

evening at the Public Hall, Howick, a very successful concert and social were given, consisting of the national and very feeling songs of dear old Ireland. A great profusion of rosettes, St. Patrick crosses, hearts, streamers, and pretty bannerettes were displayed by the children.

### THE HIBERNIAN SPORTS.

The annual fête given to the children attending the Roman Catholic schools in Auckland and suburbs, which took place in the Domain on Saturday last, was very successful in spite of threatening weather, and was largely attended by Hibernians and their descendants. During the afternoon, sports and races of various kinds were held, and the children appeared to enjoy themselves greatly. Amongst the races was one for the boys, St. Patrick's Handicap, which was won by W. Mahoney, the second boy being J. Leydon, and the third S. McMillan. The first prize was a watch. The Newton Band was present during the afternoon, and played a selection of Irish and other airs. Amongst the visitors to the Domain, were the Very Rev. Monsignor McDonald and His Worship the Mayor (Mr W. Crowther), who both made themselves popular with the children by generous gifts of lollies. A number of valuable prizes for the children were donated to St. Patrick's by Messrs Goodson, Kelsey, Matthews, Dampier, Leydon, Miller, Aitken, J. Hart, and others. Mr Thorpe, of Paeroa, also sent up a quantity of apples for the children.

The annual sports in connection with the Auckland branch of the H.A.B.C. Society, which had been postponed from St. Patrick's Day, were carried out in the Domain on Saturday afternoon, and proved successful.

The day's events were under the superintendence of Bros. D. Flynn (District President), W. Doran, P. J. Nerbeny, W. Kane and Flynn. Impey's Brass Band was present during the sports, and played some excellent musical selections. The results of the races were:—

Maiden Race, 120yds—B. Brown, 1; M. Flynn, 2; P. Monnock, 3  
Juvenile Handicap, 120yds—P. Monnock, 1; J. Mahoney, 2;  
B. Keenan, 3.

St. Patrick's Handicap, 150yds—M. Flynn, 1; R. H. Brown, 2;  
J. Ryan, 3

Members' Daughters' Race, 100yds—Miss Mary Patterson, 1;  
Miss M. Flynn, 2; Miss S. Moore, 3.

Allcomers' Handicap, 150yds—B. Keenan, 1; M. Conway, 2;  
J. McDermott, 3.

Boys' Three-legged Race—P. Monnock and R. Keenan won this event.

Friendly Societies' Handicap, 150yds—J. McDermott, 1; W. Purdy, 2; E. Good, 3.

Three-Legged Race—D. Flynn and P. Flynn came in first in this race.

Committeemen's Race, 150yds Handicap—M. J. Coyle, 1; F. Fairweather, 2; D. Flynn, 3.

Boy's Race.—W. Mahoney won this event.

Prizes for the sports were presented by Mrs Tobin, Miss Teutenberg, Messrs Coyle, Dalton, J. J. Dickey, J. McDermott, Craig, Dunne, W. and J. Beehan, T. and S. Morrin & Co., Cruickshank, Miller and Co., Groves, W. White, Norrie, J. B. Blaikie, Smith and Caughey, J. A. Cooper, Cooper, W. Adams, and others.

### AUCKLAND.

(From our own Correspondent.)

Auckland, March 28, 1892.

The distribution of prizes to the children of St. Patrick's Sunday School took place yesterday, conducted by the Rev Father Hackett and the ladies and gentlemen of the Christian Doctrine Society. Many handsome and valuable books were given, and a large collection of crucifixes, rosaries, pictures, and so on. The catechism classes directed by the Society at the Cathedral every Sunday are well attended, but more men are wanted to take up the work of teaching. In the distribution of prizes 158 books were awarded, and 200 pictures, crosses, and medals. Whitaker Bros., Wellington, supplied many of the books.

The Rev Father Amandolini, who arrived here recently from London, and has since been in St. Benedict's parish, has gone to take the place of the Rev Father O'Gara.

