

failed not to point out to us. The apartment is lighted by a small window looking westward, and in its interior, underneath, four stone steps, like stairs, enable the light to descend to the very floor of this unique structure. A little to the south of the Monastery School will be seen a spacious stone bench, altar-shaped, on which are laid a number of oval stones of various sizes, regarding which the Innismurrayites relate many wonderful anecdotes. Within the abbey enclosure may also be observed, but in rather ruinous condition, the remains of an institution which seems to have been an adjunct of many of our early monastic houses, commonly called a "Sweat House," and closely resembling in its objects the Turkish bath of our day. Outside the abbey enclosure, and near the southern coastline, we observe what remains of *Teampul Muire*, or the Blessed Virgin Mary's Church, otherwise called *Teampul-na-bhan*, or the Women's Church. In its eastern gable will be noticed a very remarkable chancel window, long, narrow, and square-headed. Encircling this church is the cemetery for the women, which has been lately enclosed with a substantial wall by the local Poor Law Board—thus preserving it from the intrusion of cattle and pigs. The men's burying-place is within the Abbey enclosure. A remarkable story relative to the inviolability of that cemetery is told by the islanders with every circumstance to strengthen its credibility. They relate how, on a certain occasion, the remains of a female were interred within the abbey enclosure, when, lo! next morning the coffin containing her remains was found on the surface of the ground near the newly-made grave. Straightway they buried her in the women's cemetery, in obedience to what they regarded as a manifestation of the will of Providence; and from that time to the present no female interment has taken place within the abbey enclosure. To those who take an interest in antiquarian studies Innismurray presents a wide field for research. There are several quaintly carved crosses of various patterns and designs which are well worthy of attention. Some of the stones are decorated with a device known as the "Rose of St. Patrick." Two or three of these stones are hollowed at the top, with stoppers inserted, and their use or purpose forms matter for speculation. The windows, too, will supply room for study and comparison. That in St. Molaise's Oratory shows an arch, or angle, at the top, which is suggestive of the Gothic arch in its incipient stage.

All the way round the island, a distance of about three miles, are arranged at regular intervals, saints' beds or stations, at which several pilgrims from the mainland, as well as the islanders, make their devotions on the 15th of August each year. In August, 1889, about two hundred pilgrims joined in the station devotions. The devotions resemble very closely those performed at St. Finbarr's retreat in Gougane Barra, and also the station exercises of St. Patrick's Purgatory, Lough Derg. The station exercises in Innismurray are very difficult, and must be highly effective as a work of mortification. Round this *Via Dolorosa* we proceeded for some distance, and saw several of the stations, which are dedicated to various saints. On the northern slope of the island *Tober-na-Coragh*—i.e., the well of fair weather—was pointed out to us. The tradition of the islanders goes to show that by clearing away all the *drivis* from the outlet of this well, and by praying to God and to the tutelary saint of the well, the blessing of fair weather may be obtained. Our guide told us a story in point regarding a fisherman from Teelin, who was detained for weeks on the island by stress of weather. At *Tober-na-Coragh* he made his devotions, put to sea, and was almost within reach of shore at Teelin Bay, when, having the temerity to make light of its tutelary saint, he was driven back to Innismurray by a fresh gale that suddenly arose. Here he was forced to abide for a longer period, during which he placated the saint, and at length reached his friends in safety, being no longer disposed to question the intercessory power of the patron of *Tober-na-Coragh*. About midway between *Tober-na-Coragh* and the monastery, a well, largely impregnated with iron spa, was shown to us. As it occupies the highest eminence on the island, it furnishes a supply of fresh water to the natives when St. Molaise's well and the other springs on the island are rendered unfit for use, as happens whenever the spray from the sea is drifted over the island during a storm. Lovers of the wild and picturesque will be charmed with the views which may be obtained from the western extremity of the isle of Muiredach. Precipitous and lofty cliffs, deep caverns, hollowed into the rock by the continuous action of the waves—the greatest of which is Poll-na-shantay, which extends for many yards into the recesses of those caves—a rich and varied assortment of flowers, and rare specimens of ferns, all tend to lend a peculiar and weird charm to this most interesting island.

To the student of ecclesiastical history, Innismurray must present an attractive field for study. For he abode the illustrious St. Columba, Apostle of the Piets, after the disastrous battle of Cool-dremny; and it was in the parish of which Innismurray is part that St. Molaise pronounced upon him at the Cross of Ahamlish the sentence of banishment from his native land in penance for the lives lost on that sanguinary battlefield, and of which bloodshed Columba was, perhaps unwittingly, the occasion. Here also resided another eminent ecclesiastic, St. Muiredach, first Bishop and patron of the See of Killala. And we may safely presume that one of the *slaghams*, or cells, to which we have already referred, was his place of abode. As the island must have been at that period part of the principality or territory over which he exercised spiritual sway, we may reasonably conjecture that this island, to which he has given name, was his episcopal residence. Having partaken of some refreshments at the "college" on Innismurray, our party, soon after five p.m., made for the port, where our boat was moored, and, after bidding a cordial adieu to the kindly natives of Innismurray, we made for the lovely harbour of Streedra, near the village of Grange, being favoured by a prosperous and lively breeze. Here our waggonette awaited us, and we reached our quarters at Bundoran at 8 o'clock in the evening, highly delighted with our charming and interesting excursion. Besides the many and peculiar attractions Bundoran possesses as a watering-place and health resort, I believe it can claim to occupy an unrivalled position as the centre of the most varied and attractive scenery in the United Kingdom. The

