

Levin Convent Building Fund: A Successful Function

The Cosmos Theatre presented a gay and animated appearance on Wednesday evening, October 26 (says the *Levin Chronicle*) when a children's fancy dress social, attended with the greatest success, was held in aid of the Levin convent building fund, and it was evident that the management committee (Misses Hannan, Nash, and Kelleher, Messrs. McDonald, Daly, and Wildsmith) had spared no pains in attending to the preliminaries, for the hall was brilliantly decorated with greenery, bunting, and colored streamers and under the electric lights the color effects presented a charming appearance. The attendance was a very large one, and before 8 o'clock the hall was crowded to overflowing. When the strains from Miss Williamson's orchestra opened the proceedings, the movements of the juvenile company, of whom over 200 were in fancy costume, was specially pleasing and picturesque. The competitions for the various classes of costumes proved a difficult task for the judges—Mrs. H. Palmer (Palmerston North) and Miss Collie (Levin)—but their placings were popularly received, as it was recognised that the winners had fully merited their success. A very pretty spectacular effect was secured later in the evening when the streamers, together with showers of confetti, were let down from the centre of the hall during the progress of a dance, and was in fact the climax of a series of pretty color schemes. The stage was nicely arranged with supper tables, and a capable ladies' committee, consisting of Mesdames Nash, Johnson, Zoche, Misses O'Donnell, Catley, and Kirwin, did full justice to this department, and helped not a little to the enjoyment of the evening. The Mayor, who was unavoidably prevented from opening the event, attended later and presented the prizes to the winners of the competitions as follows:

Best dressed girl, eight and under: Miss Lonie McDonald, "Wasp"; best dressed girl, over eight: Miss Joan George, "Powder Puff"; best dressed boy, eight or under: Master Eric Davies, "The Mad Hatter"; best dressed boy, over eight: Master Jack Gill, "Nigger"; most original costume, girl: Miss Josie Nash, "Lampshade"; most original costume, boy: Master Lloyd George, "Lloyd George"; best national costume, girl: Miss Betty Hall, "Irish Colleen"; best national costume, boy: Master Jimmie Mackenzie, "Mexican Rough Rider"; least expensive original costume: Miss Jean Gregg, "From the Planes"; open special prize: Master Les. McLeavey, "Sir Walter Raleigh"; open special prize: Miss Celia Ryder, "Kewpie"; open special prize: Miss Jean Thomson, "Imp"; judges' special: Master Jackie Johnson, "Maori Chief"; judges' special, No 2: Miss Bernie Dawson, "Fairy".

During the evening Father Fitzgibbon congratulated the competition winners and returned thanks to the committees for their successful work, the public for their attendance, and specially referred to the joint secretaries, Miss M. Kelleher and Mr. Jas. Daly, who had done so much to the desirable results that had been secured that evening. Mr. M. Ryder successfully carried out the duties of M.C., and Mrs. R. W. Percy, Mrs. Campbell, and Misses McDonnell and Hawkins assisted in supplying musical extras. At the conclusion of the juvenile dancing, the adults spent a few enjoyable hours, forming a fitting conclusion of a successful function.

The Obsolescent Commandments

After the fall of our first parents when man found himself following the hard road to heaven with great difficulty because the way was dark and rough and was beset with many perils, Almighty God in His mercy built on either side of the narrow path, for the protection of pilgrims of eternity, a firm wall on which He placed at intervals bright lamps. Consequently, unless those journeying to heaven by that secure road perversely refused to be guided by the lights the Lord God had set up, or deliberately leaped over the wall He had erected, they were sure to reach heaven safely at last. The strong wall and the shining lamps which were meant to be such a strong protection and defence for the Christian traveller, mystical writers tell us, are the Ten Commandments of God, for those who always keep them will never miss the road to heaven, they will be far happier and healthier even in this life, than are those who break them, and the journey done, their joyful home-coming will last forever.

But outside the Catholic Church, as Father Hull well observes in the October 8 issue of the *Catholic Mind*, the religious and moral traditions of the past have now largely lost "all absolute weight and authority."

