

for them—the happiest of their lives. He urged them to be faithful to their promise never to offend Jesus by the commission of grievous sin. He congratulated the congregation on the progress which religion was making in that part of the city. The building of their beautiful church was the outcome of love to Jesus, in whose honour it was erected. It was his intention to place a priest in the Valley as soon as circumstances would permit, and to open a school. He must, however, wait a little. He had a horror of church debt, and disapproved altogether of the policy of building churches, and presbyteries, and schools, and paying for them afterwards. Everything would come in God's own good time—first the school, and then the priest, who could do but little without a school. The most rev preacher also gave some particulars of the lives and martyrdom of Saints John and Paul—victims of Julian the Apostate, whose feast occurred on that day.

The ceremonies were carried out in all respects with a solemnity worthy of the occasion. There was a large congregation many of whom had come from the city, and from other parts of the suburbs.

## AMUSEMENTS IN DUNEDIN.

### DOMINICAN CONVENT SCHOOLS ENTERTAINMENT.

THE musical entertainment announced by us to take place in the Princess Theatre on Friday evening, 24th inst., in aid of the building fund of the Dominican Convent schools, came off with *éclat*. The house was full to overflowing, and the performance excellent. The drawing-up of the drop-scene revealed a great crowd of little girls extending from the middle of the stage far back, and, to all appearance, standing in a wood—through which coloured lights were playing. The children were ranged on a platform raised a couple of feet from the boards, and, in their pretty dresses of white, pink, blue, or green, with scarfs of divers colours, looked very bright and pretty. They sang, without accompaniment, and as taught on the tonic sol fa system in St Patrick's and St Joseph's schools, "The meeting of the Waters," harmonised as a chorus. The pitch was well sustained and the singing tuneful and extremely pleasing. A duet from "Guillaume Tell" followed, as performed on the piano by the Misses McArdle (2), G. O'Connell, A. Liston, L. Price, I. Bunbury, E. Freed, and J. Griffin, and on the violin by the Misses Hogg and M. Woods. All these children were junior pupils. They did their work well, the precision of time kept by them, without a conductor, being particularly noticeable. An arrangement of "Norma" by Bocha was then played. The instruments were three harps, piano, and violin, and the players the Misses Larnach (2), R. Neill, E. Inglis, and E. Solomon. This was a most dainty and charming performance, such as is very seldom to be heard. A pianoforte solo—a brilliant arrangement of the "Wearing of the green" came next—the performer, Miss Frances Dunne, displaying great powers of execution, good expression, and a touch light and soft, though firm. The young lady bids fair to be a very fine pianist. A "Fairy Cantata," an intermingling of singing reciting, and dancing followed, the junior pupils of the Convent High School going through with it. This formed a very pretty scene, but was cut short and a good deal spoiled by a stupid bungle in shifting the scenes. This duty, though confided to hands supposed to be trained in it, was very badly done throughout the evening. A chorus from Weber, "Rose Gatherers," was afterwards admirably sung by senior pupils of the Convent High School. Miss Blanche Joel had kindly given her assistance on the occasion, as had also Miss Nina Schlotel and Miss Rose Blaney, it being wisely thought that to vary the performance of the pupils by that of finished musicians would enhance the enjoyment of the audience. Miss Joel's song was Good-eve's "Fiddle and I," and was sung in the artistic and expressive manner by which the young lady is distinguished. A violin obligato was played by Signor Squarise. Miss Joel's singing always creates a desire for more, and the *encore* on this occasion was very pronounced indeed, especially since the length of the programme forbade anything of the kind, as a rule. The song given in response was Peace's "Hush, thee, my baby." The first part of the programme ended with a performance of Mendelssohn's overture to "Ruy Blas," which was very finely played, on strings and pianos, by the Misses E. Solomon, S. Hall, M. Fortune, E. Inglis, M. O'Reilly, B. Joel (1st violin), N. Schlotel (viola), M. Slight (2nd violin), Signor Squarise (cello) and Mr F. Robertshaw (double bass). The opening piece of the second part consisted of Boccherini's minuet and a pizzicato gavotte by Lataun. The performance was most delicate and charming. The players were the Misses Joel (1st violin), Slight (2nd violin), Schlotel (viola), Signor Squarise (cello) and Mr Robertshaw (double bass). A duet, "In the dusk of the twilight," by Parker, was then sung by the Misses L. Connor and Skene, young ladies not very far advanced in their teens, but who give promise of great excellence in singing. Miss Skene has a very sweet and pleasing contralto voice, Miss Connor a light soprano of particular purity. With proper training, which has been well begun, we may expect from these young ladies very fine developments. The violin solo, De Bériot's "Fifth Concert," was afterwards performed very cleverly, and in a highly finished manner,

