

ST. ALOYSIUS' COLLEGE, WAIKARI.

ON Thursday, 15th inst., the annual distribution of prizes took place at the College of the Jesuit Fathers, Waikari, the Rev. Father Walsh, Adm., presided, and there were also present the Rev. Fathers Newport, Burke, and Fitzgerald, Mr. O'Neill and several of the parents and friends of the pupils. The results of the year's work exhibited spoke very highly for the progress made by the pupils, and the Rev. Father O'Malley, S.J., may be sincerely congratulated on the successful termination of his labors. The maps, drawings, and specimens of writing shown were remarkably neat, and obtained the warm commendation of the visitors. The following programme was gone through with: (1.) "La Secnda dallo Stelle," a duet for the cornet, performed very skillfully by D. McCarthy and J. McGuinness; (2.) Translation from the French of "Charles XII.," in which J. McBride, W. Perrin and M. Dwyer were required to translate portions of the book, in which they had had no previous preparation, the manner in which they acquitted themselves of their task displaying the result of diligent study as well as careful teaching. J. McIlroy translated with remarkable fluency a portion of the same work which had been prepared by him. (3.) "The Rath of Mullaghmast," a recitation delivered by W. Haydon, a junior pupil, with much spirit and intelligence. (4.) "Cassar," translated unprepared by W. Perrin and M. Dwyer, and prepared by J. McBride. This was also remarkably well done. (5.) "Take me Home," a cornet solo, played with taste by D. McCarthy. (6.) "Travels of St. Paul," an exercise in geography and sacred history, by J. McBride, W. Perrin and M. Dwyer, who went through it with remarkable exactness. (7.) "Scenes from Catiline," by M. Dwyer, J. McBride, D. McCarthy, J. McGuinness, J. McIlroy, W. Haydon, G. Haydon, J. Macdonald. This scene was extremely well given, M. Dwyer and J. McBride sustaining the parts of Catiline and Cicero, respectively, with very good effect. W. and G. Haydon also performed their part of Lictors with unflinching courage and were by no means daunted by the aspect of their formidable and comparatively gigantic prisoners. (8.) "March in Rob Roy," very nicely played on the piano by W. Haydon. (9.) "Problems in arithmetic and algebra," worked with ease and accuracy on the black board by J. McBride and W. Perrin. (10.) "Per te d'immero giubbilo and Tyrolienne," a violin solo creditably executed by J. McIlroy. (11.) "Dates of all the Popes," by J. McGuinness, J. Macdonald and J. McBride. This was an exercise in the method of learning dates, in a great degree invented by the Rev. Father O'Malley, and the unhesitating manner in which the correct answers were given was the best proof of its efficacy. (12.) "Woodman Spare that Tree," a cornet solo, very well rendered by J. McGuinness. (13.) "Scene from the Honeymoon," by W. Perrin, J. McGuinness and D. McCarthy. This scene was most humorously given, and caused much amusement to the audience. (14.) "Irish History," a searching and well sustained examination of M. Dwyer and W. Perrin in the wars of James and William. (15.) "Duet—Violin," by J. McIlroy and W. Perrin. (16.) A lecture on music by an Italian Professor, Signor Macilrini (J. McIlroy), who went through his part with unflinching good temper, notwithstanding the awkwardness and unreasonable demands of some of his pupils. The "Bivacco," a sort of vocal and instrumental medley, was afterwards performed under the Professor's guidance, and terminated the programme very pleasantly—the effect of the whole being to show conclusively that the world-wide renown of the Jesuit Fathers as unrivalled teachers has not, and will lose, nothing by their college in New Zealand, which cannot be too highly recommended to the Catholics of the colony. We append the prize list:—

English.—Spelling: W. Haydon. Declamation: M. Dwyer, 1; W. Haydon, 2. Composition: M. Dwyer. History (Irish): J. McBride; English, J. McBride and M. Dwyer (equal). Dates: W. Perrin. Geography: J. McBride. Map-drawing: E. Cameron, 1; P. McCarthy, 2; J. McIlroy, 3. Arithmetic: J. McBride, 1; J. McGuinness, 2; W. Haydon, 3. Book-keeping: M. Dwyer. Algebra: M. Dwyer. Euclid: W. Perrin. Writing: Vertical, W. Perrin, 1; J. McGuinness, 2; slant M. Dwyer, 1; H. Diamond, 2; improved, J. McBride and G. McCarthy (equal), 1; J. McIlroy and James Fagan (equal), 2. Shorthand (Mr. Donnelly's prize): W. Perrin. Drawing: D. McCarthy. Music.—Singing (at sight): D. McCarthy; violin, J. McIlroy, 1; W. Perrin, 2; piano, W. Haydon. French.—Charles XII: J. McBride, 1; M. Dwyer, 2; J. McIlroy, 3. Grammar: A. Macdonald, 1; D. McCarthy (great progress), 2. Latin.—Cassar, W. Perrin, 1; M. Dwyer, 2. Grammar J. McIlroy. Christian Doctrine.—J. McBride and M. Dwyer (equal), 1; W. Haydon, 2. Good Conduct.—(Awarded by vote of the pupils,) H. Diamond.

GREYMOUTH.

(From an occasional correspondent.)

December 13, 1881.

