

has learned the art of 'pegging away.' And our cause—the cause of the children, the hope of the future—is well worth a struggle and a sacrifice. Our position is admirably summed up by that prince of churchmen, the illustrious Archbishop of Melbourne: 'We ask for simple justice in this matter of education. If it is granted, we shall be thankful. If it is denied, we shall not be discouraged. We shall go on our way bearing the double burden, in a most sacred cause, and feeling assured that the liberal tendency of a free constitution will ultimately secure relief and recognition for our schools. "They that sow in tears shall reap in joy. Going, they went and wept, casting their seeds. But coming, they shall come with joyfulness, carry their sheaves."'

DIOCESE OF DUNEDIN.

On Wednesday evening a concert is to be given in St. Joseph's Hall, by the Dunedin Catholic Literary Society's club, in aid of the Sisters of Mercy's Orphanage, South Dunedin. A fine programme has been prepared, and as the object is a very worthy one, there should be a large attendance.

An interesting religious ceremony took place on Sunday morning in the convent chapel of the Sisters of Mercy, South Dunedin, when three young ladies took the white veil, and three made their final profession. The ceremony was conducted by the Rev. Father Murphy, Adm. The following were the young ladies received:—Sister Mary de Sales (Miss Dwyer, Murrurundi, N.S.W.), Sister Mary Claver (Miss Carmody, Sydney), Sister Mary Alacoque (Miss O'Gorman, Westport). The following made their final profession:—Sister Mary Xavier (Miss Bradley, Caversham), Sister Mary Philomena (Miss Lynch, Singleton, N.S.W.), Sister Mary Aloysius (Miss O'Grady, Raymond Terrace, N.S.W.).

The Very Rev. Dean Mackay has been on a visit to Queenstown during the week (says the *Wakatip Mail*) for the purpose of recruiting his health. We are sure his many friends in the district have been glad to see him. Dean Mackay left rather reluctantly by this morning's steamer. He has been the guest of the Rev. Father O'Donnell. We are sure we voice the sentiments of all his old friends when we wish Dean Mackay a speedy recovery. On Thursday evening a short but very enjoyable impromptu entertainment was given in the school in his honour by the pupils of St. Catherine's, assisted by a few of the ex-pupils. [The Very Rev. Dean Mackay was in Dunedin on Sunday, and left for Oamaru on Tuesday.]

A very successful concert was given in Naumann's Hall, South Dunedin, on Friday evening, in aid of St. Patrick's Catholic School funds. The hall was comfortably filled, and the committee are to be congratulated on the excellence of the entertainment, and also on the good order maintained, the noisy element being remarkable by their absence, this being due in no small measure to the fixing of a general charge of two shillings to all parts of the building. The entertainment on the whole was a long way above the average, and the audience showed their appreciation of the various items by warm applause. The proceedings opened with a chorus, 'Beautiful lilies,' which was given in a manner that left little to be desired. That popular song 'Killarney' was done full justice to by Miss Cray. In the duet, 'Maying,' the voices of Miss Morrison and Mr. Eagar blended admirably. Mr. G. Neill gave a very fine rendering of 'Molly Bawn,' and Miss M. Morrison received well-deserved applause for her singing of 'Beauty sleep.' That old favourite 'The minstrel boy' was interpreted in a finished manner by Mr. Eagar. Miss K. Moloney sang with taste 'Oh, hear the wild winds blow.' A very fine item was a vocal trio by Miss Morrison, Messrs. Eagar and Neill. A pianoforte solo, artistically played by Mrs. Neill, and a part song, 'Good night,' by the company, concluded the first part of the programme. Mrs. Neill acted as accompanist in an efficient manner. The second part consisted of a Christy Minstrel entertainment, which was very superior to the general run of such performances. Songs were contributed by Messrs. C. Budge, F. Duval, J. Fottrell, J. Black, T. J. Hussey, W. Clark and W. Olson. Messrs. J. McKenna, F. Heley, M. Coughlan, L. Pastorelli, W. Banks and H. McCormack also assisted. The 'funnies' of the corner men were most amusing, and the local allusions took immensely with the audience. Mr. F. Stokes acted as accompanist to this portion of the programme. A capital evening's entertainment was marred at its close by the unexpected recital, in an atrocious counterfeit of the 'brogue,' of a rough-and-tumble piece alleged to be 'Irish' and 'comic.' The audience had the good taste to take the piece coldly. During the evening the Rev. Father Coffey took the opportunity of thanking the performers for their services, and also the audience for their attendance.

INVERCARGILL.

