

author, and he possesses too great a love for somewhat meaningless alliteration, and is occasionally unaccountably mystic, but on the whole the little volume is not without considerable merit from a literary point of view. Considering the mighty theme which he treated, the wonder perhaps is not that Sir John Barrow did not succeed better, but that he succeeded so well.

THE IRISH NATIONAL DELEGATES AT HOKITIKA.

THE Irish envoys, while prosecuting their laborious and self-sacrificing mission, have devoted a large part of their scant leisure in encouraging the work of various religious and charitable institutions. At Kumara Mr. Dillon visited the Catholic schools, where the children, under the care of the Sisters of Mercy, presented and sang some really excellent choruses. The decorations and devices of the schoolroom at once testified to the patriotism of both teachers and pupils. Ferns, flowers, ivy, and evergreens, arranged in a manner emblematical of the Emerald Isle, drew from Mr. Dillon and from the other visitors expressions of admiration. At Ross Sir Thomas G. Esmonde visited the school, which is also conducted by the Sisters of Mercy. Similar care and taste had been expended upon the decorations, and the patriotic choruses were given with a like spirit and precision.

At 11 o'clock on Thursday, Mr. Dillon visited St. Columbkille's Convent, Hokitika. Amongst the other visitors were Rev. Fathers Martin, Carew, Bowers, and O'Hallahan, J. Mandl, Esq., Mayor, Messrs. Daly, Ryan, Horgan, Dee. In order to spare Mr. Dillon the fatigue of visiting St. Mary's boys school the boys were assembled in St. Joseph's School class-room at the convent. A glance at the room was sufficient to convince one of the nationalistic tendencies of the Sisters. Paintings of the Irish leaders and of the Grand Old Man, mottoes, devices, floral, fern, and evergreen decorations showed at once that the preparations were a labour of love. Even *United Ireland* and the *Weekly Freeman* contributed their quota towards the general effect, and proved that "The Plan" found earnest and able defenders within the precincts of St. Columbkille's. The children wore white and gold sashes, upon which were written in large green letters the words "Home Rule." "God save Ireland," and other national airs were sung in excellent time, after which the following address was read by Miss Daisy Moller:—

"Dear Mr. Dillon,—You are welcome a hundred thousand times amongst us, and we feel far more deeply than our childish words can express, the great honour you have done us in visiting our school to-day.

"Our hearts go out in ardent loving gratitude to you when we remember who you are, what you represent, and why you are here to-day on this distant shore, so far from holy, faithful Ireland that you love so well.

"We know who you are—Ah, yes, worthy son of an illustrious and patriotic sire; you represent the gallant band, who are struggling so nobly for Ireland's Nationality, and you are here to-day, on behalf of our oppressed and suffering country-people, whose cause you have so ably championed and for which you have suffered so much.

"We have not had the honour, sir, of having been born in the beautiful Island of Saints but is it not the country of our beloved parents and martyred ancestors? And may we not claim to love it with an affection almost equal to theirs? We fancy we hear you encouraging us to cherish this affection for the beautiful land of our forefathers, and we thank you in anticipation for your kind and valuable sympathy.

"In conclusion, let us assure you, dear Mr. Dillon, that our prayers will be daily offered for you, and the objects so dear to your and our hearts, the establishment of our kindred in that beautiful land which has been watered by their tears and blood, and the complete and speedy acknowledgment of dear Ireland's nationality.

"Signed on behalf of the pupils of the Hokitika and Kanieri schools by Daisy Moller, Lilly Daly, Bessie Murray, Mary Bourke, Lizzie Burns.

Master Leger Gribben next read an address from St. Mary's boys school as follows:—

"To John Dillon, Esq., M.P.

"Sir,—We, the boys of St. Mary's school, Hokitika, feel proud of being honoured by your visit, and unite in bidding you a hearty *Cead mille Fáilte*.

"It gives us great joy to see how, every day, success is attending the Home Rule movement, and that the claims of Ireland are finding more and more favour in the minds of the people of Great Britain and the colonies; and we hope, that in a short time, Ireland will have her National parliament again in College Green.

"Although not being privileged to claim Ireland as the land of our birth, we hope that the love for our forefathers' country will grow strong in our hearts as we advance in years, and that we shall yet be able to assist the dear old land in her struggles.

"We trust that your appeal to these Australasian colonies for support for the Evicted Tenant's Fund will be responded to with that liberality which so worthy an object deserves.

"Wishing you God-speed and a safe return to your native land dear friends,—We remain gratefully yours, the pupils of St. Mary's school, Hokitika. C. Sellers, J. Daly, T. Dolan, Gerald Dee, W. O'Brien, Leger Gribben.

