

nons to impart a good musical training by the large number of Protestant parents who entrust the musical education of their children to their charge. Under all the circumstances it was not surprising to find St George's Hall well patronised on Friday night, when the curtain rose on a very pretty scene, the children grouped at the back of the stage in tiers, the white dresses of the girls forming a pleasing contrast to the darker stuffs in which the boys were clad.

The programme opened with a chorus, "Chiming Bells," by the company, the various parts being very correctly taken, and the voices blending most harmoniously. Misses Annie Moore, Iris Reid, Masters J. and M. Scanlan contributed a pianoforte duet, "Zampa," in first-class style. A number of the smaller children then gave a kindergarten performance, consisting of exercises with wands, the whole being done to music supplied by Miss N. Scanlan. The various movements were all remarkably well gone through by the little ones, and reflected infinite credit on those who had had the work of coaching them. This item was much enjoyed by everyone present, while not a little amusement was also caused by the vagaries of one particularly small urchin. Following this came another pianoforte selection, "Scotch Blossoms," by Misses Moore (2) and Wain (2), the various popular airs in which received ample justice at the hands of the youthful performers. The next item was a cantata, "White Garland," by the school children. As the queen, Miss Martina Lynch acquitted herself admirably, her singing quite entitling her to the honour she recently gained as prize singer of the school. The other parts were also well rendered, including those of Misses Mary Ann Joyce (punctuality), Nellie Lynch (tardy scholar), Kate Kirby (perseverance), Nellie Burke (pugilist), Annie Grealish (generous scholar) Hanneffey (selfish scholar). The various choruses incidental to the cantata were all well taken by the scholars, and altogether the piece went swimmingly from start to finish. The first part of the programme concluded with a pianoforte solo by Miss O'Reilly, a visitor from Dunedin, who showed herself to be a complete master of her instrument. During the interval some excellent music was supplied on the piano by Mr V. Marryatt.

The Rev Father O'Neill then came forward and returned thanks on behalf of himself and also on behalf of those who had the training of the children for the splendid entertainment which had just been presented to them. To Father Ryan thanks were particularly due, as he had taken in hand the coaching of the boys for their play. He might mention that the preparations for the entertainment had been considerably interfered with by the examinations. This would account for any shortcomings, but he was sure the audience would cheerfully overlook any little deficiencies which might occur.

The second part opened with a duet for two pianos, "Qui vive," by Misses M. and J. Crawley and Masters P. and J. Scanlan, which was followed by another pianoforte selection, "Humours of Donnybrook," by Misses M. Crawley and N. Scanlan, both pieces giving evidence of having been carefully practised. A chorus, "Home, dearest home" by the company was the next, and it was also well rendered. Then came another instrumental item, solo for two pianos, "Oberon" by Misses N. Scanlan and A. Crawley, who gave a finished interpretation of this well known number. This was followed by a play by the boys of the school. The various parts of the troublesome boy Jack, his uncle and aunt, Polly, besides the numerous minor characters were all exceedingly well rendered, several of the boys being evidently possessed of histrionic abilities of no mean order. A step dance by Masters Fox and Grealish brought a most enjoyable evening's entertainment to a close. The somewhat arduous duties of accompanist were undertaken by Miss Nellie Scanlan, who acquitted herself of her task in an exceedingly creditable manner.

## PETONE BAZAAR.

(From an occasional Correspondent.)

THE bazaar and picnic in connection with the new Catholic Church Petone, Wellington, was opened by Archbishop Redwood on Boxing Day, who was accompanied by the Very Rev Father Devoy, V.G., Dr Watters. (St Patrick's College), and staff of professors, Very Rev Fathers Dawson, Lane, O'Mara, Grogan and several other clergymen. The bazaar was visited by His Excellency the Governor, the Countess of Glasgow, Ladies Augusta and Alice Boyle, the Hon Allan Boyle, Sir James and Lady Hector, and elite of the surrounding districts and Wellington. The whole undertaking was an enormous success the weather was all that could be desired, there were all sorts of games and amusements, merry-go-rounds, swings, racing, jumping, sack and barrow races, step dancing and everything to attract, and all seemed to thoroughly enjoy themselves. There were between 5000 and 6000 people on the grounds, the stall holders were as follows:—No 1 stall—Lady Buckley, Lady Hector, Mesdames Bunny, Malcome, Misses Malcome, Grace (2), O'Neill, Ryan, Fitzherbert, Cox, Cimino, Casey, Gibbs, Silva, Nicholas, Monogue (2). This stall was laden with a gorgeous supply of the most artistic work of art, chairs,

