

CONCERT IN DUNEDIN.

THE concert announced by us, in aid of the Dominican Nuns' parochial schools, came off in the Garrison Hall on Wednesday evening the 18 inst. Unfortunately heavy thunder showers had occurred throughout the later part of the day, but, notwithstanding, the house was fairly filled. The schools mustered in strong force and occupied a considerable portion of the space, as well in the body of the hall as on the platform. The girls were prettily dressed in white, and the different schools were distinguished by different coloured scarfs. In the marching and counter-marching, by which the children took up their places for their various performances, and afterwards withdrew, the effect was very good. They were accompanied in their evolutions by one or two of their fellow pupils, or pupil-teachers, on the piano. As to the performance of the schools, it was, as usual, excellent. It commenced with two songs—"Sing, Sing," and "Let Eric Remember," sung, each in turn, as a three part chorus by the pupils, girls and younger boys, of St Patrick's school, South Dunedin. The manner in which the pitch was sustained and the observance of the *nuances*, especially in the first song, of which the melody was by no means marked, were very notable. In the second song the clear pronunciation of the words, and the spirit that characterised the singing were additional merits. A simultaneous recitation by the girls of St Joseph's school, which closed the first part of the programme, was given with intelligence, the speakers keeping well in unison throughout. The subject was the legend "King and Cottager." "Dreaming of Home," sung as a vocal solo and chorus by pupils of St Joseph's and the Christian Brothers' schools, was another very pleasing performance. Two of the girls (the Misses Miscall and Cantwell), and one boy (Master Clarke), respectively sang the solo parts very sweetly. The chorus singing was full, correct, and well modulated. In the concluding chorus, the "New Zealand Anthem," of which Miss O'Neill sang the solo part, pupils of St Joseph's and St Patrick's schools had the aid of several members of St Joseph's choir, the effect being remarkably fine. The clear pronunciation of the words was here again particularly noticeable. A fervent expression was also well maintained. We mention last, though neither least nor in proper order, the dumb bell exercises of the Christian Brothers' boys, performed to the music of the piano played by one of the Brothers, and with which the second part of the programme commenced. This is always a taking item with the audience. Its effect, moreover, in the present instance was heightened, in no light degree, by a new and unexpected feature—truly a "sudden and awful appearance"—in the shape of a master of the ceremonies. This individual came out in a suit of black cloth, cut-away coat and trousers, open vest, and white shirt; on his head a well-brushed "bell-topper," and in his hand a cane. His urbanity towards the audience, to whom he bowed with a graceful doffing of his hat, again and again, was only equalled by his severity towards the boys. Among them he resented with his cane the slightest suspicion of a departure from the straight line. No more ferocious representative, in miniature, of the pedagogue could possibly be found. The boys, we need hardly add, went through their exercises and manoeuvres with the utmost skill and dexterity. Can we venture to class among school-girl performers young ladies qualified to hold their own in performing with a professional band? Eight of the pupils of the Dominican Convent High school—the Misses Sophy Hill, Kate Lynch, Ida Ramshart and Teasie Rossbotham, (treble); Agnes Cantwell, Kate Martin, Nellie Hall and M. Rossbotham, (bass)—took part on four pianos, with Mr Robertshaw's ring band,—Messrs Steward, Taylor, Knox, V. Robertshaw, and A. F. Robertshaw—in performing Nicolai's "Merry wives of Windsor," beautiful music, admirably performed. Another of the convent pupils, Miss O'Neill played with a brilliant finger as a pianosolo, Ascher's "Alice," a piece requiring high powers of execution. The pupil who still remains for us to mention is Master Joe Ward, one of the Christian Brothers' junior boys. He sang the solo, Pizzolommi's "Sancta Maria," and very beautiful the song sounded in the pure, sweet notes of the little fellow's voice which lost nothing in that they were distinctively those of a boy. As an encore Master Ward gave the "Dear Little Shamrock," which also he sang very prettily. But we confess it once more. We do not admire the "Dear Little Shamrock." The tune is well enough, but the words are—well, horrid. What a rhyme for Ireland—"sireland" or "mireland." There is, in fact, no fit rhyme for Ireland. Ireland won't do. It is not appropriate in the first place, and, in the second place, it is taken up, though in a foreign lingo, at the other end of the world. Choir-land won't do. As for squire-land that would be nearer the mark, but the associations, at least at the present day, would make it sound like slang. The intention is, besides, to break down the ancient solitary reign of the squire, and woe would care to perpetuate his memory? There seems also to be a certain botanical incorrectness in the words of the song. Our recollection of the shamrock is that it grows in pasture-lands, those particularly of long standing. We are convinced that it cannot be reckoned among plants properly known as bog plants, in which we recognise old friends; and we are almost ready to swear that it does not grow in

