

nigh to the utmost extent of its seating accommodation. The programme was begun with a waltz, which was spiritedly played on two pianos, the pianistes being Misses McDonald and Connelly and the Misses Twobill. Several tableaux were exhibited during the evening and were exceedingly pretty and successful. In the first a group of prettily dressed little girls, symbolised "Jacob's Dream," and the second exhibited, in a way suggestive of considerable pathos, a little orphan engaged in prayer. The best of the three tableaux, however, was, beyond doubt, the one called "Our Holiday," the disposition of the *dramatis personæ*, the surroundings, and the light thrown upon all, admirably representing a delightful outing in the woods. One of the pleasantest items on the programme consisted in the rendering of "Fairie Voices" in which Miss Cissy Garvey and eight other little girls sang and danced with captivating prettiness. The pianoforte playing of Misses McDonald, Fortune, Garvey and Lawless gave considerable pleasure, and showed that the right kind of care had been taken with their musical education; while Miss J. Koefoed and Miss E. Twobill acquitted themselves well in their respective solos, "The Old Countree," and "Castanetta." The chorus "Friendship" was very creditably given. Recitations were given by two of the younger pupils; "Papa's Letter," by Miss O. Walsh, and "The Music Master" by Miss J. Humphreys. For children so young, both did very well indeed; "The Music Master" especially was given with an amount of piquancy and dramatic action not often exhibited by a child before a public audience. A dramatic piece entitled the "The Peasant Queen" filled the second part of the programme, and was carried through without a hitch worth noticing. The parts that gave most scope for dramatic talent were those of Madame Mignago and Bettina—the latter especially; and it is quite within the mark to say that touches of real dramatic talent were exhibited by the performers. The following was the cast of the piece: Countess de Balville, Miss O'Sullivan; Madame Mignago, Miss S. Palmer; Madame Boncœur, Miss E. Twobill; Adele (her granddaughter), Miss Maggie McDonald; Marguerite, Miss S. Connelly; Claudine, Miss Twobill; Jeannerton, Miss Garvey; Louison, Miss Payne; Maitine, Miss Lawless; Eie, Miss Williams; Bettina (Madame Boncœur's servant), Miss McDonald. The singing of "God save the Queen" appropriately brought a pleasant and successful entertainment to a harmonious close. There was one thing which we observed with especial pleasure while the little drama was being played—namely, the excellent enunciation even of foreign words and the purity with which English was spoken. There was no vocal slurring, and the speakers also showed that they had a clear apprehension of the meaning of the words they used.

(From the *Wairarapa Daily* December 20)

The children of the St. Patrick's school assembled yesterday afternoon for the annual distribution of prizes previous to breaking up for the Christmas holidays. Rev. Father McKenna, in a short address to the children, said that they had now reached the end of the year and were doubtless all looking forward to getting prizes, but for two reasons only the most successful scholars would receive awards. The first was that he did not believe in giving everyone a prize as it would not be fair to the child of superior merit who had striven diligently to excel, and in the second place they had had some difficulty in raising money. Still the prizes were numerous, and they had not done badly, especially when they considered that the Government schools had given no prizes because they were out of funds. In his opinion the fact that their unaided effort had been so successful was a strong argument in favour of what they were striving for, namely, aid to Catholic Schools, and he thought that any thoughtful person would see that something was wrong with the present system. He regretted that the Rev. Dr. Waters was unable to be present, but Rev. Father Bowden had made a good representative and examiner. The result of the prize awarding must be quite unobtrusive as Father Bowden was unacquainted with any one of the children. In the needlework judging, Mrs Bremner and Miss Hamilton had kindly acted, as Father Bowden, knowing what importance is attached to this branch, declined the responsibility. The report was then read as follows:—

"I have examined during the past three days the pupils attending St. Patrick's School, and am pleased to state that the answering of the various classes, in the different subjects presented, was eminently satisfactory. In the sixth class a little weakness was shown in English history, and the answering of two pupils in geography was not up to the standard of the others. The fifth class on the whole passed a very creditable examination. The fourth class (two excepted), answered very well. The oral examination of the third class left nothing to be desired. I would, however, recommend several of this class to pay more attention to writing. The second class likewise did very well, and obtained a very good result, but the junior division of this class was a little weak in arithmetic. The first class answered very well in the several subjects presented, and the answering of the infants likewise was highly creditable. Summing up, I would say that the result of the examination on the whole was a highly creditable one, and gave evidence of a large amount of educational work done during the year, for which their devoted teacher deserves the highest praise. The needlework—a remarkable display—was inspected by Mrs Bremner and Miss Hamilton, who expressed themselves surprised at the quality and quantity of the articles exhibited, the work of the junior division especially being highly commended. In this department also the painstaking nature of the teacher was fully evident.

J. BOWDEN, S.M., M.A."

After the report, Rev. Father McKenna said he hoped to raise the standard of the school still higher, and with this object he intended appointing the scholar who progressed most during the year as a pupil teacher, and he would give £10 out of his own pocket towards remunerating that one. This would be kept up every year, and he hoped would help materially to raise the school to a still higher place than it now possessed. Prizes were then distributed. Father McKenna briefly thanked those who had given special prizes and aided in any other way, mentioning especially the Town Lands

Trust. Mr. Stempa, who was present, then spoke in highly eulogistic terms of Mrs and Miss Carrick, and on behalf of his daughters presented Miss Carrick with an ornamental bracket as a slight acknowledgment of the services she so devotedly rendered the school without any remuneration. Father T. McKenna responded, and the gathering broke up with ringing cheers for the Rev. gentlemen and the teachers.

