

WE have received from Messrs Loft and Co. their pictorial almanac for 1898. It is an excellent photo of Pope Leo XIII., and will, we are sure, be very much appreciated by all the firm's customers.

THE work done by the pupils of St. Dominick's College, which is referred to more fully in another column, was beautifully laid out in St. Joseph's schoolroom. It is a very fine display, and speaks volumes for the efficiency of the teaching at the College and for the splendid work which the good nuns are doing for the higher education of our Catholic girls.

Archdiocese of Wellington.

(From our own correspondent.)

December 18, 1897.

THE usual half-yearly meeting of the juvenile lodge of the H.A.C.B.S. was held on Wednesday night, when there was a good muster. The election of officers for the next term resulted as follows:—Vice-president, Bro. J. Smith; secretary, Bro. D. Kelly; treasurer, Bro. A. Walker; guardian, Bro. D. Gosling; sick visitors, Bros. Segrief and Stratford.

The Rev. Fathers Hickson, Mahoney, O'Reilly, and Tymons have gone on a holiday trip through the South Island. They left Nelson on their bicycles on Wednesday last, for the West Coast and from thence will proceed *via* Springfield to Christchurch, and will very probably visit Dunedin. The trip is expected to extend to a month.

At latest accounts the Very Rev. Dr. Watters was taking his well-earned holiday in the Wairarapa district. On Sunday last he occupied the pulpit at St. Patrick's Church, Masterton. On next Sunday he will preach at Otaki.

The examinations for two scholarships, value forty guineas each and tenable for two years, in connection with St. Patrick's College, are now being held in various parts of the Colony. The scholarships are open only to boys attending Catholic schools, but may be competed for by Catholics attending other schools where no Catholic School exists in the district. The two scholarships went to Christchurch last year.

The authorities at St. Patrick's College are ever abreast of the times, and as a consequence the institution is equipped in a style which excites the admiration of visitors. The latest improvement is the installation of the electric light, the plans for which are being now prepared, so that the work will be completed before the beginning of the next term.

Mr. Robert Darrock, the popular and genial second master of the Masterton State school, is about to join the ranks of the benedicts. The pupils of the school, prior to breaking-up for the holidays, presented him with a salad bowl and a silver teapot in recognition of his popularity and as a contribution towards house furnishing. The presentation was accompanied with many expressions of good-will and hopes that every prosperity would attend him in his married life.

A deeply edifying and highly impressive ceremony took place at St. Mary of the Angel's on Sunday morning, when close upon two hundred children and adults received the sacrament of Confirmation at the hands of his Grace Archbishop Redwood. There were nearly 50 adults presented, some of whom had neglected to receive the sacrament in their early days, whilst there were several converts who had only recently received instructions. Mass was celebrated by the Very Rev. Father Devoy, S.M., V.G. After Mass his Grace preached on the nature of Confirmation, its matter and form, and exhorted those about to be confirmed to remember the many blessings they were to receive, as Confirmation when received in the proper spirit gave them the strength necessary to stand firm in the faith at all times and in all trials. His Grace then administered the sacrament, being assisted by the Very Rev. Father Devoy and the Rev. Father O'Shea, Mr. and Mrs. Casey acting as sponsors. His Grace will administer the sacrament at Father Lane's Church at the Lower Hutt to-morrow, and will preach both morning and evening.

The children attending the various Catholic schools of the city will be entertained at a picnic at the Very Rev. Father Lane's grounds at the Hutt on Boxing Day. A meeting was held on Sunday afternoon in connection with the matter, when committees were set up to superintend the arrangements.

There is at present a small debt on the church at Pahautanui, and the Catholics of the district have determined to get rid of it by holding a bazaar next month. The amount is not large, but still it is sufficient to tax the resources of the people in a sparsely settled district, and interfere with the carrying out of what may be considered necessary improvements. It is to be hoped that the proposed bazaar will be a success, and that at its close the good people of the district will have the satisfaction of seeing this financial burden removed.

Eichardt's Hotel, Queenstown, now conducted by Mrs. Fraser, still keeps up its high reputation as one of the leading hotels in New Zealand for the accommodation of tourists, families and the general travelling public. Mrs. Fraser, who is well known both in Dunedin and the lakes, we need hardly say, has everything in the house kept in first-class style. A porter for the convenience of visitors meets the steamer every night.

Messrs. G. and T. Young, watchmakers and jewellers, 88 Princes street, Dunedin, have just landed a choice selection of Christmas and New Year presents. The goods are the very newest obtainable and customers can rely on getting the very best value for their money.

PUPILS OF THE DOMINICAN NUNS.

ANNUAL ENTERTAINMENT AT THE CITY HALL.

