

On Tuesday the body, exposed in the coffin, lay before the altar in the chapel of the convent. The expression of the dead nun's face, though her features had been worn by illness, was that of ineffable peace—well suited to the holy calm of the sanctuary where she lay. Large numbers of the people came to show their respect and sympathy, and to offer their prayers. In the evening the men of the confraternity of the Holy Family came in by sections after their weekly meeting in the cathedral, and recited the rosary of the Blessed Virgin for the departed soul.

On Wednesday morning the remains were borne in procession by the nuns to the Cathedral, and placed upon the catafalque—the coffin being closed, and covered with wreaths of flowers. Solemn office for the dead and High Mass of *Requiem* were commenced at 11.30, the celebrant of the Mass being the Rev Father O'Neill; deacon, Very Rev Father O'Leary; sub-deacon, Rev Father Vereker; master of ceremonies, Rev Father Newport; assistant master of ceremonies, Rev Father Murphy. Lessons were read by the Very Rev Father O'Leary, and the Rev Fathers Vereker, O'Donnell (Gore), Hunt, O'Donnell (Palmerston), O'Neill (Gore), Coffey, Ryan, and Howard. The music of the Mass was sweetly and touchingly sung by the nuns' choir. The Very Rev Father Lynch, who was preacher, spoke as follows:—

Your prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of Sister Mary Hyacinth O'Neill. Your prayers and communions will be freely offered up for her whom the children of the schools loved, whom all those who met her highly respected, and whom her Sisters in Christ revered as a good and faithful *religieuse*. It is my duty to respectfully offer the Dominican Nuns of this diocese your sincere sympathy. A few days ago they celebrated the feast of "all the saints of the Dominican Order," and a commemoration of all souls was afterwards made. Since then another member of the Order has left earth to join—quickly join, I believe,—the throng of spiritual daughters of Dominic who have exchanged the sweet *Salve* of supplication for the glorious *Te Deum* of victory. One who has been regarded as a saint by those who witnessed her daily life has passed away. The recollection her years wholly devoted to the Almighty and of her heroic patience on the bed of sickness assuages grief at the loss of a sincere friend and dear sister. It is my duty to offer in name of my fellow-priests as well as the people our heartfelt sympathy to Father O'Neill in the great sorrow which he must naturally feel at the death of his sister. In his presence I should not speak of the respect in which he is deservedly held by us all. We join in his sorrow and ask him to convey to the father and mother in the far-off Old Land the expression of our most sincere condolence. Heaven does not destroy natural affections. It elevates, it purifies, it takes away what is inordinate. Holy religion, which should be heaven in miniature, does not sunder the links of fond affection which bind the members of a family together. Separation, even with an ocean between them, does not diminish the love which nature implanted, which reason inculcates and the great God blesses. The Catholic child who enters a convent, the Catholic parent who gives a loved daughter to God, continue to love each other, and ever pray and work for each other that all may one day be re-united before the throne of the Most High. It will be a consolation to the fond Irish father and the true Irish mother to learn that the child whom they gave to the Church to become the Spouse of Jesus Christ never faltered in her vocation, till, with a prayer of conformity to the adorable will of God upon her lips, she gave up her pure soul to her Creator. In reading the office for the dead a certain verse which the clergy recited seemed to me most appropriate to the departed. Substituting merely feminine for the masculine, it can be read, "Blessed is she whom Thou hast chosen and hast taken, she shall dwell in Thy courts." We have all, in one way or other, witnessed the holiness of her life, and her intense devotion to duty. We have every reason for believing that a high place in the House of the Master will be the reward of the faithful labourer in the vineyard of Him who declared that those who instruct others into justice shall shine like stars for ever in His kingdom. She was chosen by God when the baptismal waters were poured upon her brow, and her child life, and her girl life and her maiden life was characterized by the same piety, the same spirit of faith, the same charity and unselfishness, the same fervour, which in the cloister—no doubt in greater measure—constantly edified the whole community. Words of commendation were distasteful to her in life. She looked to God and never sought the world's ephemeral praise. Now, when she has gone, we can, without offence to Christian humility, say that her sole aim in the convent was to become a perfect religious and a faithful imitator of the meek and humble Heart of Jesus. How she succeeded even the children of the schools—you before me, whom she patiently and lovingly taught—can bear eloquent witness. God called her to leave home and friends. She obeyed. The call of God required her to leave the native land she dearly loved. She obeyed. Her vocation required constant self-sacrifice and, in the last years of her life, heroic patience to bear intense physical sufferings. She obeyed. "*Fiat voluntas tua*"—"Thy will, O Lord, be done," was the first answer to the call to holy religion. "May the most just, the