(From the *Nelson Colonist*, December 20.)

The presentation of prizes to scholars attending the High and Select Schools took place in the Girls' Orphanage building yesterday afternoon, in the presence of a large number of ladies and gentlemen. Much pains had been devoted to the decoration of the large room, wherein the pupils of the schools named were seated on a raised platform at one end, the space in front being devoted to a number of pianofortes, while the remainder of the room was occupied by the visitors. The chair was occupied by his Worship the Mayor, and at the commencement of the proceedings the Very Rev. Father Mahoney rose and said that for many years past the Mayor of the city, or failing the Mayor, the City member, had as a general rule been requested to preside at their annual prize-giving ceremony. On the present occasion they were fortunate in having Mr. Trask presiding over them, and as that gentleman had only been installed Mayor on the previous day, his first official act was in taking the chair that day. They were also fortunate in having the City member, Mr. Harkness, with them. He then intimated that the scholars would present a programme which they had prepared for the occasion (applause).

The programme referred to, and which was a very pleasant one, was then gone through and heartily appreciated by those present. As usual on similar occasions a noticeable feature consisted in the several solos on a number of pianofortes, and harmonium, and a duet with five pianofortes, harmonium and violin. All were very successfully performed, the duet claiming special notice. The performers in these instrumental pieces were Misses, Scott, King Keable, Lempfert, Bourke, Pratt, Peters, (harmonium). Comrie, Egan, Dickens, O'Connor, Frazer, Hunt, Corcoran, Young, Stewart, Minogue, Lempfert, (harmonium), and Peters (violin), A. Lempfert, De Vere, L. Scott, Arnold, and Scott (harmonium), and Peters. Then, too, there were several songs and choruses, including "Angels whisper sweet good night" by the Juniors, "Let music and song be our passtime to-night" by the Seniors, "Tread softly, the angels are calling" by the Juniors of the Select School, "The midnight moon" by the Seniors of the same school, and "Rock me to sleep mother" by the Seniors, all of these showing careful teaching. The vocal solos by Miss Lempfert and Miss Pratt were well rendered, and some of the recitations were very good, Misses Young and McMahon two little dots, deserving much praise for their recitation of "The dew drop and the stream." Miss Sweeney and Miss Lempfert also deserve mention. The last item on this part of the programme was a remarkably well executed pianoforte solo by Miss Scott.

At this stage his Worship the Mayor, addressing the Rev. Mother, the Very Rev. Father Mahoney, and those present, said he had much pleasure in undertaking the duty of presiding at such a very pleasant gathering. To see so many smiling faces, he alluded, of course, to the younger ones, was extremely gratifying, but before he proceeded to present the prizes he should like to say a few words. He knew the girls must be very anxious to take home their prizes, and he could assure them that nothing was more pleasing to parents than to have their children come running home with prizes, for it filled their hearts with gladness. To those who had not been fortunate he said "don't be downhearted, but strive and strive again, and see if you can't overtake those who have won prizes this time." He felt sure they would do their best to do credit to the good tuition received at the hands of the good ladies of the convent, and the sound advice from Father Mahoney. Again he urged them not to be discouraged, but to try again and persevere. It was a great thing in this country to have so much education, and it was a grand thing to see them growing up good men and women. He had noticed the children at these schools under the late Father Garin and under the good ladies for many years. He had watched them for twenty years, and had seen their dear friend Father Garin, who had been a friend of his, with the orphans, and he said God bless those who take care of the orphans (applause). He remembered going to Father Garin's study begging—*for*, like Mr. Hunt, he used to be a good hand at begging, and he never went to Father Garin in vain—and had seen him with his orphan boys. The late Archbishop was respected by all, in his Church as well as out of it, and in Father Mahoney he had a worthy successor (applause)—who like him endeavoured to train up the orphan in the way he should go. Those who heard the eloquent sermon preached by the Archbishop last Sunday might remember that the Archbishop was a boy under Father Garin, and he commented on the character built up on the foundation laid in that case. It was in childhood, he said, the foundation was laid, and as it was laid so were they likely to grow up good men or women. He had intended referring to the Education Act, but as Mr. Harkness was present he would leave that subject to that gentleman. Before presenting the prizes he would ask Mr. Maginnity and Mr. Harkness to speak (applause).

Mr. Maginnity said the programme they had listened to that afternoon was enough to convince them as to what was being done in these schools. The public system of education was not acceptable to the Catholics, who had nobly undertaken the work of educating their children without assistance. They were consequently entitled to their sympathy, while the good work done called forth their admiration. He then spoke to the children, asking those who got prizes to let that fact be an incentive to further efforts. They, parents and children, owed a great debt to the teachers, and the least they could do to show that they appreciated the kindness of their teachers was to be good. They could not always be successful, but if they were not now successful, and they tried success would come.

Mr. Harkness, M.H.R., desired to thank Father Mahoney for having invited him to be present. The Mayor had invited him to speak on the Colonial system of education, but although he thought they were blessed in having such an excellent state system, and that