

Auckland is once more in the proud position of heading the list in the matter of customs dues. Though considered to be isolated the northern capital leads the van in colonial progress.

The local branch of the Irish National Federation intends on Wednesday, September 8, to hold an entertainment when Mr. J. M. Geddis, editor of the *Observer*, will deliver a lecture dealing with that great son of Erin, Edmund Burke. At intervals appropriate Irish music will be rendered. As this is Edmund Burke's centenary it is fitting that at the antipodes his memory should be kept enshrined in the memories and affections of his countrymen and women.

The Hibernian Society is to approach Holy Communion in a body next Sunday at St. Patrick's Cathedral.

Juvenile crime has extended to a branch hitherto thought to be practised only by the "old birds"—*viz.*, that of house-breaking. No less than five youths were this week incarcerated for this heinous offence. The schoolmaster's instruction is not all that is necessary to make good citizens. Our colonial wise-acres, like the Bourbons, on this subject at least, never learn anything until it is too late. Records like this falsify the saying "every school opened closes a jail."

Rev. Brother John, Provincial of the Marist Order, has been in Auckland during the last fortnight attending to the business of the Order. The result of the visit is that we are very soon to have a college high school worthy of the name. It is to be erected on one of the vacant allotments belonging to the diocese, and situated in the suburbs.

The electric tramway system has once more been broached in the City Council. For some months the question has, like Mahomet's coffin, remained suspended between heaven and earth.

THE RECORD REIGN HISTORICAL CARNIVAL.

A SUCCESSFUL TERMINATION.

OUR Christchurch correspondent gives the following account of the conclusion of the great carnival:—

On Tuesday evening week, the bazaar, which has been the most successful ever held in this city, was concluded. There was a good house on the occasion, and the programme, both with regard to the historical tableaux and the musical selections, was excellent. Indeed, in whatever way one considers the carnival one must acknowledge that it was strikingly great and unique in its character and that everything in connection therewith was well planned and well carried out. There were eight stalls, which were supplied with choice articles and which were attended by a hundred or more picturesquely dressed young ladies, who were indefatigable in their exertions to advance the noble cause for which the carnival was organised. In addition to the stalls, there were two or more side shows, which carried on a lot of business. Among these was Madame Nita, who did wonders in the art of palmistry. Bishop Lenihan has pronounced the historical procession which opened each evening's proceedings to be one of the most beautiful spectacles of the kind that he ever witnessed. The historical tableaux, as to number and realistic beauty, merit the greatest praise, and proved a leading feature in the entertainment provided for each evening or afternoon performance. Among the tableaux were many very pretty displays, and, perhaps, none more so than the "Rock of Ages," the "Wreck of the 'Asmanah,'" and the "Entry of Queen Elizabeth into London," in which Miss Ella O'Malley, who represented the Queen, rode the white horse which was used recently by Mr. Bignold when impersonating Henry V. The music also, both vocal and instrumental, was of a high character and was greatly appreciated. The secretary, Mr. E. O'Connor, who has had entire charge of the carnival during the thirteen nights that it has continued, is not in a position yet to speak definitely as to the results of the carnival. But enough is, however, known to show that from a financial point of view the bazaar is also far ahead of all previous bazaars held in this city. The amount thus raised will no doubt greatly assist the Sisters to liquidate the debt on their convent, and will prevent them from having to pay away in interest money which they need so much to carry on their excellent schools. During the carnival a very amusing incident and burglar scare took place. It appears that a well-wisher had presented a couple of fine cross-bred sheep to be sold for the benefit of the funds, and as they arrived late in the evening, they were put into one of the side rooms until the next day. Shortly after midnight the night-watchman, Mr. F. Harvey, who had not been told that the sheep were on the premises, heard what he took to be burglars moving about in the hall, and immediately went off for a policeman. One was soon found and information was sent to the police station, and in a short time half a dozen members of the force were on the scene armed with bull's-eye lanterns, with which they proceeded to search the premises. Their attention being attracted by a noise in one of the stalls, the entrance to it was surrounded, and when one of the bull's-eyes was turned on, it was found that the burglars were nothing more terrible than the two innocent sheep which had escaped from the room and were wandering round the hall. The chagrin of the watchman and the police may be left to the imagination of the reader. As a souvenir of the carnival each stall and its numerous attendants have been very successfully photographed.

An occasional correspondent writing under the *nom de plume*, "A Rolling Stone," sends us the following special report as to the characters, stalls, music, etc.:

The Record Reign Historical Carnival has been continued in the Opera House, Tuam street, Christchurch, for twelve nights, and finished very successfully on Monday, August 16.

The Opera House was well filled every evening during the carnival. The stallholders were dressed in fancy costume, and attracted much attention. Among the most beautiful fancy costumes were: Her Majesty Queen Victoria (Mademoiselle Helon), Prince

Consort (Mr. Gresson), Lady Elizabeth Woodville (Mrs. C. E. Young), and the two little Princesses (Masters Roi Young and Basil Boley) made a very pretty picture. Henry VIII. was taken to perfection by Mr. O'Neil, Flora Macdonald (Miss K. Cronin), Bonnie Prince Charlie (Mr. W. Taylor), Maria Therisa (Miss Kealy), the Princess of Wales (Mrs. Bean). Scotland was represented by Mrs. Buchanan, who had a magnificent Highland dress.

