

## WELLINGTON.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

March 28, 1878.

ON Tuesday evening, March 3rd, a musical and dramatical entertainment, under the patronage of the Hibernian Society, was held at the Marist Schools, Boulcott-street, in aid of the funds of a most deserving charity—the Convent Schools. The members of the Catholic Young Men's Dramatic Club, who have been instrumental from time to time in providing for the Catholic community many a pleasant evening's amusement, are deserving of the warmest praise for their kindness in devoting their time and abilities to the recreation of their co-religionists, and by which are brought about those pleasant reunions of the Catholics of all parts of the city, which cannot fail to be of a salutary effect; while the proceeds, often forming a handsome sum, are applied in aid of some Catholic institution. The members of the Hibernian Society, in their regalia, mustered in large numbers, and were conspicuous among the audience. The fine brass band of the Society enlivened the intervals by playing some operatic selections in splendid style. As this was the first occasion of the band appearing in public they were warmly greeted. The spacious hall was literally crowded to overflowing, many being unable to gain admittance even within the outer door. The dramatic portion of the programme—on the selection of which the club cannot be complimented—consisted of a short one act drama entitled "The Brigand and his Son," with the farce "A sudden Arrival," in both of which the characters comprising the respective *dramatis personæ* were fairly sustained, though in some respects overdone. Among the audience, the majority of whom are at least supposed to be followers of Father Hennebery, the drunken freaks of one of the characters, when unnecessarily prolonged, are not apt to be appreciated, but, on the contrary, more inclined to lead to wearisomeness and disgust. The vocal portion of the programme was very well rendered by several lady amateurs; the duet, "I Know a Bank," being especially noticeable for the harmony of the voices and the exquisite mellow tone of the younger lady. Two glees, "Now is the Month of Maying," and "Good Night, Thou Glorious Sun," by the choirs of both churches, under the leadership of Mr. Putnam, formed an attractive portion of the programme. Perhaps the most appreciable event of the evening, from being received with evident enthusiasm, was when the band struck up "Garryowen" and other gay national airs, and into the spirit of which the whole audience fully entered. Though the entertainment was got up by the members of the Dramatic Club, and who merit all due praise for their efforts, still, when assistance was volunteered in a shape which would have an enlivening effect and likely to be fully appreciated by the audience, those gentlemen should have cheerfully accepted the offer instead of rejecting it. The motto of those gentlemen getting up these popular entertainments should be "all donations thankfully received." There are several Catholic young men in the city possessed of sufficient abilities who should be members of the Dramatic Club, and thus infuse additional life into it. If new members joined the Club it would not necessitate the same persons appearing in public on each occasion, and thus afford them a rest from the drudgery of frequent rehearsals.

I perceive by a letter which appeared in the *New Zealand Times*, that Mr. Charles Bright accuses me of having made a false statement in the columns of the TABLET with respect to the lectures delivered by him some time since in Wellington. As I did not personally attend his lectures, the information which I communicated was derived from the reports contained in the local Press, and from some of those who were present. As the editor of the *New Zealand Times* states that the lectures were well attended, this portion of the information was evidently incorrect. Regarding the unpleasant proceedings, which he endeavours to convey as being of a very pleasant nature to him, and entirely satisfactory, the *Evening Post*, which is the popular organ of the Press in the Provincial District of Wellington, in the report of one of his lectures says:—"The Rev. J. Harrington stood up as the people were leaving, and said, I wished to ask at the commencement of the lecture, and I ask now whether any discussion is to be permitted (uproar). I now challenge Mr. Bright to an argument on the broad question, 'which is better calculated to promote the interests of humanity?' Mr. Bright, amid considerable uproar said, that he would have a chairman on the following night, and he would then argue anything. For a minute or two, it appeared as if the scenes at Walker's meetings would be repeated. Mr. Harrington was heard calling the meeting to witness that he had challenged discussion, and had been refused." If the report of the *Post* was not correct, why did not Mr. Bright refute it or have it corrected at the time? Evidently he must be accustomed to warm proceedings of a like nature, when he was so well pleased with the result of this lecture.

St. Patrick's Day was not celebrated here in a similar manner as last year, on account of its falling on a Sunday. Last year athletic sports were held in honour of the day, from which a nice surplus resulted, and was applied in aid of the Brothers' and Convent Schools. The only feature characteristic of the day was the profuse display of green ribbon in the costume of the Catholic ladies, and the conspicuous position which a substitute for "the dear little shamrock" found on the hat or breast of every son of the Green Isle. There was not a single individual of Irish nationality seen under the influence of drink, which shows that the labours of Father Hennebery have not been without their beneficent effect. The Irish citizens suffered a disappointment by the band of the Hibernian Society not ushering in St. Patrick's Day with appropriate music; but as the members of the society were spending the last hours of the vigil round the confessional, they could not very well appear in public afterwards. The members of the Society celebrated the festival by approaching the Blessed Sacrament at early Mass at St. Mary of the Angels.