Friday night was a great one for the Auckland Orchestral Union, when they gave the opening concert of their season at the Opera House, and played for the first time under the baton of Mr Arthur Towsey, their new conductor. Mr Towsey was warmly received by the audience, who crowded the theatre to excess. He is a firm conductor, with plenty of decision, as well as confidence. For a great part of the time he directed from memory, seldom referring to the scores before him. Three movements from Mendelssohn's "Italian Symphony," including the saltarello; four movements from Moskowski's suite, "From Foreign Parts;" a selection from one of Wagner's operas, "Lohengrin"; an overture di ballo by Sir Arthur Sullivan; an overture by Flotow; and a trifles for flute, cello, and strings by Lange, formed the orchestral programme. Madame

Goldenstedt sang Donizetti's "Il segreto," and the romance from "Faust," "When all was young." Songs were also given by Messrs T. M. Jackson and Reid. During the concert, Mr Towsey was presented with a handsome bouquet.

One of the through passengers by the steamer Mariposa, which arrived from San Francisco on Friday, was Brother Alexander, a Franciscan, who is on his way to Sydney to establish schools of that order there. He is eloquent in praise of the Catholic Schools of America. In Brooklyn alone, there are 17 schools of Franciscans, as well as one college chartered by the State; and last month, in Jersey city, six students from their establishments won six scholarships against all comers, including boys from the Government schools.

During last week cricketers from Canterbury have been playing in Auckland, but their success has been indifferent, and in the interprovincial match, Auckland v. Canterbury, Auckland won by four wickets. They were passengers on Monday by the Takapona, on their return home, and were cheered, and cheered in reply, as they left the Auckland railway station.

There was a good attendance of members at the usual quarterly meeting of the Auckland branch of the Hibernian Society, at the Catholic Institute on Wednesday. The branch president, Brother W. Doran, was the chairman. Amongst those present was a visitor, the Rev Father Gregory, of St. Benedict's. The feature of the meeting was the presentation of the many valuable prizes won at the recent sports of the Society in the Domain. Beautiful silver tankards, cruets, books, a large lamp, iodid workboxes, and other useful awards were given. The president distributed the prizes.

## Correspondence.

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

### IRREPRESSIBLE.

TO THE EDITOR N.Z. TABLET.

SIR,—I have read with much pleasure and surprise in your last week's issue your sub-leader headed "Irrepressible," as it contains a story that I have told hundreds of times to my Catholic friends. I mean the story of a Protestant clergyman who visited in 1835 a Catholic cathedral at Brussels, where he says he found at the entrance of the sacred edifice a notice-board whereon was a catalogue of sins and the prices for their remission. Now this is a story which for 57 years has been dinned into Protestant minds, and thousands have swallowed for gospel-truth, and it seems to be still current. Curious enough I was at Thielt in Belgium at the time of the "Popish aggression" when every foul thing was raked up—and the story in question among the rest—and published to inflame English people against the Catholic Church. One day, while at work at a carpenter's bench, a priest with whom I was indeed intimate came to me with a copy in his hand of the Brussels *Courier*. He read to me in the French language an account, with which he was not a little amused, of some writing on a notice-board said to be at the entrance of the Cathedral of St Gudule at Brussels. The account had recently been published in an English newspaper, and afterwards translated into the Belgian *Courier*. But the editor of the latter paper, knowing the story to be totally false, and yet unwilling to term simply its author a downright liar as he certainly was, determined to visit the Cathedral of St Gudule and see what the English clergyman had really noticed there. Well, the editor went, and what were the writing and figures on the board about? Why, nothing at all about pardoning sins great or small, but the writing and the figures gave some information about chairs—nothing else. For in all Catholic cathedrals and churches in Belgium there are no fixed seats, but chairs are used instead. A penny is charged for the use, during divine service, of a chair of the best description, a half-penny for a second-class chair, and one farthing for the most humble sort of chair. Besides, on particular occasions, the prices of the chairs vary, and some aged person, man or woman, has usually charge of the chairs as a livelihood. During my sojourn in Belgium, whenever I went to church, I paid the usual fee for the use of the chair and took it into what part of the church I pleased. This was the usual custom. But the writing on the notice-board at St Gudule was in the Flemish language, and as the coinage is different, it is far more than probable that the learned English clergyman understood neither the writing thereon, nor the sums of money that the figures represented.—I am, etc.,

THOMAS MILNER.

Silwyn Street, Adding on.

[Dr Newman gives the same explanation.—ED. N. Z. TABLET.]

The Peers who come of age during the present year are three in number: one being Lord Lovat, November 25; the remaining Peers who are minors include three Catholics, who attain their majority as follows:—Viscount Southwell, 1893; Earl of Granard, 1895; Lord O'Hagan, 1899.

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