

Correspondence.

We are not responsible for the opinions of our correspondents.

AN APPEAL FROM IRELAND FROM THE PRESENTATION NUNS AND 500 LITTLE DESTITUTE GIRLS.

TO THE EDITOR N. Z. TABLET.

SIR,—I beg to acknowledge the following additional subscriptions since the 5th inst. :—

Rev. Mother Prioress—St. Dominick's Priory, Dunedin, 20s; Peter O'Malley, 20s; Charles O'Malley, jun., 20s; Pat. O'Malley, jun., 10s; John M'Donnell, 10s; John Mullins, 10s; A. J. Adams, 10s; Thos. Barron, 2s 6d; Neil M'Cauley, 2s 6d; Pat. Egan, 2s 6d; Miss Bourke, 2s 6d; Joseph Keany, 5s.

E. O'CONNOR, Christchurch.

December 15th, 1879.

Telegrams.

(REUTER'S SPECIAL.)

LONDON, December 12th.

It is denied that the Empress Eugenie will go to Zululand. The subscription to the New Zealand loan amounted to £12,000,000. Allotments equal to 40 per cent. of the subscription will be made at five-eighths premium.

December 13th.

The *Times* publishes a paragraph to the effect that the trial of the Irishmen for sedition will be abandoned. Killen has been admitted to bail.

PARIS, December 12th.

There is great distress in France. The Senate and Chamber of Deputies voted 5,000,000 francs for the relief of the sufferers.

St. PETERSBURG, December 13th.

Arrests continue to be made in Russia in connection with the late attempt on the life of the Emperor, including one who had in his possession a plan to enter the palace.

CALCUTTA, December 12th.

The Viceroy, on his arrival to-day, was twice fired at, but escaped unhurt. The would-be assassin was arrested, and proved to be a drunken native. The matter has no political significance.

General Macpherson attacked and dispersed a force of the enemy, who had captured British supplies.

Latest news from Cabul states that the British troops were attacked by Afghans south of Bala Hissar. The enemy were repulsed.

General Roberts reports the coalition of the tribes to a great extent.

The British loss through the late engagements was 43 killed and wounded.

December 14th.

After an engagement, the Kohistans retired to the heights. General Macpherson renewed the attack unsuccessfully on the 12th. General Baker subsequently joined him, and their united attack was completely successful in destroying the enemy.

December 15th.

The Afghan losses were enormous. The British loss was 119. General Roberts telegraphs that he intends to reattack unless the enemy disperse.

Latest news states that the Afghans concentrated and advanced in great force, and that there is continuous fighting on all sides of Cabul. General Roberts was compelled to summon reinforcements from Gundamak and Jellalabad.

LONDON, December 13th.

Later Cape news states that Moriosi has been killed and his strongholds captured.

(SPECIAL TO THE MELBOURNE ARGUS.)

LONDON, December 15th.

The Afghans have been totally defeated with heavy loss by the British. Sixteen officers and 600 men were killed and wounded.

Persia is sending a mission to the European Powers to protest against the threatened Russian violation of territory at Attruck.

Floods in Hungary still continue. Several villages have been destroyed, and 10,000 persons rendered homeless. Hundreds are missing. The troops are assisting.

An unrivalled opportunity is offered to parties desirous of obtaining first-class land on moderate terms, and well situated. Particulars will be found in the advertisement of Mr. Fulton, which we publish in another column.

The N. Z. Loan and Mercantile Agency Company will be found liberal in their advances on all kinds of colonial produce. Their manner of dealing cannot fail to give satisfaction.

Messrs. A. R. Kelsey and Co. are about to open a pianoforte and music warehouse, in Prince's street, Dunedin. Their experience in the trade insures the carrying on of their business with the greatest advantage to their patrons.

We desire to call the attention of our readers to the advertisement of Messrs. McLeod Bros., celebrated soap and candle manufacturers of Cumberland and Castle streets, Dunedin, which will be found in another column.

Rev. James B. White, of Raleigh, N.C., has, during the past eleven years, received three hundred and twenty converts into the Church, including Dr. B. F. Cobb, of Hickory, his wife and fourteen children.—*Catholic Universe.*

Commercial.

THE LABOUR MARKET—DEC. 18, 1879.

MR. SKENE reports continued quietness in the demand for labour. Nothing stirring need be looked for until the Christmas and New Year Holidays are over. Notwithstanding all the complaints, it is still difficult to get skilled ploughmen, shepherds, and milkers. Couples and good useful girls are in fair demand. The building trade is promising to revive after the New Year. Hotel people are now in better demand, and professionals are in better favor. Wages have not varied since last week, but for good hands, fair wages can easily be got.

PRODUCE MARKET—DEC. 18, 1879.

