

Dunedin—the suite of furniture at Messrs. Scouler and Chisholm's, and a number of oil paintings and other objects of art in the window of Mr. Braithwaite's Book Arcade. They have attracted much favourable attention, and everyone who has seen them admits that the price paid on the tickets is surprisingly low.

ON Easter Sunday the members of the Dunedin Irish Rifles and other Catholic volunteers, encamped near Oamaru, were marched, under the command of Major Callan, and headed by the Garrison Band and the pipers of the Dunedin Highland Rifles, to the Catholic church of the town, where Mass was celebrated at 11 a.m., by the Rev. Father McMullen. The Very Rev. Father Mackay preached on the gospel of the day.

HIS GRACE ARCHBISHOP REDWOOD (says the *Wellington Post* of March 23) paid his first visit to St. Patrick's College this year on Saturday last, and addressed the boys in the study hall at some length upon their class duties. His Grace expressed himself well pleased at finding such a large number of boys before him, and brought his address to a close by granting the boys a half holiday for to-day. The proceedings were made the more pleasing by the admirable playing of several selections by the College Orchestra, under Mr. Trowell.

THE Otago and Canterbury volunteers appear to have had rather a jolly time of it in their Easter encampment near Oamaru. They, however, had also an opportunity to obtain experience that military life is not all "skittles and beer," as the saying is, and some pretty hard work seems to have been required of them. The men are reported of as having acquitted themselves creditably in their various evolutions, and some acknowledgment of their self-denial in giving up their holidays to the service of the colony is certainly their due.

THE ceremonies of Holy Week took place as usual last week in St. Joseph's Cathedral, Dunedin. The priests who, besides the Bishop, were present at the office of Tenebræ on the evenings of Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and otherwise took part in the ceremonies, were the Very Rev. Fathers Mackay and O'Leary, and Fathers Lynch, Adm., O'Donnell (Port Chalmers), O'Neil (Milton), Hunt, McMullen, and P. O'Neil. On the morning of Holy Thursday the oils were blessed and Pontifical High Mass was celebrated by the Bishop. The altar of repose had been very beautifully decorated with flowers and lights by the Dominican nuns, and the watch before the sepulchre was maintained during the day by the members of the Confraternity of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour and of the Sodality of the Children of Mary, the men of the Holy Family taking their place at night and occupying it until morning. The church was also visited by large numbers of the general congregation. On Good Friday, at 11 a.m., the Mass of the Pre-sanctified was commenced, the Very Rev. Father Mackay acting as celebrant. The Bishop preached on the Passion of our Blessed Lord, and, also during an instruction given by him the previous evening, referred to the exclusion of religion from the educational system of the Colony. The most rev. speaker characterised this as an insult to Christ and an outrage on the Divine Majesty, and pointed to the distress existing in the Colony as probably arising in punishment of it. On the morning of Holy Saturday, at the blessing of the paschal candle and font, and the High Mass following, Father Mackay again acted as celebrant. The music of the Mass was sung, as also on Holy Thursday, by the choir of the Dominican Nuns, an especially beautiful effect being produced by the singing of a Gregorian "Kyrie," harmonised, and without accompaniment. On Easter Sunday Pontifical High Mass was celebrated at 11 a.m. by the Bishop, Father Lynch acting as deacon, and Father O'Neil as sub-deacon. The Bishop also preached, taking the Resurrection as his subject. The high altar and the sanctuary had been brilliantly decorated for the occasion by the Dominican Nuns. The choir, under the conductorship of Signor Squarise, and with Miss D. Horan at the organ, performed the "Kyrie" and "Gloria" from Mozart No. 1, the remainder of the Mass being from Gounod's *Messe Solennelle*. In the evening, after Vespers, the Bishop preached again. Both on Thursday and Saturday the number of communicants was large, and on Sunday it seemed to include the whole Catholic body, so continuous were the throngs approaching the altar.

