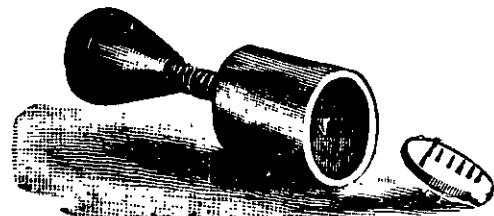


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AGENTS: Dunedin—Stronach Bros. & Morris; Invercargill—Walter Guthrie & Co.; Wellington—Wilkins & Field; Gisborne—Arthur Parnell & Co.

The chorus, by the girls, "Gathering flowers," was a gem, the harmony being perfect. Miss Nellie Wall acquitted herself with credit in the recitation, "The half-loft." An item which deserves special praise was the vocal duet, "Ring out wild bells," by Misses Bartos and Katie Flaherty. The drama, "A slight mistake," proved exceedingly interesting, the performers being Misses O'Shea, Dooley, St George, Macpherson, and Hughes. The chorus, "Merry sunshine," by the girls, went very merrily, and the recitation, "Orange and green," by Misses Fowler and Garrick, was greeted with loud applause. The "Holiday," chorus and a duet (by the girls) were given with an unctious that called forth applause. This brought us to the farce, "He would be a soldier," a rather laughable one. The characters were :—Student, Master Costello; Professor, Master P. Walsh; Soldier, Master M. Lyons; Soldiers, Masters McGrath, E. Hughes, and Landon. The piece was acted with great spirit, and quite deserved the applause it received. "Bonnie Dundee" (trio) found faithful interpreters in Misses Franklin (2), Dooley, St George, Gates, and Bennet. The boys were very good in the chorus, "As welcome as the flowers in May," the warbling seemed quite as welcome. The next item was, indeed, a real gem, the cantata, "Little Red Biding Hood." The cast was as follows :—Mother, Miss Bartos; Little Red Biding Hood, Miss Minnie Dooley; Woodman, Master K. Flaherty; Wolf, Master M. Lyons; Little Buttercup, Miss M. O'Connor; Rose, Miss M. O'Shea. Miss Bartos took the part of "Mother" with much grace, while the title rôle was splendidly sustained by Miss Minnie Dooley. The remaining characters were also ably sustained. The singing was all that could be desired. The whole programme reflected infinite credit on the tuition. Before touching on the distribution of prizes a word must be said with regard to the show of plain and fancy work. This was a small exhibition in itself. The plain work was first class, while the fancy was unsurpassable. The tone of the school in this respect is quite equal to the excellent results produced at the annual examination. Those who were present in the school on this occasion will, I think, bear me out when I say the Sisters deserve very, very great praise.

The prizes were distributed to the successful scholars by the Rev Father Aubrey, the inspector.

After the distribution the Rev Father Regnault warmly thanked those present for the kindly interest they evinced in the welfare of the school, as was evident from the large number present that evening. The rev gentleman referred in glowing terms to the continued progress the school was making under the able management of the Sisters of St Joseph, the proof of which was evident from the high position the school held among the other schools in the diocese. The inspector of schools (Father Aubrey) also spoke a few words in terms highly complimentary to all concerned in bringing the school to its present high standing. He said it stood second to none of those he had examined in Canterbury or Westland, and if a Government inspector were to examine it he knew the result would be very creditable to the school. He had been examining these schools for three years now, and the requirements had been fixed at a higher, rather than a lower, standard compared with other schools. His Lordship the Bishop had also been much pleased at the results of the examination of St Patrick's School. While thus complimenting the teachers and children, he enjoined upon the latter to be more regular in their attendance, and asked the parents to bear this in mind, for if there was a fault it was in the want of punctuality on the part of many of the children, for which the parents were largely responsible. The boys then gave three hearty cheers for the inspector, Father Regnault, and their teachers, after which the proceedings terminated.

ST FRANCIS XAVIER'S ACADEMY, WELLINGTON.

