

respects. Catholics will once more enter the election arena. A few self-seekers or timid men would fain have us give up the struggle and cease to make the education question the determining factor of the Catholic vote. The overwhelming majority of Catholics see clearly that without agitation and a determined struggle we shall go back. The spirit of the world is against our holy religion. "Minimise, destroy, if possible, the Catholic Church," is the secularist motto. It is only by uniform action and real solidarity that we can even conserve our present advantages.

THUS His Grace Dr O'Reilly, Archbishop of Adelaide:— 'He were a selfish churl who, being Catholic and in a position to take a Catholic paper, omitted to do so. He is a dishonest Christian who, taking the paper and reading it, neglects to pay its cost.'

THE *Oamaru Mail*, in its report of the art exhibition at the Convent School, writes thus:—"The Convent Schools have always given evidence of possessing a strong hand in 'art' in its generally accepted definition as the products of the brush, the pen, and the pencil.

THE Fancy Fair in aid of St Patrick's Church, Waimate, was opened on Monday, December 23rd. There was a good attendance. After a well-rendered chorus by choir girls taught by the Sisters of St Joseph, Rev P. Regnault, S.M., in his usual happy way, introduced his Worship the Mayor. Mr Colman, on opening the bazaar, re-remarked, says the *Waimate Times*: "That the Catholic community had, on what was formerly a waste, reared structures—church, school, presbytery, and other buildings—that were a credit to the town. He trusted the people would show the esteem and respect in which they held their fellow-townsmen by assisting them to wipe the remaining debt off their church property." There was only one stall—but it occupied almost the length of the hall. The stall was presided over by Mesdames Collett, Capstick, and Kent, and Misses Dooley, Freeman and Collett. We trust the energy and pluck of the devoted pastor will be rewarded by excellent net results.

THE doctors are threatening us with a fresh terror. They have put church-going on their black books. Insidious disease lurks in the defective ventilation and unscientific warming of the churches, and its name is "church catarrh!" There is certainly plenty of room for improvement in these matters, but does not this equally apply to places of amusement and other public buildings? But what a fine excuse is now furnished to the lazy man on Sunday! Instead of the proverbial headache he can now plead a wholesome dread of "church catarrh."—*Edinburgh Catholic Herald*.

A DRAMATIC entertainment was given last evening (says the *Lyttelton Times*, December 27) at the Marist Brothers' schoolroom by the convent children. In addition songs were sung by Miss Hayward and Father Galerne. A presentation of a cheque for £200 from the parishioners was made by the Rev Father Galerne to the Very Rev Father Cummings, V.G., who replied feelingly.

A VERY successful entertainment was given in Kaikoura on December 11. Most of the items were contributed by the children of St Nicholas' Catholic school. Miss Hollie, the school mistress, judging from the long and laudatory report in the paper, well deserved the compliment paid her by the Rev Father Walsh and other speakers. The Rev Father contributed much to the success of the evening. The *Kaikoura Star* thus refers to items rendered:—"The Rev Father Walsh took the house by storm, his singing (particularly 'I'll steer my barque to Erin's Isle,') evoking the most enthusiastic applause."

THE Rev Father Kehoe, of the diocese of Auckland, is on a visit to the Diocese of Dunedin. He arrived in Dunedin on Sunday by the Mararos, and has been the guest of the clergy of the Mission. His many friends, lay and clerical, will be pleased to give him a hearty welcome. Father Kehoe did good work in the diocese and it was with great regret that the late Bishop Moran parted with him when, some years ago, he was obliged by failing health to go North and try the curative power of the Hot Springs. He remained since then in Auckland, and was stationed at Te Aroha for several years.

IT is worthy of note that at the Marist Brothers' school, Christchurch, Thomas O'Connor, obtained for last year's work the blue ribbon of dux of the school, in addition to special prizes for Christian Doctrine and good conduct.

A MONSTER Catholic picnic was held in Father Lane's beautiful garden at the Lower Hutt on Boxing Day. About two thousand took part, including several hundred children, who in the morning marched from Boulcott street to the Te Aro railway station, headed by Dean's Brass Band. All sorts of games and sports were provided on the

ground, the children being especially well looked after by the committee, of which the Very Rev Father Davoy was chairman. The picnic, on the whole, was the most successful yet held.—*Post*.

