

conveys no censure upon Mr Allen, who, with the very limited accessories at his command, put it very fairly before the public. We are quite sure that were he to study his own interest and the public taste, he will speedily withdraw both opera and pantomime for the substitution of that high class music which was so thoroughly appreciated and so generously patronised during the last visit of the company. On the opening night the house was crowded to suffocation, owing, no doubt, to a general wish to welcome the return of so deserved and universal a favorite as Miss May; but the visible falling off in the attendance during the succeeding nights should be sufficient proof of the injudicious selection which we have referred to. This is the more apparent when it is considered that during the last visit of the company the amount of patronage bestowed was even more liberal towards the close than it had been at the commencement of the season. The charming ballad of "She wore a wreath of roses" was rendered in such a manner as to amply atone for many deficiencies in the piece, and never failed to elicit an enthusiastic *encore*. As to the pantomime, the least said the better; but, as we remarked before, no doubt Mr Allen was not a free agent in the matter, but we trust to see that the pantomime will be soon replaced by what we feel assured will be far more beneficial to the treasury, as it undoubtedly will be a source of sincere gratification to the general public. A pleasing feature in connection with the entertainment is an "Entr' Acte," edited by the indefatigable agent of the company, Mr M. L. Raphael, which is distributed gratuitously, and, possessing information both instructive and amusing, admirably serves the purpose for which it is intended. On Wednesday night, Offenbach's comic opera of "Bluebeard" was presented, and although the pantomime was withdrawn on the occasion, the omission appeared to cause anything but regret.

At the Temperance Hall the popular and well-known contributor to juvenile enjoyment, Val Vose, opened on Boxing night, and managed to secure a fair amount of patronage. He was supported by Messrs Hobbs, Price and Verten, assisted by Mr Saunders, the eminent harpist. Those who have already seen this clever ventriloquist, and witnessed his comicalities, do not require to be told of his ability, and those who have not paid him a visit should do so to form a just merit of his ability.

At the Masonic Hall, Dr. Guthrie Carr took up his quarters, and although his seances are anything but new to the Dunedin public, judging from the numbers which have attended his entertainment during the week, the doctor can have but little cause to complain of the amount of patronage accorded him.

ST. PATRICK'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL, NASEBY.

ANNUAL EXAMINATION.

THE labors of this school for the past nine months, during which time it has been under Mr H. Sproule's management, were brought to a very enjoyable close on Tuesday, 22nd ult., by the distribution of prizes, which were of a useful and instructive nature, consisting of handsomely bound books, etc. We were glad to see that the prizes were so judiciously awarded, according to the respective merits of the pupils.

The Rev. Father Royer, the president of the school, opened the proceedings by stating that, during the past week, the pupils underwent a very close examination upon the various subjects taught. He also stated that the final examination was concluded on Monday, 21st inst., in presence of many of the parents, and other friends; but regretted that, owing to the election, the number of visitors was not as numerous as probably would have been. The rev. gentlemen then read his report (which we append) upon the working of the school, and expressed great satisfaction at the result of Mr Sproule's labors. Mr de Loutour, M.P.C., having been requested to preside, and present the prizes, addressed the pupils in a few appropriate words, and particularly expressed the great pleasure it afforded him at being present on the occasion. After pointing out the great benefits afforded by a good common sense education, and the necessity for continued study, &c., referred particularly to the creditable specimens of writing, &c., displayed before him, which reflected the highest credit both on the teacher and on the taught. The writing of Misses Brooks, Donnelly, and Sproule were deservedly commended. The presentation of prizes was then proceeded with.

The successful prize takers were called in succession, beginning with the junior classes. The chairman, in a pleasing and encouraging manner, expressed his pleasure in handing them their awards. The radiant smiles that perceptibly crept with such ecstasy over the remarkably healthy, chubby-faced juveniles, as they watched the wished-for treasures, was quite amusing. The only objection to book-prizes, &c., is the difficulty and annoyance experienced in trying to please, not the children, but some of the parents. We are however satisfied that there could be no reasonable cause to grumble in this instance. The prizes, we believe were, the voluntary gift of the rev. president—Father Royer, whose indefatigable efforts in the cause of education are well known. After the distribution of prizes, Misses Catherine Millar, Elizabeth King, Mary Cogan, and Margaret Doorley, recited some very pretty pieces. We were much pleased with Miss Catherine Millar's rendering of Goldsmith's "Deserted Village."

The teacher (Mr Sproule) thanked Mr de Loutour for his attendance, and also reminded the children of their duties, &c., during the vacation.

Masters Brookes and Bleach, in true British style, summoned the ear-piercing hurrahs of their schoolfellows, and gave three hearty cheers as only boys can for their pastor, Father Royer and accorded a like compliment for Mr de Loutour, and the other visitors present.

After being liberally supplied with buns, &c., the children separated, all much pleased with the day's proceedings.

