

pupil sent up this time by the Sisters and the result is highly satisfactory.

A subscriber in the North Island, a priest who from its beginning has been a staunch friend to the TABLET, in forwarding his subscription for the year writes: "I am very happy to find that the TABLET, an old friend of mine, is improving very steadily. . . . The last number, February 12, is excellent. *Prosperere procedere.*"

AN intimation in connection with Port Chalmers Grand Art Union appears in our advertising columns. The drawing of the art-union is announced to positively take place on the advertised date.

THE many West Coast friends of Mr. J. J. Daly will be glad to hear that he has received the appointment of manager in New Zealand for the Sydney Cash Drapery Company. Mr. Daly's advancement to this responsible position has been well-earned.

THE St. Bathans' correspondent of the *Dunstan Times* writes:—It is with extreme regret that I have to record the death of an old and highly respected resident of St. Bathans, Mr. Michael Nolan, who passed away on Saturday, the 13th inst., after a comparatively brief illness, at the early age of 43. His death took place in the Naseby Hospital, where for some time he had had all done for him that medical skill could devise. For a number of years after his arrival in this Colony, Mr. Nolan had followed mining and farming pursuits, but latterly had carried on business as a hotelkeeper, being the proprietor of the Ballarat Hotel here. Upright and honest in all his dealings, ready at all times to lend a helping hand in any charitable object, Mr. Nolan was a gentleman of whom nobody could have a bad word, and on the news of his death being circulated many came long distances to follow the remains of their old friend to the grave. The funeral, which was the largest seen here for many years, took place on Monday afternoon at St. Bathans, the service being conducted in a most impressive manner by the Rev. Father Sheehan. Mr. Nolan leaves a widow and two children to mourn his loss, and much sympathy is expressed by all the people of the district on behalf of the relatives in their sad bereavement.

THE results of the first competitive examination for appointment to the Civil Service, under the control of the Public Service Board, were published on the 10th inst. Although only 20 vacancies were advertised, as many as 115 candidates sat for examination. Out of the large number of candidates, however, 17 only reached the standard required by the examiners. We are very pleased, indeed, to see that a Catholic school has attained the high honour of first place in the person of one of its scholars. Mr. Jasper Creagh, of Grafton, is the successful youth, and he claims St. Joseph's College Hunter's Hill, as his Alma Mater. Mr. G. Whiteford from the same College, has won the third place. We congratulate both young gentlemen on their success, and wish them a prosperous career. We must also congratulate the Marist Brothers for this, their most recent achievement, proves the solid character of the education bestowed on their pupils at the Hunter's Hill College. *Sydney Catholic Press.*

THE annual picnic of the Stoke Orphanage boys was held at Richmond Park on Wednesday, February 10, and it proved a thorough success, in spite of the cold and windy weather. The day broke very unpromisingly, and at first it was thought that a postponement might be necessary; but the gale had spent itself and the sky soon cleared. The grass also was quite dry so there was nothing to fear. The boys were driven out to the Park at an early hour, and had a good time generally. "Lashings and Lavins" of food had been provided and a programme of games and races was carried out with vigour. Among the guests who visited the Park during the afternoon were the Mayor (Mr. F. Trask), Judge Robinson, Mr. Grimmer, (of Oamaru) Dr. Roberts, Messrs Glen, Burns, R. Jackson, Hunt, Maginness, Chisholm and others and several ladies. Subscriptions were raised as prizes for the races and a gift for the band, who played in full force under the conductorship of Mr. Leaper, the band-traster. Dr. Roberts acted as handicapper and starter, and Mr. Trask as judge. The Messrs Chisholm also gave valuable assistance, while Mr. Trask and others were very successful in making collections towards the prizes. Father Mahoney was present most of the day but in the afternoon a telegram called him to the sick bed of one of his flock at Wai-iti. The arrangements were carried out excellently and Brother Laetus and the Marist Brothers were assiduous in their attention to the enjoyment of both boys and guests. An abundant luncheon was served in the pavilion and altogether the picnic was very successful. The band was the chief centre of attraction, and several selections of sacred and secular music were admirably played. Owing to Father Mahoney having been called away suddenly to Wai-iti, he asked Brother Laetus to call the usual cheers by the boys for friends and patrons, and this Brother Laetus did, the boys responding heartily

before the picnic concluded. Cheers were given for Mr. Hunt, who, as usual, had collected money for the expenses of the picnic, for the public who had subscribed, and for the Jockey Club for the use of the Park, and for the visitors.—*Nelson Evening Mail.*

