

VARIETIES. The second annual exhibition of the Canterbury Society of Arts was opened a week ago in the Boys' High School. It is quite impossible for me to enter into any detailed account of the pictures, though I should have liked to make a few remarks on some of them. But the Society is to be congratulated on the successful nature of its second venture, as not only in numbers, but also in quality, the exhibits show marked progress. In addition to the original pictures by New Zealand artists, there is also an excellent collection of works by well-known painters. The new Art School, nearly if not quite completed, will have great influence on the successful study of art in this province; a pursuit which has hitherto been carried on under many and almost insuperable difficulties.—A curious marriage took place a few weeks ago in a small village in England. The bridegroom was in his 77th year, and the bride in her 81st. His Christian name is Thomas, and hers is Mary. This is said to be the third Mary that Thomas has chosen as his partner, and the third Thomas to whom Mary has been married. Their worldly means are not as inexhaustible as the purse of Fortunatus, as they only receive parish relief to the extent of 2s and a loaf each per week.—Much regret is felt and expressed at the death of Mr. G. L. Mellish, our greatly-respected Resident Magistrate, which took place on the 29th inst. The deceased gentleman was but 47 years of age. He was educated at Exeter and Pembroke Colleges, Oxford, and was one of the celebrated "Varsity eights" in 1854. He served in the Crimean War, soon after which he came to New Zealand. He had been Resident Magistrate in Christchurch since 1874, but for the last 18 months had suffered much from the disease which has now proved fatal, and which had for some time incapacitated him from public work, though quite recently he had resumed his place on the Bench. To most people his death has seemed very sudden, and his loss is not only felt by his personal friends, but by the community in general.—"Mother Shipton's Prophecy" has signally failed this time, for "the end of the world has (not) come in 1881." From what I can gather, her date is, however, a moveable, and therefore convenient one, the original time having been fixed for 1821, and having been regularly "brought forward" every successive ten years; we may therefore look forward with considerable confidence to any number of reprieves for the time to come. In conclusion may I be permitted to offer you and your readers my hearty good wishes for the happiest of all "Happy New Years."

MEANEE COLLEGE.

(Daily Telegraph, December 17.)

THURSDAY and Friday have been two busy days at the above college. The annual examination commenced early on Thursday morning, and continued till after 4 o'clock in the afternoon. During the day every pupil, whether boarder or day scholar, was carefully examined as to his or her individual attainments by the Rev. Father Sauzeau. The young ladies' day school, which is under the special charge of Miss Hameling, was first visited, where neatness, system, and order seemed to rule supreme. All the pupils were examined in reading, writing, arithmetic, English grammar, composition, dictation, geography, recitations, and singing. Several displayed very great ability at the piano. The specimens of plain and fancy needlework, also tatting, embroidery, crochet, knitting, and Berlin wool work exhibited ample proof that very great care and attention had been devoted to this most important and tasteful subject. The boys were next examined in the following subjects:—Reading, writing, geography, grammar, history, drill, ornamental penmanship, ciphering, etc. At the termination of the examination the Rev. Father Sauzeau addressed the boys, congratulating them and their teachers on the efficiency displayed throughout the examination, and exhorting them to be regular in attendance, obedient and respectful to their teachers, and obliging and kind to each other.

Yesterday morning J. H. Pope, Esq., the Inspector of Native Schools, paid his usual half-yearly visit to the college for the purpose of examining the Maori and half-caste boys. Each boy was very carefully examined and classified according to the various standards of the Education Code.

As had been advertised, the distribution of prizes commenced at 1 o'clock in the presence of a large number of ladies and gentlemen, some of whom had travelled a considerable distance in order to be present. P. Dolbel, Esq., took the chair, and having addressed the pupils on the benefits to be derived from receiving a good education, proceeded at once to distribute the prizes to the young ladies who distinguished themselves in the following subjects:—

Music.—M. A. Stevens and Louisa Gebbie.

Needlework.—Emily Stevens, handsome writing desk presented by Mrs. Bunting; Lizzie Hawkins, an album presented by Mr. St. Clair; Annie Cleary, workbook.

Good conduct.—M. A. Stevens, handsome book presented by proprietor of *Daily Telegraph*.

Arithmetic.—M. Birss, K. Reilly, and M. J. Lorigan.

Reading.—E. Brown, A. Cullow, and A. Hawkins.

Writing.—E. Stevens, K. McHugh, M. Hawkins, R. Hackett, and Amy Stevens.

Geography.—K. Lynch, L. Gebbie, and K. McHugh.

Grammar.—K. McHugh and A. Cullow.

Recitation.—A. Cullow.

Regular attendance.—Alice McKeown.

After the distribution of the above prizes the fancy needlework, etc., were handed round to the company, and elicited the highest praises from all present. The chairman then proceeded to distribute prizes to the undermentioned for proficiency in the following subjects:

Ruclid.—S. M'Greedy and Wm. Ramsay.

Arithmetic.—H. Gebbie, J. A. Elliott, J. Connor, G. Davies, H. Dennett, and R. Neagle.

Reading.—H. Gebbie, S. M'Greedy, R. Dolbel, M. M'Hugh, J. Bradley, and W. Ramsay.

Writing.—J. A. Elliott, J. Connor, H. Dennett, T. Spence, J. M. Gres, and P. O'Dowd.

Cyphering.—S. M'Greedy, W. Ramsay, R. Neagle, P. O'Dowd, J. A. Elliott, and R. Dolbel.

