

is lying somewhere among his effects. All this is palpable "Jesuitry." But it may be, after all, that we are about to have a claim put in for the Protestantism of the Church of the middle ages. This is quite possible, since a like accusation is brought against that of the first ages of Christianity, and with quite as much show of reason.

We observe that one of our daily contemporaries thinks fit to furnish his readers with certain inanities culled from a Cologne journal respecting the Jesuits. The Holy See, it appears, has been tricked into a complete dependence upon the Order, financially, by means of Peter's Pence, and morally by the Clerical Press. It really is amazing what rubbish correspondents trying to make out a letter will seize upon to fill up the required space, for it is a "Roman correspondent" who is accountable for this incomprehensible stuff. The Jesuits have no more to do with Peter's Pence than any of the other orders or clergy of the Church. No doubt, where circumstances call upon them, they assist in its collection as other priests do, but that is simply all they have to say to it; and as to the "Clerical Press," Catholic newspapers naturally defend the Society of Jesus as they defend any other institution approved by and connected with the Church. They would be acting a most unjustifiable part were they to hear in silence the many groundless and bitter attacks made upon the order in question, or to treat in any way with disrespect a most zealous and worthy body of ecclesiastics. As to the next sinister item reported, we have been listening to it all our lives. The Order, it seems, is not what it is taken for but is interiorly demoralized. This is rather stale intelligence to publish in an European newspaper and repeat in a colonial daily. It has proved the ground-work of numerous publications that were old when the Dunedin journal that now provides this silly paragraph for its readers came into existence. The interior demoralization spoken of, however, is only apparent to enemies who judge from the outside; viewed from within, even when deserted, the Order is still spoken of with reverence and admiration. We recollect at present two testimonies to its excellence borne by men who had had opportunities of judging it familiarly, and who must be admitted to have passed impartial judgment: one is that of the Jesuit Gresset, dismissed from the Society because of his excessive addiction to literature which unfitted him for fulfilling his duties as a member of the Order, and who expressed in eloquent lines his regret at the parting, and his lasting love and veneration for the brethren he had been severed from. The other is that of the apostate, Blanco White, who, after he had professed himself a member of the Church of England, affirmed that the charges brought against the Jesuits were entirely groundless. On the other hand those works in which the Order is most loudly condemned are frequently grossly immoral, and the reprobation of their authors is most honourable to the fathers, and a powerful witness to their integrity.

### CATHOLIC SCHOOLS, THAMES.

We abridge the following from the *Thames Advertiser*:-

The annual examination and distribution of prizes at the St. Joseph's School took place on Tuesday December 18. The proceedings commenced at 10 a.m. and lasted until 1 p.m. The Rev. S. Chastagnon presided. There was a considerable attendance, but principally of the parents of the pupils. The ladies of the Convent of Mercy were also present. The room was decorated with flowers, evergreens, &c., and a stage was erected in the middle, upon which the examination &c., of the children was carried out. The children were very neatly attired, and 200 of them sitting in the gallery presented an attractive and pleasant appearance. This school is divided into two sections. The infant department was first examined. It commenced by a hymn, "Jesus, Gentle Saviour," which was very well sung by all the children. The first and third classes read very well, and acquitted themselves creditably upon the other subjects. The recitations and the singing exercises were highly creditable to the teachings of the Sisters in charge. The pupils of this department are very young, the average age is not above seven years, and still their discipline, singing, and answering reflect the highest credit on their teachers. The infants then received prizes and were dismissed.

#### SECOND SECTION.

The singing of the song "I Remember" (accompanied on the harmonium by Miss Smith) was the first item on the programme. This was admirably given. The children of the 4th class read and spelled very correctly, and answered remarkably well in useful knowledge. The third class answered very well in geography, grammar and tables. The 2nd class was examined in the geography of New Zealand, English history, and grammar. They answered readily and accurately. The 1st class was subjected to a searching examination in grammar, English history, geography of Australia and the world, principles of arithmetic, &c., and their answering was remarkably comprehensive and accurate. Then came the distribution of prizes. The children in this school were very polite and orderly, and their answering on the general subjects of ordinary education, singing, and discipline was excellent. The sympathy between the good nuns and their pupils was touching to all present. All the classes were examined by Mr. O'Donoghue.

#### ST. THOMAS'S (BOYS') SCHOOL.

The examination, exhibition, &c., of the pupils of this school began at 2 p.m. There were nearly 100 pupils present. Immediately on the Rev. S. Chastagnon taking the chair, Master Andrew R. Dunn stepped forward on the platform and read with great taste and clearness of expression an address on behalf of his young companions. The