WE take the following items from the *Inangahua Times* of the 11th inst.:—The remains of the late Mrs. Brennan were brought from Hokitika by the early train to-day, and shortly after 1 p.m. the cortege started from the railway station and halted at the Church of the Sacred Heart, where a few brief, but appropriate remarks were made by Father McNamara. The body was interred in the town cemetery beside that of the late Mr. Brennan, the Rev. Father Rolland conducting the last rites. A large number of people, chiefly old residents, attended the funeral.—Mr. William Smith of Cronadun was married to-day at Caplestown to Miss Coll of Nelson Creek. The ceremony took place in the Roman Catholic church and was performed by the Rev. Father Rolland. A large number, chiefly ladies of course, witnessed the ceremony, and there were profuse good wishes for the happiness of the young couple.—The Catholic picnic, which took place in Mr. Chattock's paddock yesterday, was favoured with splendid weather, and there was a large attendance, especially of the younger portion of the community. The various games incidental to such occasions were indulged in with much spirit until late in the evening, and the City Band made the gathering more than usually pleasant. Fathers McNamara and Rolland were present during the day. Abundance of good things was provided, and these were distributed by a number of the ladies present who were unremitting in their attentions to visitors. Amongst them may be mentioned Mesdames O'Neill, McGuire, Moore, Breen, Cummins and Misses Doherty, O'Regan and McGillicuddy.

ON 17th of March next will be celebrated in a manner fitting the occasion, the great festival of Ireland's patron saint. It has been noticed that for years past St. Patrick's Day has been growing in popularity throughout the Australian colonies. Last year it was held with great success as a day of rejoicing as well as a religious festival in many parts of New Zealand, but notably in the city of Auckland, where open air sports were held on such a scale as to eclipse all other similar demonstrations that have taken place in that province. Representatives of all classes and nationalities participated in the days amusement. It was in every respect a day for the people, full of homely amusements and innocent recreation. It has been arranged to carry out the celebration on a similar scale in Dunedin this year and a splendid programme is being prepared by the local celebration committee. The committee have secured the Caledonian Ground to hold the sports in, and final arrangements as to prizes and programme will be made at a meeting of the committee to be held on Friday night. Dunedin has a happy knack of registering high in all matters of entertainment, and it may be taken for granted that his Lordship the Bishop, who initiated this movement here, will be gratified by finding that the celebration on next St. Patrick's Day in Dunedin will fairly emulate the high example of the northern city.

We have to acknowledge the receipt, by the courtesy of the Union Steam Ship Company, of the full report in pamphlet form, of the proceedings at the recent sitting of the Conciliation Board

We have received a copy of the New Zealand Official Year-book for 1896 which contains an enormous amount of information conveyed in a clear, concise, and interesting way. The Year-book has now an established reputation which will be more than maintained by the latest volume.

A WEDDING took place at St. Mary's Church, Nelson, on Wednesday afternoon, the contracting parties being Constable McGrath, of the Nelson police force (formerly stationed in this district) and Miss E. Hennessey, of Westport. The ceremony was performed by the Very Rev. Father Mahoney. Mr. and Mrs. McGrath have numerous friends in the Buller district who will wish them every happiness and prosperity in their future life.—*Westport Times.*

Messrs Donald Reid and Co., wool and grain merchants, Dunedin, are now prepared to receive grain of all kinds at their extensive stores, Cumberland street, Dunedin. Every facility is given for getting the best price possible for all goods placed in their stores. A perusal of their advertisement will be useful to grain growers and all interested in the trade.

Any one requiring any kind of Catholic requisites will do well to read the advertisement of Messrs L. Gille and Co., Catholic Book Depot, Sydney, in this issue. They are sole agents in Australia for the popular *Catholic Home Annual*. The clergy, religious communities, and the trade are given very liberal terms.

The N.Z. L. and M. Agency Company intimate to grain growers that they are prepared to take oats, wheat, barley, etc., in any quantity. Their storage rates are the very lowest. Auction sales are held in their Dunedin rooms every Monday morning, and stock sales conducted every Wednesday at Burnside yards. Liberal advances will be made if required.