

greatest respect for the people of London. But the people of London have one great misfortune, and that is that they know nothing of local self-government. The great principle of British politics has been that it has been through local self-government that the people of England have been drawn to Imperial government. Ireland, unhappily, knows but little—that is to say within few and limited spheres of local self-government. Well, she knows something—London, unhappily, knows nothing. It is remarkable that when local self-government for Ireland is in question, and where we find Scotland and the north of England and Wales enjoying local self-government these parts of the country are all on the side of Ireland. The people of London, however, are against you, but a little time, a little discretion, the opening up of the facts, a calm and reflective consideration of the state of opinion both at home and abroad will set all this right. But one thing I can venture to assure you, and that is that in my judgment your cause is formally adopted and enrolled as an article in the creed of the Liberal party (applause), and if you will survey impartially the history of the last fifty years you will find that it is that adoption, and that enrolment which in the case of every Government subject has formed the uniform promise and precursor of ultimate, and in most cases of early, triumph (loud applause). Gentlemen, I believe in the triumph, I will venture even to say, speaking comparatively, the early triumph of the Irish cause. In one of those solemn passages of the great Florentine poet, one of the characters, who was to be the subject of a horrible calamity, describes his having rent for him the veil that covers the future. Now, gentlemen, over the future of this question there is a veil as dark as the curtain of a theatre which conceals the scenes and action from the view. I cannot tell what will be the course of this question as to detail, but even its being in the future does not, in my opinion, prevent us from considering all those elements of conviction which are before us, drawn from history, from experience, from justice, from faith in freedom and in free discussion, and they give me a full conviction that that future, of which we cannot read the veil, has behind it in a picture of no serious historic distance the great triumph of your cause. There may be between us and that consummation a period of sadness, and bitterness, and struggle. I trust there may not—I trust not only that it will come of which I feel a conviction far beyond the reach of doubt, but that it will come in the way in which alone it can be thoroughly honourable and satisfactory to England or to Ireland—that it will come to us through whoever it may come, and as to that I care little or nothing—that it will come to us with promptitude, with cheerfulness, and with joy. I have detained you too long (no, no); but I have thought it my duty to give you as well as I could my views on the position. I only end as I began, by assuring you of the deep gratification with which I receive the testimonials which you have been pleased to present to me—they prove too well the over-appreciation in Ireland of the efforts I have made (cheers during which the right hon. gentleman resumed his seat).

It was about twenty minutes to one o'clock when Mr. Gladstone commenced, and he spoke until close on two o'clock, rivetting the breathless attention of his audience for the whole time. He showed no sign of fatigue from the beginning to the end, and was in splendid voice. Mrs. Gladstone was noticed to follow his speech closely, and frequently to nod approval of his points. The speech was full of happy expressions and interesting phrases. He had evidently studied the Irish question closely, and his statement as to Wolfe Tone's views came with considerable force on his audience. The passage in the speech that will probably become most historic was the one in which he declares: "The loss of the spirit of nationality, the heaviest, the most deplorable, and the most degrading loss that any country can undergo." His description of Mr. Lecky and Professor Goldwin Smith as not being "promising politicians" provoked a laugh which was speedily hushed as in indignant terms he quoted Lord Cornwallis, and declared it was the recall of Lord Fitzwilliam that placed Ireland upon that fatal slope, which afterwards led to the miseries and calamities that Mr. Lecky had so well described. The description of Lord Randolph Churchill's speech on Saturday as "an encyclopædia of promises" tickled those who heard it very much. One good judge said the most striking thing about the oration was its adroitness, the way in which Mr. Gladstone anticipated, met, and refuted every possible argument against his and the Irish position.

DISTRIBUTION OF PRIZES AT ST. PATRICK'S COLLEGE.

(N. Z. Times.)

THE distribution of prizes to the students of St. Patrick's College by Bishop Redwood took place at the College last evening. For the past week the boys have been subjected to a rigorous and searching examination, and last evening was the time fixed when their labours were to be crowned. The occasion was celebrated by a vocal and instrumental entertainment, to which the parents and friends of the boys were invited. The opening of the concert was fixed for half-past 7, and at 7 o'clock the large schoolroom, in which it took place, was filled to the utmost, even standing room being at a premium. The stage and hall were tastefully decorated with ferns and nikau palms, flowers and laurel leaves being hung in graceful festoons all round. Amongst the clergymen, some of whom had come from a great distance to be present on the occasion, were the following:—The College Professors, including the Very Rev. F. J. Waters, S.M., D.D. (Rector), Rev. T. Devoy, S.M. (Vice-Rector and Procurator), Rev. A. Braxmeier, S.M., M.A. (Jeff.), Rev. N. T. Carolan, S.M., Rev. N. Barnane, S.M., Rev. W. D. Goggan, S.M., Rev. M. J. O'Sullivan, Bishop Redwood, S.M., D.D., Rev. Fathers Saizeau, S.M., M'Namara, M'Kenna, Kerrigan, Moore, Kirk, Patterson, Lane, and Melon. Amongst the visitors present were the following:—The Hon. E. Richardson and Mrs. Richardson, the Hon. J. A. Tole, the Hon. P. A. Buckley and Mrs. Buckley, Mr. and Mrs. J. Mackay, and Dr. Cahill. The concert, the programme of which was as follows, was a genuine musical treat, and, when it is considered that it was given solely by the pupils, it must be admitted that it was highly credit-

