

Correspondence.

[We are not responsible for the opinions expressed by our Correspondents.]

AN EXPLANATION.

TO THE EDITOR N.Z. TABLET.

SIR,—Kindly allow me space to make a statement in reference to the small drawing in aid of the proposed church of the Sacred Heart in N.E. Valley, which seems called for.

1st.—The suite of drawing-room furniture now on view at Scoullar and Chisholm's, and valued by them at £25, will be presented to winner of prize No. 20 (a small painting in oils), and NOT to ticket marked No. 20, as some erroneously suppose—unless, indeed, 20 be the lucky number. This seemingly superfluous explanation is made because of the indignation of a few persons who bought tickets, saw a certain notice in Scoullar and Chisholm's window, and found they had not No. 20 in their possession. Being so anxious to secure the handsome suite, the best thing they can now do is to take a few more books of tickets. Practically, the winner of prize 20 will receive a tapestry and plush suite of nine pieces to furnish a drawing-room and a small oil painting to adorn the walls.

2nd.—As to the diamond cross: All that can be said about it is that it was given by His Lordship Bishop Moran, who cannot say what it cost in South Africa. There are thirteen diamonds set in a Celtic cross of South African gold. The centre diamond is about the size of a pea, and the cross is nearly two inches in length. A well-known Dunedin jeweller cannot value it; a diamond-cutter—a specialist in gems—cannot assign a value, because of the uncut state of the diamonds, but assures me that the thirteen gems are just as they came out of the mine.

3rd.—Some have expressed the hope that there may be no postponement. I would remind these persons that the words "no postponement" are printed on the tickets in large letters. From the first the fixed and unalterable resolution has been to have the drawing held, no matter what the returns, positively on the day announced.

4th.—A correspondent has asked may she keep the complimentary ticket. The person who keeps or disposes of the small book of ten tickets is presented with the eleventh, marked complimentary on the back.

5th.—I have been told by a gentleman from another part of New Zealand, that blocks of tickets sold, would, in many instances, be returned at once but for the fear that a second book would immediately be sent. Being a mere novice in the art union business, I cannot say what the ordinary practice is, but the rule laid down in this matter for this small drawing has been, and is, this:—Persons who have disposed of one book of ten tickets, and wish to dispose of a second will have to write for another. A second book will not be sent unless specially asked for.

6th.—With regard now to the prizes offered—care has been taken to secure prizes of artistic merit and of solid value (*vide Otago Daily Times and N.Z. TABLET*). Values have not been put on prizes named in tickets, but the public have been allowed to inspect and judge for themselves.

7th.—To give an idea of approximate values (it is hard to give real value of oil painting, for instance), the portrait of Bishop Moran, painted by a Royal Academician is valued at £10 10s. The steel engraving of Dore's picture: "The Dream of Pilate's Wife," is valued at £10 10s. I am told by persons who consider themselves competent judges that it is worth much more. All I say is: "It is a beautiful picture, and the winner will be lucky." A pair of hand-painted vases are said to have cost £12 12s at Melbourne Exhibition. A connoisseur says they are certainly worth £10 10s. The bronzes may be set down at £5 5s. The much-admired tea set cost £5 5s in Dunedin. Several oil paintings are valued from £5 upwards. Whatever be the value of prizes, most of which have been presented, the winners will find, I venture to say, that they will not be sorry they invested a shilling, or even took a whole book of ten shilling-tickets.

8th.—As the drawing will take place on May 25, blocks should be sent in, if possible, before May 20. It is said that the time for disposal of tickets is short. That is true, but the person who will work and will be unable to dispose of ten shilling-tickets in two months would hardly succeed better if the time were prolonged. Shakespeare says: "In duty there lies no plenty."

9th.—A word in reference to the object. The congregation at N.E. Valley, Dunedin, is very small, and unable of itself to do much just now. Fully half the congregation in Kirk's Hall at Mass last Sunday were children, or young people who had just left school. By disposing of a small book of ten tickets help will be given to build a church for a struggling people, who are doing their best by weekly subscriptions to pay for the site.

10th.—And lastly, for helping to build another church in honour of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, a special blessing will without doubt be

given by Him who has said that persons who spread devotion to the Sacred Heart will have their names written in that Heart never to be effaced.