The Catholics of New Zealand evidently need not expect much assistance in obtaining a repeal of the unjust clauses in the Education Act from Mr. Barton, the newly-elected member for Wellington. In his speech to the electors at the Theatre Royal, on the 21st instant, which, with the exception of a few short remarks on general political topics, was devoted to personal matters, Mr. Barton expressed himself in favour of a free and secular system of education. He acknowledged

that his return was in a great measure due to the support of his Catholic fellow-countrymen. He stated that he had not pledged himself to support the views of the Catholics on the question of education, for he had not been asked to do so. Mr. Barton in his speech said:—"That he thought with Mr. Sheehan, that the Roman Catholics would in the end confess that State education could only be secular. But he was not a bigot, and he would go against no man's conscience. He was open to argument and conviction, and if it was clearly proved that the consciences of Roman Catholics were violated by the present Education Act, he would not oppose a just reform."

After some unavoidable postponements from time to time, the drawing for prizes in connection with the art union, in aid of the Building Fund of the Marist Brothers' Schools, took place at the School-room, Boulcott-street, on the evening of the 28th. There were a very large number of people present. His Lordship Dr. Redwood, and the Rev. Father Yardin, were present for a part of the evening. The Rev. Father M'Guinness, who had charge of the art union, and had left nothing undone to make it a success, watched the proceedings throughout. The drawing was conducted on the usual art union principle, and gave entire satisfaction. The band of the Hibernian Society discoursed some pleasant music at intervals during the drawing. After payment of all expenses, it is calculated that a sum of about £700 will be available for reduction of the debt on the schools. The winning numbers will be published in the local newspapers, and also in the TABLET.

## THE DIVINITY OF CHRIST.

THE peroration of the first of Lacordaire's "Conferences" on Jesus Christ was as follows:—

"Our age commenced with a man who outstripped all his contemporaries, and whom we who have followed have not equalled. A conqueror, a soldier, a founder of empire, his name and his ideas are still everywhere present. After having unconsciously accomplished the work of God he disappeared, that work being done, and waned like a setting sun in the deep waters of the ocean. There upon a barren rock he loved to recall the events of his own life; and from himself going back to others who had lived before him, and to whom he had a right to compare himself, he could not fail to perceive a form greater than his own upon that illustrious stage whereon he took his place. He often contemplated it; misfortune opens the soul to illuminations which in prosperity are unseen. That form constantly rose before him—he was compelled to judge it. One evening, in the course of that long exile which expiated past faults and lighted up the road to the future, the fallen conqueror asked one of the few companions of his captivity if he could tell him what Jesus Christ really was. The soldier begged to be excused; he had been too busy during his sojourn in the world to think about the question." Thereupon, added Lacordaire, speaking from the pulpit of Notre Dame, "he [Napoleon] opening the Gospel, not with his hands, but with a heart filled by it, compared Jesus Christ with himself and all the great characters of history; developed the different characteristics which distinguished Jesus Christ from all mankind, and after uttering a torrent of eloquence which no Father of the Church would have disclaimed, ended with these words; 'In fine, I know men, and I say that Jesus Christ was not a man!' These words sum up all I would say to you on the inner life of Jesus Christ, and express the conclusion which every man arrives at who reads the Gospel with just attention." And, said the great preacher, immediately before descending that day from the pulpit of Notre Dame—"The day will come when the youngest among you will say from the experiences of life, when life is drawing to its close, 'I, too, know men, and I say that Jesus Christ was not a man.' And the day also will come when, upon the tomb of her great Captain, France will grave these words, and they will shine with more immortal lustre than the sun of the Pyramids and Austerlitz."

MONSIGNOR KIRBY, Rector of the Irish College at Rome, in a letter to the Superiores of the Presentation College, Lixnaw, County Kerry, says: "You are doubtless aware that the education of youth is now the great battle-ground selected by the powers of darkness to assail the Church of God, and this not only in Ireland, but through the entire continent of Europe, and even of America, as well as in Australia; in fact, through the entire world. But our dear Lord, who promised never to abandon His Church, is daily raising up fresh reinforcements to her cause in the form of congregations of holy men and women who consecrate all their energies to the education of His weakest members, the poor, innocent children, and it is to us a matter of pride and consolation to see the daughters of St. Patrick among the foremost to fling themselves into the breach, regardless of comforts, health, or even life itself, provided they can save some of the defenceless little ones in their faith and innocence. So you see in what a noble cause you are engaged, and what a noble crown you are preparing for yourself and your valiant little company of fellow-combatants for Christ, who have promised to fight for His cause by instructing others in the ways of his holy Commandments, that they shall shine like stars for all eternity in the kingdom of his saints."

Commenting on the honour recently conferred on Dr. Newman, by Trinity College, Oxford, the London *Spectator* remarks: "It will do the college far more honour than it can do Dr. Newman, who is far the greatest master of the English tongue now living, and perhaps the greatest writer of English prose who has ever lived. His university and parochial sermons, his 'Essay on Development,' his two stories, 'Loss and Gain,' and 'Callista'; his 'Lectures on Anglican Difficulties,' and his 'Apologia pro Vita Sua' contain more passages abounding in grace, pathos, combined force, and delicacy of touch, an vivid irony, than all the Anglican fathers from Jeremy Taylor to Thirlwall put together, and probably, if we exclude our great novelists, than any other writer of English prose."

MR. JOSEPH HALLINAN, who will be favourably remembered by many of our readers acting as foreman in the establishment of the late Mr. Walsh, South Princes-street, has now commenced business on his own account. He has set up as horseshoer and general blacksmith in Frederick-street, next the White Horse Hotel.