

ing the Holy Sacrifice, and the quiet and orderly manner in which one and all approached the Communion rails were most edifying, and the cause of very favourable comment by those who witnessed them. One Protestant gentleman of culture, who has been a frequenter of Catholic Churches in the Old Country, and all through the Australian Colonies, during the last quarter of a century, was heard to say that he never witnessed such order and discipline amongst children, and regretted that such a sight was not seen by his Protestant friends. The Rev. Father Ginaty, with his usual consideration for little ones, provided the communicants with a sumptuous breakfast. He too felt happy and properly so, for as all fathers rejoice at seeing their children happy, so did he, being their spiritual father, at seeing so many innocent faces around him. After breakfast the children were let play in the school ground, and spent the time till near 2 o'clock in innocent amusements.

Two o'clock found the children again in the Church, in order to renew their baptismal vows. The Rev. Father Devoy, for the second time that day addressed them, taking for his text: "I will make with you an eternal alliance." He reminded them of the promise made by their sponsors at baptism, and traced minutely their progress from then to the present time, when, having sense and reason capable of understanding the instructions necessary, before knowing well the Catholic Faith, they were about being called upon to seal that promise by their own words in the presence of our Lord. After a long and instructive sermon, he, assisted by the Rev. Fathers Ginaty and Gruenholz, led the children to the foot of the altar, where they repeated the words usually said on this occasion. A similar order to that carried out in the morning was observed.

This memorable event concluded with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, the children chanting the usual hymns, after which they were dismissed to their homes, evidently happy in soul and body.

In the evening there was devotion, at which the greater portion of the parish was present. A sermon of the Rev. Father Ginaty on the humility of the Blessed Virgin, was followed by Benediction. A considerable addition to the ranks of the Children of Mary was made during the day, as could be observed by the large attendance of members at the evening devotion. "The Guard of Honour" was also well represented. I believe the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, 1879, will long be remembered in Christchurch, and with God's help will, owing to the becoming manner in which it was celebrated, draw down blessings on this already favoured parish of Christchurch.

Before closing, permit me to say that the children's annual school treat takes place on St. Stephen's Day, 26th inst., at the Racecourse. A more suitable place could not be secured in all Canterbury, the trains run to the ground. The committee consider themselves very fortunate, and desire to tender their best thanks to the Canterbury Jockey Club.

Provision has been made to take parents and others who may care to accompany the children, so that an opportunity is given to partake of a grand Catholic excursion. It is expected that young and old will meet at the church on the morning of that day about 10 a.m., where a procession will be formed *en route* to the railway. The brass band of the H.A.C.B. Society will accompany the excursionists.

COLLEGE OF ST. ALOYSIUS, WAIKARI.

ON Friday last the first annual breaking-up and distribution of prizes took place at the Jesuits' College, at Waikari, near Dunedin. His Lordship the Bishop of the Diocese distributed the prizes, and there were also present the rev. clergy of Dunedin, and several ladies and gentlemen. Drawings, maps, and specimens of handwriting executed by the pupils were exhibited, and deservedly gained much approbation. The writing was especially neat and regular, and some of the maps could hardly be surpassed. The following programme was gone through with: "See our oars with feathered spray," glee, sung with correctness and taste by the pupils, accompanied on the pianoforte by Mr. Waud, organist of St. Joseph's Church, Dunedin, who is also teacher of instrumental music at the College. Spelling, by Masters A. White and D. McCarthy, who were examined by the Rev. Father O'Malley, S.J. "Isle of the Sea," pianoforte duet, by Masters E. Lee and B. Barker, a very creditable performance. English and Latin grammar, by Master McGuinness, who answered with promptitude and correctness the questions put to him. "A terrible situation, reading by Master A. White, with good emphasis and clearly. Pianoforte solo, "O chide not my heart," very nicely played by Master B. Barker. Geography of Ireland, an exercise on the map which displayed most accurate knowledge of the subject by the pupils taking part in it (Master A. White and J. McGuinness). "Come let us all go Maying," an extremely pretty round sung with much spirit by the pupils. Mr. Waud accompanying them. Geography of Europe, by Master J. Weavers and J. McGuinness, who evinced a perfect acquaintanceship with their subject. "Wreck of the Hesperus," recitation by Master McCarthy, given with good expression and fluency. Phonography, by Masters W. Hanning and J. Weavers; this was an examination in the art of short-hand writing, in which the pupils displayed much proficiency. Chorus, "To all you ladies now on land," very pleasantly sung by the pupils to Mr. Waud's accompaniment. Recitation, "An order for a picture," by Master B. Barker, who recited with feeling, clearness, and fluency. Pianoforte solo, "Jenny of the Mill," played with correctness and expression by Master W. Hanning. Problem, by Master G. Weavers; this was a question relative to the scores gained in a certain match by a number of cricketers, it involved difficult working in fractions, and was correctly solved by the pupil. Pianoforte solo, "Sweet Brier," very nicely given by Master E. Lee. Recitation, "The King and the Miller of Mansfield," by Masters D. McCarthy and J. McGuinness, remarkably well given. The "Music Board," by Master McGuinness and McCarthy, also an examination in the rules for singing at sight, for composition, harmony, &c., which proved the excellence of the manner in which the pupils are being grounded. French reading, a scene from Molières "Le medecin malgré lui," by Master W. Hanning, who read

