

12 years old last birthday, and Cuthbert James, who will be nine years old on the 5th of next month, I hope you will not think he is too young as I would like the both of them to be in from the commencement."

TIMARU.

(From our own Correspondent.)

THE cattle show and races have come and gone. The country visitors have done likewise, and Timaru is "as you were." During the carnival week crowds of visitors flocked in from the surrounding districts and the accommodation vendors were hard pressed for room. The weather on the first or judge's day of the cattle show seemed very threatening, but luckily the clerk of the weather had mercy on the holiday-makers, the second day of the show being all that could be desired. The exhibits were quite as numerous as heretofore, a special shed being set apart for local productions, such as jam, jellies, sauces, bacon, butter, cheese, etc. An improvement could be made in having more judges for the exhibits mentioned, as it is almost impossible for anyone to retain a keen sense of taste and smell after going through the ordeal of tasting such a variety of exhibits, it would be fairer to exhibitors, and judges would be less liable to a subsequent bilious attack.

The races made things remarkably lively and some lively visitors, in the shape of about a hundred spectators, who came to "do" the races, added in many instances to the general liveliness.

During the week visitors were afforded many means of getting rid of any spare cash saved from the totalisator. An amateur dramatic club produced "The Steeplechase" at the Theatre Royal in aid of the South Canterbury Hunt Club, though I cannot understand why a club possessing amongst its members some of the wealthiest people of the community should have to appeal to the plebeian public for support.

Another gentle species of entertainment was a prize fight. It is remarkable to observe how gullible the cute British public are in instances of this sort. Two men agree to pummel each other for a certain sum, the public being invited to attend. A small donation is, of course, charged at the door. The spectators back their man heavily, even when to all appearances he is beaten. His opponent (who is to lose), seeing no prospect of being beaten "fairly," embraces the individual who possesses the confidence of the spectators, and while in this position pummels away to his heart's content. The referee cries "foul," the blows are continued, and on the strength of this the fight is given to the beaten man, who, by some singular luck, is the man on whom the knowing ones had their money. This happens to-day, and is successfully repeated to-morrow, the losers in all cases being the cute British public, and the gainers the blacklegs and spectators who follow up these disgusting exhibitions.

An entertainment in aid of Saint Patrick's Brass Band was held on Thursday evening, November 8. A heavy rain fell during the day, but this did not seem to affect the attendance in any way, as when the curtain rose after the overture the performers were greeted by a well-filled house. The Hibernian Amateur Minstrel Troupe opened the business with a chorus, "Climbing up the Golden Stairs," and in this, as well as in the other items rendered by the minstrels, they had to respond to enthusiastic encors. The songs were in every instance capitally rendered, the by-play of the corner men, Messrs. Callon and Carey, considerably provoking the risible tendencies of the audience. The comedians and jokes which included several local hits literally brought down the house. When the curtain dropped the audience proved their appreciation of the efforts of the minstrels, by insisting on having another look at their black faces. The second part of the entertainment consisted of vocal and instrumental items, and was commenced with a negro eccentricity entitled "The Kitchen Band" by members of the troupe. The band was in charge of Mr. Head who made his men strike attitudes that would puzzle many a more experienced military commander. Miss Beattie Stevenson next rendered the song "We'll all go a-hunting to-day," in character. This little lady is a great favourite and justly earned the encore she received. Mr. Crosbie who was in capital voice followed with "Erin my Country." In the next item Miss Conway made her *début* to a Timaru audience by singing "A dream within a dream." This song, which was undoubtedly the gem of the evening, showed Miss Conway's pure and powerful soprano voice to great advantage, and evoked loud applause. As an encore she sweetly sang "Yea or Nay," with equal success. Mr. Ryan had to re-appear in the sailor's burlesque; as also had Miss McKenna, after tastefully rendering "We'd better bide a wee." Of the gentleman singers, Mr. Head certainly carried off the palm in his singing "The old log cabin" in character. He had to repeat the last verse to one of the most enthusiastic encors of the evening. Mr. J. McGinness sang "True till Death," and "I'll conquer or die," in his best style, and Mr. Callon rendered "Gathering up the shells from the sea shore," with banjo accompaniment, for which he was loudly encored. In reply he gave the audience such a medley of comicallities that there was not a serious face in the room. A song and dance by Messrs. Ryan and Carey, entitled "Sweet Camelia May," brought the second part to a happy termination. The entertainment concluded with the negro farce "Out of Place," in which parts were taken by Messrs. Head, Callon, Carey, Kenny, and McKenna. Each performer went through his part carefully and well, Messrs. Head and Carey being specially good. The absurdities of the farce kept the house in roars of laughter and sent everybody home to high spirits, and, I have no doubt, with the impression that they had more than value for their money. The performance was repeated on Friday evening and went swimmingly from start to finish. A word of praise is due to Messrs. Carey, Head, and McKenna for the manner in which they worked to make the concert a success, and in a special manner to Mr. Crews, who presided at the piano, and who had the normal task in "coaching" the minstrels, as in many cases it is to work upon the "raw material." The orchestra consisted of Messrs. McCarthy, 1st violin; Smith, 2nd violin; Haigh, cornet; and Crews, piano,

who very kindly gave their services gratuitously. On the whole the concert was a marked success and reflects great credit on the management.