As in teaching, so in entertainment (says the *Southland Daily News*) the Dominican nuns are thorough; hence one did not require the stimulus of relationship to enjoy the performance given by Convent pupils in the Theatre Royal, Invercargill, on Friday night. The vocalisation, the costumes, the dances, and instrumentation, and, above all, the bright faces and lithe forms of the bevy of young folks, combined to exert the exhilarating influence of a gentle breeze on a summer's morning. The audience was worthy of the occasion—every seat in the building was occupied, and some contented themselves with standing room, without evincing the least impatience, so well did the performers entertain the vast assemblage. At times the applause amounted to an ovation, and but for the rule against encores, recalls would have been frequent. In the first part three pianoforte selections were given—'4th grand waltz'

(Mattei), by Miss K. Moloney, of Dunedin, whose skilful performance won hearty applause, and the duos 'Bergomask dance' and 'Boute en train,' by eight of the pupils, whose style and execution evidenced judicious training. In the melody, 'Last glimpse of Erin' and the chorus 'Drifting with the tide' the young people sang with fine expression and commendable precision. The picture scene 'In parvella' proved a most diverting item, the fanciful get-up of the performers eliciting uproarious laughter. From the mite attired in navy blue and immaculate belltopper to the young lady who delivered the introductory speech all performed their parts capably, and the sailor's hornpipe, introduced by two diminutive youths, fairly brought down the house. In the second part Miss Moloney contributed a pianoforte solo, 'Polka de la reine'; Mr. W. Ferguson a violin solo, 'Cantabile et Bolero'; Mrs. Boys, of the Bluff, the song 'Kathleen Mavourneen'; and four of the pupils the duo 'Valse', each of which met with merited recognition. The feature of the performance, however, was the operetta, 'The fairies of the season,' in which some 50 little ladies were engaged. The costumes were varied and tasteful, and, under the limelight, afforded a fine spectacular display, reflecting great credit on those responsible for the designs and the training of the children. The Queen looked especially handsome in her royal robes and spoke her lines admirably, as did also her fair attendant. The work contains some decidedly pretty music, the most taking numbers probably being 'Winter' and 'Goodnight.' It went without a flaw, and the dances, marches, and groupings were excellent. The performance concluded with a spirited rendering of the chorus 'All hail! Zealandia,' which formed a fitting conclusion to an entertainment that afforded unmixt pleasure to the audience.

The drawing for four handsome door prizes was conducted by the Mayor (Mr. J. Stead), Miss Cissy Raeside securing the first, and Mrs. F. T. Boys the second.

ASHBURTON.

A CORRESPONDENT sends us a lengthy report of the visit of the Right Rev. Dr. Grimes, Bishop of Christchurch, to Ashburton. The report has, however, come too late for insertion in full. His Lordship, who was accompanied by the Very Rev. Dean Foley, arrived in Ashburton on September 16, for the purpose of making the usual visitation and conducting a mission. On the following Sunday, immediately before the 11 o'clock Mass, an address on behalf of the congregation was presented by Mr. H. McSherry. The address was signed on behalf of the congregation by Messrs. J. Small, D. Fitzgerald, J. Bishop, P. Hanrahan, H. Cullen, P. Grealy, D. McHendry, J. Moison, F. Scrint, L. Hanrahan, M. Lagan, H. McSherry, and F. K. Cooper. His Lordship, in reply, thanked them for their address and the welcome extended to him, and then referred to the proposed Cathedral in Christchurch. High Mass was celebrated by Dean Foley and the sermon was preached by the Bishop. The mission was continued during the week, Dean Foley preaching in the morning, and his Lordship occupying the pulpit in the evening. The attendance at all the services was very large, and on Sunday last nearly 600 persons received Holy Communion. His Lordship made an appeal at both Masses on behalf of the Cathedral building fund, with the result that, he was able to announce on Monday evening, at the entertainment held in his honour by the Catholic Literary Society, the Ashburton contribution was £759. This is the largest sum contributed by any district in the diocese, except Greymouth, but it is hoped that when Methven and Rakaia have been canvassed, Ashburton will occupy the foremost place. On Sunday 110 children and some adults were confirmed by his Lordship.

WEDDING BELLS.

SYKES—O'NEILL.

A wedding took place on Monday, the 18th September, at SS. Peter and Paul's, Johnsonville. The contracting parties were Mr. William Henry Sykes of Rongomai, Eketahuna, and formerly of Yorkshire, England, and Miss Rosa A. J. O'Neill, of Johnsonville. The ceremony was performed by the Very Rev. Father Lane of the Hutt, who celebrated a Nuptial Mass. At the conclusion of the Mass a wedding march was played. The bride, who was attended by her sister, Miss G. O'Neill, wore a brown cloth costume with a brown chip hat and yellow ospreys. Mr. F. T. O'Neill acted as best man. The happy couple left by the afternoon train for Palmerston North for Rongomai their future home.

The farmer who cultivates his land on the most modern principles is wasting his time and energy unless he sows the best of seeds, and uses the best of fertilisers. In many of his business transactions the settler is able at the time to form a good idea of the value received, but in the case of farm seeds he has to wait for some months before he is in a position to judge of their quality. Unless these are of the best his time is wasted and the season lost. To guard against such result his safest course is to deal with a firm of repute, who keep only first class goods. Messrs. Donald Reid and Co., stock, station, and produce agents, and seed merchants, Dunedin, are now supplying the season's output of grass and clover seeds, which can be thoroughly relied on. The high-class manures sold by the firm are specially prepared to suit all soils and crops. Farmers should note that all the manures offered by the firm to their clients are sold under guaranteed analyses, and their superior quality is shown in the high percentage of soluble phosphates which they contain. Among the manures stocked by Messrs. Reid and Co. are those made at Belfast, Fison's fertilisers, and guano of various kinds.—*.*