fluently and with such expression as showed that he understood and appreciated the meaning and wit of the scene represented. "Le Vieux Ramponneau," a French round, sung capitably by the pupils to Mr. Waud's accompaniment. "The Geography of Cæsar," by Masters J. and G. Weavers; this examination was conducted with the aid of the map to which one of the pupils pointed, while the other translated from the Latin; in this way the divisions of Gaul and the topography of Britain were gone through without an error. "A Stratagem," from 5th book of the same author, was translated by Master B. Barker, and Master W. Ahern rendered the difficult passage describing the position of the bridge upon the Rhine, without a fault or so much as a hesitation. A passage from the seventh book of the author, which as yet had not been begun by the pupils was then selected by the Bishop, and construed with wonderful correctness by Masters W. Hanning and E. Lee. Then followed a humorous reading, "The Art Critic," by Master J. Weavers, who gave it very well, and the chorus, "Christmas," concluded the list. On the conclusion the Rev. Father O'Malley, in requesting the Bishop to distribute the prizes, said that during the first year of their College the attendance had been small, but there was one thing that made him pleased at this: it had afforded an opportunity for establishing on a firm basis a proper spirit of study as the characteristic of the establishment. The conduct of the boys had been excellent, and in a great degree, he might say, this was due to the good example set them by W. Hanning and E. Lee, the most advanced of the pupils. The rev. gentleman then alluded to the studies that had been carried on, and said he had determined on teaching phonography, since he found it so highly recommended by many eminent men, and as an art likely to be of use to any of those who might have much writing to do. He also pointed to the drawings executed by the pupils, and to some of the maps which had been enlarged by them from originals of smaller size. They had challenged two of the Melbourne Colleges to compete with their pupils in mapping, but the challenge had not been accepted. The Bishop prefaced the distribution of the prizes by a few remarks to the following effect. He said the improvement manifest had been excellent, reading, geography, spelling, everything was very good; but the progress in French and Latin was astonishing. The College had only been established one year, and all that was witnessed was the fruit of one year's work only. He might truly say in one year the boys had done more than it was the habit of boys to do in two years. He had had considerable experience of student life, Besides his early home studies he had been away from home engaged in regular studying for thirteen years, and ever since he had had experience of schools and colleges, and he had never seen anything before like the work done by the boys here. With the exception of one boy who had previously learned a little Latin grammar, and of one who had learned a little French grammar, none of them had a year ago commenced either Latin or French, and now they were advanced in both languages, and in Latin some of them could even construe with correctness passages unprepared from a difficult author. He thought it was right he should say this. It not only spoke well for the boys, and showed their docility and industry, and their good mental powers, but it also testified to the ability and application of their teachers. The good Fathers had laboured zealously, and their pupils were bound to show they appreciated their labours, as indeed they had shown. It was a great advantage to have such an institution within reach, and there was no doubt that those who profited by it would find themselves advanced in an incredibly short time beyond all expectations. His lordship had great pleasure in congratulating the Rev. Father O'Malley on the success of the year, which was amply borne evi- dence to by all that had been witnessed. The Bishop then dismissed the boys until February 3rd. We append the

PRIZE LIST.

English.—Grammar and composition, Wm. Ahern; reading and declamation, Benj. Barker, 1; Jas. McGuinness, 2; geography, Geo. Weavers, Jas. McGuinness, Alfred White; map drawing, W. Hanning, Edmund Lee, Dan. McCarthy, Jas. McGuinness; book-keeping, Ed. Lee, Geo. Weavers; arithmetic, Wm. Hanning, Geo. Weavers, James McGuinness, Alf. White; spelling and English exercises, Alf. White.

French.—French grammar, Wm. Hanning.

Latin.—Cæsar and Latin grammar, Wm. Hanning; Latin grammar, Geo. Weavers, Jas. McGuinness.

Drawing.—Excellence, Benj. Barker, 1; Ed. Lee, 2; improvement, W. Hanning, Dan. McCarthy.

Singing.—Excellence, Ed. Lee; improvement, Jas. McGuinness.

Writing.—Excellence, B. Barker, J. McGuinness; improvement, W. Hanning, D. McCarthy.

Phonography.—W. Hanning.

Piano.—Excellence, W. Hanning; improvement, E. Lee.

Christian Doctrine.—Wm. Ahern, Jas. McGuinness.

Good conduct.—W. Hanning.

Mr. T. Black, late of Messrs. G. and T. Young's, is about to open an establishment as watchmaker and jeweller. Mr. Black has made arrangements by which his stock will be constantly replenished from the best European markets, and in addition he is himself a thoroughly skilled workman, in every branch connected with his trade.

The annual gathering of the Caledonian Society of Otago will be held at their grounds, Dunedin, on Jan. 1st, 2nd, and 3rd. £580 will be given in prizes, and the sports will be as usual of great interest, and maintained with all the spirit for which the society is remarkable. Everything will be done to insure the enjoyment of visitors.

Almost within a stone's throw of St. Mary Major in Rome were three churches of which not a trace has been left, save in the case of San Antonio Abato, part of which was preserved on account of its valuable frescoes, but the church, as a building for divine service, has utterly disappeared. The church and convent of San Giuliano, wherein the nun of Minsk, Madm. Macrina, dwelt when in Rome, and wherein she died, has been demolished, and that completely. The church and convent of the Franciscan Nuns of the Purification has been also demolished. The Municipality of Rome sold the convent to an American named Field, who has built a splendid house on the ruins of the church and convent.