

ST. MARY'S SCHOOL FETE.

(Communicated to the Nelson Evening Mail.)

As stated by advertisements in the local papers the Rev. A. M. Garin invited the pupils of St. Mary's Schools to celebrate the twenty-eighth anniversary of his schools by a grand picnic at Foxhill on Wednesday, 3rd inst. It unfortunately happened that the day was rather gloomy for a picnic, but the Rev. Father Garin and Mr. Ashcroft took every precaution that in the event of the day being wet the young people should be properly sheltered. Mr. Ashcroft ran a special train, and instead of the open carriages used on such occasions, kindly supplied covered cars. The boys mustered in large numbers at the station, and at 9.30 the train started for Foxhill. It was a bright picture to see the flags of all colours flying, and happy faces beaming with joy at the expected day's pleasure. The Rev. Fathers Garin and Mahoney and Mr. Kavanagh accompanied the boys. As the train neared Foxhill Captain Edwin's warning was verified, so on their arriving at Foxhill Mr. Wainhouse, the station-master, very thoughtfully offered the use of the goods shed for the boys, and in a short time he had swings put up for the youngsters. Mr. Jervis had his carriage ready to take the little ones to his hotel where he had tents pitched for the picnic. About noon the sun made its welcome appearance, and football, rounders, and other games were started. Mr. Jervis supplied over seventy boys with tea, &c., provided the gentlemen who accompanied the boys with a sumptuous dinner, and kept his carriage running to and fro gratuitously, while Mrs. Jervis had everything arranged in grand style. This act of generosity was altogether unlooked for and quite unexpected by Father Garin. The boys visited the emus, and a local celebrity, seventy-two years of age, known as "Old Gauk," afforded plenty of fun for the youngsters by his quaint sayings and doings. A little after three the bugle sounded, and all returned to the station at Foxhill when the Rev. Father Garin addressed the boys as follows:—"My dear boys,—Although the weather is not very enticing for a picnic I am glad to see so many here to say farewell to you on this the twenty-eighth anniversary of St. Mary's schools. The majority of you are of a different persuasion from my own but I have never been less friendly on that account. Your religious principles have always been respected in your teaching, and during twenty-eight years I have never heard a single complaint of a pupil's faith being tampered with. In some books you may read that Catholics are not friendly to Protestants, but I hope from what you have seen you will be able to contradict the assertion. Many of your parents have been educated at St. Mary's, which has always held a high position with other Government schools, but unfortunately the State refuses support for denominational schools, and we are obliged to depend on the voluntary aid of the people. Under these circumstances many of you will go to other schools, but don't forget that you have been to St. Mary's, and by being truthful and honest you will become good and useful citizens. I wish you every happiness and success in your future undertakings, and though you go elsewhere for your studies I shall always be pleased to meet St. Mary's boys." The boys then gave lusty cheers for the Rev. Father Garin, Father Mahoney, Messrs. Kavanagh, Jervis, and Wainhouse. At 4.30 the train started for Nelson, where it arrived at 5.30, the boys being all pleased with their day's outing, and grateful to Father Garin for his kindness in affording them so much pleasure.

THE EDUCATION QUESTION AT LYTTTELTON.

You will be glad to hear that the Catholics of Lyttelton are determined to save their children from the danger to faith and morals inherent in the godless system of education lately established in this colony.

In union with our fellow Catholics throughout the world, we fully appreciate the importance and necessity of a thoroughly sound Catholic education for our children, and in dutiful obedience to the advice of our beloved Bishop we are resolved to make every sacrifice required for the sacred and urgent purpose.

For some time past the Rev. Father Donovan has been engaged (assisted by a number of gentlemen, who have shown that their hearts are in the right place,) in adopting means to meet the expenses required for the establishment and maintenance of a school; and, thank God, their efforts are about to be crowned with success, for in a few days we shall have an institution in which our children will not only receive secular instruction, but they will also be taught the fear and love of God; and I feel sure that the Catholics of Lyttelton will join me in sentiments of gratitude to God, and to the gentlemen who have exerted themselves so much in forwarding the great cause. This is our answer, and an emphatic one it is, to the calumny so frequently repeated by our enemies, that the majority of intelligent Catholics are in favour of secular education, and that none are advocates of purely Catholic schools except the clergy and the ignorant laity. Facts notorious to all prove that this falsehood is absolutely baseless. Everywhere throughout New Zealand Catholics whilst paying taxes, which the Government squander in endeavouring to undermine their faith, are contributing generously to the maintenance of Catholic schools where it is possible to do so.

But what do our enemies care for facts which they do not like? They ignore them, and not only that, but assert that which is not.

It is very hard upon the Catholics of New Zealand to be called upon to support schools of their own, and to be obliged to support other schools for persons wealthier than themselves. It is a hardship and the State ought not to call upon us to do it. But still, great as the hardship is, when we consider that our children receive in the Catholic schools what they cannot receive elsewhere; when we consider that our own hopes for heaven are bound up in these children, and that the education they require they can receive only in the Catholic school, and no where else, we must put up with this disadvantage and make this sacrifice among many others to gain heaven.