Thanking you for allowing me to occupy so much space,—I am etc.,
P. LYNCH.

REVIEW.

Life of John M'Hale, Archbishop of Tuam: by B. O'Reilly.

THIS is an admirable life, well written, full of interesting and important information. Whoever reads it will be well repaid. Monsignor O'Reilly has had access to the best sources of accurate information, and he has availed himself to the full of this. Dr. M'Hale lived to a patriarchal age, during which he held a prominent place as prelate, statesman, and author. His learning was extensive and profound, and his genius of a high order. The history of the life of such a man must be most interesting and useful and at the hands of Mgr. O'Reilly it has lost none of the interest naturally attached to it. Those who feel an interest in the proceedings of the English Government in reference to ecclesiastical affairs in Ireland will find in the life of Archbishop M'Hale some chapters that will not fail to convince them that Providence has watched over the liberty and independence of the true Church.

H. A. C. B. S., OAMARU.

A BRANCH of the Hibernian Australasian Catholic Benefit Society was opened at Oamaru on Easter Monday evening by Brothers Carroll and Dunne of the Dunedin branch, the delegates appointed to perform the ceremony. About thirty members start the new Branch, and it is anticipated that this number will be more than doubled within a month or two. Brothers Carroll and Dunne addressed the meeting at length, explaining the advantages that accrue from being members of the Society, after which the initiation of brothers was proceeded with.

Those initiated then elected the following as first officers of the new branch, the election being unanimous in each instance. President Mr. A. Dineen; vice-president, Mr. T. Burke; secretary, Mr. J. P.J.C. Martin; treasurer Mr. J. Maxwell; guardian Mr. Jao., Rooney; Warden, Mr. J. McEwan.

After the election of officers, the delegates addressed a few words of encouragement to those present and wished the Society in Oamaru prosperity and success. The President briefly thanked them for their share in the opening of the branch, and hoped to see a large and influential branch within a very short time in the white stone city by the sea. The thanks of the local Society are due to the Very Rev. Father Mackay and Mr. R. A. Dunne, both of whom have in various ways worked indefatigably in their efforts to form what has now become an accomplished fact, viz. the establishment of a branch of the above excellent society in Oamaru. Flourish H.A.C.B.S.

AN IRISH JOURNALIST'S REMINISCENCES OF '48.

MR W. H. RU-SELL, who has already written in the columns of the *Times* much of the more important and dramatic history of the last forty years, is preparing a book of Reminiscences, says the *Anti-Jacobin*. Some of the MS., we have seen, and, what is more, are permitted to make an extract, here and there, from what will prove one of the most interesting and valuable works of its kind that has appeared for many a year. A couple of these extracts follow:—

On the 20th September (1848) I left Dublin for Clonmel. The State Trials (never ending, still beginning, these State Trials) of the chiefs of the confederates in "the Rising" which subsided in the Widow Cornack's cabbage-gardens, were to open the next day. The *Times* had sent over as my senior Mr Nicholls, of the Chancery bar, a precise, stiff, dry, but kind-hearted man, whose short visit to Ireland filled him with anger—now against the people, now against the priests, anon against the Government (he was not quite sure which were to blame) for the misery he beheld. We had lodgings in the house of a respectable cutler named Holmes in Dublin-street, and Delane, who had been on a visit to Bernal Osborne at Newtown Anner, came into Clonmel to see us on his way to London. He was impressed with the gravity of the situation. "It's useless talking of the loyalty or disloyalty of the people! They are all against us! They do not like our laws, our ways, or anything that is ours! But the Government and landowners, supported by the police and the army, can always deal with insurrection, and the jury to-morrow will be quite safe." It was a very remarkable scene next morning. We made our way with difficulty through a dense crowd to the court-house, which was guarded by a large body of police with fixed bayonets. Horse, foot, and artillery were close at hand in readiness to support them. We passed between a line of police to our places, reserved by the High Sheriff. The court was crowded from floor to ceiling; on the bench, arrayed in their scarlet and ermine robes and in flowing wigs, were the four judges—the Chief Justice, Mr Justice