

correction practicable on the spot. It is claimed that the invention means a complete revolution in printing.

An Old Story.—A priest was standing at a corner of a square about the hour of dinner, when one of his congregation, observing the worthy father in perplexity, thus addressed him: "Oh, Father O'Leary, how is your riverence?" "Mightily put out, Pat, was the reply." "Put out! who put out yer riverence?" "Abl you don't understand. This is just it, I am invited to dine at one of the houses in this square and have forgotten the name, and I never looked at the number, and now it's 7 o'clock." "Oh! is that all?" was the cry. "Just now be aisy yer riverence, I'll settle that for yer." So saying, away flew the good-natured Irishman round the square, glancing at the kitchens, and when he discovered a fire that denoted hospitality, he thundered at the door and enquired, "Is Father O'Leary here?" As might be expected, again and again he was repulsed. At length an angry footman exclaimed, "No! bother on Father O'Leary, he is not here, but he was to dine here to-day and the cook is in a rage, and says the dinner will be spoiled; all is waiting on Father O'Leary." Pat, leaping from the door as if the steps had been on fire, rushed up to the astonished priest and cried, "All right yer riverence, you dine at 43, and a mighty good dinner you'll get." "Oh! Pat," said the grateful pastor, "the blessings of a hungry man be upon you!" "Long life and happiness to yer riverence! I have got your malady; I only wish I had yer cure," returned Pat.

It may not be generally known to our readers that the Dominican Nuns of Florence were among the very first to set up a regular printing press.

Literary pastime.—Once a gentleman who had a marvellous gift of shaping a great many things out of orange peel was displaying his abilities at a dinner party before Theodore Hook and Mr Thomas Hill, and succeeded in counterfeiting a pig. Mr Hill tried the same feat; and after destroying and strewing the table with the peel of a dozen oranges, gave it up, with the exclamation, "Hang the pig! I can't make him." "Nay, Hill," exclaimed Hook, glancing at the mess on the table, "you have done more; instead of one pig, you have made a litter."

Sacrilege at a New York Church.—A priest chases the thieves. —New York journals relate that as the Rev Father Wood, rector of the Church of the Holy Cross in that city, was leaving the pulpit after delivering the daily instruction, he heard a suspicious noise proceeding from a lobby or vestibule of the church. On hastening to ascertain the cause he found two thieves in the act of ransacking the poor-boxes, who, on perceiving the priest, immediately made off. Father Wood, however, vested as he was in cotta and stole, gave instant pursuit, and chased the pair through one or two adjacent streets, when, finding themselves too closely overtaken, one of them threw away the alms-box which he was carrying, and while Father Wood stopped to recover it they succeeded in effecting their escape. The case is in the hands of the police, to whom the priest has given a description of the culprits. Fortunately, in consequence of the Father's quick arrival on the scene, the bulk of the money was saved.

DOMINICAN CONVENT HIGH SCHOOL, DUNEDIN.

(By a special reporter.)

On Wednesday afternoon, the 18th inst, the distribution of prizes to the pupils of the Dominican Convent High School, prior to their separating for their Christmas holidays, took place in St Joseph's Schoolroom in Dowling street. A large number of ladies and gentlemen assembled on the interesting occasion, among the number present being the Very Rev Father Lynch, administrator, the Very Rev Father Ginaty (of Mount Magdala), the Rev Father Howard, and the Rev Father Murphy, Dr Coughtrey, Messrs John Carroll, James Liston, Peter McArdle, F. W. Petre, Douglas Larnach, and J. A. X. Reidle: Upon the walls of the room were hung examples of painting and other work done by the pupils during the year, and the plain and fancy needlework was also shown in the room: The visitors had an opportunity during the afternoon of inspecting this work and from one and all there was nothing but words of praise and expressions of surprise heard concerning it. The landscape painting from the brushes of Miss M. Gudgeon, Miss Kate Lynch, Miss Maud Liston, and others whose work was of a less pretentious character extorted much favourable comment from the lips of competent judges. Of the needlework there was a large display. Every kind of fancy-work was represented, and the whole of it was noticeably good in regard to its execution. Many of the articles were of an elaborate description, and among these may be mentioned a drawing room chair in plush, skilfully worked in flosselle by Miss Donnelly; a lady's chair in arrasene on plush, the working of which was very creditable to Miss Hille; a Spanish lounge in which a "Lily of the