Surely our opponents must soon come to see that it is sheer persecution to force us to pay for what we will not have, and for what we not only abhor, because it is the fruit of injustice, and tyranny, but also because we believe it to be most injurious to the well-being of the community.

LYTTTELTONIAN.

DUNEDIN CATHOLIC YOUNG MEN'S SOCIETY.

THE usual weekly meeting of the above society was held on Friday evening last—the President being in the chair. Some merriment was created at the opening of the meeting, by a member drawing attention to the TABLET report of the previous meeting, which stated that "Bro. Dunne had resigned the position of *chairman*," a post generally occupied by the President, the word should have been *librarian*.

We regret to see that some half-dozen members, were struck off the roll, being behind hand in their subscriptions. We must, however, compliment the society on strictly enforcing its rules, even at the risk of displeasing some, as in all societies prompt action is absolutely necessary, in order to bring some members to their senses.

After the usual business was disposed of, the work of the elocution class was entered upon. Amongst the recitations, the one bearing the formidable title of "The Law" was especially good, the member being well complimented on his improved pronunciation of Latin, the Latin class apparently being capable of furnishing both subjects and critics.

A Shakesperian reading from the Merchant of Venice, act IV. scene 1., was excellently rendered by Bros. Norman, Corrigan, Harris, Dunne, and Williamson. The parts were evidently carefully studied, each member of the quintette vying with the other in making a proper rendition of his part.

At the close of the meeting it was announced that the nomination of officers for the ensuing half year would take place on the following meeting night, when all members are requested to put in an appearance.

LEO XIII. AND IRELAND.

His Eminence Cardinal Cullen and Monsignor Kirby, Rector of the Irish College, were received by His Holiness in private audience on the 1st of April. Cardinal Cullen presented the Holy Father on that occasion six addresses from Ireland—the first from the Clergy of Dublin, the second from the Catholic University of Ireland, the third from the Bishop, Clergy, and faithful of the Diocese of Ossory, the fourth from the Archbishop of Cashel and the Bishops from the province of Cashel, the fifth from the Bishop, Clergy, and faithful of Ferns; and the sixth from the Corporation of the City of Limerick. These addresses were presented to the Holy Father separately, with a few words of explanation from the Cardinal. The following letter from his Eminence to the Bishop of Limerick, written the day following, and which has just been published, will be read with interest. It shows that Leo XIII. has the same unbounded affection for Ireland that Pius IX. had:

IRISH COLLEGE, ROME, April 2nd, 1878.

MY LORD,—I had the honour of presenting at the Vatican, to his Holiness, the beautiful address to him from the Corporation of Limerick which your lordship forwarded. His Holiness received it most graciously, and admired it very much. He commissioned me to thank in his name the Mayor and all the members of the Corporation for this proof of their kindness, and for their good wishes that he may have a long and glorious career in the Chair of Peter. His Holiness is well acquainted with the state of Ireland, and it was not necessary to inform him of the old and glorious traditions of Limerick, and of the veneration and love which it has always entertained for the Holy See, as he is familiar with its history, having referred in a most feeling manner to the faith and good works of that ancient city. He desires me to say he sends his Apostolic Benediction to the Mayor and all the members of the Corporation, also to their families and friends, together with his best wishes for their spiritual and temporal welfare. As for your lordship, he told me to assure you of his great regard and sincere affection for you and your excellent Clergy, and of his desire to co-operate with you as far as possible in promoting all your undertakings for the honour and glory of God and the salvation of souls. In conclusion, allow me to add that it is impossible to describe the kindness and affection of his Holiness. He is a worthy successor of the great and glorious Pius the Ninth, and he is quite determined to walk in his footsteps. Wishing your lordship every happiness, I remain yours faithfully,

PAUL CARDINAL CULLEN.

Most Rev. Dr. Butler, Lord Bishop of Limerick.

MESSRS. THOMSON, STRANG & CO., Princes-street, Dunedin, are now selling off at a great sacrifice the goods rescued from the late fire at their cutting warehouse. Remarkable bargains of excellent goods may be thus obtained.

Melancholia, which has struck the Czar of Russia, is said to have affected every autocrat of his family after the age of fifty. The Crown Prince, who will be the next Czar, hates England.

ONE of the most remarkable mines in California Gulch is in lead three feet in thickness, the ore from which yields from 240 to 276 ounces of silver to the ton, and lies like a coal bank in a stratification of limestone, dropping about fifteen degrees. Two openings have been made at points 600 feet apart, and sufficient ore is in sight to make millions of the "dollars of our daddies." The owners have gone far enough to know that there is a full acre of the ore in one solid body, and some conception may be formed of the amazing richness of this discovery by a brief calculation of its dimensions. A cubic foot weighs 190 pounds, and, as the ore lies, twelve cubic feet make a ton. There are 53,560 square feet in an acre; and the acre of ore, being three feet in thickness, makes 160,680 cubic feet, which, with twelve cubic feet to the ton, makes 10,900 tons, worth 250 dols. per ton, the enormous value of the aggregate of 2,700,000 dols. The Crescent is another mine worked like a coal bed, the ore lying horizontally in the large room that has been opened, the roof being held up by heavy timbers with very stout caps and tugging poles. The ore breaks from a foot to three and four feet, and occasionally very fine specimens of horn silver are found.