A meeting of the parishioners is to take place on next Sunday after second Mass for the purpose of deciding the date on which the children's annual treat will be held. It is to be hoped that a public holiday will be decided upon, as it will afford many of the parents an opportunity of being present who could not possibly do so on a working-day.

A meeting of the Altar Society takes place on the same day at 4 p.m., at which all members were requested to attend.

The collection for the School Fund was held on Sunday, the 4th, and continued on the 11th inst. The School Committee meet on Tuesday evening, when the collectors will receive the names of those who have omitted to subscribe.

A much-needed day's rain fell on Thursday and has made the country look fresh and green again. The rain ceased during the night and the weather now seems to have settled down fine.

A WANTON CONVICTION.

(Dublin Freeman, Sept. 23.)

MR WILLIAM REDMOND, M. P., was sentenced on Friday to three months' imprisonment, and the Removables, generous in their generation, added that there should be no hard labour. We should like to know if there is a country outside Mr. Balfour's bailiwick where the two words which Mr. Redmond used would be held to constitute a criminal offence, or where the circumstances under which they were uttered would not be felt to establish their justification. If ever there was an eviction carried out in wanton disregard of common justice and common humanity, it was the short and sharp campaign at Coolroe. The tenants were sued for a rackrent. They were driven into the Plan of Campaign in sheer desperation. They adopted every means to avoid eviction, and they made an offer to the landlord, which was not only sustained by the local clergy, but which, on the day of the evictions, Mr. Considine, the Removable, publicly declared to be a fair offer and one which the landlord ought to have accepted. It was not a case of the tenants refusing to pay any rent. It was a case in which the tenants made every effort in their power to come to an amicable settlement, and fairly and honestly offered the landlord every sixpence they could afford. If they resisted with desperate and reckless courage the enforcement of the sheriff's decree, it was not until they had tried every expedient to come to a friendly understanding with the landlord. It was for crying out to these men, when attacked by a gang of evicting janissaries, when their houses were being tumbled on their heads, "Bravo, Wexford," that Mr. Redmond has been sent to bed with the criminals of Wexford County Gaol until Christmas Eve. The prosecuting counsel acknowledged that Mr. Redmond was labouring under great excitement at the time, and Mr. Removable Considine admitted on oath that Mr. Redmond addressed himself to him as the person in authority with the view of having batons rather than bayonets used against the tenants, so that there should be no bloodshed. A man would require to be made of stone to witness unmoved the Coolroe struggle. What Mr. Redmond did most men who have a heart would have done. He is himself a Wexford man, and coming upon the scene at Coolroe when that unequal struggle was raging at its fiercest, when a handful of his countrymen, unarmed as they were, drove back again and again bailiffs and police with their batons and battering-rams, it would indeed have been surprising if he had withheld some word of praise. To hold Mr. Redmond responsible for the resistance with which the officers of the law were met is a travesty of justice. It was admitted in the prosecution that he did not reach the place until an hour and a-half after the proceedings had begun. He had no more influence over the defenders of the houses than he had over the machinery of the battering-ram. If by any stretch of imagination he could have been regarded as an active agent in the matter, as a person seriously obstructing the police in the execution of their duty, would he not have been promptly placed under arrest, or, at least, removed from the scene of disorder? To shout "Bravo, boys; I am proud of you; give it to them," was a technical offence; but as regards its effect upon those to whom it was addressed, Mr. Redmond might just as well have called out "Meaopotamia" or any other equally inspiring password. Mr. Redmond might have appealed to the decision of the Removables. He has elected, however, to go to jail. It is a resolve characteristic of his pluck. While an appeal might have resulted in diminishing his punishment—an unlikely contingency now—days we admit—he has chosen to abide by the Removables' decision. In this he has furnished another striking object-lesson in the progress of the Coercion Act in Ireland. Mr. Redmond, a prisoner for three months, for having shouted his joy at the successful resistance of two or three men pitted against an army of evictors, is an effective illustrative bit of Coercion Act in operation.

The Suez Canal Company has erected, at its own expense, a large hospital at Ismalia. The charge of the hospital will be entrusted to the sisters of Charity, and the plateau on which it stands will be named the Table-land of St. Vincent.

A Rome dispatch says the convention with Columbia secures to the Vatican the protection of Catholicity as the State religion, the exemption of the clergy from military duty. The clergy have entire control of the government schools and universities.

A well-informed clergyman has been writing in the *Congregationalist* about the great gains of the Roman Catholic Church in Germany. German Protestantism is unable to hold its own against the old Church with its army of zealous and devoted priests and laymen. Even in that stronghold of Protestantism, Halle, Catholicism is gaining. This is only another instance showing the wonderful recuperative power possessed by the Roman Catholic Church, relatively it is always stronger in a Protestant country than in a country where it is supreme. —N. Y. Evangelist.