. Miss Ward, who accompanied throughout the evening, was warmly applauded for her pianoforte solo, a fantasia on Irish airs, and Mr. Murphy's cornet solo, 'Arrah na pogue,' was very finely played, another item being demanded of him. Mr. Frank Hurley contributed a humorous Irish recitation, 'Mr. Doolan on how to make lamp chimneys,' and this was so much liked that he had to furnish another recitation, which was equally well received. Mr. J. Laffin's Irish jig was quite in keeping with the spirit of the evening, and he, too, was recalled. The orchestra comprised Misses Ward (2), G. Clark, Messrs. Kirton, Murphy, and W. T. Ward, and the selections given, 'Irish national airs' and 'Humors of Donnybrook,' were very successful efforts, being heartily applauded. Several part songs were given by Misses Armstrong, M. Clark, M. Ward, Richards, and Mrs. Kirton, Messrs. Bunny, E. Richards, A. Housiaux, Kirton, and W. T. Ward. These comprised 'Let Erin remember,' 'Oft in the stilly night,' and 'O'Donnell Aboo,' and these were equally well received with the other items of the evening.

After the Rev. Father Mahony had expressed his thanks to those who assisted at the concert and to the audience for their attendance, a very successful gathering was brought to a close with the chorus 'God Save Ireland.'