

examination is made every year according to the rule of the Institute by the Brother Inspector appointed to visit all the Brothers schools in Australasia. The Brothers are conscientious teachers, their inspector is a conscientious and most capable inspector. His report of the school for this year is highly satisfactory. We do not, however, require even his assurance as to the efficiency of St Joseph's. A long experience and the esteem in which old boys are held in the community make parents feel that their children in school life, have exceptional advantages. The memory of our dead Bishop naturally recalls the noble manner in which the Christian Brothers ever seconded his efforts in the sacred cause of religious education. My dear friends—I speak now to the parents—you have to make many sacrifices to give your children a Christian education. Look around, observe the growing indifference to holy religion, the open infidelity of the age and you will thank God who has inspired you and given you courage to do your duty. We are engaged in a hard struggle. Our conscience compels us to give our children a Christian education. We have, moreover, to contribute to the free and godless education of other people's children. We have to bear a double burden. How long will this injustice last? Until our fellow-citizens realise the mistake they are making. They will yet come to repent of their unwise policy and cruel conduct. Deny it who can, the public school system of this colony is, as far as we are concerned, a system of "tyranny, oppression, and plunder." The schools of the nation are godless schools—schools without God and His Christ. In the secular schools the name of God is banned or barely tolerated. Jesus Christ is God, and some Christians who profess belief in the divinity of Christ hesitate to call schools godless where the name of Christ, as the Son of God, must not be mentioned. There are signs of public awakening. The subject of religion in schools receives great attention. The number of colonists favourable to our just claims shows yearly increase. We have had to wait and suffer a long time. We are not disheartened. The good fight will still be fought. Those who think that the death of our Bishop will make the slightest difference in our attitude on the education question are hugely mistaken. The spirit of Bishop Moran will abide with the Catholic people till victory is obtained and justice done.

The Rev Bro Superior had previously read the following annual report for 1895:—

Very Rev Father Lynch—Before reading the annual report of our school I think it would not be becoming if I did not, on behalf of the Brothers and boys, express to you the deep regret we feel at the loss of our late and venerable bishop, Dr Moran. He was to us a kind friend and loving father. Hence we have every reason to deplore his loss. We can now only fondly hope that his successor may fill the void and thus somewhat compensate for his absence. I am glad to be able to inform you that the conduct of the boys during the year has been most satisfactory. I believe this is in a great measure due to the care and attention bestowed on them by our worthy and zealous priests at the monthly reception of the sacraments. The number on the roll is the same as usual—about 300. Besides the ordinary subjects, 35 are studying Latin, 40 French, 40 geometry, 40 algebra, and 36 book-keeping. This year there was an exceptionally close contest for the much-coveted position of dux of the school. The results of monthly examinations were duly recorded for the purpose. Three boys—Edgar Bush, Sheridan Columb, and William Miller—kept close together till the last test examination. When this had been examined it was found that the gold medallist and dux of the school for 1895 was Master William Miller, of Sawyers Bay (loud applause). A similar course was adopted to encourage the practice of English composition, a silver medal being the prize. The neighbouring towns seem to have it all their own way this time, for we find the successful competitor to be Master John Knott, of Mosgiel. The candidates sent up last year for the university examinations were Charles Morkane and James Hussey. Both were successful, Charles Morkane qualifying for medical preliminary. Andrew Costelloe and Hugh Mills passed the civil service examinations. I am glad also to note that the four young men attending the Otago University from this school have been successful each year at the annual examination held there. Mr E. O'Neill will probably finish his course next year, and will thus have the honour of being the first to secure his degree from that university as a pupil of this school. Others, I may add, have taken out their degrees already at Edinburgh. I have now to thank all very sincerely for their presence here to-day. It is a pleasure to us and our young friends to see that the work we are engaged in is appreciated by all classes. The following contributed to the prize fund:—Very Rev Father Lynch, Rev Father Murphy, Rev Father Howard, Dr Steinhilber, Speight and Co, Hibernian Society, Mr Gourley, Mr Lawrence, Mrs Cotter, Mr and Mrs O'Neill, Miss Murphy, Mr Lorie, Briscoe and Co, Mr Tynan, Mr Meenan, Mr Kempthorne, Mr Kelligher, Mr Woods, Mrs Roche, Mrs Bannatyne, Thompson and Co, Campbell and Crust, Mr Baxter, Mrs Haydon, Mr Chisholm, Brown, Ewing and Co, Mr Scott, Mr Thompson, Mr McFarlane, A. and T. Inglis, Nimmo and Blair, Mr Knott, Mr Callan, Mr E. Philip, Mr Morkane, Mr J. Connor, and Mrs Jackson (who sent a large quantity of sweets, etc).

