

CONCERT IN DUNEDIN.

A VERY successful concert was given in the Princess Theatre, Dunedin, on Friday evening in aid of the building fund of St Patrick's Church, South Dunedin. The ladies who sang were Mesdames Rose and Angus, and the Misses Morrison, Sears, Stevenson and Blaney. The gentlemen were Messrs Jago, Jones, Young, Umbers, Manson and Densem. Mrs Rose sang, in a very finished manner, Hullah's "Three fishers." Mrs Angus gave, as acceptably as usual, the "Dear little shamrock," and also took part effectively in the trio, "Queen of Night," with Miss Blaney and Mr Jago. Miss Morrison was heard to advantage in Balfe's "I dream't that I dwelt." Miss Sears sang with charming sweetness Verdi's "Ah fors è lui." Miss Stevenson sang Piccolomini's "Sancta Maria" in a manner which was much appreciated, and Miss Blaney gave Garcia's "Salve Regina" with her usual success: Two quartets were sung by Messrs Umbers, Jones, Jago and Manson, who did the music ample justice. Mr Young gave the solos the "Salamander," and the "Wearing of the green," gaining high applause in each instance. Mr Jago sang, with his accustomed brilliancy, "Who shall be king." He also took part in the duet "Qui vive" with Mr Umbers. Mr Umbers' solo was Sullivan's "Take a pair of sparkling eyes," which was admirably sung. Mr Densem sang, in excellent style, Jude's "Home boys, home," and, as an encore, "Father O'Flynn." Miss Blanche Joel played as a piano solo, an adagio and rondo from Beethoven, in which she fully displayed her high powers as a pianist. Miss K. Molony gave as a piano solo, a galop de concert by Kowalski, brilliantly played. Mr Parker played as a violin solo, Alard's arrangement of "Bigoletto," which was greatly admired. Miss Molony and Mr Baeyertz acted with skill and taste as accompanists. Towards the end of the performance the Most Rev Dr Moran came on the platform and thanked the performers for their kind services and delightful music and the audience for their generous patronage: The addition to the fund should be considerable.

VISIT TO DUNEDIN OF THE REV. DR. EGAN, O. S. B.

THE Rev Dr Egan, O.S.B., of Auckland, arrived in Dunedin on Saturday, and was received at the Bishop's palace by the Most Rev Dr Moran and the clergy of the mission. On Sunday the Rev Doctor celebrated the 9.15 Mass in St Joseph's Cathedral. At 11 a.m. Dr Egan, who also holds the degree of a Doctor of Music, at the request of Mr A. Vallis, the choir-master and organist, acted as conductor. The choir, which now numbers between forty and fifty members, performed the "Kyrie" and "Gloria" from Mozart No. 2, and the "Credo," "Sanctus," and "Agnus Dei" from Weber's Mass in "G." The solo singers were the Misses Morrison and Millie (soprano), and K. Murphy (contralto); (tenors) Messrs Smith, Eager, and Dunne; (basses) Messrs Cantwell and Woods. At the offertory Dr Egan sang Niedermeier's "Pater Noster." The music, in every instance, went extremely well, including the responses of the Mass, which were unaccompanied, and in which the volume of voices was rich and faultlessly harmonious. In the evening Vespers and Benediction of the Most Holy Sacrament took place as usual. The hymns "Ave Maria Stella" and "O Sanctissima" were sung in harmony, alternately with the organ and unaccompanied, the performance being most meritorious and well-balanced, and the effect extremely fine. Dr Egan again sang Niedermeier's "Pater Noster." Mr J. Jago sang Gounod's "There is a green hill far away," and Miss Rose Blaney Garcia's "Salve Regina," with violin obligato, beautifully played by Mr E. Parker. Each solo was in its particular way perfection. As much may also be said for Rossi's "Tantum Ergo," which was sung as a duet by Mr Jago and Miss Blaney.

On Monday evening, Dr Egan, on the invitation of the Rev Father Lynch, Adm., and accompanied by the Most Rev Dr Moran and the Rev Fathers O'Donnell (Port Chalmers), O'Neill and Murphy, visited the St Cecilia's singing class, held once a week in St Joseph's Hall, and instructed in the Tonic Sol Fa system by Mr Braik. An entertainment took place, in which the distinguished visitor had chief part. As a singer and reciter of humorous compositions there are few, we do not say in this colony, but anywhere, who can excel the Rev Doctor. His performance is in every respect exquisite. On this occasion he gave "Father O'Flynn," "I'm not myself at all," a burlesque of Italian opera, a band of cork minstrels, a cat's serenade, a temperance lecture, and a story told by a "dude" of a friend who had got his hair cut. The inimitable drollery of each performance is impossible to describe. It was that of a finished artist, and of this the best possible proof was to be marked in its complete refinement. Such a performance is not only amusing to the most side-splitting degree, but elevating as well. As such it is quite in keeping with the sacred calling of the rev gentleman who goes through with it.