Nile" design had been cleverly represented by Miss Heenan, and a pair of occasional chairs, the design of which comprised ox-eye daisies and Japanese lilies, the working in this instance being executed by Miss de Beer, and, like the other examples, showing the influence of careful instruction. Misses E. Hille, N. O'Neill, A. Freed, and Alice Meenan had worked various designs on plush and satin as fire-screens. The names of Misses M. Burne, Heenan and Hungerford were attached to panels worked either in the design of foxglove and Canterbury bells on plush or in the design of asters on satin; and there were ottomans in applique floral designs executed by Misses E. Hart and E. Hille. In all the above-mentioned cases the work was of a highly satisfactory and indeed remarkably clever description, but that remark may be fairly applied to all the examples which were displayed of the results of the pupils' industrious efforts with the needle. Besides the work which has been already enumerated there were campstools, worked in poppies on plush by Miss O'Driscoll; piano drapes and table centres in Alhambra work and French embroidery by Misses Gudgeon, L. Cross and Miss Woods; a variety of fancy cushions by Misses Wood, Howell, Bain, Brookes, E. Hille, Garr and Guinness; a very choice mantel drape, applique in poonah with side drapes by Miss K. Lynch; a mantel drape in a papinacea design by Miss O'Kane; and brackets and satchets in great variety worked by Misses Price, Brett, Howell, and Hilliard. Then there was an admirable collection of Mountmellick work, comprising afternoon tea cloths, pillow cases, toilet cloths, and other such articles, by the Misses Wood, Hille, Blaney, Lynch, Delaney, Donnelly, Gudgeon, Lawrence, Heenan, Garr, and N. Martin, and some very fine drawn thread work by Misses Nellie Martin, Ettie Bain, Ethel Freed, and others. The plain sewing, consisting of useful articles of under-clothing, was beautifully worked and extensively admired. Besides all this there was abundant proof offered, by a tempting display of eatables shown on a neatly set table, that many of the pupils, besides possessing all the drawing-room accomplishments, are also thoroughly well versed in the art of cookery. From the Kindergarten branch of the school there were exhibited specimens of children's work showing embroidery, colouring, drawing, paper cutting and folding, pricking work, braiding, interlacing, modelling in clay, mat weaving, mosaic tile work, stick laying, beading, house building, and leatherette work, including wall pockets, bouquet holders, book markers, watch pockets, photo frames, napkin rings, brackets, dolls' houses, and furniture.

Prior to the distribution of the prizes an entertainment was given by the pupils, whose performance of their respective shares in it showed once again how thorough must be the training imparted within the school of the Sisters. The programme was an ambitious one, but the performers made comparatively light of the difficulties it presented, and all deserved the plaudits which the various items evoked. Taking the little ones first, the kindergarten drill, an interesting item, was well executed by the children engaged in it, and a gipsy song and dance by eight children, who were dressed in costumes such as gipsies are supposed to wear, and who carried either a tambourine or a triangle or castanets, was given without a mistake of any kind, a special word of praise being due, however, to the two little girls who contributed a recitation in connection with the item. The expressive singing of "The harp that once thro' Tara's halls," by a chorus of fresh young voices was much enjoyed, and a glee "Here in cool grot," by Misses Miscall, G. Larnach, Dawson, Robinson, L. Cross, Maggie O'Driscoll, and M. Blaney also afforded unqualified pleasure. In Miss Miscall, who gave a vocal solo, rendering Piccolo mini's latest song, "O Maria Stella," the school has a young vocalist whose sweet and pure soprano was heard to charming advantage, and who bids fair to do great credit in the future to an institution which has in the past produced many vocalists of a high order. A duet, in which Miss Miscall was joined by Miss Maggie O'Driscoll, the song being Jude's "Memories of home," was delightfully rendered, the voices blending charmingly. The instrumental items were also exceedingly good. Miss Maggie Gudgeon proved herself to be a pianiste of considerable promise by her playing of Deissell's "Consolation." The pianoforte duet, by eight performers—Misses K. and N. Martin, C. Woods, L. Cross, A. and E. Freed, and M. and A. Meenan, who played a selection of airs from "Faust"—was a capital item, which reflected credit alike on the performers and on their teachers, and a pianoforte duo de concert on four pianos, by Misses Gudgeon, S. and N. Hall, E. Lawrence, Delaney, Liston, Burke, and Scanlon, who played Ascher's "Concordantia"—a piece which is believed to have never been previously played in the Colony, and which the nuns, at the cost of a good deal of trouble, procured from Great Britain—was one of the gems of a programme in which every item was remarkably well rendered. The importance of a knowledge of modern languages is coming to be more and more recognised by the public at large, and that the teaching staff of the Dominican Convent are fully alive to its value is manifested in the fact that great pains are taken to instruct pupils in such languages as French, German, and Italian. Recitations of these items were included in the programme, and, though to many in the audience this part of the entertainment may have been "all Greek," it could not escape the attention of any present that the