

CONVENT SCHOOLS, WELLINGTON.

THE Convent Schools, Dixon, St. Wellington, have just been finished and reflect the highest credit on Mr. Charles O'Neil, the architect; in fact visitors consider them unsurpassed in the colony for general plan, equipment, ventilation, etc. Among the other works recently completed by Mr. O'Neil may be mentioned the Reefton Catholic Church (a model of ecclesiastical architecture), the Convent and schools at Hokitika, the interior of Wellington Cathedral, etc.

The following letter from the Catholic Building Committee has been received by Mr. O'Neill, per Mr. Cook, manager of the National Bank, Te Aro:—

Wellington, 14 June, 1879.

Charles O'Neill, Esq., J.P., C.E. Architect, etc., etc., Wellington.

Dear Sir—

At a meeting of the Committee of the Te Aro Convent Schools, held last evening, the following resolution was proposed and carried unanimously:—"That the thanks of the Committee be conveyed to Mr. O'Neill, the architect, for his attention to the requirements of the schools, which are finished to perfection."

In conveying to you the above resolution permit me to add my thanks for the kindness and urbanity I have always received and the pleasure I have experienced when meeting you on any matter connected with the above schools, and to express a hope that we may be soon engaged in another such undertaking.—I am, Dear Sir,

Yours faithfully,

JAS. COOK,
Hon. Sec.

THE NATURALIST AND HIS FATHER.

A STORY is told of Agassiz, the great naturalist, which, we believe, has never yet appeared in print:—His father destined him for a commercial life, and was impatient at his devotion to frogs, snakes and fishes. The latter, especially, were objects of the boy's attention. His vacations he spent in making journeys on foot through Europe, examining the different species of fresh-water fishes. "If you can prove to me," said his father, "that you really know anything about science, I will consent that you shall give up the career I have planned for you." Young Agassiz, in his next vacation, being then eighteen, visited England, and took with him a letter of introduction to Sir Roderick Murchison. "You have been studying nature," said the great man, bluntly. "What have you learned?" The lad was timid, not sure at that moment that he had learned anything. "I think," he said at last, "I know a little about fishes." "Very well, there will be a meeting of the Royal Society to-night. I will take you with me there. All of the great scientific savants of England belonged to this society. That evening, when the business of the meeting was over, Sir Roderick arose and said: "I have a young friend here from Switzerland, who thinks he knows something about fishes; how much, I have a fancy to try. There is, under this cloth, a perfect skeleton of a fish which existed long before man." He then gave him the precise locality in which it had been found with one or two other facts concerning it. The species to which the specimen belonged was, of course, extinct. "Can you sketch for me on the blackboard your ideas of this fish?" said Sir Roderick. Agassiz took up the chalk, hesitated a moment, and then sketched rapidly a skeleton fish. Sir Roderick held up the specimen. The portrait was correct in every bone and line. The grave old doctors burst into loud applause. "Sir," Agassiz said, on telling the story, "that was the proudest moment of my life—no, the happiest, for I knew, now, my father would consent that I should give my life to science."

THE BURNING OF NOTRE DAME UNIVERSITY.

WE (*Pilot*) cannot express our regret for the burning of the University of Notre Dame, Ind. It was a treasure to the West. Its reverend President and Professors have the sympathy of the Catholics of the United States, and of more than the Catholics. The University of Notre Dame was founded by Very Rev. Father Sorin, Superior-General of the Congregation of the Holy Cross, and was, perhaps, the most flourishing Catholic educational institution in the United States, the usual attendance of students being from 500 to 700, from all parts of the United States, and many of them from foreign countries. It was rich in its libraries, zoological, ornithological, etymological, and other collections, as well as rare gifts from patrons and good-wishers. One of these last was a telescope from the late Napoleon III., presented when he was Emperor of France. The corner-stone of the college building was laid on the 28th day of August, 1842. The school has been suspended until September, when it is expected another College building will be ready for the students. We have received a proof-sheet of the admirable little College paper *The Scholastic*, which says:—

"If every reader of the *Ave Maria*, and friend of Notre Dame were to contribute even one dollar for this purpose, the result would be a very handsome sum, and an important as well as much-needed assistance to make Notre Dame what it was."

