

dresses for walking abroad,—for every fashionable purpose, luxurious in material and elegant in make, giving incontrovertible proofs of the utmost skill and taste in the dressmaker's art. There are also some perfect ducks of bats and bonnets, and sunshades to match them. Ladies must certainly find the exhibits here difficult to pass by. We see by placards to that effect, that the D.I.C. has also purchased the extensive and admirable stock shown by the Mosgiel Woollen Factory. This includes almost everything in the shape of woollen goods that can possibly be manufactured. And excellent goods they are; nothing, indeed, of their kind can be found to excel them—wreaths to form a suit for a king; blankets that might defy the arctic regions and make the climate of the pole itself seem comfortable; yarns to excite the admiration of the most fastidious darning; rugs, hosiery, everything, in short, into which wool can be spun. Our particular fancy was attracted by a sand of tartans; to every clan its distinguishing plaid, all of the brightest and clearest dyes, and of a texture absolutely faultless. We see there is a Society of the White Rose now established in England, among whose objects is the commemoration of the Stuart Kings. It should comfort the hearts of these sentimental people to learn that in New Zealand one of the chief staples of the country is made worthily to perpetuate the memory they reverence. The tartan of the Royal Stuarts is conspicuous among those exhibited, and a splendid plaid it certainly is. One that pleased our own eye particularly was that of the Gordons—which, if there be any sentiment attached to such things, seems to us distinctive of a dignified race. On the whole, then, the D.I.C. has made a valuable purchase—one, moreover, reflecting creditably on the capacities of the Colony.

WELLINGTON.

(From our own Correspondent.)

January 4, 1890.

THE memorable year of 1889 closed bright with the prospects of hope to be fulfilled in the near future. For the vast majority of the readers of your valuable journal the great political struggle going on at Home is of all-absorbing interest, and so, I repeat that the memorable year just terminated was bright with the prospect of hope to be fulfilled in the near future. Do people in this country really realise what it is to have the people of England, Ireland and Scotland burying for ever their sectarian and political differences, as well as the race-hatred which has divided them all these weary centuries? Imperial Federation is a noble idea, and, if accomplished in a generous and statesmanlike manner, would tend to immensely strengthen the Empire; yet, even the benefits derived from Imperial Federation pale into insignificance when compared with the immense advantages to be attained from the peaceful solution of the great Irish difficulty of which the close of the year 1889 had almost seen the dawning. The *Wellington Evening Post* has in its issue of December 31st an admirable summary of the great events which occurred within the past year a lover the world; and the paragraph devoted to Irish affairs appears to me to so ably epitomise the events of the year, that, with this acknowledgment, I will send it you. It is as follows:—"Unhappy Ireland has changed its Viceroy, Lord Zetland having succeeded Lord Londonderry, but Mr. Balfour still rules it with coercion of the most severe type. A large number of its parliamentary representatives have during the year suffered imprisonment and indignity for indulging in the right of free speech, and two English members of Parliament have learned to their cost that what is lawful to be said and done in England is punishable by imprisonment in Ireland. The cruel evictions by absentee landlords continue, and although the Plan of Campaign is declared illegal, older and equally effective means of resistance have been arranged by the National party. Agrarian crime has decreased, and the hopes of early attainment of Home Rule reconcile the people to offering merely passive resistance to the oppression to which they are subject. The manner in which the Irish delegates have been received in Australia and New Zealand, and the liberal subscriptions given towards the relief of evicted tenants, have caused a warm feeling of brotherhood and gratitude to arise in Ireland towards these colonies. The *Times*-Parnell Commission has continued to sit during the year, and will not report until next year; but very little public interest is now felt in its doings. The letters on which the *Times* based its charges against Mr. Parnell and his party were, in the most sensational manner, proved to be most brazenly forged, by the confession of their author, the wretched Pigott, who afterwards shot himself. The exposure was complete; and Mr. Macdonald, the manager of the *Times*, who was the person mainly responsible, was compelled to resign his position, and has since died—broken-hearted it is believed. Following Pigott's confession, Mr. Parnell and his friends demanded that they should be allowed to inspect the books of the Loyal and Patriotic League, so as to show where the funds had come from to employ Pigott and his accomplices. On this reasonable demand being refused by the Commission, the Parnellite council were withdrawn, and the case has since gone on without them. Before this, however, Sir Charles Russell made a most magnificent speech in vindication of his clients, and Mr. Davitt, who continued to attend on his own behalf, has also since addressed the Court in a powerful manner. The Commission set up to crush the Home Rule party has indirectly done a great deal to increase its strength, and has vindicated the character of its leaders and the purity of their purpose. The public has given its verdict long in anticipation of that of the Commissioners."

The holy season was ushered in with, if possible, more than usual grandeur of ceremonial in the Catholic churches of this city. On Christmas Day the worshippers at the 11 o'clock Mass at the Cathedral were edified and impressed by the appearance of the sacred building, as well as by the magnificence of the service. The decorations were tastefully arranged. The crib was a marvel of artistic realism, occupying the side chapel dedicated to St. Joseph. Over the high altar was a garland of evergreens extending across the whole width of the sanctuary, with the letter "M" in the centre, also formed of evergreens. In each of the windows was a branch of Nikau palm, and across the front of the choir was a scroll bearing the words "Gloria in Excelsis Deo." Pontifical High Mass was cele-

brated by the Archbishop, with Rev. Father Devoy as deacon; Rev. Father Power, sub-deacon; and Very Rev. Father McNamara as assistant at the throne. After the gospel the Archbishop preached an eloquent sermon, taking for his text the words "Gloria in Excelsis Deo." His Grace was more than ordinarily impressive, and evidently awakened his hearers to a sense of the sublimity of the subject of his discourse. The choir was strengthened by the presence of Wellington's finest basso, Mr. Prouse, as well as several other ladies and gentlemen who kindly gave their services for the day. The music consisted of Gounod's "Messe Solennelle," and Costa's "Date Sautum Pastores," for bars, solo, and chorus. The orchestra was under the leadership of Mr. McDuff Boyd, and Mr. Putman wielded the conductor's baton. St. Mary of the Angels Church was beautifully decorated, and the sacred ceremonies both morning and evening were attended by good music and singing under the conductorship of Mr. J. B. Connolly.

