

lordship and the rev. clergy presided, and there was a good attendance of ladies and gentlemen. A sacred hymn, "Jubilantes," was cleverly sung in parts by the pupils, with accompaniment on the harmonium by Miss Graham. After which several select pieces of music, solos, and duets were performed on several pianos with great taste and skill, testifying highly to the proficiency in music. The "Marche aux Flambeaux" especially, a duet played on four pianos by the Misses Graham, Goulter, McDonald, Redwood, Chapman, Worthington, Bonnington, and Scully, was highly applauded. Next followed the presentation to his lordship of an album, bordered with an exquisite piece of lace, three yards in length, and more than one yard in depth, the work of the young ladies. An address of presentation was read by Miss Redwood. The school-room was decorated with drawings, paintings, and illuminations, the work of the pupils, and a table covered with specimens of their needlework and flower-making occupied the centre of the school-room. There were also piles of exercise books, which were highly admired for their neatness and correctness; also a quantity of maps, which bore witness to their geographical knowledge, for the pupils are required to draw from memory the maps of every country which they study. An excellent map of the two Americas, drawn from memory at the examination, was to be seen on the blackboard. The botany books, containing specimens of dry flowers and their organs, collected by the young ladies, and classified as illustrating notes of the lessons they received, were especially interesting. All these were handed round for inspection.

The prizes were then distributed as shown in the accompanying list:—

**FIRST CLASS.**—Prizes: Good conduct and politeness, Miss Graham; uniform amiability of conduct, Miss B. Redwood; Christian doctrine, Miss A. Scully 1st, Miss A. Cimino 2nd; His Lordship's prize (£5) for composition, history, and geography, Miss Graham; 2nd prize for composition, Miss A. Goulter; 3rd prize for composition and history, Miss Scully; 1st prize for recitation, Miss Scully; history, Miss A. Goulter; 2nd prize for geography, Miss A. Scully; grammar, Miss A. Cimino (1st division), Miss B. Redwood (2nd division); arithmetic, Miss A. Cimino, Miss M. Sheridan (2nd division); special subjects, Miss A. Goulter 1st, Miss E. Grace 2nd; writing, Miss Graham; Scripture history, Miss E. Grace; pianoforte, Miss A. Graham 1st, Miss M. McDonald 2nd; drawing, Miss A. Goulter 1st, Miss Cimino 2nd; needlework, Miss E. Worthington; French language, Miss A. Goulter; German language, Miss B. Redwood; German recitation, Miss J. Bonnington; order, Miss E. Worthington; application, Miss Kane; paper flower-making, Miss A. Goulter.

**ACCESSITS.**—Christian Doctrine, 1st, M. Ahern; 2nd, A. Goulter; 3rd, — Tabor. Composition, 1st, M. E. Grace; 2nd, B. Redwood; 3rd, F. Tabor. History, 1st, A. Scully; geography, A. Goulter, A. Cimino. Grammar, A. Scully; arithmetic, Miss A. McDonald; special subjects, 1st, A. Graham, — Tabor; Scripture history, A. Graham; pianoforte, F. Bonnington; drawing, A. Graham; German language, E. Worthington.

**SECOND CLASS.**—Prizes: Christian Doctrine, 1st Miss E. Grace; 2nd, Miss M. Burns. Scripture history, Miss M. Grace; English history, Miss N. Ahern; geography, Miss J. Mitchell; grammar, Miss J. Bonnington; writing, Miss A. Connell; arithmetic, Miss Koch; recitation, 1st, Miss M. Grace; 2nd, Miss Saunders. Composition, Miss Mitchell; map drawing, Miss Brassey; order, Miss Compton; needlework, Miss Brassey; French, Miss E. Tabor; regular attendance, Miss B. Cimino; general improvement, Miss K. Frankel; music, Miss A. Chapman; application to study, Miss M. Ross.

**ACCESSITS.**—Christian doctrine, 1st, Miss J. Bonnington; 2nd, Miss M. Grace. Scripture history, Miss M. Ross; English history, Miss M. Grace; geography, Miss A. Compton; grammar, Miss A. Saunders; French, Miss A. Cimino.

**THIRD CLASS.**—Prizes: Good conduct and politeness, Miss Boardness; Christian doctrine, Miss Truman; Scripture history, Miss B. Cimino; English history, Miss M. Ahern; grammar, Miss E. Maguire; geography, Miss A. Luckie; writing, Miss Y. Grey; recitation, Miss B. Cimino; needlework, Miss A. Chapman; regular attendance, Miss M. Ahern; arithmetic, Miss K. Boardman; French, Miss B. Redwood; music, Miss E. Maguire; general improvement, Miss A. Tabor.

**FOURTH CLASS.**—Prizes: Christian doctrine, Miss McCaffery; reading and spelling, 1st, Miss H. Pezzi; 2nd, Miss M. Grey; writing, Miss L. Maguire; spelling, Miss F. Tabor; general improvement, Miss E. Fitzgerald and Miss O'Neal; regular attendance, Miss J. Maginnity; recitation, Miss McCaffery.