by Miss Nina Schotel. A performance followed of Scotch airs on four pianos by junior pupils, the Misses Neill, Dawson, M. Rossbotham, Alice Freed, M. Burke, M. Bernech, T. Rossbotham, and A. Meenan, the little ladies wearing tartan scarfs. A series of tableaux illustrative of a song sung by Miss Rose Blaney came next. The representation was that of a mother's grief beside the bed of her dying child, consolation reaching her in visions of the guardian angel awaiting the departed soul, and finally carrying it to heaven to receive the crown of innocence. Miss Blaney's singing was most expressive and sweet, and the whole scene extremely touching. Its effect, however, was marred, the audience perplexed, and the performers put out and confused at the conclusion, by the bungling of the scene-shifters, to which we have already alluded. This was the more vexatious since Miss Blaney was down for one song only, and the *encore* for which every one was longing was thus prevented. An arrangement of Irish airs by Czerney, was then played by junior pupils—the Misses N. Hall, Skene, F. Skene, A. Cantwell, C. Pearson, Bemshardt, L. Remshardt, Lawrence, K. Kartin, Delaney, K. Lynch, and B. Inglis. The little ladies, who wore scarfs of the pretty green called sea-foam, also in this instance did their work well—indeed, in every instance throughout the evening, the pianoforte playing was admirable, testifying markedly to the ability of the nuns in teaching music. In other respects, their capacity as teachers was shown by the appearance and development of the children. The young ladies who played the violin did great credit to Signor Squarise, their master. On the termination of the performance, the Most Rev Dr Moran returned thanks on the part of the nuns, and on his own part, to the audience and the ladies and gentlemen who had given their assistance as performers. The programme concluded with a fine performance, by chorus and orchestra, of Mr Thomas Bracken's New Zealand Anthem. The entertainment was extremely creditable to every one engaged in it. The programme was admirably chosen and well performed and the brightness and "go" of the evening were sustained to the end. The success attained was in a large degree due to the efforts of the members of the Dunedin Catholic Literary Society, and the aid of Mr F. W. Patre in arranging the tableaux was invaluable. Mr Riedle also, of the Dresden Company, who had kindly lent the pianos, gave much assistance.

### MR GRATTAN BIGGS AT THE PRINCESS THEATRE.

On Wednesday night, the 21st inst, Mr Grattan Riggs, the famous Irish comedian, brought to the close a short season at the Princess Theatre, Dunedin. The programme on the occasion consisted of two short plays, written by the late John Broughton, namely "Ruth's Romance" and "Temptation." The first was acted by Miss Maud Appleton and Messrs Robert E. Inman and J. P. West. Miss Appleton made a charming Ruth Carey, was most naïve in her impertinence, arch in her love-making, and throughout both sprightly and graceful. The young lady has evidently a very successful theatrical career before her, and wherever she appears must necessarily win at once the favour of the public. Mr Inman, as Jack Dudley, was quite at home in an effective part, and as much may be said for Mr West, who represented Captain Wilton, a reformed rake and the proud father of a brand new baby. The play is a bright and clever little piece, and went capitally from beginning to end. The principal character in "Temptation" is that of Tim O'Brien, an immigrant "boy" in an American city. This, as a matter of course, was taken by Mr Grattan Riggs, and, also, as a matter of course, was done ample justice to. Mr Grattan Riggs certainly has few rivals, if he has any equals, in Irish parts. His brogue is perfect. He is droll without being vulgar, and quaint without being grotesque. He is completely master of the situation, whether it be humorous or pathetic, or, as sometimes happens, an indescribable mixture of both. He was very well supported by Mr Inman as Babilock (a carman), Mr Scott Inglis as Granite (a stockbroker), Mr West as Stirling (an old servant), Mr Laurie Dunbar as Travers (a needy and ill-used young man), Miss Appleton (as the carman's wife), Miss Leonard as Mrs Grimgrieken (a woman of few words), and Miss Andrews as Travers' wife. The company is a remarkably clever one, and well worth seeing. During the interval between the plays Mr Fawcett, their energetic manager, came forward and announced that, as, contrary to expectations, the theatre would be available next week, owing to the failure of another company to keep their engagement, Mr Grattan Riggs would commence a second season this (Wednesday) evening, the 29th inst. The play will be Boucicault's famous "Shaughraun." Placed before the public as it will be by Mr Grattan Riggs and his company, it, like those to follow it, will be seen to the utmost advantage. No doubt houses as crowded as those attendant on the season just closed, will testify to a due appreciation of the players by our citizens.

### OTAGO UNIVERSITY DRAMATIC CLUB.

Sheridan's famous play, "The Rivals," was produced by the members of this Club at the Princess Theatre, on Saturday and Monday evenings. The cast was as follows:—Sir Anthony Absolute, Mr C. N. Mount; Captain Absolute, Mr J. B. Macdonald; Bob Acres, Mr P. H. Campbell; Sir Lucius O'Trigger, Mr W. J. Strong; Faulkland,