

American cousins if something is not quickly done to secure the moral restraint which religion alone can give. The evils we mention, the minor troubles mentioned by Mr CREAGH will not be remedied till parents realise and do their duty on the school question. Without doubt unhealthy literature is immediately responsible for much juvenile crime. A "penny-dreadful crusade" is much needed in New Zealand. Parents are to blame for allowing their boys and girls to purchase the worse than trash sold openly in bookstalls. But the remedy lies deeper. Unless restrained by the safeguards of religion, children will go wrong, and even anxious parents will be powerless. The child only a few hours in the day, on an average, under the tired, worried parental eye cannot advance much in that morality whose sanctions are not mentioned in the many hours of daily school life.

OWING to the Christmas holidays our issue is early this week—we go to press on Tuesday. Hence several school reports and other matter are held over till next week.

WE learn with deep regret of the death of Rev Brother Joseph (aged 45) who departed this life rather suddenly at Auckland last week. The *post mortem* examination showed death to have been due to aneurism of the heart. Brother Joseph was extremely popular, and deservedly held in highest esteem. The children and people of Christchurch will join their co-religionists of Auckland in sincerest sympathy with the Marist Brothers in the great loss sustained by the death of their amiable, energetic and most zealous *confrere*. May his soul rest in peace, and the great reward of those who instruct others unto justice be his portion:

THERE was a large attendance at St Joseph's school (says the *Oamaru Mail*) when the grand art union in aid of the basilica debt fund was drawn, the Mayor (Mr H. Aitken) presiding. The draw was conducted without any hitch amid the suppressed excitement which generally prevails upon so momentous an occasion. The result of the draw appears elsewhere. The prizes were widely distributed, Cromarty, Orepuki (Southland), Springbank (Christchurch), and Beeton being all represented, while several have gone to the Arrowtown district. The first prize is a handsome painting, together with a suite of furniture, while the second carries a free trip to Melbourne or Sydney at the will of the lucky holder. The Mayor, referring to the work exhibited by the girls, expressed his astonishment at its excellence: He had no idea that such work could be produced by the girls attending the Dominican Convent. In an interesting little glance at the past he referred to the time when he came to Oamaru to find it without churches, schools, or any other public institution. The young men of to-day had much to be thankful for in this respect. Although their fine basilica was still unfinished, he hoped that the art union would suffice to wipe off the small debt upon it and to do something towards its completion.

WORK FOR VACATION.

READ BOYS, READ GIRLS, READ.

1. Two Prizes—first, 10s; second, 5s—will be given
2. For the Best SHORT Anecdote (newspaper cutting not admissible). Originality as well as composition will be taken into account.
3. Competition open to boys and girls under 16.
4. Competition matter to be written on one side of paper, over *nom de plume*, and must not exceed twenty lines of this type.
5. Name, address, school, and age to be enclosed in sealed envelope which will not be opened till competition is decided. Age to be verified by parent or teacher.
6. We reserve to ourselves the right to use without payment all contributions sent in. MSS. will not be returned. Competitors taking part in the contest by doing so thereby accept these conditions.
7. Contributions (to be addressed "Tax," care Editor NEW ZEALAND TABLET, Dunedin) must reach this office by WEDNESDAY, 22ND JANUARY.

P.P.P.—The great remedy for Sciatica, Sprains, Neuralgia. To be had from all chemists.—ADVT.

Mr Gawne, of Dunedin (says the *Southland Times* of April 13 1891), has just been on a visit to Invercargill to push business a little. Not that it wants much canvassing, for since he commenced the manufacture of his Worcestershire Sauce, the demand has kept pace with his capacity to supply it. He makes a really good thing, indistinguishable from the famous Lea and Perrin's, which he places upon one's table at a much lower price, and trusts to that to secure a steadily growing trade. Those who have not yet tried the Colonial article should put their prejudice aside for a time and test the question with a bottle or two.—ADVT.

CHRISTCHURCH CONVENT HIGH SCHOOL.

THE annual distribution of prizes to the pupils of the boarding and high schools, conducted by the order of Notre Dame des Missions, took place at the school (says the *Lyttelton Times*) in the presence of the Right Rev Dr Grimes, a large number of clergy from the surrounding districts, and a crowded attendance of parents and friends. As usual, the arrangements were highly effective, the different exhibits being shown in tasteful display. The specimens of needlework were, as in previous years, excellent, the collection embracing every form of art and fancy work. In the fine arts department, some artistic and tasteful work was on view, while the oil paintings were a marked improvement on last year's. The musical portion of the proceedings, always a noticeable feature, if anything, surpassed in merit that of last year. There were some fifteen items, including duets for four pianos and organ (eighteen hands), for three pianos and organ (fourteen hands), violin and harp solos, instrumental trios and quartettes, vocal choruses, an action song and a recitation. All the items went smoothly and well, the most pleasing feature being the way in which the young performers entered into the spirit of the compositions essayed. Special mention must be made of the "Sans Souci," arranged for four pianos and organ, in which the nine performers kept admirable time, and played with a crispness that elicited the warmest applause. Sudd's "Innovation," played as a harp solo, showed careful training and technique and good attention to expression. Mention must also be made of Scotson-Clark's "Meditation," arranged as a quartette for violin, harp, piano and organ, as well as of a recitation very creditably given by a young lady of some nine summers. At the conclusion of the musical portion of the entertainment the Very Rev Father Cummings read out the prize list, after which the Right Rev Bishop Grimes gave an interesting address. He thanked the pupils for their excellent entertainment, and the parents for their attendance, and paid a graceful tribute to the nuns, the result of whose earnest labours they had seen that day. He hoped the pupils would have pleasant holidays, and wished them a merry Christmas and a joyous New Year. The proceedings then terminated.

INSPECTION OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS.

HOKITIKA (Sisters of Mercy).

THIS school was examined on the 3rd and 4th of December by the Government Inspector of the Westland Education Board. Ninety-seven pupils were presented, three only of whom failed to pass, giving an average of 96.9, or nearly 97 per cent. In the standards alone 60 were presented and 57 passed, giving a percentage of 95.

The Inspector's report is as follows:—

Apart from the fact that the average of passing in this school is considerably higher than that of the Western District, the results of the examination prove a very commendable state of efficiency. The failures were very few, and a number of pupils that passed did so with credit. This efficiency extends through the infant classes and all the standards, the only serious weakness appearing in the spelling of the Fourth Standard, and being due to the attempt to prepare the subject from the book of a higher class.

The vertical system of writing has been introduced successfully, although there are signs that the transition from the ordinary method is not yet complete.

The class and additional subjects have been well prepared, the instruction in needlework being especially good.—A. J. MORTON, Inspector.

KANIERI (Sisters of Mercy).

The branch school at Kanieri was examined on the 2nd of December, with the following results:—Out of 34 presented 28 passed, securing a percentage of 82.3.

In this school the work in the seven pass subjects, the class and additional subjects is satisfactory, the needlework being very good.—A. J. MORTON, Inspector.

KUMARA (Sisters of Mercy).

The Convent School was examined on November 22nd and 23rd by Mr Morton, Government Inspector. The supporters and admirers of Catholic education will be gratified to learn that the result of the examination is satisfactory. There are 111 pupils on the school roll. One hundred and eight were present during examination—of these twelve failed to pass. The percentage of passes in the whole school is 88.7. We quote the following from the Inspector's report:—"The general condition of this school is satisfactory. With the exception of Standard IV, which is weak, the various standards passed a credit-