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ST PATRICK'S DAY IN CHRISTCHURCH.

April 1, 1894.

The social for the celebration of St. Patrick's Day was held on Easter Monday evening in the Hibernian Hall, and was a great success. Great regret was expressed at the absence of the president who worked very hard up to the Saturday previous when he was taken with a severe illness which confined him to his bed, where he lies still. He forwarded the usual apology and requested that Bro James Nelson should take the chair in his absence. The following was to have been his address which, I am very sorry, he was unable to deliver, for I think its a very good one, and which I hope you will find space for:—

"Ladies and Gentlemen,-In my position as president of St Patrick's Branch of the Hibernian Society a very pleasant duty devolves upon me this evening, namely, that of wishing you all a most cordial Cead Mille Failthe, and of thanking you sincerely for the liberal patronage you favour us with Our celebration of St Patrick's night could not for many reasons be held on the 17th We were therefore obliged to follow the example set us by the Church, when for good reasons a festival cannot be celebrated with unbounded joy on its proper date, namely, to transfer the calebrating to an occasion when we may rejoice with that full heartedness for which our race is celebrated. That our society abould be true to its traditions, its love for the dear old sod and all that reminds us of it or tends to keep alive the memory of dear Erin every one has a right to expect. A regret is sometimes expressed that the celebration of St Patrick's Day is not of a more genial character. Well, we should be only too pleased to see such a c lebration. If your social status as individuals does not entitle us t) take the initiative in the matter, we certainly enjoy a privilege as members of this Society to celebrate the national festival. We have done so in the past, and we intend doing so in the future. Irishmen of this district will only rally round us we will be able to give a celebration which will be a credit and a pleasure to the Irish extles in this remote corner of the globe. We carnestly wish all here present will spend a happy and pleasant evening and the celebration of St. Arick's Day by the Hibernian Society will be one of the pleasant remembrances of this year."

The following were apologies received from prominent men of the city:—Mr R. P. Lonargan, J.P., Mr J. A. Clarke, Past Provincial istrict Grand Master of Oddfellows, Mr W. Hoban, barrister and

selicitor. These gentlemen regretted being unable to attend, and wished the social every success. The following is the programme: First toast was the "Pope," proposed by the presiding officer and drank with musical honours; "The Queen and Royal family," proposed by the same and responded by the singing of the National Anthem; song, "Gently does the trick," by Mr E. Bagely; "The day we celebrate," proposed by Mr M Donnelly and responded to by Mr M. Nolan; ang, "Fiddle and I," sung by Miss E. Gamble; "Irish men at Home and abroad," proposed by Mr A. H. Blake and responded to by Mr E. O'Connor; recitation, Irish, selected, by Mr J. Fiolay; "Our adopted country," proposed by Mr J. Nelson, and responded to by A. H. Blake; song, "The dear little sharrock," sung by Mrs J. P. Kelly (encored); "Kindred societies," proposed by Mr J. P. Henley, and responded to by Mr W. Langford; song by Mr M McNamara; "The ladies," proposed by W. Courtney and and responded to by J. Finlay; "The Press," proposed by W. O'Shaughnessy and responded to by M. Donnelly. The most attractive item on the programme was the four-handed Irish reel by Messra O'Callaghan, Delaney and Misses O'Callaghan, which was received with great enthusiasm, and fairly brought down the house. The song Come back to Eric," was sung by Miss A. Cunningham; Mr E. Bagley danced a sailor's horopipe; pianist, Mrs D. Scrimgeon. At half-past eleven the tables were cleared and dancing was indulged in till the small hours of the morning. Great credit is due to the hon secretary, Mr G. E. Dobbs, who worked most zealously to make the affair a success. Everybody was well pleased. Thanks are also due to the following for contributions to the success of the social :- Mr J. McNamars, Mr F. Arenas, Mr Molloy, Mr Burke, Mr J. O'Neil, Messrs Lees and Evans, Mr Gaffney, Messrs Courteney and Couriney. Also to the ladies for laying the tables, etc.

The well known firm of Voice and Peat, coachbuilders of Christchorch, beg to announce through the columns of this week's Tablet, that they are always ready to welcome their friends at the Con ral Carriage Works, Lichfield Street. This firm are well known as being one of the best in New Zealand at turning ont high class work. Amongst some of their patrons are the late Governor, Lord Onslow, and the Hon Larnach, Dunedin and others too numerous to mention. They were the first to build the celebrated racing sulky, and have now an improved patent pneumatic tyred solky which is giving great satisfaction to all the principle trotting men in New Zatland. Mr Voice is of the late firm of Bryant and Voice and Mr Peat is well known amongst a large circle as a celebrated Irieh comedian.