Mr. J. Fleming reports for the week ending Dec. 10, 1879 :— Wholesale prices, oats, 1s 9d to 2s per bushel; milling wheat, 4s 9d to 5s per bushel; chicks, 3s 6d to 3s 9d; barley, malting, 5s 6d per bushel; feed, 3s to 3s 6d; pollard, £5 0s per ton; bran, £4 10s per ton; flour, £11 10s to £12 per ton; oatmeal, £12 per ton; potatoes, £6 10s to £7 per ton; hay, £4 per ton; chaff, £4 to £4 5s per ton; straw, £2s 5s per ton; onions, 25s per cwt.; new kidney potatoes, 16s per cwt.; round potatoes, 12s.

DOMINICAN CONVENT HIGH SCHOOL, DUNEDIN.

THE annual concert and distribution of prizes took place at this school yesterday, in the presence of his Lordship the Bishop of the Diocese, the rev. clergy of Dunedin, and several of the lady friends and relations of the pupils. The Bishop distributed the prizes, many of which were very handsome, and crowned the young lady, accorded by the votes of her schoolmates this reward of amiability and good conduct throughout the year. Some maps executed in the most finished style possible by the pupils were exhibited, amongst which the Empire of Alexander seemed to hold a principal place, but all were done with such neatness, exactness, and finish that it was impossible to select any one as better than another. Drawings in sepia and water colours were also presented for the judgment of the visitors, and pronounced most excellent. There were also a quantity of flowers in French and rice paper, and wax, exquisitely made and arranged in bouquets with great taste. A basket full of dahlias seemed to have been filled from the garden, and roses, fuschias, &c., were perfect. In particular we noticed a narcissus in which a bee might have been tempted to seek for honey so natural did it seem. There was also a vast collection of magnificent fancy work, amongst which we considered the following especially beautiful: Crewel work, Miss M. White, a junior pupil: silk embroidery, Misses Elder, Stock, Maude Wilkins, and C. White. A cushion, on which was embroidered a branch of mountain ash, leaves and berries of the natural colours, on a ground of black satin, by Miss Quinn, a most artistic work. Pole-screens in raised work, Misses Bonnington and Morkane. Chair grounded in beads, Miss Stephenson. Lace work, Misses Proctor, Pritchard, and F. Jones. An exquisite piece of point lace, by Miss Proctor, took the prize in this department.

The following programme was performed :—Pianoforte duet, "Memories of Home," played by eight young ladies simultaneously on four instruments. The performers were members of the junior classes, and the manner in which they acquitted themselves spoke highly of the care bestowed upon their instruction. French recitation, scene from Corneille's "Polyeucte"; this dialogue was very well given by two of the advanced pupils, who spoke it fluently and with intelligence. Pianoforte duet, "Lucrezia Borgia," simultaneously on four instruments by eight of the junior pupils; a very creditable performance. Cantata, "Mountain Maidens," part first "Sunrise." This cantata was divided into three parts, each of which was given; but, as will be seen further on, at different intervals. We may say here, however, once for all, that it was very sweetly rendered and with much correctness and expression by the three young ladies who took part in it, and each of whom possesses a voice of remarkably good quality. The ease with which the high notes were produced, and the total absence of any approach to straining or undue effort, as well as the clearness of the more rapid movements, testified to the skill shown in the cultivation of the vocal powers of the songstresses. Caprice, "Glittering Spray," performed simultaneously on four pianos, with marvellous precision in the time, by junior pupils. Italian recitation, Petrarch's "Canzone alla S. S. Vergine," given with good emphasis and attention to correct accent. Pianoforte duet, "Zauberflöte," simultaneously by eight performers, with excellent success. Vocal duet, "Mira O Norma," a sweet and highly-finished rendition. Pianoforte solo, "Over the Sea," an extremely brilliant performance, creditable alike to the talent and perseverance of the pupil, and the teaching powers of the instructress. Pianoforte duet, "Souvenir de la Madeleine," simultaneously by eight performers, with remarkable exactness in difficult tune. German recitation scene from Schiller's "Jungfrau von Orleans," by four young ladies, fluently and with very good effect. Cantata, part second, "Noon," as already described. Pianoforte duet, "Les Huguenots," simultaneously by eight performers, with brilliancy and precision. Vocal trio, "La Contessa," very beautifully sung, and with exquisite expression of the playfulness of certain passages. Grand duo concertant, "Guillamme Tell," a very fine performance by two of the advanced pupils, who did the music ample justice and well supported the character of the school. Cantata, part third, "Sunset," as already described. Fantasia, "Victoria"; this is a difficult arrangement of "God save the Queen," and was performed simultaneously by four young ladies on separate instruments with extreme brilliancy. With this the concert terminated, and we may honestly congratulate the Dominican Sisters on the distinguished testimony borne by the whole performance to the success of their year of labour. Not only did their pupils give striking evidence of the very highest class of instruc-