

T A R A N A K I.

(From the Taranaki Herald)

BREAKING UP OF THE CONVENT SCHOOLS.

THE ladies who conduct the Convent schools sent out a long list of invitations to the friends of the pupils attending the Sacred Heart High School and St. Mary's Select School, and accordingly, a number of visitors assembled, on Tuesday, December 17, in the large room of the Convent to witness the presentation of the prizes, as well as hear the concert which had been prepared by the pupils for the occasion. There would, no doubt, have been more present but for the wet weather, which prevented several from attending.

As usual, the visitors were shown the progress the pupils had made during the year in needlework, both fancy and plain, in drawing, and other accomplishments which ladies all try to excel in, and which at the Convent schools are by no means allowed to be neglected. The display of work in the parlour of the Convent was fully equal to the excellent exhibitions of former occasions. It would be invidious, perhaps, on our part to mention specially any young lady's work where all was so good, but those who had not before seen the annual display seemed truly astonished at the proficiency of the pupils in these useful as well as ornamental accomplishments.

The Convent Schoolroom was very prettily decorated for the occasion, the walls being festooned with flowers and evergreens. At the back of the stage was the Irish welcome, *Cead Mille Failthe* to our friends, and over head were the words "A happy New Year." Great care had evidently been taken in rehearsing the musical pieces, all the pupils being very perfect; whilst the mounting and dressing of the little drama, "A Double Triumph," was very creditable indeed. The young people worked well together, and all the visitors owned at the conclusion of the entertainment that they had spent a very pleasant afternoon. Altogether the excellent and devoted Sisters of Notre Dame des Mission have, we think, every reason to be pleased and satisfied with the progress of their pupils. The chair was occupied by Dr. O'Carroll, the Rev. Father McKenna sitting on his right.

The concert commenced about three o'clock, when the following programme was gone through with considerable success by the juvenile performers:—

Programme.—Duet (5 pianos, organ, and harmonium), "Gloria in Excelsis," Misses Leedom, Woods, Cadigan, Cottier, Connett, Hammond, Teed, Ellis, McGonnell, and Cunningham. Organ, Miss Flahavan; Harmonium, Miss J. Moore; Latin duet and chorus, "O Gloriosa," Young Ladies. Solo (5 pianos and organ), "La Sonnambula," Misses Woods, Connett, Cottier, Leedom, and Flahavan; organ, Miss Moore. Vocal duet, "Hope beyond the Skies," Misses Ellis and Oldfield. Solo (4 pianos, organ, and harmonium) "Irish Diamonds, No. 3," Misses Cottier, Moore, Leedom, and Woods; organ, Miss Flahavan; harmonium, Miss Cadigan. Song, "Voices of the Night," Young Ladies. Solo (5 pianos and organ), "Il Trovatore," Misses Connett, Flahavan, Leedom, Cottier, and Woods; organ, Miss Moore. Vocal duet, "The Lily and the Rose," Misses Teed and Oldfield. Duet (5 pianos, organ, and harmonium), "The Abyssinian Expedition," Misses Flahavan, Woods, Leedom, Connett, Street, A. Street, Hammond, Cadigan, Ellis, and Cunningham; organ, Miss Cottier; harmonium, Miss Moore.

"The Double Triumph," (a drama in two acts).—Dramatis personæ: Placidus (Roman General), Miss Taylor; Stella (wife of Placidus), Miss Teed; Imogen and Farfax (sons of Placidus), Misses Gill and Moore; Eofus (Captain of Banner Guard), Miss Oldfield; Felix, Miss Cadigan; Adrias, Miss Sullivan; Trajan (Emperor), Miss Teed; Adrian (Emperor), Miss Cadigan; Calphurnius, Miss Cowan; Proculus (Governor of Gaul), Miss Cunningham; Epicurus (Manager of Baths), Miss Callaghan; Sirtulus (Military Tribune), Miss Ryan; Hibernian (Indian planter), Miss Parker; Sylvia (slave), Miss Flahavan; Eggeus, Miss Coldwell; soldiers, Misses McGonnigell, Griffiths, Duffin, and Julian.