THE Hon. the Minister of Education is still only in the morning of his days, and therefore we may hope that, with experience, he will gain consistency. The gay young Minister, in fact, began an address to the North Canterbury Educational Institute the other day with a protest of his firm resolution to avoid arrant folly. He, however, finished it up by giving way in a very marked manner to the folly he condemned. He spoke, for instance, of the outrageous extravagance by which the Colony has been brought to the brink of ruin—that, namely, of expending nearly £380,000 annually on the primary schools—as something to be proud and thankful for. He, moreover, spoke of it as forming a precedent to be improved on in more prosperous days—the very days against whose approach it

opposes an effectual impediment. The cream of the joke, however, appears to be our sprightly Minister's boastful contrast of the educated democracy to be formed by his primary schools with the democracies of America and the South of Europe. Is not this gay young Minister aware that the secular system he takes such a foolish pride in has long been established in America, and has produced there several relays of democrats? On what but arrant folly does he therefore base his expectations of better results in New Zealand? As to the democrats of Southern Europe, they are the very originators and founders of the system he delights in; and here again arrant folly seems to enter deeply into his calculations. Finally, as to the self-respect and self-control which, he tells us, are inculcated in the primary schools, even a passing view of the rising generation turned out by them can make us acquainted with their nature. "And it was, when, under these circumstances," concluded the Minister, "we heard the tramp of Democracy striding on that we listened to it with hope, expectation, and eager joy." But what of the yell of the larrikin that accompanies that tramp? Does it take nothing away from the transport of listening to it? Our Minister, nevertheless, is very young, and necessarily a little "green." He will know better by the time he has cut his wise teeth. He is "cute" enough, we admit, as it is, but "cuteness" is not knowledge, not even wisdom.

THE annual gathering and treat to the children of Panmure, Ellerslie and Howick, (says the *Auckland Star*), took place on St. Patrick's Day, in the pretty and shady paddock of Monsignor MacDonald at Panmure. There must have been 300 youngsters present, all neatly dressed, and the number of adults could not have been under 700. The gathering was a very animated one, and all enjoyed themselves greatly. After the "feast" the afternoon was taken up with all sorts of games and sports, the time-honoured pastime of "hurling" being engaged in for a short time. Amongst those present were a number of Maoris. In the evening a most successful vocal and instrumental concert was given in the Panmure Hall, the school children under the direction of Miss Honan taking a prominent part in the affair. The assemblage was one of the largest ever seen in the hall. The following took part in the concert:—Monsignor MacDonald and Tamihana (Maori duet), Mr Higgins, Mrs Badeley, Misses Brennan, Walker, Mr Absolum, Mr A. Loomb, Messrs Hannken and the pupils.

IRISH affairs still apparently leave much to be desired. Between what is really going on and what is rumoured matters seem pretty lively. Among rumours founded on journalistic or telegraphic invention, we may place the intentions ascribed to the Pope in giving an audience to the Archbishop of Dublin. Surely it requires a very brazen imagination to represent His Holiness, even after Lord Salisbury's late attack on the Catholic Church, as desirous of giving political assistance to the Tory Government. Everything, in fact, reported as to the Archbishop's visit to Rome, if such a visit has really been paid, may be set down to the same account. Of a like nature, no doubt, is the news as to a re-organisation of Fenians in London, and probably the conference of one of Mr Parnell's delegates in America with the Clan-na-Gael. A report that we may receive as probably true is that touching the continued styness of Mr Parnell to accept Mr Healy's challenge to resign his seat, for the purpose of putting his popularity to the test. Such is, besides, the report of Mr Parnell's activity in the County Sligo, and the consequent stoning there of Mr McCarthy and his followers. A stirring scene also was that which occurred in the burning down, owing to an over-heated flue, of the Courthouse at Tipperary while the trial of the men accused of riot was taking place there. Messrs Dillon and O'Brien, who had been brought there from Galway as witnesses, and were confined in cells adjoining the building, were removed, we are told, on the breaking out of the fire. Later intelligence states that the jury acquitted Breen, Breenock, and Keating, but disagreed respecting Dalton and Gill.

THE following extracts from a private letter received from a thoroughly reliable source, explain how matters are regarded in Ireland by people free from bias, and desirous only of the good of their country.—"You have seen, I am sure, an account of the tremendous row that has sprung up in Ireland about the leadership. Aye, not in Ireland alone, but all over the world wherever the Irish race is scattered. It must certainly be said that the man who has been so conducting himself for the past seven or eight years, and who persisted in his shameless career up to the last, knowing the damage his exposure would cause to Ireland's interests, deserves very little sympathy from Irishmen, no matter what his past services may have been. Things are looking more hopeful at present, as I see from latest papers that a settlement has been come to, though the terms of the settlement are not yet disclosed. We may thank the *Freeman* for most of the mischief of the past six or seven weeks, as but for that paper endeavouring to foist the deposed leader or the people the whole row would have been nipped in the bud. The *Freeman* backed him up. He seized on *United Ireland*, and having the