

child who wrote that address, and I think I know how to do it. I notice that, after the address business was over, Sir James Fergusson shook hands with Mr J. L. Gillies, and the Mayor and Town Councillors of Tokomairiro. Well now, Sam Slick told the Duke of Wellington to sleep with his son, young Sam, and so learn to say smart things. Something in that line in my notion. I will go to Tokomairiro, if you please, and shake hands with Mr J. L. Gillies, &c., and then perhaps I may be able to write like that school school child."

His Excellency's visit, it is to be hoped, will have an elevating effect on the general tone of society at Tokomairiro.

ARRIVAL OF THE s.s. MIKADO.

THE unexpected appearance of a large steamer off Otago Heads late on the afternoon of the 10th inst. excited a great deal of surprise and curiosity, no vessel of the class of the stranger being expected. She loomed up over the Spit, and showed four masts and a huge smoke stack, and was altogether different in appearance to any boat that had ever visited these waters. She was the Mikado, one of the line of steamers for the new European mail service, via California. The Mikado had a considerable cargo, and 536 Chinese passengers from Hong Kong for this port. They have arrived here the one in presumed good condition, and the other healthy, and, to all appearance, none the worse for their voyage. Only three European passengers arrived in her—one being the son of the Hon. John Bathgate, of this city. The Mikado is a magnificent vessel, brand new, having only left Liverpool on her first voyage on the 31st of August last. She belongs to Mr John McGregor, of Leith, from which port she sails. The Mikado has proved herself to be a fast boat by making the quickest run on record between Liverpool and Hong Kong via Suez, doing the distance in 35 days 8 hours, her average speed being $11\frac{1}{2}$ knots. The Mikado is a steamer of 1992 tons register, and 3034 tons gross measurement. She is 386ft long over all, and 36ft main beam, with 26ft depth of hold. She is of iron throughout, even to her 'tween decks, which are laid with that metal, and is fitted up with the latest improvements in gearing, fittings, &c. She is fitted with one pair of compound vertical direct acting surface condensing engines, nominal power 400 horse, but capable of working up to nearly 1500. She has accommodation for 108 saloon passengers, 87 second-cabin passengers, and 666 fore-cabin passengers. She is provided with 11 boats—two of which are life boats. The engineer's staff numbers 31, viz., the chief engineer, three assistant engineers, a boiler maker, and 26 firemen. The engines are ponderous pieces of machinery, and yet by the aid of skilful contrivances are managed with wonderful ease and exactness. The telegraph by which orders are conveyed from the deck to the engine-room, is so constructed that an order from above can be replied to, so that if an order to stop her or go ahead, as the case may be, is misunderstood, the mistake is discovered at once, and the order repeated. The ship is fitted with Brown's patent hydraulic steering apparatus, which so far as the ships movements are concerned, it worked by a tiller no larger than that of a ten ton yacht. The steering house is situated at the fore part of the hurricane deck, and is elaborately fitted up with compasses, barometers, and other instruments. The consumption of coal is from 24 to 30 tons per day for $10\frac{1}{2}$ knot speed and from 38 to 40 tons for 13 knots. She can carry 900 tons of coal in her bunkers. She is also provided with a patent windlass capstan, worked by steam, and the main shafting of her engines is $13\frac{1}{2}$ inches diameter. The Mikado, which while in port was visited by large numbers, has left for Sydney.

PRESENTATION TO THE CAPTAIN OF THE VIRE.

ON Tuesday last, presentations were made to Captain Jacquemart of the Vire, on board that vessel, from the City Council of Dunedin, of a handsome album containing 80 views of Dunedin and neighborhood; and from the Provincial Government of a handsome silver tea and coffee service and eggstand, for his action in going to the relief of the passengers by the Surat. The captain replied in feeling terms, toasts were drunk, and a pleasant time was spent in the cabin of the Vire. The vessel has left for New Caledonia.

THE DUNEDIN SAVINGS BANK.

THE following figures show the business transacted by the Dunedin Savings bank during 1873:—

	£	s.	d.
Amount deposited during the year ended Dec. 31st.	27,655	9	0
Do withdrawn	20,129	18	7
Amount at credit of depositors	49,860	1	5
Interest credited to depositors during the year	2,142	13	10
Rate of 5 per cent.			

REGISTRATION OF VOTERS.

THE time for the registration of voters comprises the three months of January, February, and March. Persons registered during these months will have a vote from the 1st September.

The qualifications are that the applicant must be a natural born or naturalised subject of the age of 21 years or upwards, having a freehold estate of the clear value of £50, situate in the district for which the vote is claimed, and to which he has been entitled for at least six months before the 30th April; or having a leasehold estate in possession of the clear annual value of £10, held upon a lease which on the 30th April shall not have less than three years to run, or of which he has been in possession for three years or upwards before 30th April; or being a householder, occupying a tenement and residing therein six months previous to the 30th April, if within the limits of the city, of the clear annual value of £10, and if without the limits of the city, of the clear annual value of £5.