Mr Dillon in reply thanked the children for their kind addresses, which he considered had been remarkably well read. It gave him very sincere pleasure to find that the children of Hokitika were being brought up in Catholic Schools, where the history of their race would receive due attention. He regretted that it was not in his power to repay their kindness, or to adequately show the sense of the obligation he was under for their kind expressions towards him, and for the pleasure their excellent choruses had given him. The only return he could make, and as the day was gloriously fine, he would intercede with their good Rev. Mother for a holiday. Mr. Mandl also expressed his great pleasure in being present, and seeing the happy,

smiling faces of so many children. He was sure that the people of Hokitika owe a deep debt of gratitude to Rev. Mother and the Sisters for their labours in the cause of charity and education. He was quite certain that they would long remember the visit of Mr. Dillon, who was engaged in the great struggle for the rights of the people of Ireland, and he hoped, and was sure, that the hour of triumph of Mr. Dillon's great object was at hand. He concluded by joining Mr. Dillon in soliciting a holiday.—Rev. Mother not only kindly agreed to give one holiday, but gave two—one for Mr. Dillon and one for Mr. William O'Brien.

Correspondence.

(We are not responsible for the opinions expressed, by our Correspondents.)

PARNELL DEFENCE FUND.

TO THE EDITOR N.Z. TABLET.

Sir,—I got a circular from Dunedin some time ago, for the Parnell Defence Fund. I have collected a few pounds for it, so I am sending it to Dunedin to you. I see that the Parnell Defence Fund is closed; you can give it to the Irish Delegates if you like, for the poor tenants in Ireland—I am, etc.,

P. FITZGERALD.

Orepuki, December 6.

CHRISTCHURCH.

(From our own Correspondent.)

On Monday, December 3, Mr. Dillon was astir pretty early, notwithstanding, as I am told, that his labour attending a very large correspondence had extended to a pretty late hour on Sunday night. A little before 10 a.m. his Lordship's carriage, carrying Fathers Cummins and Aubrey, called at Barrett's Hotel and took Mr. Dillon and Sir Thomas Esmonde to the Marxist Brothers' school. Mr. John Barrett, chairman of the Reception Committee, accompanied them. Here they were met by Brother Joseph and taken to a platform nicely arranged and decorated for the occasion. The green flag with harp hung conspicuous among the display. The children, wearing green ribbons having shamrocks and the motto "Home Rule" upon them, welcomed the delegates. Master J. Goggin very cleverly read the address, and Master F. O'Connor presented Mr. Dillon with a purse containing 10 sovereigns. Master Falvey presented a photograph of the Marxist teachers "whom we love and who teach us to love Ireland." I am sure there are few if any of the boys of Irish parents who heard Mr. Dillon's reply will ever forget that they are Irish. The address which was on vellum and beautiful y engraved and illuminated, was done by the sisters of the convent. After the Brothers were introduced to the delegates an adjournment was made to the Convent school.

All speak in praise of the artistic and appropriate manner in which the large study hall had been decorated. The address, which was here presented, was a gem of its kind. It was beautifully illuminated and hand-painted on porcelain. It was read by Miss McEvedy, the Messrs. Walsh and O'Mally presented a handsomely-worked purse containing 15 sovereigns, the gift of the pupils. I should add that the address was mounted in a green plush frame and fitted in a case made of New Zealand woods by Mr. G. Cronin. Mr. Dillon's reply was somewhat in the same strain as that to the boys. At both the boys and the Convent schools Sir Thomas Esmonde spoke and on each occasion did not forget to ask for a holiday, which was granted.

On Tuesday Sir Thomas Esmonde drove by way of Sumner to Lyttelton, where he was the guest of the Rev. Father Lavery. Father O'Donnell of Darfield accompanied him. Lyttelton on Tuesday night did its duty. Sir Thomas Esmonde addressed a most successful meeting. About £70 was collected in the hall. Taking into account the smallness of the Irish population of the Port this, indeed, was a most creditable amount, it speaks well for the people, for the committee in particular, and for Father Lavery, most especially for the courage with which he undertook to get it up, and the exertions in the cause which he used a long. The address presented by Father Lavery was the work of Miss Maher of Lyttelton. It was handsomely illuminated on vellum and bordered with shamrocks in green. The whole thing was set in the form of a shield, it was much praised by all. Port is to be congratulated in having a local artist who can turn out such work. At the conclusion of Sir Thomas Esmonde's address a motion expressive of sympathy with the people of Ireland and their leaders in the great struggle was proposed, and in a telling and eloquent speech seconded by Brother Joseph, he congratulated the new Mayor in being where a Mayor should be, presiding over a meeting of his people.

Yesterday, Sunday afternoon, the remains of the late Mr. John Conway were interred in the Catholic cemetery at Rangiora. The relatives and a large number of friends followed the hearse from Christchurch, and many joined the procession between Kaiapoi and Rangiora. At Southbrook the cortege was met by about fifty Odd-fellows belonging to the Woodend Lodge, of which the deceased was a member, and Rangiora Lodge. At the cemetery a very large number of people had collected to show their sympathy with the bereaved family. The Rev. Father O'Connor officiated.

Our esteemed contemporary, the *Irish American*, of New York, calls attention to the unwary confession of the London correspondent of the *New York Herald*, who signs himself "A Member of Parliament," that the source of his information on recent Irish affairs was "Red Jim" McDermott, the notorious informer. It is an admission worth recording.—*Pilot*.