

at intervals to permit individuals to give illustrations of the argument separately, which they did in a most telling manner, and, as a whole, the performance was not only curious and interesting from an educational point of view, but extremely pleasing to listen to. Nothing but the most perfect training could have produced such results. A scene from Shakespeare's Richard III. followed. Masters W. Connor, as the Lieutenant of the Tower; N. Moloney, as an officer; J. Cantwell, as Lord Stanley; Eugene O'Neill, as King Henry VI; and Edward Duffey as Tressell; each sustained his part with intelligence and spirit. Lover's "Fairy Boy," sung as solo, duet, and chorus, came next, and it is not too much to say that it was delightfully given. Nothing could exceed the touching sweetness and pathos of Master F. Murphy's solo, and when it is said that the duet, in which Master George Pearson took the alto part, and the chorus were in their several ways quite equal to the solo, no higher praise can be expressed. Next came a scene from Knowles' "Tell," in which Masters F. Murphy, as Gesler, and D. Buckley, as Albert, deservedly won enthusiastic applause, being obliged to return and bow their acknowledgments. The simple and naive manner in which the little fellow, D. Buckley, did his part was especially charming. Master J. Cantwell then gave a spirited rendering of Morris's "Leap for Life." Root's "Don't Fret," a part song by the Young Cecilians followed, and was rendered in a very pleasing and appropriate manner, all the musical requirements being well observed. Some of the elder pupils and ex-pupils of the school gave their assistance in the bass parts, which contributed much to the success gained. The "Quarrel scene from Douglas," was next most stirring given by Masters J. Delaney, as Glenalvon; E. Duffey, as Norval; and J. Cantwell, as Lord Randolph. Root's "Beautiful Spring," harmonized as a chorus, was then sung with their usual success by the Young Cecilians, and was followed by a competition recitation of "Sheil's Reply," by Masters F. Murphy and J. Buckley. These competitors had been judged by their teachers so nearly equal, that no decision had been arrived at, and they had agreed to "fight it out," as one of the Brothers explained, before the audience. This they did with great spirit, in each case the elocution being extremely creditable. On its being put to a bench of judges, however, consisting of some representatives of the Press and other gentlemen present, it was decided that Master Murphy had won by about the tip of his tongue, if it was a very small tip. Master A. Hall then recited in a feeling and expressive manner, Keegan's pathetic "Holly and Ivy." "The Green shores of Erin," by Duvalis was next sung as a chorus and solo by Master N. Moloney, who did his part very sweetly, and the Young Cecilians singing in their best style. The celebrated "Fontenoy" was then glowingly declaimed by Master Edward Duffey, and so highly appreciated by the audience that the trumpet-toned orator was loudly recalled. He responded by a humorous and spirited rendering of "Tipperary." The young Cecilians afterwards most appropriately made their melodious claim to a full share in the patriotic sentiments of the hour by singing with all due fervour, "The wearing of the Green." McGee's "The ancient race" next found an able and intelligent exponent in Master F. Heley, and then the Young Cecilians made one of their most effective and successful efforts, in T. D. Sullivan's "Dear old Ireland," as especially adapted to New Zealand. The dear old country as celebrated by the poet, was sung in chorus, in bass solo, in treble solo, and again in chorus—full justice being done to it so far as the fresh young voices and brave young hearts of our New Zealand boys could do it. And that we may hope and believe was fully and truly. Herr Otto Schweers acted throughout the evening with his usual ability as accompanist, the piano used being kindly lent by the Dresden Company. A chief attraction of the evening in the shape of a calisthenic wand exercise to music—by the boys of Professor Oscar David's gymnastic class, was next introduced—and while the boys were preparing one of the Brothers gave a few explanations to the audience. The class, he said, had been commenced under the instruction of Professor David during the year. It had been held once a week, and, as the audience would recollect, at a competition lately held his members had acquitted themselves with great credit. He desired to direct especial attention to the nature of the movements, which were not intended merely for show but for useful purposes—(1st) to strengthen the arms and the upper parts of the body; (2nd.) to strengthen the trunk and the central muscles; (3rd) to strengthen the lower parts, the knees and legs. It was evident that with such a course of training regularly persevered in, the boys must develop into strong and muscular men. The Brother went on to acknowledge the indebtedness of his community to the Bishop, who had the interests of education thoroughly at heart. His Lordship had ever been most assiduous in his attention to their schools, and had unceasingly given them all possible help and encouragement. However they might themselves labour all their work would bear but little fruit were it not for his Lordship's able and constant support and encouragement. The speaker added that he had also to thank the rev. clergy, the rev. Fathers Lynch and Vereker, to whose kind assistance and devotion they were much indebted. The Brothers had also to thank all those people generally who had helped them during the year. They had thus been enabled to asphalt an area of over 1000ft and to erect a gymnasium of 50 feet in length, and furnish it with requisites. A slight balance of debt still remained due, but the boys, who were anxious to do everything they could in this matter, had undertaken to collect sufficient to pay the balance during the holidays. A boy, for instance, would call on his friends, and ask each if he had a pin about him. Because, says he, if you have you can make a hole in this little card and that will be worth three pence to me. The sum needed would thus be easily made up, and they hoped to be free from debt by the new year. The Brother then went on to return thanks to those who had contributed to the prize fund. His Worship the Mayor, he said, apart from other donations given by him and quite unasked had sent in the handsome sum of £2 2s. Mr. James Caldwell had done the same, and several others whose names he could not just now recall had also given effective assistance. How greatly they had contributed to help the school would be known when he mentioned that the value of the prizes given