Finale.—"The Holiday Duet," The Pupils.

Prior to the distribution of the prizes, Dr. O'Carroll rose and said he must, on behalf of those present, thank the young ladies for the treat they had just afforded them. He had attended the gatherings year after year, and had always looked forward to them with pleasure. He, therefore, considered he was able to judge of their proficiency, and it was a pleasure to him to be able to say that they seemed to improve more and more under the kind Sisters' instruction. They must recollect that the Sisters, who were highly educated ladies, did not devote their time to teaching for personal gain, but they devoted their lives to the instruction of the young, with the view that they should be properly educated, not only in the faith they themselves professed, but also in the secular things of this world. The secular instruction given by the Sisters was however, so excellent that those of other denominations entrust their children to these ladies' care, but in such cases the Sisters were careful not to interfere with the religious belief in which the children had been brought up; one thing they might be sure of, and that was that nothing would be taught in the Nuns' school but what was strictly moral.

The prizes were then presented to the children by Dr. O'Carroll, who was assisted in doing so by the Rev. Father McKenna and the Lady Superior of the Convent.

The Sisters return their thanks to the following persons who have kindly contributed towards procuring the prizes:—Rev. Father McKenna, Dr. O'Carroll, Mr. and Mrs. Seffern, Mrs. Goldwater, Mrs. King, Messrs Dingle, and Corke, Mr. and Mrs. O'Neil, Mrs. Fishleigh, Miss Cottier, Mrs. Francis, Mrs. Read, Mrs. O'Rigley, Mr. Corkill, Mr. Parker, Mr. Gilmour, Mr. Cook, and Mr. Walsh. At the conclusion of the distribution of the prizes, Dr. O'Carroll said he had been requested by the Rev. Father McKenna and the ladies of the Convent to thank those who were present for their attendance, and to announce that the schools would be closed for six weeks. He hoped that those who had sent children to the schools would continue to do so.

The company then dispersed.

BREAKING-UP OF ST. PATRICK'S SCHOOL.

The usual entertainment and distribution of prizes in connection with the Catholic Boys' School took place in St. Patrick's Hall on Thursday afternoon, December 19, and, as usual, the attendance was very large. The walls of the hall had been very prettily decorated with evergreens and flowers, and the stage fitted up in a very attractive manner.

The entertainment commenced at about three o'clock, when the Rev. Father McKenna occupied the chair, Mr. Seffern sitting on his right hand and Mr. Hart alongside him. In the first part the recitation given by the little boys was exceedingly well delivered, whilst the vocal pieces were all nicely sung. The comic drama, "None so blind as those who will not see," was capitally played, the boys being word perfect in their parts, and entering thoroughly into the spirit of the piece. Between the scenes of the drama Miss Cottier played on the piano two somewhat difficult pieces with considerable execution, and also took part with the Misses Teed, Moore, and Flahaven in a quartette on two pianos. The whole of the entertainment went off without a hitch of any kind, and at the termination of the programme the juvenile performers were all loudly applauded.

The following is a programme of the entertainment given:—Duet (2 pianos), Misses Cottier, Moore, Hammond, and Flahaven; hymn, "Ave Maris Stella," the pupils; recitation, "All for Ireland," Master A. Hart; song, "Froggie's Ball," junior pupils; recitation, "The Dilatory Scholar," Master Hart; trio (vocal), "The Heart Bowed Down," Masters O'Donnell, Hart, and O'Neill; recitation, "The Two Cousins," Master Ryan; song, "Half Mast High," senior pupils; recitation, "Bernardo del Carpio," Master O'Donnell; song, "Sweet the Evening Hour," senior pupils; recitation, "Mary Queen of Scots," Masters Hart and M. O'Neill. Drama, "None so blind as those who will not see." Characters—Uncle, Master O'Neill; Aunt, Master Pope; Jack, Master O'Donnell; Polly, Master Hart; Pedlar, Master Moore; Farmer, Master Reynolds; Schoolmaster, Master M. O'Neill; Postman, Master D. Callaghan.

