

The Hibernian Band gave a very enjoyable promenade concert on Sunday afternoon at Rugby Park. There was a large attendance of the public, and a collection in aid of the funds of the band amounted to nearly £7. At the conclusion of the concert, Conductor Wills presented Mr. T. McGrath, jun., with a handsome gold medal, suitably inscribed, in recognition of his services as secretary to the band. Mr. McGrath is leaving for Christchurch to-day, and by his departure the band loses one of its most valued members.

I take the following from the personal column of to-day's *Southland Times*:—On Friday evening, the 25th inst., in Mr. M. Carr's rooms in the Federal Buildings, a pleasant little function took place, when Mr. T. Pound, the hon. secretary of the committee who had in hand the arrangements in connection with the visit of the Irish envoy to Invercargill, was presented by the committee with a valuable travelling rug and a silver-mounted umbrella. Mr. Carr, in a happy speech, referred to the excellent result of the Invercargill meeting which, he said, was in a large measure due to the energy displayed by the secretary. Mr. Pound suitably replied, and remarked that the secretarial duties were to him a labor of love, and he had not looked for any such kind appreciation of the little he had done in the matter.

THE ORDER OF THE SACRED HEART

ELECTION OF A SUPERIOR GENERAL

(From our Wellington correspondent.)

The joyful news—that on the feast of the Most Pure Heart of Mary, August 27, Rev. Mother Janet Stuart had been elected Superior-General of the Society of the Sacred Heart—was cabled to the Rev. Mother of the Island Bay Convent of the Order, and by her was immediately transmitted to her Sisters at Timaru and Auckland. It is truly good news for the Religious of the Sacred Heart, as all warmly esteem Rev. Mother Stuart, because of her holiness, wisdom, and kindness. They are therefore grateful to God for having placed the government of their wide-spread, but closely-united, society in her capable hands.

Few persons have passed through more varied experiences than Rev. Mother Stuart. The daughter of a Scottish Presbyterian clergyman, residing in the North of Ireland, her youth was spent in an atmosphere antagonistic to Catholicity, yet from the age of thirteen she felt strongly drawn towards it. Her father, whose university career had been distinguished, delighted in cultivating her great intellectual gifts, and even sought her aid in composing his sermons. Nevertheless, she joined with characteristic energy in the outdoor exercises of her brothers, who were proud of her facility in sketching from nature, and her skill as a horsewoman. Long afterwards she remembered her juvenile riding excursions, for as Visitor to the Convents of the Sacred Heart in South America she was obliged to cross the Andes, and part of her adventurous journey was on mule-back.

The conversion of Rev. Mother Stuart's relatives, the Earl of Gainsborough and his family, brought her into communication with Catholics, and at London she became acquainted with Father Gallwey, S.J., who received her into the Church. The call to the religious life having been heard and faithfully followed, she entered at Roehampton (1882), edifying all the nuns by her fervour. She showed special attraction for the lowly but sublime virtues practised by their holy Foundress, Blessed Mother Barat. Her literary talents were utilised, and she wrote meditations for the novices, also clever essays, plays, etc., to enliven the holidays. Her latest work, *The Education of Catholic Girls*, was only finished a few weeks ago, and will soon be published by Longmans and Co.

As Superior Vicar of the Convents of the Sacred Heart in the British Isles, her zeal extended to all the works of the society, and she followed with maternal interest the formation of young Catholic teachers at

her great Training College in St. Charles square, London. The boarding-school at Roehampton under her care rose to one hundred and thirty pupils, the highest number that could be accommodated. While, pleased with their success before the Oxford examiners, she desired above all to ground them in solid piety. In a wider sphere of action she will do far more for the glory of the Sacred Heart.

CATHOLIC CLUBS

ST. BENEDICT'S CLUB, AUCKLAND.

(From the club correspondent.)

August 25.

The most successful debate yet held took place on Tuesday evening last, the subject chosen being 'That Napoleon was a Greater General than Wellington.' The affirmative was taken by Messrs. J. J. Furlong (leader), O'Dwyer, Kelly, and McGrath, while Messrs. Rose (leader), Fernandez, Kennedy, and Donovan supported the negative. The judge (Mr. J. J. Sullivan) gave his decision in favor of the negative side by 303 points to 281, and congratulated the members taking part on the excellent speeches they had made. The debate was attentively and enjoyably listened to by about 50 members and their friends, amongst whom were many ladies. At the conclusion of the debate, Rev. Father Carran gave a short address. Rev. Father Brennan, of Te Kuiti, was present.

GORE.

(From the club correspondent.)

At the weekly meeting of the Gore Catholic Young Men's Society there was a good attendance, including a number of ladies. Very Rev. Father O'Donnell delivered a lecture on 'Socialism,' at the conclusion of which the speaker was accorded a hearty vote of thanks, on the motion of Mr. Francis, seconded by Mr. Columb.

WEDDING BELLS

McDONNELL-ROCHE.

(From our Greymouth correspondent.)

A quiet wedding was solemnised at St. Patrick's Church, Greymouth, on August 21 by the Very Rev. Dean Carew, the contracting parties being Mr. Ed. McDonnell, youngest son of Mrs. H. McDonnell, the Torrace, Greymouth, and Miss Emily Roche, second daughter of Mrs. Roche, Gerald street. As both parties are well known and highly respected, a large number of friends assembled in the sacred edifice to witness the ceremony. The bride, who was given away by her brother, looked very pretty in a beautiful robe of cream satin. She also wore a magnificent Limerick lace veil, the gift of a friend. The bride was attended by her sister, Miss A. Roche, as bridesmaid, Mr. P. C. Heaphy acting as best man. At the conclusion of the ceremony Miss Rita Hannan played the Wedding March. After a dainty wedding breakfast had been partaken of, the newly-married couple left by the Otira express for Christchurch en route for Australia, where the honeymoon will be spent. The contracting parties were the recipients of many valuable presents from their friends, who wished them every happiness and prosperity.

At the conclusion of the meeting of the Children of Mary on Sunday, August 20, Rev. Father Lacroix, on behalf of the members of the sodality, presented Miss Roche with a set of silver-backed brushes, mirror, and a silver jewel case. The Rev. Father in a few well-chosen words exhorted her to be ever faithful to the pious practices of the sodality, and wished her every happiness in her married life. Miss Roche thanked the members for their beautiful gift, which she would cherish as a memento of her happy association with them.