The following is the rev. president's report:—

REPORT.

The annual examination of the pupils attending the St. Patrick's

School was concluded on Tuesday. The scholars were put through exercises in all the leading subjects in which they have received instruction during the past nine months. In every case the result was of the most satisfactory nature—the pupils showing considerable advancement in the various branches of education; but more especially in the Christian doctrine—reading, arithmetic, grammar, writing, history, and geography. The Catholic portion of the pupils have a very excellent knowledge of all the leading tenets of the Christian doctrine—reading, spelling, &c., being most satisfactory. In the mathematical department, viz., elements of algebra, euclid, square root, and mensuration, the senior pupils (both boys and girls) showed accuracy in their answers, and seem to have a fair knowledge of the essential principles of this science. In grammar—parsing, construction and analysis of sentences—there was almost general correctness. The calligraphy was of a very good description. In ancient and modern history, the pupils appeared to have a sound knowledge of what they evidently studied with care. Geography appeared to be a favored study, especially among the junior classes. As to the New Zealand geography, the children familiarly pronounced the Maori names of the various rivers, mountains, lakes and bays in a manner that would really astonish the greatest linguist in the Maori idioms, and were as much at home in physical, political, and mathematical knowledge of it as if they had been residents in the Colony since its foundation. The number of scholars on the roll is sixty; the daily average attendance is fifty-four.

I cannot close this, my notice of the examination of St. Patrick's School, without expressing my entire satisfaction in witnessing the order and good management, united to the excellent proficiency, of the pupils. From what I have seen of Mr H. J. Sproule's capabilities as president of this school, I willingly on this occasion award to him my humble meed of praise. The school duties will be resumed on the 18th January, 1875.—I am, &c.,

EMANUEL ROYER,

Catholic Pastor.

'Chronicle.'

CHRISTIANITY AND LEGISLATION IN GERMANY.

I.

Effects of the New Legislation.—"Bavaria rendered the first hodman's service in the new undertaking. In that country the Ultramontane party did not always carry on the conflict with political and religious Liberalism in the mildest temper, and, in conformity with the population, many a rough term was in use in the pulpits. The Bavarian Minister Lutz brought in an exceptional law against clergymen that was greeted with joy in Prussia. On the 10th of December, 1871, the following law promulgated as paragraph 130A of the penal Code of the German Empire:—

"An ecclesiastic or other minister of religion who, in the exercise, or on occasion of the exercise of his profession, publicly before a number of persons, or who, in a church or other place intended for religious meetings, in the presence of several persons, makes the affairs of the State the subject of an announcement or exposition calculated to disturb the public peace, is punishable with imprisonment in a gaol fortress up to the term of two years."

"At the same time, of course the clergy were subject, and remained subject, to the usual penal laws against such excesses in the pulpit, as well as to the disciplinary regulations of their superiors. And on the top of this there exist the bye-laws and ordinances of local municipal authorities, some desecrating the Sabbath, some banishing religion from the schools, some rejecting the religious character of marriage, some establishing undenominational consistories for the different religious communions, and the like. Should any of these matters be treated in the pulpit in a manner not quite conformable to the spirit of the age, the clergyman who has entered on such reference can be denounced by any ill-disposed vestryman or town councillor, or even by the sexton or teacher, or by any policeman who happens to be present in the church, and the secular magistrate must proceed to the investigation of the case by examining the clergyman and the different members of the local board. Even if acquittal follows, and necessarily follows, can the influence and respect of the clergyman help suffering in the eyes of the parish, and especially if the magistrate, who may belong to another religion, deals with harshness with the affair? And, indeed, is it not left altogether to the personal likings of the magistrate whether he declare an accusation to be well founded, and whether he shall inflict punishment or not, inasmuch as the words 'disturbance of the public peace' are capable, from their vagueness, of any interpretation?"

"In Parliament there reigns unconditional freedom of speech; and out of regard, forsooth, for the views which happen to be predominant in political and legal circles, must no affair of the secular State be impartially considered by the light of God's Word in the pulpit without the constant fear of being on that account condemned by the civil tribunals for 'disturbance of the peace?' What a temptation for ecclesiastics of infirm character to become, contrary to the ordinance of the Holy Scriptures, the 'servants of men' (1 Cor. vii. 23); and, on the other hand, how probable is the danger that the community will regard the preachers not as the servants of God who proclaim His Word, but mere servants of the secular power, who, even when they exhort to loyalty and obedience, must appear to do so only by virtue of their office?"

Secular Inspection of Schools.—"Following the same tendencies, another measure was taken to break the influence of the clergy, and, in the first place, of the clergy of the Catholic Church. That Church was particularly reproached with hindering the Germanization of the population in the Polish province of Prussia, and a law was passed by the Prussian State on the 11th of March, 1872, by which the inspection of schools was everywhere, and in the case of every denomination, monopolised by the secular power. This in-