WE are grateful to correspondents who have sent in school reports. Necessarily, when a large number come in with a rush space for each is limited. One of our correspondents makes excuse for the brevity of his school report. The general reader rarely finds fault with short, crisp, well-written reports when they contain interesting matter.

MRS LABATT, for many years a member of St Canice's choir, is leaving Westport for Wanganui. She has been presented by Very Rev Father Walsh, on behalf of the choir, with a very handsome work-box and jewel case combined.

THE Marist Brothers' schools, Christchurch, broke up for summer vacation on Tuesday, December 24. Bishop Grimes presided, and, assisted by Very Rev Father Cummings, distributed the prizes. It must have been a somewhat sad day with memory of the genial face of Brother Joseph keenly before the mind of confreres and pupils. Brother Joseph brightened many a school festivity, and gladdened many a heart by his kind words. It is on joyous occasions we feel most the absence of the dear departed. We once more tender our heartfelt sympathy to the good Brothers who, in Christchurch and elsewhere, do noble work.

THE great festival of Christmas, says our reporter, was observed with all due solemnity at Dunedin. The ceremonies at St Joseph's Cathedral commenced at mid-night on Christmas Eve, when Solemn High Mass was celebrated by the Very Rev Father Lynch, assisted by the Rev Father Murphy as deacon, and the Rev Father Howard as sub-deacon. The high altar and sanctuary were profusely decorated and illuminated by a forest of wax tapers, and the ceremonies throughout, witnessed as they were by a large congregation, were of a most impressive character. The Cathedral choir were in attendance, and Farmer's Mass in B flat was produced in a manner befitting the occasion. Masses were subsequently said at six, seven, eight, and nine o'clock, while at eleven o'clock Solemn High Mass was again celebrated by the Very Rev Father Lynch, with Father Murphy and Father Howard as deacon and sub-deacon respectively. The Rev Father Murphy preached an eloquent discourse on the festival that was being commemorated. The music on the occasion was that of Mozart's "Twelfth Mass," and for the first time in Dunedin the difficult and intricate "*cum sanc to spiritu*" fugue was rendered. The fugue is the first type of the modern style ever written, and it taxes the powers of a body of singers in no small degree. However, not only was this portion of the work interpreted with skill, but the Mass as a whole was rendered in a manner equally satisfactory. The solo parts were sung by Mrs Sandys, soprano; Mircea R, and M. Drumm, contralto; Messrs Edward Eager and P. Carolin, tenor; and Messrs W. J. Cantwell and J. Hally, bass. The efforts of the choir were supplemented by an orchestra under the leadership of Mr Melitus. The latter gentleman is an accomplished musician who has recently arrived from Sydney and who it is understood purposes to take up his abode in Dunedin. Between the "Credo" and "Sanctus" movements he played as a violin solo an *andante* by Beaud. At this stage of the service Miss Rose Blaney who has just arrived from Melbourne sang Mascaroni's "Ave Maria," while the "Adeste Fideles," was sung by the choir. The honorary conductor, Mr Ward, wielded the baton, while Mr A. Vallis was in his customary position at the organ. Before descending from the altar Father Lynch thanked the choir and orchestra for their services. The choir, he stated had to work all the year round to do adequate justice to the great musical works which have been written for the Catholic Church. Their efforts that day had been attended with every success and this was all the more creditable when it is considered that their duties that day had been more than usually arduous, having been in attendance at the midnight Mass, the ceremonies in connection with which lasted till nearly half past one in the morning.

THERE was a large and appreciative audience at the annual concert of the pupils of St Joseph's Convent School, Temuka, on December 16th. The Very Rev Fathers Fauvel, S.M., and Le Menant des Chesnaie, S.M., were present. An attractive musical and dramatic programme was presented, and rendered in a manner that won the sincere applause of all in the Volunteer Hall. Pressure on space does not, unfortunately, allow detailed criticism: Indeed, where general excellence is a unanimous verdict, praise in particular were not unfrequently invidious. The Sisters of St Joseph merit very hearty congratulations for the success of their efforts in the training of youth. Only those engaged in the work can realise the amount of painstaking care which a successful entertainment implies. The following took part in the performance:—Misses Brosnan (2), M. Bourke, Twomey (2), Wareing, Story (3), Gaffaney, Boulston, Lavery, E. Archer, A. Connolly, J. Scannell, M. Angland, A. Story