

amounting in all to 70—70 able men, who had come together to discuss matters for the good of the Catholic people and the advancement of religion. These ecclesiastics represented Catholics to the number of 600,000. It was only fifty years since the first Vicar Apostolic landed on the shores of Australia and at that time there were only in the country some three or four priests who existed there rather on sufferance than otherwise. Now there were great cathedrals—vast buildings at Sydney and Melbourne, churches covered the land, and there were hundreds of priests and thousands of religious, and many Catholic schools. He had no doubt but that the progress of the Church during the next half century would, even relatively, be greater than it had been during the last fifty years. The Pope by elevating the Archbishop of Sydney to the Cardinalate had raised the position of the Church in these colonies. He had done so not only in recognition of Cardinal Moran's deserts but also as a reward for the faith, and fidelity to the Church, shown by the Catholics of Australasia and it was their duty to prove themselves grateful to his Holiness. When the Prince of the Church who was the Pope's representative came here, they would have an opportunity of thanking him for what had been done, they would give him a royal reception. He was worthy of all that could be done in his honour because of his abilities and his great services to the Church. He would be here, with other prelates, at the opening of the cathedral which was now definitely settled to take place on the second Sunday in February. With regard to what had been said concerning his (the Bishop's) own merits he could say nothing. It was for his people to judge as to that, and they had frequently proved their affection towards him, he would now in accordance with their wishes impart his benediction to them.

The Bishop afterwards addressed a few words especially to the school children in reply to the remarks concerning education contained in their addresses. He said, it gave him much pleasure to find that young as they were they had still learned to value a Catholic education. The legislators of the colonies treated Catholics fairly with respect to everything else, but in this matter they treated them unjustly. The effects, however, were not all evil. The efforts made by Catholics to fulfil their duty in educating their children were meritorious and calculated to keep their faith alive and to strengthen it. The children, moreover, would learn to take example by the sacrifices which their parents made, and when they were themselves called upon hereafter to act in like manner they would be prepared to do so.

The ceremonies then terminated, and the congregation, which had crowded the church, dispersed.

THE DOMINICAN CONVENT SCHOOLS, OAMARU.

(Oamaru Mail, December 5.)

DURING the past week the Catholic schools in Oamaru have been examined by the Rev. Mother Prioress of the Dominican Priory, Dunedin. On Friday the certificates and prizes were distributed in St. Joseph's by the Ven. Archdeacon Coleman. In the class subjects in which the children had been examined, they generally had gained high percentages. According to the customs of the nuns, prizes were awarded only for special subjects, as they consider that the handsomely illuminated certificates are more likely to stimulate the children to work than books which are often thrown aside unread, whereas the certificates serve as a lasting record of the industry of the pupils in each branch of their education. The following received certificates of merit:—

Standard I.—M. Mullin, K. M'Gee, K. Ford, M. Flaherty, A. Mahoney, K. Wright, M. O'Grady, M. Collins, M. Leahy, W. M'Gee, A. Costelloe, P. O'Grady, J. Page, J. Leahy, D. O'Brien.

Standard II.—K. Andrews, E. Barry, B. Brown, C. King, J. Nolan, L. Vale, E. Browne, E. Connelly, M. Morrissey, A. Shine. Standard III.—M. Slynnes, N. Martin, B. Mullin, K. Breen, B. Heffernan, M. Costelloe, N. Canty, A. Simmons, M. Donovan, W. Ah Tong, H. Kane, E. Morrissey, J. Haggie, E. Barry, J. Hanley.

Standard IV.—M. Maxwell, S. Costelloe, A. Power, E. Donovan, E. M'Elhenney, L. Byrne, A. Toohy, M. Toohy, K. Kane, P. Mullin, O'Grady, P. Gilligan, and J. Toohy.

Standard V.—J. Costelloe.

Standard VI.—M. Power.

Special prizes.—1st prize in Christian Doctrine and Bible—M. Maxwell, S. Costelloe, A. Power, E. Donovan, E. M'Elhenney, L. Byrne, A. Toohy, M. Power, J. O'Grady, and P. Mullin. 2nd prize—N. Martin, B. Mullin, M. Costelloe, A. Simmons, K. Breen, K. Andrew, and E. Barry. 3rd prize—K. M'Gee, M. Mullin, A. Shine, E. Morrissey, W. M'Gee, and F. Connelly.

Mapping—M. Maxwell, A. Toohy, S. Costelloe, A. Power, E. Donovan, L. Byrne, E. M'Elhenney, and M. Toohy.

Book-keeping—M. Maxwell, P. Costelloe, L. Byrne, A. Power, E. Donovan, M. Power, J. Costelloe, and P. Mullin.

Attendance—S. Costelloe, E. Donovan, A. Power, A. Shine, and A. Costelloe.

Good Conduct—S. Costelloe and J. O'Grady.