amounted to over £20. The gymnastic class then entered in procession, at quick step, and singing a cheerful chorus, accompanied by Professor David on the piano. The boys were each dressed in a light and tasteful gymnastic suit, of white with a green rosette, and each carried over his shoulder a light pole or wand. They marched around the platform two or three times, and then in file took up their places. The movements with the wand were performed by them, still to Professor David's piano accompaniment, and the effect was extremely pleasing. When all the bending and stretching had been performed, they retired, as before with a quick step and a song. Nothing prettier than the whole thing can be well imagined. It met with the enthusiastic applause of the audience. The chorus sung by the boys had, both words and music, been composed by the Christian Brothers. The music, which was very lively and pretty, we cannot give, but here are the words:

We tread our native soil
Like gallant cheerful boys,
We dread no work or toil,
No labour e'er annoys.
We strive for all that's good,
With pen, and bat, and gun,
When in a merry mood,
We dearly like some fun.

Chorus.—So march brave lads along,
With steady, steady tread;
Keep time with jovial song,
And march brave boys ahead.

From St. Joseph's we've come here,
Our loving friends to greet,
We meet them once a year,
And then our joy's complete.
We've come with merry rhyme,
With blythe and gladsome song;
So now, brave boys, keep time,
Keep time, and march along.

Chorus.—Now march, etc.

The distribution of prizes was then made by the Bishop. His Lordship said that as the hour was so late, and he did not desire to keep the people, especially the boys, much longer from home, he could not speak at any length. He must, however, explain that the reason why the number of prizes to be given were comparatively few, was because those to the junior classes had been already given at the schoolroom. He must also take the opportunity of returning thanks to the Christian Brothers. They deserved hearty thanks for their labours. All the success of the school was due to their exertions, their ability, and their industry. He was happy to tell the boys that their conduct this year had been most satisfactory. He had received no complaint about any of them. They had been very industrious and had studied well. He had to congratulate the Catholic congregation on the success of their schools, of which they might be justly proud. And not only the Catholic congregation, but the whole community might be pleased to have such schools among them. It was a great advantage to them to have such schools where, as well as the literary, the moral training of the boys was effectually carried out. Many of the general community, added his Lordship, were wise and generous in recognising this. He felt sure that the loving care and labour that had been bestowed upon the schools that year would be continued in the future, and that the schools would become better year by year. He had himself remarked in them such an improvement from the first. He would, therefore, tender to the Brothers his most sincere thanks, and congratulate them on their great success, and he was sure that in this matter he might also speak on behalf of the Catholic congregation. During the distribution, one of the Brothers who assisted his Lordship took the opportunity of making some telling remarks. One in particular is deserving of report. It was made in relation to a prize for good attendance given to Eugene O'Neill, who had never for two years missed even one day. "Oh, the mother," said the Brother.—"Mother," says a boy, "may I stay at home to-day, it's only repetition day." "Yes, Johnny darling," she says, "you may stay at home." "But, continued the Brother, "whether it is only repetition day or not, come to school without losing a day if you want to get on." "Oh, the mothers," he again protested.—Proceedings terminated with the last harmonious word of the Young Cecilians, given in their usual admirable style, "The Village Chorieter." But, although the proceedings had occupied fully three hours, no one showed signs of impatience or fatigue, and the interest all through was maintained with spirit. We append the prize list:—

PRIZE LIST.—SENIOR ROOM.

Civil Service Class.—First in English, John Meenan; first in Arithmetic, James Farrell; first in Euclid, William Morkane.

6th Grade.—Senior Division.—Best all round; Eugene J. O'Neill, Arthur Hall; silver medal, awarded to Eugene O'Neill; general excellence, J. P. Delaney; prize for English, Ernest J. Philip; prize for Arithmetic, Francis G. Murphy; Christian Doctrine, John Geerin; Reading, John Buckley; first prize for elocution, Edward Duffey.

Sixth Grade.—Junior Division.—Attention to Home Lessons; Thomas Connellan; Euclid, Joseph Cantwell; Arithmetic, John O'Connor; Vocal Music, Nicholas Moloney; History and Physics, David Laughland; Reading, Francis Delany and Michael O'Connor.

Fifth Grade.—Best all round; Alfred Griffen, Charles Wilkins, Thomas Husey; Special Excellence, Francis Healy, John Delahunty, and William Connor; Christian Doctrine, James Hughes; Writing, Joseph Drumm; Home Lessons, Patrick O'Neill, and George Pearson.

MIDDLE ROOM.

Fourth Grade.—Senior Division.—Best all round; J. Rodgers, 1; G. East, 2. Writing.—J. Woods, 1; M. Kilmartin, 2. Arithmetic.—P. Whitty. Most Progress.—A. Smith. Reading.—E. McCormack.