Between the scenes the following musical selections were given:—Solo, "The Harp that once through Tara's Halls," Miss Cottier; duet (2 pianos), "The Sultan's Grand March," Misses Cottier, Moore, Teed, and Flahaven; solo, "Silvery Waves," Miss Cottier; finale, "The Dear Little Shamrock," the pupils.

Rev. Father McKenna said, previous to presenting the prizes, he must thank those present for their kind attendance that day. He himself was very pleased with what he had seen. The little boys had all played their parts well, and gone through the programme with credit to themselves and to the ladies of the Convent, who had taught them. The parents had to thank the Sisters for the pains they had taken in instructing the children. He had examined the boys in the several branches of their studies, and was, therefore, able to speak personally of the progress they had made in them. He could not help referring to the entertainment given by the young ladies on Tuesday last, because on that occasion the excellent tuition in music by the ladies of the Convent was demonstrated in a most prominent manner by the pupils, who performed on the piano some very difficult pieces with a considerable amount of success. The vacation would now take place, but he hoped next year when the schools opened that he should see all the children there again. Rev. Father McKenna then presented the prizes to the boys, and was assisted by the Lady Superior, Mr. Seffern, and Mr. J. Hart.

The Sisters return their sincere thanks to the following persons who have kindly contributed towards procuring the prizes:—Rev. Father McKenna, D. O'Carroll, Mr. and Mrs. Seffern, Mrs. King, Mrs. Goldwater, Messrs Corke and Dingle, Mr. and Mrs. O'Neill, Mrs. Fishleigh, Miss Cottier, Mrs. Francis, Mrs. Read, Mrs. O'Rigley, Mr. Corkill, Mr. Parker, Mr. Gilmour, Mr. Cook, Mr. Walsh and Mr. Hart.

The boys then gave three cheers for the Rev. Father McKenna and the Sisters of the Convent. Mr. Seffern then gave the boys sixpence each, a practice he has followed for some years back, when, after another cheer the proceedings terminated.

ST. JOSEPH'S SCHOOL, TEMUKA.

(From an occasional Correspondent.)

Temuka, December 20, 1889.

THE annual concert by the pupils of St. Joseph's Convent School which had been looked forward to, both by the children and parents, with as keen an interest as on former years, passed off as successfully as on any of the previous occasions, on the 16th inst. In spite of several entertainments having been held during the previous fortnight—the Temuka Public School concert, which was poorly attended, taking place a few days before, the hall was crammed. The programme, as usual, was a long and varied one, and the whole was gone through without a hitch, and in a manner which did infinite credit to the children, and failed not to add immensely to the reputation which the Sisters of St. Joseph bear for their ability and patience in teaching the young. The concert was opened with a prologue, which was spoken with good effect by Misses E. Dalton and L. Archer, and was followed by the excellent rendering of an overture by Miss Quinn. The Chorus, "Chiming Bells," was rendered very successfully by the singing class, and the order with which the children came on and went off the stage, combined with the neat appearance of their white dresses, was a striking feature of the entertainment, and denoted the trouble which had been taken by their teachers in bringing them to such a stage of perfection. Miss L. Quinn secured universal applause for her recitation, "A shamrock from the Irish shore," as did also Master Scannell—a youthful performer—for his vocal solo "Kitty of Colrairie." The dialogue, "Dolly's Mama," was well spoken by Miss Taylor and Master F. Scannell, and created much laughter. Miss Connolly, who was in good voice, brought down the house by her singing of "Eileen Alannah," and was encored, and responded with the last verse. The solos in the chorus "Old black Joe," was taken by Masters Louis Lavery and Dunn, and were vigorously seconded by the remainder of