

Wanganui

(From our own correspondent.)

August 24, 1921

The concert and social at Kai Iwi on last Friday night was another huge success, over 300 people being there. It was in aid of the Maori Mission Fund again, and everyone rallied round Father Ginisty in wonderful style. A concert party went out from town, they were: Misses A. Wood and B. Boyle, Messrs. C. I. Spillane, T. Travers, P. McLean, and all contributed songs. Messrs. T. P. Souter and Peter Swan, recitations; Lieutenant G. L. Buckley, coronet solo, and an instrumental quartette was rendered by the members of the Queen Alexandra Band (The accompaniments throughout, were played by Mrs. Spillane): and then there were some Maori hakas and poi dances by the Nga Rauru Maori Tribe, winners of the competition for the best haka and poi dance at the Rotorua Maori Reception to H.R.H. the Prince of Wales. The whole concert was much applauded by the large audience, especially the Maori items. The warriors warmed up so well to these that some folk from Australia, whose introduction it was to a haka, were really alarmed. The gathering was easily the biggest and most enjoyable since the welcome home to the Returned Soldiers, and the committee are grateful to all the performers and everyone who helped to make things go so well. They are specially thankful to Mr. Charlie Tamumu, organiser of the Maori items, who also was kind enough to lend his piano. Before leaving, Father Ginisty expressed his thanks to all, and announced the result of the weight-guessing competition, which showed that Mrs. Mancer, of Brunswick, guessed the exact weight of the pig (69lbs.). A delicious supper was provided, after which the social was enjoyed by all and sundry.

Wanganui East had its very first social, combined with a euchre party, in aid of the Aramoho St. Vincent de Paul funds. It was a most successful evening and thoroughly enjoyable. Musical items were provided by Rev. Father Outtrim, Mrs. Ivo Luxford, and Mr. Roy Ahern. Mr. E. J. Foster kept things going admirably during the euchre, and later was M.C. for the social. An excellent sit-down supper was provided, Mesdames Richardson, Coxon, and Ahern and their assistants being responsible for this special feature. Mrs. Gardiner, provided the music, practically doing this as a donation. During the evening, Mr. W. Luxford, as past president of the Conference, thanked all who helped to make the social a success. He spoke also about the object of the St. Vincent de Paul Society and mentioned the good work done by this society wherever it exists.

Euchre party and social at Gonville last week, also quite a success. The return to euchre was by way of a change and for the benefit of the many of us who neither sing nor jazz.

Miss Edith Morgan has just returned from a delightful trip to the Islands, a round which included Apia, Tonga, and Fiji. It so happened that the visitors were at Fiji during the reception to the Bishop of those islands on his return from Europe, and they were privileged to be present at the ceremony. So entirely different from anything of its kind in our Dominion, the whole function was of great interest. The singing at the Cathedral seems to have impressed itself on the memories of the visitors, so beautiful was it. Liwewise, incidentally the intensity of the heat, the size and price of the mandarins, and the delicious eating made by soft creamy coconut.

Another very successful evening was held at Castlecliff on Wednesday last, a plain-and-fancy cinderella social and a euchre tournament. Many pretty dresses were worn, Miss Fahey being the prize-winner for the prettiest fancy dress. Mrs. J. Connor (Miss Folly) was second, and Miss May (Red Cross Nurse) was third. Mrs. Collins made a dainty "Maid of France," Miss Hugh a charming "Spanish Dancer," and little Mary Lorigan was a wee "Pierrette." There were lots of other fancy dresses, daffodils, harems, pierrettes, gypsies, and flower-girls, and these mingling with some very dainty evening frocks made a pretty picture. The most amusing feature of the evening was the placing of the ladies' shoes in the centre of the floor. During the evening it was announced that each

lady was to leave one of her shoes in the centre of the room. Suddenly, a shower of shoes came from all directions, including some "dainty sizes" from the sterner sex, and then came the fun of finding the owners of the shoes. A pleasant game of euchre was enjoyed in the supper room, the prizes being won by Miss O'Connor, Gonville, and Mr. Bartlett. During the evening a beautiful cake was competed for and won by Mrs. Tobin, one of the committee. The cake had been made by Mrs. O'Meara for the Gonville folk, and won in the first place by Rev. Father McGrath, who generously handed it on to Castlecliff. Sweets also were sold to help the little "sweet candidate," and brought in quite a number of votes for her. The duties of the euchre and M.C. were carried out ably by Messrs. Edwards, Tobin, Anthony, and Marsden. The prizes were very generously donated by Mrs. Marsden (ladies), Capt. Connor (gentlemen), and Mrs. Anthony (boobies). The dainty supper served was arranged for by a committee consisting of Mesdames Anthony, Marsden, Edwards, Rogers, Tobin, Johnstone, Collins, Dobson, Cameron, and Connor, and at just on midnight, the most enjoyable evening was brought to a close.

And this I think, ends our little round of flutters. Other things are going on too, building alterations and suchlike, but I cannot record much about this till the work is completed.

Gisborne

(From our own correspondent.)

August 24.

Sunday within the Octave of the Assumption, the day on which the little children of St. Mary's parish receive their First Holy Communion, is an occasion eagerly looked forward to by our devoted pastor, the Sisters, parents, and especially by those most immediately concerned. On that particular day this year about 60 girls and boys approached the Holy Table for the first time, their bright happy faces denoting the joy which animated them. The spectacle, too, was a most edifying one to the large congregation. After Mass the children were generously provided with breakfast by the members of St. Mary's Sodality of the Children of Mary. At the 10 o'clock Mass, Rev. Father Lane, addressing the children, impressed upon them the importance of ever remembering their first Communion day. At the evening devotions Father Lane earnestly urged the parents to recognise the absolute necessity of seeing that their children never neglected attendance at Holy Mass on Sundays and holidays of obligation. He exhorted parents to afford their children a shining example by a frequent reception of the Sacraments, an example the children would assuredly follow. At the conclusion of the sermon an invocation to the Blessed Virgin Mary was recited by one of the little girls, followed by a renewal of baptismal vows, in which the whole congregation joined. Procession and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament concluded the days' ceremonies. St. Mary's Choir, conducted by Mr. Charles Wood, rendered music appropriate to the occasion, while at the early Mass the children's choir sang specially selected hymns.

The Gift

He has taken away the things that I loved best:
Love and youth and the harp that knew my hand.
Laughter alone is left of all the rest.
Does he mean that I may fill my days with laughter.
Or will it, too, slip through my fingers like spilt sand?

Why should I beat my wings like a bird in a net.
When I can be still and laugh at my own desire?
The wise may shake their heads at me, but yet
I should be sad without my little laughter.
The crackling of thorns is not so bad a fire.

Will he take away even the thorns from under the pot,
And send me cold and supperless to bed?
He has been good to me. I know he will not.
He gave me to keep a little foolish laughter.
I shall not lose it even when I am dead.

—ALINE KILMER, in the *Literary Digest*.