A very successful entertainment was given in the Theatre Royal on December 16, in aid of the prize fund of this school. The programme, which was admirably carried out, was as follows :—

Entrée Overture, "Olga" (Deplace), school orchestra; piano-forte duet, "Auld Lang Syne" (Richards), Misses Anderson and Taylor; recitation, "Mary, Queen of Scots" (H. D. Bell), Miss Taylor. "Mary Stuart"—Elizabeth, Queen of England, Miss Blackie; Mary, Queen of Scots, Miss M. Ahera; Cecil, Lord Bur-

leigh, Miss Wright; Lord Shrewsbury, Miss Hislop; Earl of Kent, Miss Bock. Interludes, Vocal duet, "Evening Breeze," Misses P. Parsons and M. Saunders; piano solo, "Blair Athol" (De Sivrai), Miss E. Jameson; pianoforte duet, "Signal March" (Kleber), Misses Ward and Sullivan; Chorus, "In Woodlands Far Away"; Recitation "A Psalm of Life," Miss Mary Anderson; waltz, "Rose of England" (Bound), orchestra; chorus, "His Little Son"; pianoforte duet, "Off in the Stilly Night," Misses Wright and G. Sexton; song, "Kate O'Shane," Miss Blackie. "Monsieur Tonson" (a farce), Monsier Morbleau (French barber), Miss Lion; Madame Morbleau (his wife), Miss P. Parsons; Mr Thompson, Miss De Castro; Mrs Thompson, Miss Davis. Interlude, Waltz, "Erin" (Lancelott) orchestra; finale, "God save the Queen."

Three of the young ladies, we may add, have entered this year for the University matriculation examination. Of four students last year for the mistresses' "E" certificate, three secured full passes, and one a partial pass. This year twelve candidates for the same certificate have been "coached" at the academy. Larger premises have recently been taken, and increased accommodation is therefore offered to boarders.

WELLINGTON.

(From our own Correspondent.)

January 14.

THE children at St John's Orphanage were afforded a most enjoyable treat on last Saturday afternoon, when, through the kindness of several friends—who are always foremost in good works in connection with the parish—a monster Christmas treat was provided, and the inmates of the institution—to the number of 70 or more—received several useful presents. They were also treated to a plentiful supply of Christmas cheer, which the children, it is almost unnecessary to add, did full justice to. The tree was presided over by the Sisters of Mercy, assisted by Miss Igglesden, Miss MacManaway, Miss Sheridan, and Miss McClean, the Very Rev Father Dawson, Rev Father Power, and Messrs Davis and Palmer. The distribution took place in the presence of a large number of visitors, who were much impressed with the happy, contented look of the children, and the evident pleasure with which they entered in the treat arranged for them. The following ladies and gentlemen handed in the amounts standing after their names, as being collected or contributed by them :—Mrs Crombie, 10s; Miss McClean, 14s; Mr Davis, £4 13s; Mr Palmer, £4 13s; Mr O'Brien, £1; Mr Duignan £1. Contributions were also sent by the following :—A Friend, £1; Miss Biston and Mrs Collins, 5s each; Mrs Crombie, 5s; presents and toys were sent by Messrs Sargood, Son and Ewing, the D.I.C., Messrs Nathan and Co., Mrs Sharpe, the Wellington Biscuit Factory, Mr Thornton, Hume and Son, and Mrs Loughlin.

At the eleven o'clock Mass on Sunday last, at St Mary of the Angels, the Rev Father Goggan stated that the late picnic at the Hutt was a decided success from every point of view. After paying all expenses in connection therewith, there would be a surplus of £60, which would be distributed equally between the three parishes—Te Aro, Thorndon, and the Lower Hutt. Considering the many counter attractions that were on Boxing Day, and also the not very tempting state of the weather, the result has been beyond the expectations of the most sanguine of the promoters.

Inspector Pender, who was the recipient last week of a substantial testimonial, amounting to upwards of £300, from the people of Canterbury, where he has been stationed in various centres during the last 30 years, arrived here with his family on Wednesday afternoon, and took over the command of the police next day from Inspector Thomson. Mr Pender's career as a public officer in the service of the Queen has been of a lengthy and varied description, dating to a couple of years previous to the Crimean war, where he served with distinction under Lord Raglan, and afterwards coming to Victoria in the height of the gold fever, when bushranging was in full swing in that country, he saw some stirring times. After a few years' residence at the other side he came over to Canterbury, having received an appointment from the old provincial council to super-