screens, painted mirrors, cushions, plaques, bags, lounges, most beautiful work from almost every convent in New Zealand. No 2 stall—Mesdames Armstrong, Edwards, Misses Edwards (3), Walsh (4), Ryan, Hegarty, Burke, Kearsely, Maggie Gibbs, Lestrangle and Dolly Driscoll. No 3 stall—Mesdames London, Maher, Donovan, Carberry, assisted by Misses London, Donovan, Murphy, Silva, Woods, Cuddy, Trueman, Casey, Patterson, Butler, De Rosa. These stalls were groaning under all sorts of artistic and useful goods. No 4 stall—Refreshment stall, Mesdames Patterson, Murphy, Donovan, Silva, De Rosa, Carberry, Misses M. A. and Ellen Maher and Trueman. Abundance of good things of every kind was supplied here, geese, ducks, fowls, salads, ice-creams, strawberries and cream, grapes and lemonade. The largest sum of money was taken at Mrs London and Mrs Maher's stall. Both ladies are very popular and worked hard for the last two months and well deserved the patronage they fully received. The Countess of Glasgow expressed herself highly delighted with the beautiful work done in the different convents, and especially with an artistic chair worked by Mrs McBae which was the admiration of all. Father Donnelly and committee are to be heartily congratulated on the excellent manner and success of the bazaar and the way in which everything was carried out. A concert and dance the same evening in connection with the above was given to a crowded audience in the Oddfellows Hall, Petone. The performers were Misses Grace (2), Gibbs, Casey, Patterson, Fitzgerald; Messrs Haybittle, Crombie, Scott, and Dr Purdy. Every item was well rendered and a thoroughly enjoyable evening was spent. The bazaar continues in the Oddfellows Hall and is well attended each evening. The required sum of money is nearly in hand and the church will be commenced at once. The design is Gothic and it will be a beautiful building when finished.

## A S H B U R T O N.

(From an occasional Correspondent.)

THERE is not much to report of late in this district, for, indeed, like all other places in this glorious Britain of the South, the only cry heard is, What next? That refers of course to politics, save the word. As regards business we have here ceased to talk about it, and in respect to the future—oh, no, we never mention it.

Church matters are, as is always the case, progressing. Make what you like of that! Since the removal of, and completion of additions to the Convent our Sisters are beginning to feel more like the possession of a home (if one may use the word), for, since their arrival in Ashburton, they never were certainly comfortable in their retreat in any sense, the buildings and their surroundings always giving one an idea of makeshift. This is all changed now, and may they go on and prosper.

You will be glad to hear of another altar being raised in this country to the honour and glory of God. At Bakara, some twenty miles on the road to Christchurch, the Catholics are commencing the erection of a beautiful church. A few weeks ago the contract was signed by Messrs Kilbride and Hannab, of Leeston, and the foundations are already laid. In all probability it will be blessed and formally opened by Patrick's time, when a full description will be forwarded to you.

School matters are left to the last in this communication for the reason that there is a pretty little table compiled by the writer from the Christchurch daily Press. The figures are so astounding that it is curious no one has noticed the facts publicly. From the figures supplied the Government school inspectors might compound some very pretty questions in arithmetic for their next exam. For instance:—(1) If 31 were captured and brought before the Court, what percentage does that number bear to the number of those undetected in Christchurch. (2) Given the population of Christchurch and suburbs at 40,000, what proportion will the number of captured and undetected bear to the juvenile population of the whole Colony? It is worth noting that most of the total of 31 children arrested in the month of October have, according to age, just completed their course of education (*sic*). The whole subject should form a very pretty matter for meditation for all hands during the present vacation from the Hon W.P.R. down through the inspectors and teachers to the youngest P.T. (mind you make no mistake, P.T. not P.D.). All the compliments of the season, and may the shadow of the New ZEALAND TABLET never grow less.

MYERS AND Co., Dentists, Octagon, corner of George street. The guarantee highest class work at moderate fees. Their artificial teeth give general satisfaction, and the fact of them supplying a temporary denture while the gums are healing does away with the inconvenience of being months without teeth. They manufacture a single artificial tooth for Ten Shillings, and sets equally moderate. The administration of nitrous oxide gas is also a great boon to those needing the extraction of a tooth. Read—[ADVT.]

W GIMBLET, Nurseriesman, Florist, and Fruit Grower, 140 Colombo St, Christchurch.—A grand collection of Buns for flowering in the Spring. This is the Season for Planting. The new Japan Plum Tree in 12 varieties, from 2s 6d each. Also, a new strain of Californian Peach Trees. Call for a Catalogue