Vocal or instrumental selections were also given by the Misses Drumm and Pearson, and Messrs W. Woods, E. Dunne, A. Murphy, and J. Deaker, as also by the members of the class as a whole. Each performance was highly creditable. The music concluded with a Vivat, conducted by the Rev Father Lynch.

His Lordship the Bishop then proposed a vote of thanks to the rev visitor, in which he referred to the excellence of his performance and the kindness with which he had given it. His Lordship also spoke of the pleasure it gave him to see so many of the young people of his flock engaged, under a competent teacher, in the study of the charming art of music. The vote of thanks was carried by acclamation. Dr Egan, in responding, alluded to the satisfaction with which he found that music was so much appreciated in Dunedin. What he had seen of the singing class present, he said, had pleased him extremely. He had also been highly gratified by the manner in which St. Joseph's choir, which he had conducted on Sunday, had performed their task, and he looked forward to very finished and important results. The Rev Doctor was again warmly applauded.

We may add, for our own part, that a visit to St. Cecilia's singing class furnishes a guarantee as to the future of sacred music among the congregation of St Joseph's Cathedral. There is abundance of excellent material, numbers of good voices and correct ears among both ladies and lads, and effectual means are being taken to make them available. There is now, as we are informed, a movement on foot at Rome for a reformation and improvement of church music, in which it is supposed less dependence will be placed on individuals and the solo singer will lose his excessive prominence, but congregational singing will be more encouraged. It would seem that this new and better system is in a fair way of being anticipated in Dunedin, and the Rev Father Lynch, Adm., to whose foresight, competent musical judgment, and religious zeal, the initiation and satisfactory working of this undertaking are due, deserves the gratitude and congratulations of the Catholic people of the city.

The manner in which this measure has merited the approbation of so high and trustworthy an authority as the Rev Dr Egan places the complete seal of approval upon it.

DUNEDIN CATHOLIC LITERARY SOCIETY.

THE usual weekly meeting of the above Society was held in the Christian Brothers' school on Wednesday, 18th May. The president (Father Lynch) occupied the chair.

A paper on "Architecture" was read by Mr D. W. Woods, who treated the subject in a popular manner, being much aided by skilful diagrams and drawings executed by his son (Mr W. Woods). The essayist traced the history of architecture from the Doric to the Gothic in a most interesting manner, and described the beautiful designs of the cathedrals of Rheims and Chartres in France, the ancient churches and the gorgeous basilicas of Rome. Mr Woods recommended the members to study architecture, which he said was very instructive and interesting. The paper, which occupied over an hour in reading, was listened to with marked attention, and was favourably commented on by several of the critics.

Mr Petre, in a humorous speech, said he was very pleased with the paper. It contained some very valuable information, and considering the immense amount of ground that was traversed, it was admirably condensed. He informed the members that it took him three months incessant work to draw designs of the details of the Cathedral in Dunedin.

Before the meeting concluded Father Lynch thanked Mr Woods on behalf of the members for the trouble he had taken in preparing the paper, and to Mr Woods, jun., for his clever drawings.

Mr Yule was proposed as a member.

FAITHFUL UNTO DEATH.

AN interesting story, showing with what inviolable secrecy the revelations made in the Confessional are guarded, has just come to light. Three years ago, a Catholic priest, the Abbe Dumoulin, of the arch-diocese of Aix, France, was tried and convicted of murder to the utter consternation of the Catholic population, by whom he was much revered. The victim of the murder was a Madame Blanchard, a wealthy and pious lady, and the evidence, though entirely circumstantial, was sufficient to convict the accused priest. Madame was president of a Catholic charitable association, and in that capacity she called one day at the parocorial residence to remove some funds deposited with Father Dumoulin. The amount was 12,000 francs (about £400), which Father Dumoulin gave her on demand. The approach to the presbytery was through an old monastery which had been suppressed, but of which the building was still in good preservation. Madame Blanchard was admitted to the presbytery by the sexton, named Kloser, who returned to his work after letting her through the gate. When the priest had given her the money he offered to see her through the gate, as far as the old cloister, but as he was slightly indisposed, Madame Blanchard refused to permit him, saying she knew the way perfectly, and as it was little after midday she apprehended no danger.

Mme. Blanchard did not return to her home that evening, and her family became alarmed, and searched for her unavailingly. Four days later her body was discovered in one of the empty cells of the old

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