Forms of application are to be had, and claims to be placed on the roll may be made, at the registration offices of the several districts:

HIBERNIAN AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC BENEFIT SOCIETY.

A SUMMONED meeting of St. Joseph's Branch, No. 73, was held in St. Joseph's schoolroom last Monday evening—the President (Bro. R. Carroll) in the chair. The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Messrs Gallaher, McEwen, and Hoffman were proposed as fit persons to become members of the Society.

A clearance transferring Bro. James Dooling from the Thames Branch to St. Joseph's, No. 73, was read by the Secretary.

A ballot was taken for the office of Treasurer, which resulted in election of Bro. Toal, who was duly initiated into his office.

It was resolved that all members requiring sashes should give in their names to the Secretary, and that he be instructed to write to Melbourne for them forthwith.

It was also resolved that steps should be taken to obtain two flags for the branch before St. Patrick's Day, and a committee—consisting of the President, the past President, and Bros. J. J. Connor, M. Dormer, and J. Moylan—were appointed for the purpose of fixing upon the designs, &c.

Bro. J. J. Connor proposed:—"That in consequence of an advertisement appearing in the 'Evening Star' for a servant by Dr Bakewell, in which Irish girls were prohibited from applying on account of their nationality, the Secretary be instructed to write to inform Dr Bakewell that the members desire to cancel his agreement after the expiration of three months, the time bound to be given." Bro. J. M. Halinan seconded the resolution. Many members spoke, each of them warmly supporting the resolution, and strongly condemning Dr Bakewell's conduct. The resolution was then put by the President and carried unanimously, there not being one dissentient vote. The result was enthusiastically cheered.

Bro. Fred. J. Bunny gave notice that he would move at the next meeting:—"That it is desirable to establish a 'juvenile contingent' in connection with this branch, as provided by a clause added to rule LXXX, and passed at the 'Annual Moveable Meeting' of the Society held at Sandhurst last February."

Other business of a routine nature being disposed of, the meeting closed with prayer.

We trust that the members of St. Joseph's Branch will see fit to pass Bro. Fred. J. Bunny's resolution regarding a "juvenile contingent," as we are confident it will be conferring a great good on the Catholic youth.

For the information of parents we publish below the rules and regulations by which the contingent would be governed, as it will be necessary to obtain their hearty co-operation in order to make the movement a success.

RULES AND REGULATIONS.

For the Juvenile Contingents of Branches in the H.A.C.B.S.

Preamble.—Any Branch may establish a Juvenile Contingent subject to these rules, to be called by the name of the Branch by which it may be organised, and the officers of a Branch shall have charge of the contingent thereof.

The Contingents shall consist exclusively of Roman Catholics, and shall be governed by the Annual Meeting of the Executive Directory Districts and Branches.

The objects of the Contingents are to raise funds for the payment of the initiation fees of the members thereof as members of the H.A.C.B.S., on arrival at the age of seventeen years, to foster and maintain the principles of the Society, to cherish the memory of the land of their fathers.

Objects.—All monies received on account of annual contributions shall be placed to the credit of the Contingents in the Incidental Fund of the Branch to which they belong; and when any member of a Contingent be initiated as a member of the Branch to which it belongs, the Secretary shall pay the Sick and Funeral Funds the sum of ten shillings from the Incidental Fund. In case a juvenile be initiated in any other Branch, the branch to which his Contingent belongs shall pay the sum of one pound as his initiation fee.

The Contingents shall be under the authority and subject to the guidance of the officers of the Branches to which they belong.

Each Contingent shall elect a President, Vice-President, Assistant Secretary, Warden, and Guardian, who shall hold office for six months, and the election shall be conducted as in a Branch.

Meetings.—There shall be four meetings at least in a year (contingents may meet once a month if the Branch thinks it necessary), at which the officers of the Branch shall attend and assist in transacting the business.

Contributions.—Each member shall pay to the Secretary the sum of 2s 6d, on his entering his name in the books, as his first year's contribution, and on or before twelve calendar months shall again pay a like amount, and so on for each year until his age be seven years, when he shall be entitled to join the Branch, by paying a sum that, when added to his contributions while in the Contingent, will make one pound two shillings and sixpence, and producing a certificate from the Medical Attendant of sound health and constitution.

Candidates.—Any person desirous of joining the Contingent shall be recommended by at least three members of the Branch, who shall be responsible for his previous good conduct and fitness to become a member, and he shall be more than seven and less than seventeen years.

Regalia.—The regalia to be worn by the Contingents must be in strict conformity with the laws of the Society, and similar to that worn by the officers and members of Branches. Members shall be entitled to march in processions where the Branch may attend in regalia.

Penalty.—Any member neglecting to attend the funerals of deceased members on two occasions shall be fined sixpence, and for a third offence he shall be suspended for twelve months.