

CONCERT IN AID OF ST. JOSEPH'S SCHOOL.

THE concert given by the members of St. Joseph's Choir, assisted by a number of ladies and gentlemen, who kindly volunteered their services in furtherance of the above laudable object, took place on the evening of Friday, the 21st instant, and proved to be an unqualified success. Indeed, so great was the amount of patronage bestowed, and so generous the support accorded the entertainment, that it was found necessary at the last moment to considerably increase the space available for the reserved seats; and we have been requested to apologise for any inconvenience—or rather, want of convenience—which may have been experienced by those who arrived late in the evening. The bill of fare provided was a tempting one, the programme being most pleasing and varied, embracing ballads, duets, recitations, and selections from the choicest operas; while Messrs Sykes, O'Connell, and Hogg, contributed to the instrumental harmony. After an overture on the Piano, the entertainment opened with the glee, "Hail to the Chief," in which the entire strength of the company took part, followed by the pretty ballad, "I'll Meet thee at the Lane," by Mr Griffin. This was rendered very pleasingly, but whether owing to the inferior acoustic properties of the building, or some other cause, the lower notes were almost inaudible. The same gentleman, at a later period of the entertainment, sang the selection from Wallace's *Maritana*, "In Happy Moments," with equal care and judgment. The defect we have noticed was markedly apparent throughout the entire programme, and was a matter of much regret, some of the most pleasing efforts being considerably marred thereby. Mr Desmond was loudly applauded for his spirited delivery of "Bernardo de Carpio," and although the accompanying action was capable of improvement, he was conspicuously noticeable for the total absence of that timidity and nervousness, so fatal to amateurs, and which in most cases has such a detrimental effect. The comic recitation of the "Vulgar Little Boy," by Master Scoulan, was interrupted on several occasions by ebullitions of youthful applause, in which his more staid auditors were compelled to join, the young people especially, making vain attempts to retain a becoming decorum and gravity during its recital. The programme, no doubt, was a lengthy one, but we imagine this young gentleman's name might have been introduced into both parts with advantage. The duet, "List to the Convent Bells," by Mrs Connor and Miss Hesford, was warmly and deservedly applauded; as was also the plaintive song "Alas! those Chimes," rendered in a most feeling and effective manner by the first-named lady. Miss Hesford was evidently laboring under nervousness, and although this was not so observable in the duet with Mrs Connor, it acted as a great drawback to her otherwise admirable rendering of the selection from *Lucretia Borgia*, "Come let us live happy together," it being quite apparent to the audience, that had she divested herself of her timidity, her rich voice would have been equal to the occasion, and that the defect was one of diffidence rather than deficiency. Mr Lennon is entitled to the highest praise for his rendering of the touching but difficult ballad, "Alice, where art thou." Mr Lennon enters so thoroughly into the sentiments and feelings conveyed in the words he utters, that he imparts to his auditors the very pleasing impression that he is deeply imbued by the feelings which find vent in song. Some gentlemen can sing the most plaintive melodies with commendable musical correctness, but they fail to move that sympathetic chord in the breasts of those who listen, which is by far the greater charm. Mr Lennon seems to forget that he is singing for other causes than to pour forth the feelings by which he is swayed, and thus, though possibly lacking studied effect, has the greater charm of being natural. Mr Robert Carroll was most effective in the pathetic song "Half-mast High," which was given with feeling and judgment, and served to exhibit his clear ringing tenor to advantage; but we regret we cannot speak in like terms of his "Rooked in the Cradle of the Deep." Mr Cornish treated the audience to "Ever of Thee," and being vociferously applauded, bowed his thanks; but we confess we were far better pleased with the manner in which he rendered "Happy be thy Dreams," and for which he was deservedly encored. Mr Cornish, however, had a decided advantage over the majority of the gentlemen, being possessed of a tolerable share of confidence and self-possession, which in itself is no mean advantage under certain circumstances. Mr Fraser had been set down in the programme for the "Death of Nelson," but gave instead "The Pilgrim of Love," a change decidedly to the advantage of the audience. The truth of our remarks as to the difficulty of hearing were most painfully borne out, whilst Mr Fraser was before the audience, but we are inclined to think the gentleman himself cannot be held quite blameless in the matter. This was sincerely to be regretted, for with somewhat more of life and animation infused into it, "The Pilgrim of Love," was without doubt, one of the best efforts of the evening. Of course we are aware that the nature of the song requires a certain amount of cadence, but certainly not to the extent of all sound becoming totally inaudible. We have heard the same ballad given by others laying claim to almost professional abilities, and—saving the defect of which we have spoken—rarely better or more feelingly given than by Mr Fraser. The difficult and beautiful duet, "The Wind and the Harp," between Mr and Mrs Connor, was decidedly the gem of the evening; and it is only those to whom the piece is known, who could properly estimate the amount of credit due for the admirable manner in which it was given, but nevertheless the hearty applause by which it was greeted, bore ample testimony to its thorough appreciation. Mr A. E. Loughman did yeoman's service in the glee, his deep bass voice being a most valuable acquisition, and in the solo in which he appeared he received his due meed of applause. Mr J. O'Connell was the only performer during the evening who was allowed to retire without receiving the usual round of applause. His name appeared to a violin solo of favorite airs, but after making his appearance, and raising expectation to the highest by the masterly manner in which he played "The Harp that once," a rebellious string—probably in imitation of Tara's harp—rudely snapped its bonds, and brought the melody to an abrupt termination. This information was conveyed to the audience, and Mr O'Connell retired, ostensibly to get a string on the instrument, but as