able both to the boys, their masters, and professors, and the institution to which they belong. Special mention should be made of the following branches:—Firstly the vocal part of the programme, which was under the superintendence of the Rev. Father Carolan, professor of vocal music in the College. Songs, glees, part songs, etc. were given with an attention to time and expression highly creditable in so young a body of performers. Next, the drawing and painting. The studies of the boys in this art have been conducted by the Rev. Father Braxmeier, and there can only be one opinion about the matter. The specimens which were hung around the walls do credit both to pupils and master. The bands, both brass (under Mr. S. Cimino) and string (under Mr. T. Trowell), also speak well for the industry of the boys and the untiring zeal of the teachers. The performances of the brass band, which has been in existence not quite a year, were a subject of general admiration. The following programme was carried out, the applause being frequent and enthusiastic:—Vals, "Britannia," College brass band; overture, "La Couronne d'Or," College string band; recitation, "The Raven," Master Charles Mandl; glee, "Dulce Domum," College choir; duet (piano), "The Gipsy Countess" Masters S. Cimino and E. Kimbell; solo (violin), "The Minstrel Boy," Master J. McLroy; recitation, "The Sack of Baltimore," Master S. Barrett; glee, "The Gipsy Chorus," College choir; waltzes "Princess Alexandra," College string band; duet (piano), "Selections, La Traviata," Masters J. Roche, and H. Houldsworth; recitation, "The Gnipen," Master G. H. Harper; fantasia, "Con Amore," College brass band; overture, "Tancredi," Masters J. Kearsley and W. Haydon; recitation, "The Field of Waterloo," Master S. Mahoney; glee, "All Among the Barley," College choir; recitation, "The Death of Marmion," Master J. Sheridan; March; "Cornelius," College string band.

After the concert, the Bishop delivered the following address to the pupils:—Before I have the pleasure of distributing to the successful and expectant students their well-earned premiums I ask your indulgent attention for a few moments while I put briefly before you some thoughts which naturally rise to my mind on the present auspicious occasion. In the first place, I heartily congratulate not only the fortunate prize-winners, but all the students, on the success which has attended St. Patrick's College in every line throughout this first full scholastic year. You have spent, my dear students, a fruitful and happy year. Your distinguished Rector, and all his able and devoted staff of professors give the best account of you. In general your tone, your diligence in study, your ardour and manly emulation on the playground and in the football and cricket field, are the theme of their warmest praise; while your attention to your religious duties has been all that could be desired. The progress you have made in music, drawing, and other accomplishments is conspicuous from what we have heard and seen this evening, and great credit is due for this encouraging result to your able bandmaster and other teachers, who, I am sure, are proud of the proficiency you have attained in so short a time. Your examination has proved that your progress has not been less in the higher and more solid branches of education, such as English, Latin, Greek, mathematics, and science. Some of you are going in a few days to present yourselves for matriculation, and though, considering the very short time since the opening of this College, your attempt may perhaps seem somewhat precipitate, and your reliance on the old principle that "fortune aids the brave"—"*fortes fortuna juvat*"—rather overstrained, still your application to your studies has been so good that I confidently hope you will be fairly successful; and even were you not so, I know your courage too well to doubt that a first check would only nerve you to greater exertions, and ensure success on another trial. And now permit me to broaden out my view, and to take a survey of what has been done already, and what is intended to be done in this rising institution. Of course this first year has been one of organisation, and no easy task has it been to classify a set of boys of the most varied degrees of proficiency. However, order has been evolved out of chaos, everything is gradually sinking down to its proper level, and the machine begins to run smoothly and well. Next year a start will be made under more favourable conditions. The educational aim of St. Patrick's College is high and liberal. Our object is to make true and sterling men of you, men able to discharge fitly and nobly your office in this life, and in the man the nation. Now, the child is developed into the complete man, when all his faculties are duly brought out, trained, strengthened and polished. True education is the culture of the whole human individual; the mind by truth, the will by discipline, the heart by noble and unselfish pursuits, the imagination and taste by the contemplation, admiration, and imitation of the beautiful, the conscience by strict adhesion to duty under the light and with the help of Divine grace, and all its wondrous and Godly appliances. Nor is the body neglected, though kept in rational subjection to the soul. Every limb is trained and straightened, every sense improved: the eye, the hand, the ear, the whole physical frame is cultivated. The cricket-lawns, the football field, the gymnasium have their proper and distinguished place in the training at St. Patrick's. Then there is the social training you give each other, and, looking at the excellent tone prevailing in this College, such training is not the least valuable part of your education. You begin public life here on a small scale; and your generous, manly, noble, and gentlemanly conduct towards each other now is an earnest of your dealings in after-life on the broader stage of the world, thus adding your ample share to the perfection and happiness of society. I hold in my hand the College annual calendar and I earnestly invite parents and all persons who are interested in the cause of Catholic education throughout this Colony to peruse it attentively. It affords an excellent outline of the course of studies in this establishment—a course whose prominent feature is thoroughness and the absence—nay, the impossibility of "cram." Any boy who goes through the well-graduated and progressive studies here laid down must receive a sound education. He will have time to digest the matters learnt; he will really know what he knows; he will have laid a solid and broad foundation for future improvement,