

Next morning the whole party, with the addition of Messrs. P. Lynch and E. Langton, proceeded up the river to Mr. P. Langton's Vale of Avoca, where they received a hearty *cord mile faillie* from Mr. Langton and family, and his son-in-law, Mr. E. Mulhern. After dinner the various places of interest were visited and a very pleasant day was spent. In the evening devotions were held in the pretty little family chapel, and Confessions were heard by Father O'Reilly. Next morning first Mass was celebrated by his Lordship, when the whole family received Holy Communion, and afterwards Father O'Reilly celebrated another Mass, when some of the adjoining settlers who had been late for the Bishop's Mass were present. After breakfast the whole party proceeded in the Sunbeam up the river to the old mission station, some thirty miles further up, which the late Ven. Archbishop Garin established in the early days of the Colony. On arrival at the spot where was once a chapel and dwelling, no traces whatever of the former could be seen with the exception of an old lock, while a fine peal of seven bells imported from France had disappeared no one knows where. Not even a Maori was to be found in the vicinity where once hundreds dwelt. On the return home an adjournment was made to the Langiteroria Hotel, where the party were made the guests of Mr. Mulhern and a tempting dinner was served in Host Rasmussen's best style. On the return to Dargaville Mr. Langton's was reached in time for tea and after the usual handshakes and farewells, his Lordship gave his blessing to the kneeling family, who as the vessel left the wharf gave three cheers for the Bishop and his priests, who expressed their great indebtedness to Mr. and Mrs. Langton and family for their warm hospitality and the pleasant time that each and all enjoyed.

Dargaville was reached at half past eight, and next morning Dr. Lenihan with the Rev. Fathers Dawson and O'Reilly embarked on board the S.S. Wairoa *en route* for Helensville where they would take train to Auckland. As 5 a.m. was the time of departure Misses Lynch, Mulhern and Langton were all who were present to see them off.

Bishop Lenihan and his attendant priests were greatly pleased with the scenery at the head of the river, and much gratified at the very successful trip they had. There was not a wet day (an unusual thing for this time of the year) during their stay on the river.

"THE IRISHMEN OF GORE" AND LORD RANFURLY.

THE PLAIN FACTS OF THE MATTER.

The *Southern Standard* of June 7 contains three columns of matter referring to the recent visit of his Excellency the Governor to Gore. Two addresses were presented and replied to—the first from the Mayor and Councillors, the second from "the Irishmen of Gore." The last-mentioned address was signed by several Catholics, and has given needless anxiety to some of our friends who do not know the circumstances under which the address was got up, signed, and presented. Those who—like us—have the pleasure of knowing the Catholic Irishmen of Gore and district need never fear that they will ever fall behind their fellow-countrymen in any part of New Zealand in anything and everything that relates to love of the Old Land and of the old Faith.

The facts relating to the address and its presentation are briefly told, and we may as well state at the outset that our statements regarding this subject are authoritative and received at first hand. Our Otago and Southland readers will remember that his Excellency the Governor had arranged to visit Milton, Gore, and other places during the third week in March, and—this being his first visit in each case—elaborate preparations were made to welcome him. There is, perhaps, no man for whom Irish Catholics entertain a higher respect than for a liberal-minded Irish Protestant. Under the impression that Lord Ranfurly was one of this class, the Irish Catholics of Gore cordially joined with their Protestant fellow-countrymen in the district in preparing to accord him a right hearty *cord mile faillie*. An address was drawn up, beautifully executed by the Sisters of Mercy, bordered with pearls, surmounted by a harp in green and gold, and surrounded by wreaths of shamrocks. The address, when ready, was signed by the members of the mixed committee of Catholics and Protestants who had united in getting it up. It was then placed in the keeping of one of the Protestant members of the committee.

Soon afterwards, Lord Ranfurly postponed his visit to Gore. He proceeded to Dunedin, and there gave utterance to what the *Melbourne Age* termed the ill-timed and injudicious Orange speech, and the attack on the "errors" of Rome, which were "contrary to reason and common sense." Everyone is aware of the pain and the sense of wrong which those ill-timed speeches caused. Irishmen keenly resent insults to their country or their creed, and none felt the slights cast upon both more than the Catholics of Gore. On June 3, Lord Ranfurly's postponed visit to Gore took place. The handsome address was taken out of its wrappings to be presented to him. The local Catholic clergy were invited by the Mayor to be present at the reception to his Excellency. They declined to come. The Catholic body—including the signatories—conspicuously absented themselves. They declined to take part in the proceedings, as a protest against the Governor's extraordinary speech in Dunedin. For the same reason the convent school had to be struck off the list of places to be visited by his Excellency.

There are two features in connection with Lord Ranfurly's visit to Gore to which we refer with pleasure and a sense of hopefulness. The first is this: that the Protestant gentlemen who presented the address declined to allow an orange ribbon to appear amidst the green. The second pleasant feature of the incident is this: that his Excellency made a speech on the occasion which

might have been delivered by an out-and-out Nationalist. He went, indeed, to the greatest lengths to show that, in effect, the growth and safety of the British Empire rest upon Irishmen. We welcome this as an indication that his Excellency has vastly improved in knowledge of his true position as Governor since the days when he spoke his all too famous speeches in Dunedin. It is well.