they waited in vain for his return, it dawned upon them that themselves and not the fiddle, had been subjected to the stringing operation. Mr Porrin, during the course of the evening recited the "Street of Bye-and-bye," and at the close of the entertainment returned thanks, as honorary Secretary, in the following original

EPILOGUE.

Our programme is ended—songs, readings, and glee—
We hope we succeeded when trying to please.
In the part he assumed we have each done his best,
And your kindness has no hint of failure expressed.
Your good-nature to us we most gratefully own,
And return sincere thanks for the favour you've shown.
But may recompense higher by far be your meed,
For the aid you have given to the cause which we plead.

There is no better task, as you certainly know,
Than to train up a child in the way he should go.
To fit him for life—him for death to prepare—
For stray where he will, all his paths must end there.

This good work you have helped, 'tis not ours to give thanks,
The reward of good works far beyond our sphere ranks.
There is One who rewards, and when giv'n in His name,
E'en a cup of cold water His blessing may claim.

THE WARD-CHAPMAN TELEGRAMS.

AFTER a most searching and patient investigation and examining a host of witnesses, the joint-committee appointed to inquire into the above matter brought up their report, which was read in the Council on the 21st. It is divided into four parts, as follows:—

(1) The Committee have taken a considerable amount of evidence, with the object of ascertaining the source through which the telegrams were communicated to the 'Daily Times.' The Committee are satisfied that the 'Times' received the telegrams from Mr Macassey, but the manner in which they came into his possession have not been satisfactorily proved. (2) The evidence taken has been of a very contradictory nature, and indeed involves a distinct question of perjury on the part of one or two persons. The Committee suggest they should be freed from the necessity of reporting to the Council the evidence taken by them, and would recommend that their reports, together with the evidence, should be transmitted to the Governor, together with an address, praying that a Royal Commission be appointed to make a full investigation into all matters connected with the inquiry; and that if necessary an Act of Parliament be passed giving extraordinary powers to such Commission to enforce the production of evidence, and that power be given it to grant an indemnity where evidence may be given by witnesses which may tend to criminate themselves. (3) That in the opinion of the Committee irregularities in the conduct of business in the Post and Telegraph Offices at Oamaru have been disclosed. (4) That, with regard to Messrs Holdsworth and Clayton, the Committee are unanimously of opinion that they have given their evidence in so straightforward and truthful a manner as to justify confidence being continued in them for the future. They, therefore, earnestly recommend the Government to overlook their past misconduct.

The Premier, in reply to a request from Mr Shepherd stated, that he was at first averse to an inquiry being held, but now that it was evident there had been direct perjury on one side or the other, it became a matter of necessity that further investigation should take place.

WHO LOVE AND WHO HATE THE CONFESSORIAL—AND WHY.

AUCKLAND.

THE Confessional is loved by Catholics and hated by the world. Like the pillar, which of old guided the people of God, to us it is all light. To the world it is all darkness. There are two things of which the world would fain rid itself: the day of judgment; and the Confessional. Of the day of judgment, because it is searching and inevitable; of the Confessional, because it is the anticipation and the witness of the judgment to come. For this cause there is no evil that the world will not say of the Confessional. It would dethrone the eternal Judge if it could; therefore it spurns at the Judge who sits on the Confessional, because he is within reach of its heel. And not only the world without the Church—but the world within its limits, the impure, the false, the proud, the lukewarm, the worldly Catholic; in a word, all who are impenitent fear and shrink from the shadow of the great white throne which falls upon them from the Confessional.—ARCHBISHOP MANNING.

N.B.—There is an Anglican Archdeacon in Auckland, Dr Maunsell, who has publicly distinguished himself of late by his hatred to the Confessional, and it is possible some of the Dunedin clergy or newspapers may show a similar hostility. To all such, Archbishop Manning's remarks are respectfully commended for consideration. It is well known that a very large portion of Anglicans, led by Archdeacon Denison, concur with Archbishop Manning in his view of the Confessional, and go to Confession even more frequently than many Catholics do. In fact a Puseyite Protestant layman is often far more of a practical Catholic than many professed Catholics themselves. Of course such a state of things cannot long last. Such Protestants must come over to Rome ere long. Whenever a Protestant begins to fast and abstain, and go to Confession, it is a clear case. His conversion to the Catholic faith is a mere question of time, or rather his reception into the Catholic Church is, for he is converted already. No mere Protestant formalist will ever fast and abstain and go to confession. He must be in earnest about religion ere he would do that.

A Calcutta despatch says that the rivers from Assam to Oude have flooded the country, causing much damage.