"Morality is regarded rather as a group of ideals than as a code of imperative laws. The idea imbedded in the

'Ten Commandments' is a thing of the past; and in their place stand certain ethical convictions derived from the human consciousness, elastic and discretionary in their application. Such-and-such is the right line of conduct under normal circumstances. For instance, marriage should generally be regarded as a life-long tie to be faithfully persevered in. But as soon as circumstances become abnormal; as soon as marriage becomes a burden and a misery, surely an exception ought to be made.

"There remains no clear and definite notion of God, the ruler and governor of the world, having the real interests of each creature at heart, and loving it and intending well to it even where appearances are all to the contrary. The only ruler of the universe which survives is the law of nature interpreted human-wise; a code of laws which have for their recommendation the benefits which accrue from their observance, and the damage which accrues from their contravention."

But a moral law which has no Divine sanction is a decidedly weak law. "Why should I be just, chaste, and truthful," the average "modern man" will ask, "if I have succeeded in persuading myself that God does not exist and that nothing but annihilation, therefore, awaits me when I die? As a means to get all I can out of life, I may observe, as far as I think it expedient, those so-called 'Commandments' of yours that govern my relations with my neighbor. But as I have nothing but very doubtful temporal disadvantages to fear in case I do not wish to keep the Fifth, Sixth, Seventh, and Eighth Commandments, and if I am ready to take that risk, for the sake of gaining other advantages which I highly value, why shouldn't I do as I please?" The lamentable spectacle that the modern world presents shows that millions of "civilised" men who have ceased to believe in God have also ceased in consequence to keep the Commandments. So that that most imperative reconstruction of society, for which the age is yearning, can never be effectively brought to pass until mankind returns to the fundamental beliefs that God exists and that He is the rewarder of all who seek Him. For every nation of atheists is headed for disaster.—*America*.

Obituary

MR. ANDREW BURKE, ORARI.

With deep regret (writes a correspondent) the death is recorded of Mr. Andrew Burke, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. E. Burke, "Oakleigh," Orari, who passed away on the 19th ult. The deceased was born at Geraldine, and after leaving school was engaged in farming pursuits. During a lengthy illness he was attended by Rev. Father O'Connor and passed away fortified by all the rites of Holy Church. The funeral left the residence of the deceased's parents for the church at Geraldine, where Requiem Mass was celebrated by Father O'Connor, who also officiated at the interment in the Geraldine cemetery. Very sincere sympathy is extended to the parents of the deceased, also to his sisters—Mrs. Gardener (Hastings), Mrs. Rigby (Dunedin), the Misses H. and E. Burke (Orari), and to his brother Mr. P. Burke (Taihape), in their bereavement, this being the second death in the family within a few months.—R.I.P.

MR. JOHN O'CONNELL, MARAWITI, BARR HILL.

The death occurred on the 1st ult., at Lewisham Hospital, Christchurch, of Mr. John O'Connell, of Marawiti, Barr Hill (writes a correspondent). The deceased who was the third son of the late Bryant O'Connell, was born at Gorthlea, Co. Kerry, Ireland, in 1853, and came to New Zealand in the ship Northern Monarch, arriving at Lyttelton in 1879. After following farming pursuits on the Acton estate for a number of years he acquired a farm at Marawiti, in 1898, which he worked successfully till the time of his death. The deceased was a fervent Catholic and passed away fortified by the last rites of the Church. The funeral was attended by a large number of friends, who held the deceased in the greatest respect. The interment took place in the cemetery at Methven. A widow and family of seven (five sons and two daughters) are left to mourn their loss.—R.I.P.

OUR REPRESENTATIVES' MOVEMENTS

We wish to notify our northern readers that our three representatives have commenced a special visit to the North Island. Mr. T. J. Sheahan, Marton to New Plymouth; Mr. E. Hanrahan, Wellington to Napier; and Mr. J. M. Houlahan, Hamilton and surroundings. A visit to other parts of the Island will follow.

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