CONCERT AT HAMPDEN.

THE grand Jubilee Concert in aid of the funds of the Hampden Catholic Church was held in the Athenaeum on the evening of the 10th inst., the house being full. The promoters were fortunate in procuring the service of such high-class vocal talent as Mrs. Lynch (Timaru), Mrs. Woods, Miss Morrison (Dunedin), and two such well-known *comiques* as Mr. J. Swan and Mr. Hanlon. The room was tastefully decorated with flags and evergreens, and the stage was a picture of beauty, being hung with fine lace curtains blending with the red tapestry and vases of flowers in the wings. The Mayor, Mr. Murecott, presided, and after a few well chosen remarks, Mr. Horne opened the proceedings with a dashing pianoforte solo; Mrs. Lynch then sang, in fine style, "Waiting," and for an encore "She wore a wreath of roses"; Mr. Swan sang "For me," and for a recall "The football match"; Miss Morrison then sang very feelingly "Ben Bolt," which was warmly encored; Mrs. Woods followed with "Fiddle and I," also encored. The next item was a comic song, "Still alive," by Mr. Hanlon; to a recall he gave one on similar lines. Then came a charming part of the entertainment, the duet "Home to our mountains," sung by Mrs. Woods and Miss Morrison—a treat long to be remembered. This item closed the first part of the programme.

Miss Morrison opened the second part of the programme with a well-received pianoforte solo. Mrs. Lynch then sang with good effect "The gipsy maid," (encored). Mr. Swan followed with a side-splitting comic song, "An other one," (also encored). Mrs. Woods's rendering of the next song, "Dear heart," was listened to with marked attention, and an encore demanded without avail. Mr. Hanlon came next with a laughable selection, "The veridiot." For encore he sang "More work for the undertaker." Miss Morrison then sang with fine expression "Robin Adair." Mrs. Lynch followed with another highly enjoyable song, "Daddy," and received a well-merited encore. The next item was a song and dance by Messrs. Swan, Hanlon, and Horne, "We have worked eight hours this day." This fairly brought down the house, and finished the programme. The accompaniments were played by Miss Morrison and Mr. Horne, and the entertainment was thoroughly enjoyed. Mr. Murecott, on behalf of the congregation, thanked the audience and the ladies and gentlemen who had so generously come forward to make the entertainment a success.

OBITUARY.

MR. GEORGE O'HANLON WATTERS.

WE extract the following from the *Dundalk Examiner*, of April 23. The deceased gentleman was the younger brother of the learned and popular Dr. Watters, president of St. Patrick's College, Wellington, to whom we hereby tender our sincere sympathy:—

The death of the above popular gentleman came on the public as a painful surprise, and evoked universal expressions of regret. Very few, indeed, were previously aware of his illness; in fact, it was not until a couple of days before the inevitable hour came that the serious nature of the attack became manifest. For some time, however, he had been suffering from the effects of a severe cold, and when pneumonia supervened, notwithstanding all that medical skill could accomplish, it did so with fatal effect. On Monday night, to the inexpressible grief of his wife and family, he passed peacefully away, fortified by the last rites of the Catholic Church. May he rest in peace.

Mr. Watters was esteemed by all classes, and the greatest sympathy is felt for his mother, brothers, wife, and children in their great sorrow. When the news of his death became known manifestations of regret were to be seen on every side, and, go where one would throughout the town, shuttered shops gave evidence of the general feeling. Mr. Watters was an exceedingly amiable and good-natured man, and his unostentatious and straight-forward manner made him a favourite everywhere. Those who knew him best will long deplore his loss, but in the family circle especially his death creates a void which never can be filled. To his wife and children, his mother and brothers, we respectfully offer our sincere condolence in their bereavement.

The funeral was—notwithstanding that it was the fair day—very largely attended by all classes in the community, clergy, professional men, merchants, traders, artisans, clerks, and public officials, constituting a very representative *cortège*, following which was a long line of carriages, cars, and other vehicles. The coffin which was of massive oak, with brass mountings, was covered with wreaths and immortelles. The interment was in the new cemetery, and the prayers at the grave were said by Rev. F. M'Neece, C.C., the responses being given by the clergy present.

The chief mourners were—Very Rev. M. J. Watters, S.M., provincial, London; and Mr. Alexander A. Watters, Dundalk (brothers of deceased); Rev. P. A. Murphy, O.P. Dublin; and Mr. John F. Murphy, Dundalk (brothers-in-law); Mr. John Murphy (father-in-law); and Messrs. Felix and Michael O'Hanlon (cousins). The pall-bearers were—Messrs. F. H. M'Caun, C. A. Duffy, T.C., H.C., P.L.G.; Patrick Watters, John M'Mahon, Terence M'Donald, and W. B. Connolly. Amongst the clergy present were—Very Rev. B. Donnellan, adm.; Rev. F. M'Neece, C.C.; Rev. J. Woods