This suggestion is one that ought to be acted on. Every little helps; and, if the wide-spread friends of Notre Dame will act on the first warm impulse, they will give good help by giving in time, and inspiring courage in those who must bear the burden of rebuilding the College.

Very Rev. Father Ignatius Legerer, of the Order of Mercy, is engaged in the most laudable work of extending the means and consequent usefulness of the great charity he has undertaken—an institution for the care and shelter of disabled priests, at Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

PROFESSOR GUSSCOTT,
THE GREAT AMERICAN HERBALIST,

Has now removed to Christchurch, where he may be consulted daily from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Address—Tully's Buildings, opposite Laurie's Timber Merchant, Christchurch.

The undermentioned testimonials will suffice to prove the efficacy of his treatment.

Woolston, May 14th, 1879.

To Professor Gusscott.

Sir,—I have been suffering from nervous debility for ten years, and have tried all the medical skill I could get in Christchurch, and other physicians in the old country. I have never been able to sleep or eat, but since being under the treatment of Professor Gusscott for such a short time, I have received wonderful relief, and persons in Christchurch who have known me for years can certify that I am quite a new man; and it appears to me extraordinary how Mr. Gusscott can effect such wonders. I can safely recommend any person suffering in the same way as I have been to place themselves under his herbal treatment. I write this for Mr. Gusscott to do or publish this as he pleases.

FREDEBRICK JOHNS.

(Signed) In the presence of

Mr. Mumford,
Shopkeeper, Manchester street South,
Mr. J. Heslop,
Painter and Paperhanger, Manchester street South.

Tuam Street, Christchurch,

April 28th, 1879.

To Professor Gusscott,

Sir,—I have been troubled with Liver Complaint these last six years, many times being not able to attend to work. I have tried everything in the shape of patent medicines. I have been an outdoor patient in the Hospital; I got at times temporary relief. I could not sleep on my left side; I kept rolling about backwards and forwards in bed. When I got up in the morning, I would rather be in bed, but work I had to attend to. When I had eaten a light meal I found it always lodged in my stomach. Always costive, a great palpitation, pains across the chest, more particularly under the left breast, always a violent pain between the shoulders, felt just the same as if any one was pouring water down my back, feet always cold. Happened to get one of your bills when you came to St. Asaph Street, which explained to me all my symptoms I was labouring under. When I applied to you, you told me all my symptoms and guaranteed a perfect cure, which, I am happy to say you have done through your herbal treatment. I should recommend those troubled with Liver Complaint to place themselves under your treatment.

I am, Sir,

Truly thankful,

WILLIAM MANSON

To Professor Gusscott,

Sir,—I have been troubled with Dysentery for the last three months, so much so that I was perfectly exhausted, the linings of my intestines peeled away in flakes. I tried every remedy that I could hear of, but to no purpose. Hearing that you were in Christchurch, and seeing the many wonderful cures, induced me to place myself under your treatment, and I am happy to say in one week I am free from the diarrhoea, and gaining strength from your herbal treatment.

I am, yours respectfully,

ELLEN BROWN.

I give you this testimonial for the benefit of others as I know there are a great many others suffering from the same complaint in Christchurch.

Borough Hotel,
Manchester street, Christchurch,
April 21st, 1879.

To Professor Gusscott,

SIR,—I have been troubled with Sciatica and Rheumatism since the commencement of the West Coast diggings in 1864, where I had to leave through medical advice, and went to Melbourne, thence to Sydney, and then I thought I would try the tropical climate of Queensland, and found only temporary relief. I came to Christchurch and tried doctors of the best medical repute, and got no better. Thinking that it was useless to go any further, I gave up all hopes of being restored; I could hardly walk, and staying at an old friend's, he advised me to consult you, and I am happy to say I am in as perfect health as I was in 1864, when I crossed the ranges to the West Coast. I was only ten days under your treatment.

JOHN O'BRIEN.

To Professor Gusscott,

George street,

Dunedin.

Dear Sir,—I have been under medical men in Tuapeka for eighteen months, and have been treated by the doctors for indigestion, but found no relief. I was advised to come to Dunedin for change of climate, and was advised to call on you. When I did so, you seemed to be acquainted with my complaint, for you were able to explain to me all the symptoms. I am happy to inform you that after three weeks of your herbal treatment I am restored to perfect health.

I am, yours truly,

MRS. ELIZABETH WATTERS.