most high, the most adorable Will of God ever be in all things done and praised and for ever magnified" was the prayer of the last moments of her life. Mary had been proposed to her by her good Irish mother as a model of every virtue. "*Inspice et fac secundum exemplar quod monstratum est tibi*," was said to her on her entry into the religious state. "Look, fashion your life according to the pattern which has been shown to you." She learned well the lesson and constantly and successfully strove to follow Mary in imitation of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Like Mary she detested pride, and in the words of the Imitation, "loved to be unknown." The natural kindness of her heart was intensified and more and more supernaturalised as the years went on. Consideration for others—the mark of a generous, charitable mind was a salient feature of her conduct during a long and most trying illness. She was eminently a good and faithful servant of God. Her years were short, but her merit, we all believe, must be very great. She was faithful to duty and her high vocation even unto death. When we consider her life and bear in mind the heroic patience with which she endured her final illness, we cannot but feel that if not actually with God in heaven she is united to God in the home of the dear departed souls. The Church inspired of God alone may canonise. However great our appreciation of a beautiful life, our duty is not to praise but rather to pray. God is an all Holy God, and nothing in the smallest way defiled can enter heaven. Before she died she thanked all those who had prayed for and lovingly attended her, and requested a continuance of prayers then and after her death. I need not ask you to pray this morning, you will do so of your own accord. You will continue to pray for one who, by her work in the field of Christian education has a special claim upon us. You will pray also for yourselves that you may die a happy death. *Hodie mihi oras tibi*. "To-day for me," she says, "to-morrow for you." May we too have the consolations of religion at our death-bed. May the priest of God be there to comfort us and give the final absolution. May our last prayer be like hers—"My Jesus mercy, Mary pray." She frequently invoked the Mother of Perpetual Succour to help her. We can well believe that Mary was at her bedside, and that Jesus, who favoured her in His mercy and goodness in life, received her pure soul at death, you will pray as the remains are borne to the last resting place, that eternal rest may be granted to her. O Lord let perpetual light shine upon her. May she rest in peace. Amen.

At 2.30 the remains were conveyed from the cathedral to the burial ground of the Dominican community in the Southern Cemetery, the *cortège* being of great length. Besides the members of the clergy whom we have already named, the Very Rev Father Mackay, Adm and the Rev Father MacMullan, who had just arrived by the train from Oamaru, took part in the ceremonies at the grave. May the soul of the departed nun through the mercy of God rest in peace.

## DOMINICAN CONVENT SCHOOLS, QUEENSTOWN.

### GOVERNMENT INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

(Examined 18th October, 1895.)

THE pupils of this school have attained a very creditable standard of proficiency. Their oral answers were ready and intelligent, and their written exercises are models of neatness and careful arrangement. Conduct and manners are entirely pleasing; grammar, very good indeed; history, excellent in standard III, fair in standards IV and V, very good in standard VI; geography, standard II very good; object lessons, very good; science, very good, especially in standard VI; mental arithmetic, excellent; repetition and recitation, very good; drill exercises, very good; singing, has been nicely taught; needlework, very creditable; comprehension of the language of reading-lessons, excellent. The pupils promoted to standards II and III respectively made very creditable passes. The infant department of this school (examined 5th November) is in every respect excellently conducted.

(signed) GEO. D. BRAIK,  
Inspector.

Messrs Herbert Haynes and Co are now holding a sale, enforced by the necessity of making preparations for rebuilding. The opportunity thus offered is not likely soon to occur again.

Sarah Bernhardt is to act the part of the Empress Josephine in a play written for her by Emile Bergerat and called "Le Divorce Imperial."

Verli has just finished a mass for the 7th centenary of St Anthony of Padua. He is setting to music a number of hymns to the Blessed Virgin written by Signor Buitto.

President Cleveland's administration has accomplished the very undesirable feat of increasing the nation's debt by over three millions of dollars. It is a big record but a bad one.

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