tourist can map out for himself, taking Bundoran as a starting-point, excursions for a week, fortnight, or a month, as circumstances may enable him, to some of the choicest and most beautiful places of interest in Ireland. An extended tour may be easily organised from Bundoran to the West of Ireland and Connemara. Sligo, Louth, Gill, the lake and waterfall of Glenvar, Lough Melvin, Ballyshannon, Belleek, Louth, Erin, and many other places of scenic attraction are within easy reach. The Donegal Highlanders can be easily visited from Bundoran, and even an extended tour of the North of Ireland, taking in Derry, the Giant's Causeway, and Belfast can be here organised. [A handbook of Bundoran describing that delightful resort, and sketching a series of tours through the neighbourhood, with maps and illustrations, would contribute to place Bundoran, I have not the least doubt, in the very forefront of Irish summer resorts. Should my brief description tend to bring into greater notice the isle of St. Muiredach and the many historic spots within easy reach of it, I shall consider my holiday spent there as not altogether misspent time.]

W A I T A H U N A .

(From an occasional Correspondent.)

NINETY-NINE candidates were presented for confirmation on Sunday, 7th inst., at Lawrence, 23 of whom were from Waitahuna. The church was crowded, members of every denomination being present, many coming from long distances to witness the ceremony. The Bishop expressed himself well pleased with the evident advancement of the children, and deservedly complimented Father O'Leary on the result of his labours. The choir was also in strong force, the solos being beautifully rendered by Miss Maloney, a visitor from Dunedin. In the evening the church was again crowded the Bishop's sermon being listened to with rapt attention. On Wednesday the school was examined by the Bishop, assisted by the Very Rev. Fathers O'Leary and Lynne, with most gratifying results. About 60 children were presented for examination, and the school was very tastefully decorated for the occasion with flowers, ferns, etc. Judging by the results as published in the local paper the children have made rapid progress during the year, but nothing less was expected from the careful tuition they have received from the present teachers, Mr. Byrne and Miss Maloney. The prizes were very valuable ones, and those who succeeded in carrying them off had the satisfaction of knowing they were honestly won.

A sad accident occurred at Waipori on Sunday, the 7th inst., whereby a little child eighteen months old lost its life by drowning; the mother, Mrs. Houlihan, being away at the time attending divine service in Lawrence.

The miners and other residents of Waipori telegraphed their sympathy to Mr. Pyke in his defeat for Mount Ida.

The foundation stone of the new church at Lawrence is to be laid on St. Patrick's Day. The addition to the Waitahuna Church will shortly be proceeded with, Mr. Yorke being the successful tenderer.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL'S SOCIETY.

A VERY successful entertainment, in aid of the St. Vincent de Paul's society, was given in St. Joseph's Hall, Dunedin, on Tuesday evening. An exceptionally pleasing programme had been prepared for the occasion, and the hall was well filled. Among the audience we noticed the Rev. Fathers Lynch, Adm., Golden, O'Neill, and Coffey, —the Bishop, as was explained during an interval in the performance by Father Lynch, being prevented by fatigue from being present. His Lordship had visited Milton and examined the Catholic school there during the day, and, although anxious to attend the entertainment, as he takes a very lively interest in everything that concerns the welfare of the Society, he had been dissuaded from doing so. The programme opened with a very pretty duet for piano and violin, played with exceptional skill by Miss Martin and Mr. McIlroy—both proficient on their respective instruments. The lady vocalists who gave their assistance were Mrs. Angus, who sang in admirable style three or four songs, gaining, as a matter of course, loud applause and undeniable encores—and the Misses Mills, Drumm and Morrison, young ladies who are charming singers, and whose songs were appreciated by the audience. Mr. W. Woods gave "The Mountbank" very finely, repeating the last two verses in response to an encore, and Mr. Carlin sang "Tell me Mary how to woo thee," in a very pleasing manner, also deserving an encore. Mr. John Deaker gave a couple of comic songs with very effective drollery. Miss D. Horan ably filled the place of accompanist. Mr. Simmonds recited with admirable expression a couple of well chosen selections. Mr. C. E. Haughton delivered a five minutes' address on the subject of elections—in which he made it evident that he is behind the enlightenment of the period in regretting the fun and frolic—not to say the broken heads—for everything should have its limits—of by-gone contests. Mr. Haughton, however, in recommending the ladies to insist on having the franchise, proved himself quite up to the period by asserting that now-a-days everyone got what he liked. For our own part we had thought it was quite the contrary, but we are always willing to yield to superior wisdom—particularly when it charms us in an agreeable strain. A hornpipe and an Irish jig, danced in character by Mr. Bills, to the stirring music of the Scotch bag-pipe, merrily and skilfully played, and showing in the dancer a perfect mastery of the "light fantastic toe," completed the programme. The ladies of the Society who had been at great pains in exerting themselves to secure the amusement of the audience, and the success of their entertainment are to be congratulated on the happy results.

Messrs A. and T. Inglis, George St. Dunedin, invite an inspection of their Christmas and New Year display of goods. Their premises have recently been enlarged and improved and visitors will find their convenience amply provided for.