THE public have long learned to look forward to the annual entertainment of the pupils of the Dominican Nuns in the confident anticipation of a rare treat, and never yet have they been disappointed in that expectation. The entertainment on Friday evening last proved no exception to the rule. There was, as there always is in the entertainments promoted by these gifted teachers, something fresh, striking, and original, and everything attempted, without a single exception, was performed in the most effective manner possible. The entertainment this year took the form of a Picture Concert, in which various striking allegorical and mythological pictures were beautifully represented in living statuary by the pupils of the College. There was a very large and warmly appreciative audience. The first item by the pupils was an allegorical picture, "The Flight of Time," in which were represented Father Time, the Four Seasons, the Guardian Spirits of the air, and the gliding of Time from the old year to the new. The picture was very beautiful, and the admiration of the audience was expressed in long and hearty applause. An appropriate lecturette was admirably delivered by one of the pupils. A grand duo de concert "Capricante," was then played in splendid style on three pianos by six pupils of the college. Three other duos, two waltzes by Chopin, and an overture by Gurliitt, were also played in the same way on the three pianos, and with such skill and such perfect precision that even a careful listener, trusting only to his ear, would have declared that only one piano was being used. These pianoforte selections were keenly enjoyed by the audience, and it is certain that but for the rule prohibiting encores most, if not all of these items would have had to be repeated. "A holiday scene in Andalusia," was the subject of the next picture. The girls were dressed in the costume of Spanish maidens, and after song and chorus in praise of the "Land of the vine and olive, lovely Spain," the band joined hands in a merry but graceful frolic dance. The audience would gladly have had a repetition of the picture but the rule already referred to had to be respected. The next item was a vocal solo, "A birthday," by Miss Lucy Connor. Miss Connor, who has now quite established her reputation as a vocalist, was heartily and deservedly applauded for her effort. A mythological picture, "Jove's message to the nine," followed. The picture represented Mercury, the messenger of the gods, arriving on Mount Parnassus, and delivering to Apollo and the Muses the command of Jove, to prepare music and song for the great banquet which Jupiter was about to give in honour of Minerva. An appropriate lecturette was delivered by one of the pupils and the item was rendered still more interesting and enjoyable by the bright and cleverly-written dialogue which was introduced. The picture was one which lent itself very readily to scenic effect, and it must be admitted that the very most was made of the opportunity. As the changing light fell upon the classic group the effect was strikingly beautiful, and the audience from time to time broke out into enthusiastic applause. A very pretty and graceful skirt-dance, which was introduced in the banquet of the gods, was very greatly admired. The next picture, "The Circassian midgets," while very striking and pretty, had more of the comic element than any of the others. The representatives of this diminutive race were provided with Chinese umbrellas, and their remarkable performances with these instruments, along with their quaint and curious dancing, afforded the audience the greatest enjoyment. A determined effort was made to secure a repetition of this item, but without success. The concluding item was a "Dissolving View" which included all the performers and afforded ample scope for beautiful lime-light effects. In this, as in all the other picture-scenes, appropriate choruses were rendered by the children in a manner that showed careful and skilful training. An efficient orchestra played some very enjoyable selections at the opening of both parts of the programme and accompanied the children in the choral work. Altogether the entertainment was a complete success and was entirely worthy of the high reputation which the Convent pupils and their gifted teachers have so deservedly gained.

At the conclusion of the entertainment the Rev. Father Murphy, on behalf of his Lordship the Bishop, who was unable, through indisposition, to be present, thanked the audience for their attendance in such large numbers and the children for the very great treat they had given them. He warmly complimented the children on their great success in the Government Inspector's examination, and he hoped and confidently believed that the school and college would continue to maintain the high standard which they had now reached. He heartily wished them all a merry Christmas and happy New Year, and prayed that God's best blessing might follow them throughout the rest of their lives.

IRISH PILGRIMS IN ROME.

It has come and gone. We have had our audience. We have seen the Holy Father. We have looked on his face, sublime in its ascetic beauty. We have felt the pressure of his hands. We have heard the music of his voice, and the dullest amongst us has been thrilled to the heart by his cordial and kindly tone. For some time past his Holiness has been specially reserving himself for this reception of the Irish pilgrims, and other audiences have been persistently refused. To-day his Holiness said a special Mass for the pilgrims in the famous Sistine Chapel in the Vatican, where the frescoes on the ceilings are the masterpieces of Michael Angelo. It is impossible to describe the splendour and solemnity of the ceremonial. Nothing was left undone to add exceptional dignity to the occasion. Twenty-four members of the Noble Guard, 100 of the Swiss, were stationed in the church. Several Commendari attended, including Marquis MacSwiney and Cavaliere Christmas of Waterford. His Holiness

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