the mire. Sireland, however, is bad enough, but mireland is detestable. Besides, it is calumnious. There is no more mud in Ireland than in other countries of a moist climate. We are willing to bet with anyone that a man can walk two miles over the muddiest road in Connaught without getting on his boots one-half of the mud that he must necessarily pick up in walking one mile on the roads around Dunedin. If that boy of Dean Swift's lived here, there would be some sense in the excuse he gave his master. "Why did not you clean my boots, you rascal?" "Sure they'd be ditty again, your reverence." But we have strayed a long way from our concert. Music and mud have little in common. Of the performances of the ladies and gentlemen who gave their services it is impossible to speak too highly. Where they were concerned the concert was one of the best of its kind we have ever attended in this city. The Misses Blaney in their duet, "Sinned Mother," from "Maritana," sang delightfully. Miss Rose Blaney in her solo "The Holy City," even attained to grandeur of expression. Miss M. Morrison, both in Ponette's "Snowflakes, and the soprano solo in the "Miserere" from "Trovatore," sang charmingly. This latter performance was, indeed, of exceptional merit. Mr Kager took the tenor part with exceeding sweetness and admirable expression, and the other members of St Joseph's choir highly distinguished themselves by their singing in the chorus. Mr Manson sang the "Minstrel Boy," giving it an interpretation that we rarely heard excelled. His singing was dramatic and spirited in the extreme. Miss Moloney's performance on the piano of Chopin's "Polonaise" was very fine. It showed a thorough understanding of the composer's patriotic spirit. His pride and rejoicing in a theme that touched his heart, so deeply were vividly expressed. Mr Baeyertz gave a recitation—a narrative told in sympathetic tones of the grievous plight in which two mashers found themselves as a consequence of their impertinence to two young ladies, and of the disagreeable meal they were forced to eat. We understand that some question is made as to the propriety of this recitation, owing to its partaking in some degree of the nature of an expurgated edition—but those who object, perhaps, like our friend "Ovis" and the classics, know more than is good for them. As the tale was recited by Mr Baeyertz, prudery alone could take offence at it, and it was extremely amusing. One might really believe that the reciter had actually served an apprenticeship in the character he disclaimed. The *enfant terrible*, we may explain, pointed to him as a glaring example of the character. And if the matter were, as the narrative seemed to imply, one of collars—what then? Possibly the *enfant terrible* also had his reasons.—Mr Vallis acted as conductor, and, with Miss Moloney, shared the duties of accompanist. All who were engaged in the concert deserve congratulations for the thorough success attained. During the interval a few words were spoken by the Rev Father Lynch, alluding to the inevitable absence of the Bishop, who, however, there were good grounds to hope, would be present at the next entertainment, and thanking all who had kindly given their services, and the audience for their patronage.

AUCKLAND.

(From our own Correspondent.)

October 19, 1892.

IF my last letter I chronicled the arrival in our midst of a missionary in the person of the Very Rev Father Vincent Grogan of the Passionist Order, whose object was to found throughout the diocese the Association of the Holy Family. At St Patrick's Cathedral, on the morning of last Sunday week at 11 o'clock Mass, before his Lordship the Bishop and a large congregation, the rev missionary fully explained the aims and objects of his visit. On the same Sunday evening, at the church of St John the Baptist, Parnell, in charge of good Father Leihan, the Rev Father Grogan, C.P., Provincial of the Passionist Order in Australia, began the real work of the mission, which concluded, so far as Parnell was concerned, on the following Sunday morning at 10 o'clock Mass. The week's good work was devoted to the institution of the Association of Christian Families under the guidance of the Holy Family of Nazareth. This association has been warmly recommended by His Holiness Pope Leo XIII. in the rescript dated 16th June, 1892. The parishoners attended all the services in large numbers, and there is every hope of a good and lasting effect as the result of the exhortations and excellent sermons preached by so renowned a member of the congregation of St Paul of the Cross. Morning and evening the church was thronged by pious worshippers. Forty-six families comprising two hundred and forty eight souls have formed the Association. This is an excellent record, fraught with the very best of results, not only to God, but to society in general. Parnell commenced and went through in a commendable way the holy mission. In connection with this parish, I learn, upon reliable authority, that plans have already been prepared for the enlargement of the church. I felt sure this result would follow Father Leihan's appointment to Parnell. He performed, when in Parnell, a herculean trick.

Next Sunday evening the mission begins in Parnell at the Sacred Heart Church, and concludes in the city on the following Sunday at St Patrick's Cathedral. This mission will, I feel certain, be far reaching in its results.