fifth class then came forward. Their reading was good, and was audible throughout the school; and they answered very well questions on useful knowledge, and on the subject matter of what they read. The answering in spelling, tables, &c., was very good for so young a class. The 4th Class were next examined and acquitted themselves very well in the geography of New Zealand, arithmetic, tables, spelling, &c. The 2nd class next came forward and answered correctly questions on the geography of Europe, Australia, and on the history of New Zealand, Australia, as well as English history. Their parsing and analysing of simple sentences were good; they were also able to measure the distances of places on maps and to find a rough estimate of the areas of countries. The 1st class were next brought forward. They underwent an unusually severe and general examination on history, elementary chemistry, principles of arithmetic, analysis of sentences, tides, mathematics, &c. Dr. Kilgour, Rev. S. Chastagnon, and Mr. O'Donoghue each examined them. Their answering pleased every one present. Master John Dunn then recited the "Sister of Mercy." Master M. Schidler, "Bygone Schooldays;" Master A. Cornwall, "Brutus to the Romans," and all three recited well. The "Best offering to O'Connell," by Master A. Dunn, was exceedingly well recited, and the prelude, a rapid sketch of this greatest Irishman, composed by Mr. O'Donoghue, is worthy of reproduction:-

#### DANIEL O'CONNELL.

Daniel O'Connell, the hero and the liberator of Ireland, was born in 1775. He was as pure a patriot as George Washington, and a more effective orator than Demosthenes or Pericles. No nation has had his equal. He roused his long down-trodden countrymen—he made them remember that they were men; and, for the first time in the world's history, without firing a shot or taking away the life or liberty of a single fellow-creature, he smashed to pieces the rusty and blood-stained penal laws of centuries of ages. He frightened the great Wellington, the conqueror of Napoleon, and he forced from his iron grasp the emancipation of 8,000,000 of Catholics. He was a most devoted Catholic, but he would never ask a privilege of freedom or religious toleration for himself or his creed that he was not most willing the professors of every other opinion should also enjoy. He fought for the abolition of slavery more ardently than any man in Europe, and he died a martyr to freedom—a martyr to his creed and his country,—after suffering in the latter part of his career six months of the most unjust imprisonment. The great Judge Denham declared before the world that the law that made O'Connell suffer was a mockery, a delusion and a snare. He died at Genoa in 1847. He bequeathed his soul to God, his heart to Rome, and his body to Ireland.

The school reflects the result of Mr. O'Donoghue's excellent teaching. The prizes being distributed, the proceedings broke up by the pupils giving three cheers for their teacher, Mr. R. McDonald (who had made a present of a cricket ball, bats, &c.), and the Rev. S. Chastagnon.

#### THE CONVENT SUPERIOR SCHOOL.

The annual exhibition and examination of the young ladies of this school, and the distribution of prizes, took place yesterday, in the St. Joseph's school, before a very large and respectable audience. The number of pupils was about 50. They presented a neat and attractive appearance, creditable alike to the parents as well as the children. The examination was principally conducted by the children, who were themselves the examiners and the examined, varied sometimes by Mr. O'Donoghue asking a few questions. It was extremely pleasant to witness the spirit and vivacity, the readiness and the precision, of the young children in both answering and proposing the questions. Even the younger classes showed as much aptitude in this way as the senior classes. The amount of general and specific knowledge displayed by all the classes of this school, the order and politeness of the children, while it certainly pleased and often astonished the audience, unquestionably sustained the appropriateness of the title Select School, and the Thames may be congratulated upon having in its midst so excellent a school. The exhibition and examination of the children must be gratifying to all who take an interest in education. The answering and deportment of the pupils also reflect great credit on the Sisters of Mercy, and the system of teaching carried out by them. But the intellectual display was not the only attraction. Musical selections, singing, &c., were numerous, the specimens of fancy work and drawing were excellent, and in these accomplishments the children exhibited a cultivation and taste really admirable. A section of the first class was examined in Algebra, geometry, and book-keeping, and their answering was remarkably correct. Problems in geometry and equations in Algebra were solved on the black-board before the audience, who were hardly ever more surprised.

#### OAMARU.

(From a Correspondent.)

January 4, 1878.

The following Bros. were appointed at the half-yearly meeting of St. John's Branch, No. 76, H.A.C.B.S.:—Bro. Charles Kearns, President; Bro. Peter Shannon, Vice-President; Bro. Eugene McCarthy, Treasurer; Bro. Peter M. Morony, Secretary; Bro. James Dunne, Warden; Bro. John O'Rourke, Guardian; Bros. John Connelly and Thomas Sullivan, sick visitors.

I may also inform your readers that we are on the alert here to try and give the man of the Macandrew and Stout stamp a "warm reception" at the next general election. The Catholics here are preparing to have their votes registered, so as to be able to raise a dust to darken the political horizon of the enlightened secularists of the nineteenth century. I don't suppose that those godless-school supporters care much about the Catholic vote of Oamaru, but we will try all we can to use it to their disadvantage, and if the old proverb be true that the "last straw breaks the camel's back," one Catholic vote may also be the means of turning the scale, and leaving a godless secularist out in the cold. I hope my fellow Catholics throughout the length and breadth of New Zealand will prepare to give these gentlemen "a yard of their own measure," by registering their votes. "Union is strength;" let every one do his part—remembering the bundle of sticks—"United we stand, divided we fall."

THIRGIN THU?