IN the early part of this year a project of considerable magnitude was set on foot, initiated by our late Reverend pastor, Father Ecuyer, viz., to raise funds for the erection of a convent and schools in Greymouth, and to establish a community of Sisters of the Order of Mercy amongst us. It was at first calculated that the cost of importing six Sisters, with that of building and furnishing the convent and schools would amount to about £2500. Notwithstanding the many obstacles which have since marred the success of the movement, such as the departure of a large number of those who promised contributions, the heavy drain upon the means of the limited Catholic population of the town of keeping up our Catholic school in a state of efficiency, and the voluntary removal to Sydney of the Reverend promoter, subscriptions have been flowing in by quarterly instalments, which bring the fund now to the sum of £1000. The plans proposed by our local architect (Mr. Bissenhardt) having been submitted to the Sisters at Hokitika and to his Lordship the Bishop, have been fully approved of,

and the Committee, with Father McGuinness, have decided upon calling for tenders without further delay. It may be mentioned that the liberal contributions of Messrs. Kennedy, Sheedy, McDonnell, Griffen, Dupre, Campbell, O'Brien, Fathers Martin and Rolland, with the remission of the passage expenses of the Sisters by the Order in Hokitika, will tend to reduce the original amount very materially; while the proceeds of the bazaar and art union to be held at Christmas cannot but make up a reasonable sum. Under these circumstances Father McGuinness and the Committee will, it is to be hoped, be successful in their laudable efforts, and meet with the willing co-operation of the Catholics in the entire district to establish so noble an institution in the capital of the West Coast.

The jubilee has been in course of progress during the past fortnight, and thanks to the perfect arrangements made by Father McGuinness in obtaining the assistance of Father Rolland, of Abaura, and Father Devoy, of Kumara, the members of the Catholic community of the whole parish, may be said, with few exceptions, to have complied with the necessary conditions.

Many of your readers in the Grey Valley as well as in this district will hear with regret that Mr. C. C. McCarthy, Head Teacher of St. Patrick's School here, has resigned his appointment, and intends, I believe, leaving for a neighbouring colony. It is not too much to say that Mr. McCarthy has proved himself an excellent teacher and a respected citizen. In all movements relating to National affairs he has been an active, earnest, and indefatigable worker; his voice and pen were always at command when patriotic duty claimed his services. As Secretary to the "Irish Relief fund" and subsequently to the "Parnell Defence Fund," his untiring exertions and successful labours cannot be forgotten by those who were identified with him and who appreciated his singleminded zeal in the cause of National sympathy.

Mr. J. W. Walsh, the representative of the Irish National Land League, is, I understand, about to visit New Zealand, coming first to the West Coast in response to an invitation from the Paroa Branch. The patriotic spirit of the members of the Paroa Branch is certainly deserving of all praise. Should Mr. Walsh arrive before Christmas he will receive a *cead mille failte*, and the co-operation of the sterling sons of the Green Isle, who are to the number of 75 enrolled on the books of the Paroa Branch. Their esteemed president (Mr. C. C. McCarthy) having resigned, the Branch will have lost an earnest leader, and the cause a worthy supporter by his defection from the ranks. As there are several Branches throughout the Grey Valley, I would respectfully throw out the suggestion that a conference of delegates be held at Greymouth as early as possible, to determine the reception to be given to Mr. Walsh, and arrange his tour through the district with a view to facilitate his labors and to cement together in complete unity and in one accord all the Branches and their members, when success will be certain.

PIOUS VII. AND THE TAILOR.

WHILST Pius VII. was kept a prisoner in Savona by the Emperor Napoleon, he lived most simply, or rather poorly, for he had refused the princely household that was offered him, as also a yearly grant of two million francs. The venerable Pontiff bore his hard lot heroically; and suffered his privations with pious and dignified resignation.

The festival of Easter, 1810, was approaching, and the saintly Pontiff wished to celebrate it with the people, as they had petitioned him to do. His cassock being thread-bare and torn, he sent for a tailor to have it mended; the tailor came, received the orders of the Holy Father, and promised to do his best. When he reached home, his heart, deeply touched by the sight of the humiliations and poverty of the Pontiff, he broke out into lamentations to his friends; with deep grief he showed them the poor cassock of the Holy Father. They entered into his feelings, lamented the hard fate of the venerable prisoner, and the sad story was repeated everywhere. They began to make pilgrimages to the house of the pious tailor—pilgrimages which in number resembled those to the holy shrine at Loretto. Every one wanted to see the poor garment; every one, wanted a piece of it as a relic of the Holy Father, and at the same time each one made an offering towards the purchase of a new one for Easter. It was not long till the old cassock was cut up, and not a fragment of it remained; but instead, the table was literally covered with gold and silver. The tailor had the new cassock ready very soon, gathered up the spontaneous offerings of the faithful, and brought the garment and a well-filled purse to His Holiness.

"What is this, my son?" asked Pius VII., in surprise.

"This is sent by your loving people, with their sympathy," answered the tailor, and then he related what had passed at his house.

The holy old Pope accepted the garment with lively emotion, but he returned the purse, pleasure beaming on his countenance: "My son," he said, "the Almighty watches over his loyal servants, and makes use of the kindly dispositions of some to alleviate the sufferings of others; He overshadows all with His blessings. The garment, which you bring me will doubtless last for the balance of my sojourn in this world of trial; but the most urgent wish of my heart, as it is the first duty of my state, is to relieve the distressed. I am but a poor prisoner; you are free, and Providence, in sending me this money through your means, has been pleased to show me the faithful hand that is worthy to dispense it. Go, and relieve the sorrows of the most needy in Savona."

From that time the good tailor received many a donation for the Holy Father, and in his name distributed it to the poor. And thus the residence of the saintly Pontiff in Savona was a well-spring of beneficent deeds.—Exchange.

The wife of Colonel O'Callaghan was fined 50s. at Tulla for carrying a rifle without a license. The prosecution was undertaken on the information of John White, who had been fined £5 for shooting on Colonel O'Callaghan's land. The O'Callaghan's are "Boycotted," and carry arms for self-protection.