On St. Stephen's Day the Catholic body of Wellington held their annual picnic at the Lower Hutt, in the grounds attached to the Rev. Father Lane's residence. There were present during the day, His Grace Archbishop Bedwood, Mr. Dillon, M.P., Sir Thomas Esmonde, M.P., Hon. P. A. Buckley, M.L.C., Dr. Cahill, etc. Fully 1000 people were on the grounds, and the sport was excellent, arrangements having been entrusted to a Catholic committee. The Rev. Father Lane was indefatigable in his exertions to make the day a pleasure to all, and to his capacity for business and his "bonhomie" must be attributed a great measure of the success attained.

St. Joseph's Orphanage, a building in connection with the Convent of Mercy here, and where about 50 little orphan children are housed, fed, clothed, etc. by the good sisters, having fallen into a dilapidated condition, so much so as to render a new building almost indispensable, an appeal was made to the public for funds, and it took the pleasing form of a garden fair, which was held at the Lower Hutt on New Year's day, in Father Lane's paddock. A large fancy stall was erected on the ground, and was presided over by Mrs. Sharp, Misses Barnes, O'Connor, Kennedy and Sheridan. Various sports were inaugurated by the following gentlemen who formed a committee of management:—Rev. Father Keegan, Messrs. E. Carrigan, M. Bohan, T. Bedmond, R. Duignan, D. Dally, T. Hodgins, and T. Davis, the latter gentleman acting as secretary. A considerable amount was netted by means of raffia, which were carried on throughout the day. The proceedings were somewhat marred by a thunderstorm which broke over the district during the afternoon. On the whole an enjoyable and profitable day was spent, and the large concourse of people returned to town by rail without a mishap.

On the evening of Thursday, the 2nd inst., under the auspices of the Wellington Branch I.N.L., there assembled in the spacious dining-room of the Club Hotel a large and influential number of gentlemen for the purpose of bidding God-speed to John Dillon on the eve of his departure from New Zealand. Among those present were the Rev. Dr. Watters, Rev. Fathers Kerrigan and Devoy, Hon. Dr. Grace M.L.C. (having returned from an extended tour through Europe), Mr. E. O'Connor, M.H.R. for the Buller, T. Cahill, M.D. The members of the League mustered in force, the officers, Mr. J. J. Davine, President; Messrs. Bohan and Fleming, Vice-Presidents; E. Carrigan, Treasurer; and J. O'Dea, Hon. Sec., being all in attendance. Mr. O'Connor, acting as Chairman, called upon Mr. Dillon to address those present. After the applause had subsided, for which Mr. Dillon had to wait some time, it could be noticed that he had improved in health, his face had almost lost that look of sad weariness which it wore on his first visit to Wellington, and his form seemed to have become more robust. He preluded his remarks by saying that he would not make a speech—but what he said would be more in a conversational sense. Mr. Dillon took occasion to pay a warm tribute to the people of the West Coast, and stated he had never met with greater kindness in any part of the world, saying that he would always remember his visit there with pleasure. He said it was worthy of note that nearly all the leading newspapers in this colony had supported his mission, and he thanked the *Wellington Evening Post* for its generous treatment of Irish affairs; he instanced the *Wellington Evening Press* as being most fair and impartial; and, travelling further afield, he mentioned the leading Christchurch newspaper, the *Lytelton Times*, in terms of praise, and said he should feel proud to number the proprietor of that journal, Mr. Beeves, among his personal friends. Mr. Dillon said that the cause had met with the approval of the most prominent politicians in New Zealand, notably Sir Robert Stout, of whom, he said, any country might well feel proud. He dwelt at some length upon the rapid growth of the Home Rule movement, and complained that the cable messages sent from Home, as well as those despatched from the colonies, were so distorted by biased persons as to convey a wrong impression to newspaper readers regarding the progress of the agitation, and advised his hearers to wait for the Home papers before forming an opinion. In pathetic words he described the weary uphill struggle which he and his colleagues had had from the time when subscriptions amounted only to £5 per week, which was barely sufficient for the rent of a modest office in Dublin and the salary of a clerk, until now in the full tide of prosperity when, as he stated, the receipts for one week amounted to £12,000. He advised the members of the National League to maintain that organization, for its usefulness could not be over-estimated as a means of collecting funds for the cause, and also as to the moral support which it could give to the Irish Parliamentary party in the event of a general election, when a cablegram could convey the weight of colonial opinion to turn the scale in favor of the Home Rule cause. Mr. Dillon concluded amid loud and prolonged applause.—Mr. M. Bohan, one of the vice-presidents of the Wellington branch of the League, asked the Hon. Dr. Grace, who had just returned from a visit to the Old Country, whether he would give the gentlemen present some information as to the progress of the movement at Home. The Hon. Dr. Grace cheerfully complied with the request. In the course of his remarks he explained that the movement was making rapid progress everywhere, and the opinion was general in those places where the Home Rule platform