The chairman then distributed the prizes, which were awarded on the aggregate marks scored at the examinations held during the year as follows:—

Matriculation Class—Dux of school and gold medallist: W Miller; B Bush 2, J S Columb 3, J Wilkins 4 Examination honours (first in subject): Christian doctrine—W Miller. Arithmetic J S Columb. Algebra—D Columb. Euclid—W Miller. English—E Bush and W Miller (equal). English composition—J Wilkins. Orthography—W Miller. French—W Miller. Latin—W Miller. Book-keeping—D Columb. Writing—C Hall.

Civil Service Class—J Hussey 2, J Mahoney 2, Leo Beardon 3.

Sub-Matriculation Class—Cecil Morkane 1, J Knott 2, J Callan 3, W McEvoy 4. Examination honours (C.S. and sub-matriculation classes)—First in subject: Christian Doctrine—J Knott. Arithmetic—J Knott. Algebra—J Callan. Euclid—O Bush. English—J Callan. English composition—J Knott. Orthography—J Mahoney; French—J Callan. Latin—C Morkane. Geography—J Hussey; bookkeeping—J Callan. Writing—Leo Beardon.

Sixth Class—J Fox 1, J Dickie 2, N Ryan 3, J Hungerford 4, B McQuillan 5, J Chapman 6, J Whitty 7, J Cleary 8, J Murray 9, G Coughlin 10, D O'Neill 11, Austin Connor 12. Examination honours (first in subject): Christian doctrine—D Beard. Arithmetic—J Fox, G Coughlin (equal). Euclid—J Hungerford. English—J Dickie. English composition—D O'Neill. Orthography—N Ryan, J Fox (equal). French—J Whitty, J Hungerford (equal). Latin—J Murray. Geography—J Cleary. History—J Cleary. Bookkeeping—J Fox. Writing—J Whitty.

Special distinction in senior classes—Gold medallist (dux), William Miller; silver medallists, John Knott (English essay), Daniel Baird (Christian doctrine), most popular boy (secret voting), William Miller; present every school day in 1895—John Wilkins, James Mahoney, John Fox, John Hungerford, Austin Connor, Dan Beard.

Fifth Class—Christian doctrine—Edward Freed (silver medal) 1, Oliver Swanson 2, James Griffith 3. Arithmetic—John Ryan 1, Edward Byall 2, Ronald Griffith 3. Reading—Francis Gaffney 1, George Cotter 2, Edward Clancy 3. Writing—James Griffith 1, William Whelan 2, Oliver Swanson 3. Grammar—James Griffith 1, Edward Freed 2, Thomas McQuillan 3. Geography—Edward Freed 1, Bertie Poppelwell 2, Augustine Miller 3. Drawing—William Donnelly 1, Ronald Griffith 2, James Griffith 3. History—Edward Freed 1, George Cotter 2, Oliver Swanson 3. Composition—James Griffith 1, Ronald Griffith 2, Arthur Connor 3. Home exercise—John Quelch 1, William Whelan 2, Edward Freed 3.

Fourth Class—Best all round—Leslie Woods (average 86.3 in 10 subjects) 1, Sylvester Whitty (85.2 in 10 subjects) 2, Albert Knox (84.1 in 10 subjects) 3, James Garvey (80.6 in 10 subjects) 4. Special prizes—Christian doctrine, Sylvester Whitty, silver medal (gift of the Very Rev P. Lynch), James Black 2; uniform good conduct, Patrick Webb; steady and efficient work, Leonard Stokes; regular attendance, Basil Crawford (present every day); ciphering and neat home work, Fred Woods; spelling, Lewis McCormack; home work, William Francis; recitation, Joseph Charles and Robert Stronach.

Third Class—Best all round—Edward Banwell 1, Sarsfield Clancey 2. Best at reading—John Banks. Writing—David Hefferman 1, Montague Litolf 2. Christian doctrine—Peter Bogan 1, Gerald McCormack 2. Regular attendance—Edward Banwell, Henry Poppelwell, James Beard, Joseph Flanagan, Henry Hungerford (present every day 1895). Good conduct—John Todd.

Second Class—First Division—John Francis, first in class examination, Frank Poppelwell 2, Joseph Swanson 3, Thomas Walsh 4, Charles McGrath 5. Arithmetic and reading, James Skinner; Christian doctrine and reading, Maurice Garvey, George Metcalfe, John Tobin; reading and writing, Richard Coughlan. Second Division—Christian doctrine and writing, E. O'Rourke; reading and writing, Raymond Ward; arithmetic and drawing, Fred Tanner, Oliver Lewis; arithmetic, Charles Woods.

Special Prizes—First Division—Christian doctrine (silver medal), Charles McGrath; regular attendance, Charles McGrath; best exercise, Maurice Garvey; best copybook, Arthur Davis; highest in weekly arithmetic examinations, Charles McClusky. Second Division—Best copybook, Charles Woods and O. Lewis (equal).

At the instigation of one of the Brothers three cheers for the visitors were given, and the singing of "The village choristers" (Moscabelles), by the Young Cecilians brought the proceedings to a close.

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