Grammar.—G. Davies, S. M'Greedy, W. Flint, J. Connor, J. Bradley, and H. Dennett.

Geography.—J. A. Elliott, 1st prize, John Connor, 2nd prize, presented by Dr. Caro; R. Neagle, 3rd prize, presented by Mr. S. Carnell; H. Dennett, 4th prize, presented by Mr. W. A. Dugleby.

Music.—W. H. B. Flint, 1st prize, presented by S. Locke, Esq.; S. M'Greedy, 2nd prize, presented by R. R. Curtis, Esq.

Drawing.—G. Davies, 1st prize, presented by D. D. Berry, Esq.

Good conduct.—J. Towers, 1st prize, presented by the Rev. Father Reignier; A. Wood, 2nd prize, presented by the Rev. Father Sauzeau; O. Jonsen, 3rd prize, presented by the Rev. Father Ahearn.

Mr. Rearden having offered four special prizes for ornamental penmanship, the following ladies and gentlemen: Mrs. Dolbel, Mrs. Robinson, Rev. F. Sauzeau, Mr. Pope, and Mr. G. Rymer, consented to select which of fifteen competitors should obtain them, the result being:—M. Karauria, 1st prize; Wm. Lewis, 2nd; P. Mita, 3rd; and W. Ramsay, 4th.

After the distribution of the above prizes, Mr. Rearden said there were two boys who had recently to remain at home, but who were fairly entitled to prizes, and that he had not forgotten them. He consequently retained one for each—Thomas Ramsay and William Lord. He would also avail himself of this opportunity of heartily thanking those kind ladies and gentlemen who had so very generously contributed towards the prize fund. He also hoped each one would take very great care of those very handsome books, and show by their good conduct they were deserving of them. To the many ladies and gentlemen present he felt much indebted for their presence that day, and concluded by requesting the pupils to give three hearty cheers for Mr. Dolbel, who so kindly distributed the prizes. Three cheers were also given for Father Sauzeau and the clergy of the Mission, and to the ladies and gentlemen present.

The Chairman, the Rev. Father Sauzeau, and Mr. Rymer, having briefly responded, the Rev. Father Sauzeau proposed three cheers for Mr. and Mrs. Rearden, Miss Hameling, and Mr. Taylor, and the proceedings concluded by the pupils singing the National Anthem.

Commercial.

MR. DONALD STRONACH (on behalf of the New Zealand Loan and Mercantile Agency Company, Limited) reports for the week ending January 4, as follows:—

Fat Cattle.—The smallest number forward for some time were yarded to-day, there being only 75 head, most of which, however, were of good quality. The attendance was small, and prices ruled about the same as last week. Bullocks realised from £7 2s 6d to £11; cows, £5 15s to £8 10s. Beef may be quoted at 20s to 22s 6d per 100lb.

Fat Calves.—Seventeen were yarded and sold at fair prices, from 15s to 27s each.

Fat Sheep.—The moderate supply of 1472 head were penned, but these quite filled all requirements; the bidding was devoid of animation, and prices showed no quotable change since last report. The highest price for crossbreds was 11s 3d each. We sold drafts for Messrs. J. and S. Wilson, Oamaru, at 9s 7d each; for Messrs. Ross Bros., at 8s 9d, Mr. W. S. Morrisby at 8s 9d; for Mr. J. Meit at 8s 9d, and for Messrs. Samson and Little, at 11s. Mutton is worth 2d per lb.

Fat Lambs.—335 were penned, and prices were slightly easier than last week. We sold 298 on account of Mr. William Shand, Messrs. J. and S. Wilson, Ross Bros., Mr. James Gibson, and W. S. Morrisby, at 6s to 7s 9d each.

Fat Pigs.—The number to hand proved more than enough to supply all wants, and some were turned out unsold. Stores realised 5s 6d each, and good porkers up to 39s.

Store Cattle.—In consequence of the holidays there have been no transactions. We have a few nice lots for sale.

Store Sheep.—The demand is still more active, especially for young merinos, both ewes, wethers, and crossbreds. Since our last report we have disposed of 4,000 ewes and wethers.

Sheepskins.—Our weekly sale was, in consequence of the holiday, held last Thursday, December 29, when we offered a full catalogue. The attendance of the trade was good, and prices about equal to last quotations, say, butchers' green crossbreds, 5s to 6s; dry skins, 3s to 5s 3d; green merinos, 4s 5d to 5s 5d; dry, 1s 9d to 3s 2d; pelts, 6d to 1s 1d; lamb-skins, 1s to 1s 6d; skins in bales, 5½d to 6½d per lb.

Rabbit-skins.—We disposed of a few lots at the following prices:—7½d per lb for suckers and pips, to 15½d for well-grown winter skins.

Hides.—The demand is good, and all coming forward are being cleared off at 4d to 4½d per lb. for wet salted.

Tallow is in good request at prices equal to last ruling rates. We sold rough fat at 17s 6d to 19s 6d, and quote best mutton at 30s; ordinary to good, 27s 6d to 28s 6d; medium and inferior, 20s to 25s.

Grain.—Wheat: At the present season so little is in first hands that we can report no business of importance. We have sold a few small parcels of medium to good quality at 3s 9d to 4s, and 4s 3d might be obtained for first-class lots. Oats: There have been several inquiries for shipment, but little business has ensued, holders not being inclined to accept the ruling rates. Bright feed is worth 1s 10d to 1s 11d; medium and inferior, 1s 6d to 1s 9d per bushel. Barley: No transactions.