The distribution of honours was interspersed by choruses, piano-forte pieces, and recitations, which were remarkably well rendered. At the close of the proceedings,

The Archdeacon said that he was pleased with the result of the examinations; that, from the fact of his being in the schools daily, he was able to affirm that the children that had worked had received the reward of their industry in being awarded the certificates granted by the examiner. He stated that the schools are very successfully taught by the nuns who have charge of the Oamaru Catholic children, and added that it was a pleasure to him to be able to assure the Catholic parents that the zeal, devotion, and solicitude of the nuns are worthy of much praise and gratitude, and that no labour is spared either in striving to teach their children or in promoting their moral as well as their intellectual well-being. Secular knowledge is imparted, but, with it, the children learn the sacred truths

of religion, and are taught to do all their work for the glory and honour of God. The Rev. Father urged that parents should co-operate with the teachers by giving good example to the children at home, by seeing that they learn their lessons, by keeping them off the streets at night, and by guarding them from the evil influences of bad example; that unless the parents co-operate in the right direction, and are models of goodness to their little ones, the good instruction received in the schools could not produce lasting impressions on the children's minds, and the result would not be satisfactory. The Archdeacon called attention to the unjust treatment of Catholics at the hands of the Government. He said this colony has a system of education established by the Government; that it is secular, *i.e.*, without any religious instruction connected with it; that for each child taught in the Government schools the sum of £4 was granted by the Government; that close upon £500,000 are given yearly for this State education; that Catholics are compelled to pay a share of the taxes to provide that money; that for the sake of the faith and morals of their children the Catholics have to make an effort to maintain schools for themselves; and that the Government does not give one penny towards the maintenance of these Catholic schools; that if the Government acted justly the Oamaru Catholic schools would be in receipt of £800 per annum for children taught in them. He further said, "Could the Government help these schools and yet be consistent?" He replied, "Certainly. The Government need only say 'If you Catholics cannot send your children to the common schools place your schools under the control of our inspectors, and for every child that passes inspection with them, in secular knowledge, according to the standard laid down for the common schools, we will grant you an amount equal to that granted for each child in the Government schools.'" Such a course would be just, and would promote peace and good-will, whereas now, the Catholics are writhing under the treatment received from an unjust Government. Let us hope, he said, that some honest man will arise who will deal fairly with all members of the community, and who will free us Catholics from this galling yoke. Though, the rev. Father added, we are at present only 70,000 in the colony, the majority have no right, ought not to continue to perpetrate a grievous injustice that may produce evil fruit when not expected. Perhaps, the Ministers by their present line of action may be trying to crush out the Catholic schools; if so, he begged to assure them that such a hope was a vain one; that self-sacrifice and co-operation of the Catholics of the colony, under the influence of faith and of the justice of their action, would make them persevere bravely in the fulfilment of their duties to teach their children and in their efforts to secure to them the faith of their fathers. Moreover, the religious societies will, in the interest of religion, make every sacrifice rather than abandon the little ones of the Catholic Church to the guidance of the enemies of their faith. If the Government of New Zealand would only give the Catholics here their rights, as the Government of Canada give to the Catholics of that country, in no other land would the Catholic body feel more at home and more attached to the land of their adoption.

This morning at 10 o'clock the pupils of the High School assembled in the school-room to receive their prizes, and the presentation of prizes was interspersed with an entertainment of which the following was the programme:—Juvenile performance by the younger pupils; pianoforte duet, "Marche aux Flambeaux," Misses Dansey and Dooley; chorus, "Canadian Boat Song"; pianoforte solo, "Birthday Party," Miss Dooley; chorus, "Our Jack's Come Home," singing class; pianoforte duet, Grand Marche, "Le Prophete" (Meyerbeer), Misses Hanning and Richmond; recitation, J. Martin and M. Hanning; pianoforte solo, "The Gipsy Countess," Miss Richmond; chorus, "Home, Sweet Home"; pianoforte solo, "Kathleen Mavourneen," L. Hanning; vocal duet, "Oh, Steer my Bark to Erin's Isle," E. and M. Hanning; pianoforte duet, "The Holidays," L. and M. Hanning.

The prizes were distributed as follows:—

JUNIOR SCHOOL.

Miss Rowland, grammar and geography; Miss Cagney, catechism, arithmetic, reading, grammar, and geography; Miss Hannon, catechism, arithmetic, reading, grammar, and geography; Miss Collins, catechism, arithmetic, reading, grammar, and geography; Miss Boyle, catechism, arithmetic, reading, and geography; Master Hannon, catechism, arithmetic, reading, grammar, and geography; Master Collins, catechism, arithmetic, reading, grammar, and geography; Master Hill, catechism, arithmetic, reading, grammar and geography; Master Boyle, catechism, arithmetic, reading, and geography.

SENIOR SCHOOL.

English—J. Martin, 1; E. Hanning, 2; S. Martin, 3. Arithmetic—J. Martin. French—L. Hanning, J. Martin. Writing—L. Hanning, J. Martin. Drawing—Misses Dansey and Richmond. Painting—Misses Dansey and Richmond. Music—Misses Richmond and L. Hanning. Prize for Politeness—Miss M. Richmond. Prizes for Order—Misses L. Richmond, L. Hanning, and N. Edwards. Plain Needlework—Miss L. Hanning. Fancy Needlework—1st prize, Misses Richmond, Dooley, Edwards and Casey. Prizes in Scripture History and Christian Doctrine—J. Martin, M. Hanning, L. Hanning, S. Martin, and K. Dooley. Attendance—J. Martin, M. Hanning, E. Hanning, B. Martin, T. Casey, and C. Dooley. Good Conduct—L. Hanning. Miss Lizzie Hanning was crowned for good conduct by the votes of her companions.

There is a Catholic college for the training of school mistresses in Ireland. It is under the charge of the Sisters of Mercy, at their Mother House, Baggot street, Dublin.