The refreshment stall was presided over by a number of ladies, who did all they could to facilitate business and make people happy.

During each evening the members of each stall kept the audience busy in finding their purses and distributing their contents. Mr. Gus Bagley collected all the spare sixpences for the Magic Cave, and "Nita," the palmist, had her assistants all round the room.

The musical part of the programme was presided over by Mr. H. Rossiter, who did his part with his customary ability. Miss Katie Young (the niece of Rev. Mother Philomena), a child of fourteen summers, and a talented musician, made her first appearance as pianist in the orchestra, and took the part of accompanist as well as any professional. Musical items were contributed by Messrs. Millar, A. Young, Reid, George Collins, Misses Samuels, Moir, Ross, Miss Rima Young, a tiny mite, was termed the gem of the programme. She sang a descriptive song, "Out in the snow," and responded to an encore with a pretty waltz refrain. Miss Lucy Ryan also sang with much taste and spirit. This young lady possesses an excellent soprano voice, and has made much progress under the talented tuition of Mr. H. Rossiter. The Misses Formen, from Lyttelton, gave some excellent Highland dancing, and were much applauded. The talented pupils of the Convent, Barbadoes street, contributed several musical selections and danced some very pretty minuets. Among the most graceful dancers were Misses E. and Rima Young, Mary O'Connor, Elsie Perkins, and Ethel Livingstone.

The stage manager, Mr. E. Seager, very cleverly organised some excellent tableaux. Among those worthy of mention were "The two little princes in the tower," "Lady Elizabeth Woodville defending her son," "The marriage of Henry VIII. and Anne Boleyn," "The marriage of Queen Victoria." In the tableaux Mr. J. Peterson looked equally well as a priest, a hangman and an executioner. Mr. E. Seager also contributed some excellent lime-light views.

On Thursday night, August 12, her Majesty Queen Victoria presented Mr. Reay, the winner of the Steeplechase, with a magnificent gold-mounted whip.

The monster art union was drawn on August 16, also the door art union (a gold hunting watch).

I hear that the Carnival has been an unparalleled success. The takings at the stalls were on the whole very good. Those of the York and Lancaster stall (Mrs. E. C. Young and Miss Hayward) were the highest, amounting to £128. The next were the Commonwealth and House of Orange stall (Mesdames Morkane, Burke and Miss Staunton).

Messrs. O'Connor and Kelly brought all their energies to the fore, and are well deserving of a few words of praise.

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"George," she said, in a low voice, "would you make a great sacrifice for my happiness?"

"Certainly," he replied.

"Would you give up smoking for my sake?"

"Give up smoking for your sake?" he repeated. Then, after a silence, he exclaimed hoarsely, "I can refuse you nothing. I will give up smoking for your sake. Hereafter when I smoke it will be for my own sake."

One day, while Dickens was being "taken" by a photographer, the result being the well known picture in which he is shown writing, the artist told him that he did not hold his pen right, and suggested that he should take it more naturally in his fingers. "Just as though you were writing one of your novels, Mr. Dickens," said he. "I see," returned Dickens, "all of er twist."

Poison in the cup.—When we see the neat packets of tea folded in lead paper we never dream, says a contemporary, that it is possible danger may lurk therein. Nevertheless, such is the case. Of course the quantity of lead that gets rubbed on to the leaves is very minute, but occasionally a tiny scrap of lead may fall into the pot, and as liquid tea acts powerfully upon lead the effects are bad upon the drinkers. The same result would occur if by any chance the leaves in the packet became damp. There have been one or two cases of lead poisoning traced to this cause; for although the quantity taken each day may be minute, yet it remains in the system, and as line upon line and precept upon precept produce great effects, so does a little lead.

The Rev. R. McGhee, Chaplain H.M.F., is something of a survival, and so is troubled by the tone in which the Sovereign Pontiff is spoken of in the Anglican reply to the Bull *Apostolica Curio*. He writes to the *English Churchman*: "As both the Archbishops of the English Church have called the Pontiff their 'Venerable Brother' and 'Reverend Brother in Christ,' it will go forth to the world that the Protestants of England, Scotland and Ireland esteem, in like manner as do the Archbishops, the Pope of Rome. It would seem to me that a large number of Britons and of Irish and Scotch believe the Pope of Rome to be 'the Man of Sin,' the head of the great Apostasy, the 'Anti-Christ,' preserving the belief of their forefathers of Reformation days, and holding that they have obeyed the call of Heaven when they came out from Roman Communion, and that they smell not of schism in separation from a 'Brother in Christ.'" He thinks Protestants should sign a remonstrance in millions. Such a letter, says the *London Tablet* makes one lazily wonder in what way Chaplains to the Forces are selected: it can hardly be by such a sitting process as that of competitive examination.

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