His Lordship's prize, which consisted of a handsome clock and an exquisite little work-box, was awarded for English Composition, Geography, and History. The young competitors for that honourable premium were required to write without the aid of books of reference, and without previous announcement of the subject a composition, the matter of which was an abstract of French history from the outbreak of the great French revolution to the downfall of Napoleon. It was gratifying to listen to the applause which the bearers of the prizes for good conduct and amiability and his Lordship's prize received from their companions as their names were read aloud, a proof of the merit of the recipients and the good spirit that exists in the school. A very pretty ceremony followed the distribution of prizes. This was the "crowning of the most amiable," or the placing wreaths of flowers, emblematic of the good-will of their companions, on the heads of those who had been chosen by ballot in the different classes as deserving of the honour. The three young ladies thus favoured were Miss Graham in the first class, Miss Maud Grace in the second, and Miss Margaret Ahern in the third. His Lordship then addressed the children in terms expressive of his affectionate solicitude for their welfare. He began by thanking them for the handsome specimen of their needlework with which they had presented him, and which he valued both as a proof of their skill and a token of their sentiments towards himself. He offered them his warmest congratulations on the unparalleled success which had attended all their efforts in their various exhibitions during the past week, and assured them of the pleasure it had been to him to superintend their examinations and

test the great progress they had made during the year in every branch of their studies, which had gained for the school the reputation for pre-eminence which it deservedly enjoyed. He said it was a true pleasure to him to own that this was due to the able tuition which they received, which, he could say with pride and without any fear of flattery, was second to none in New Zealand. (Hear, hear.) He knew that the large audiences that had assisted at their beautiful dramatic entertainments had been highly delighted and surprised at such a splendid display of their abilities. Those entertainments, he said, had been for him a real intellectual treat. (Hear, hear.) He could also say with pride and without flattery that they might honourably compete in such exhibitions with the highest schools in Europe. Indeed, he had always found that the children of New Zealand, and of Wellington in particular, occupied a very distinguished place for talent and industry when compared with those of older countries. He attributed this to the genial climate of the country, which contributed to the early development of their intellect and frame. He felt confident that the pupils of the Convent School, Wellington, by joining religion to the cultivation of the mind and heart, would assist to a great degree in the laudable work of raising up a great race in this land, and thus help to make the colony a great nation, not only in wealth but in culture and the exercise of Christian virtue. He spoke of the approaching vacation, of the delights embodied in the sweet word "Home"—of the joys of the reality, "Home"—congratulated the children on the arrival of the day which would restore them once more to their loved family circles, and bade them to be as rays of sunshine carrying brightness and joy into their homesteads. He wished them a merry Christmas and a happy new year, announced that the school will re-open on the 26th of January, when he hoped all would return full of spirit and courage to study well and begin another honourable contest for excellence, which he hoped might have as happy and successful a termination as that which they witnessed that morning. When his Lordship had concluded, Mr. C. C. Graham rose, and, in a short speech, returned thanks to the Sisters, in the name of the parents of the children, for the care and attention which the latter received at their hands. He spoke of the high standard of education established in the school, bestowed very great praise on the specimens of needlework, painting, and drawing inspected by the company, particularly on the numerous exercise books, which he considered unrivalled for their neatness and accuracy, and the best proof that could be given of the excellent tuition bestowed by the Sisters. He was surprised beyond measure at the progress made by the young ladies during the past year. He had had the pleasure of being present at the entertainment on Tuesday evening, and the fluency with which the young ladies had spoken the French and German languages had utterly astonished him. The tone and expression in which they had recited proved that they must have understood perfectly every word they uttered. He considered that the rapid progress of the pupils spoke most highly for the excellence of the method of teaching pursued by the Sisters, and which entitled the school to a pre-eminent rank among establishments of the kind. He again thanked the Sisters for their efforts on behalf of their pupils, and congratulated them on the success which attended their efforts.

The hymn "God Bless the Pope" was sung by the young ladies, and the company withdrew.

## TALMAGE IN DUBLIN.

From the *Dublin Church Bells*,

Dr. De Witt Talmage, the Yankee lecturer, has come and gone, and left behind him an unsavoury reputation. How such crowds could be collected together to listen to the garbage and disgusting vulgarity of this American baffles comprehension! He is thus painted in the *Dublin Freeman's Journal*:

"A tall man, with a stiff, ungainly figure, a hoarse, harsh, monotonous voice, and a peculiarly ungraceful gesticulation. He has a way, which is not pleasant, of uttering the sentences he intends to be impressive in a long-drawn solemn drawl, and of waiting at the end of a 'funny' story with an encouraging smile on his face, as it were to give the audience 'a lead' at the laughter and applause. He has, besides, a happy knack of enlivening his lectures with 'catch phrases,' such as Mr. Brough's 'That's the sort of man I am!' or Mr. Toole's 'Still I am not happy.' Dr. Talmage's favourite phrase last evening was, 'He wasn't a gentleman—never will be—you cannot make them out of that stuff,' which repeated at close intervals, in every variety of intonation, was found most effective in provoking laughter."

Illustrating the "wickedness" of men, he told the following: He was going down the road when he met a man with a fiddle. He said to the man, "Do you know you are fiddle-faddling away your soul?" And the man replied, "Go to grass, you old spoony!" It was with such delectable anecdotes as this Dr. Talmage edified his audience in the Christian Union Buildings, and taught them how to laugh.

How many Freemasons are there in the world? This is rather an interesting question, which a German paper called *Inland* has undertaken to answer:—Germany contains eight grand lodges and 40,000 brethren; France has two grand lodges, with about 30,000 Masons; in the United Kingdom there are three grand lodges and 140,000 "workers;" whilst in the United States we find as many as forty-six grand lodges, with over 580,000 members. Altogether there are eighty grand lodges in the world, having altogether 14,602 lodges under their jurisdiction, and 894,467 brethren.

The *Globe* expresses astonishment at the tone of hostility towards Russia pervading the speech of Lord Salisbury at Manchester, and says: "If the reported Austro-German alliance prove a reality, Russia must secure to herself allies to act in the rear of the enemy in case of an emergency. Lord Salisbury's speech not only opens Russia's eyes, but gives her freedom of action."