

the stage, was but to give place to some empty-headed Miss arrived to assault us with some mawkish sentimental ditty, having neither wit nor wisdom to commend it.

Now, it is against all this that our young convent-trained singers must set themselves, and set themselves in the name and for the sake of God. Music is too divine to be sacrificed. Something must be done to save it, and under present conditions it can be saved only by those who have a dash of heroism. Where can we turn for the heroism if not to our convent girls? We have a right to exhort them to go straight against the false etiquette that rules or threatens to rule this Colony. They at least must never try to come down to the level of their audience. Their first object must never be to please. They are teachers of holiness, as Buffamaco said to the old artists of Sienna, and their object must be to instruct, to edify, to improve, for this, said he, is the only aim worthy of any art that is heaven-born. 'I congratulate you, sir,' said an Irish nobleman to Handel after hearing the 'Messiah,' 'you have given us a great entertainment.' 'I am sorry to hear it,' was the reply; 'I meant to improve, not to entertain.'

The young Catholic singers of New Zealand, thanks to their training, are in a position to lead the fashion. If they do so they will work for God; if not they are pulling down where He would build, and they will be turning to bad account the talent received from Him. Let our young Catholic singers not be afraid to turn their backs upon songs devoid of true sentiment; let others sing the ditties and the mawkish sentimentalities. Let them not be afraid to sing in public and in private the great songs of the great Catholic masters, and so far from outraging fine feelings, they will be charmed to discover that they are touching depths of feeling in the hearts of those who were thought to rejoice only in vulgar slang or in base innuendo. They will feel that they are giving these an inkling of better things, and that they are thus for their own welfare putting out to interest the talent for which God will one day demand a strict return.

Above all things let our young Catholic teachers of singing remember what they themselves were taught at the convent, viz., that the whole heavens are not wide enough to mark the distinction between a singer and a mere vocalist, that while technical talent and a certain purity of tone are sufficient to form that mechanical medium or walking pianola that is called a vocalist, the true singer must be as strong in intellectual attainments and in the qualities and dispositions of the heart as in the vocal organs. Artificial expressiveness may be attained by clever imitation, or as the result of skilful coaching, but that charm, which may be felt but not described, and which makes the true singer, comes from a mind well cultivated and from a heart glowing with the love of God. Therefore the sweetest and most versatile soprano that ever toured these solitudes sought inspiration evening after evening at the Tabernacle door before entering the concert room, therefore the greatest baritone in Europe sang only on the days he had received Holy Communion, therefore Handel wrote his divine songs with one hand on the crucifix and his eyes filled with tears, and therefore your own teacher made it a first condition that her pupils should assist at Mass morning after morning and should be remarkable for their frequent and fervent reception of the Holy Sacraments. It is only heart that can touch heart, and the heart never sings so truly as when it glows with the love of Him whose name is the very soul of song.

This seems sermonising, but it is meant for those who have come from convent schools, and it is written by one who is a great admirer of, because he knows the value of, convent training.

According to the most trustworthy statistics (says the 'Ave Maria'), the army of Catholic missionaries engaged in evangelising pagan lands numbers 15,000 priests, 5000 Brothers, and 45,000 Sisters. The number would undoubtedly be far larger if the laity were made more familiar with the financial needs of the missions, and the small obstacles that hinder great results to the Church and to the souls of men.

According to a writer in 'Illustrated Catholic Missions' the Vicariate of Fiji has a Catholic population of over 12,000 out of a total population of 122,000, of whom 98,000 are natives. The first Catholic mission station was founded in 1844, and there are now 16 central stations and 273 out-stations, with 65 churches and chapels, 28 Marist priests, an equal number of Brothers, 49 Sisters, and 31 elementary schools with close on 2500 pupils. The establishment of the Catholic Church preceded by thirty years the British annexation, which took place in 1874.

NELSON

(From our own correspondent.)

November 6..

A very enjoyable evening was spent last Tuesday at St. Mary's Hall, when over seventy people were present, it being the termination of the season of the Nelson Catholic Society. A varied programme, consisting of various games and vocal selections, was gone through. The following ladies and gentlemen contributed items: Misses C. Armstrong, Scott, Harris, Messrs. Bunney, Housieaux, Scott, and Redwood. A liberal supply of refreshments was handed round by the ladies. A presentation was made to Mrs. M. Levy, who was the successful winner of both the cribbage and euchre matches. It took the form of a suitable serviette ring and serviettes. During the season cribbage and euchre tournaments had been played with the Druids, with the result that the Society scored equally with their opponents. Two bagatelle tables, which the Society had purchased, proved a source of considerable enjoyment. Rev. Father Clancy, in a few well-chosen remarks, expressed great pleasure that the Society, since its recent inception, had made good progress, and trusted next year increased membership would follow, when the Society would provide more attractions both for the young and old. He said the thanks of the members were due to their executive and hon. secretary, Mr. W. H. Redwood, who had been most energetic in forwarding the interests of the Society since its inauguration. The meeting then closed by singing the National Anthem.

The devotion of the Forty Hours' Adoration began on Sunday, October 23. The Rev. Father Mahony celebrated Mass, and a large congregation was present, a considerable number of whom approached the Holy Table. At the conclusion of the Mass there was a procession of the Blessed Sacrament, in which the school children, Children of Mary, and members of the Confraternity of the Sacred Heart took part. The Rev. Father Clancy preached on the Blessed Sacrament. The devotions were concluded on Tuesday morning with the celebration of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. The choir rendered Farmer's Mass in B flat in a finished manner. Miss Duft, L.R.A.M., who presided at the organ, is to be congratulated for her untiring efforts in keeping the choir up to a state of proficiency. This lady has organised a juvenile choir who are making very creditable progress, and usually sing on the first Sunday of the month.

The rebuilding of the Stoke Orphanage is progressing satisfactorily under the supervision of the manager, Rev. Father George Mahony, and when finished will be a most substantial structure, providing excellent accommodation for the inmates.

During the fortnight ending November 7, Messrs. Baldwin and Rayward, Patent Attorneys, Wellington (district managers, Mirams Bros., Joel's Buildings, Crawford street, Dunedin), prepared and filed the following applications for protection under the Patents Designs and Trade Marks Act:—James Brake, Christchurch, improved means for attaching breeching straps to the shafts of vehicles; Rev. Father Soulas, Taranaki, improvements in and relating to telescopes; M. W. Hamble, Queensland, improvements in apparatus for lighting and extinguishing gas lights controlled by gas pressure; Helen Corbett, Melbourne, an improved siphon; Duncan Matheson, Martinborough, an improvement relating to overcoats; F. de J. Clere, Wellington, improvements in and relating to window sashes; Plummer and Plummer, Auckland, an improvement relating to hats; Hon. C. A. Parsons, Newcastle-on-Tyne, England, trade mark in respect of machinery; Professor Bickerton, Christchurch, an improved health shelter; F. de J. Clere, Wellington, improvements in weather boards; A. Low, Reefton, improvements in the links of endless chains; J. Nathan and Co., Wellington, trade mark 'Defiance' in respect of food stuffs; A. H. Tinkham, Masterton, an improvement relating to ear punches; Robert Low, Melbourne, improved temperature regulator for incubators; E. A. Angus, Melbourne, improvements in or relating to sewing machines; Felton, Grimwade, and Co., Melbourne, trade mark 'Vinex'; G. Dennis, Jun., Wakaia, improved apparatus for raking material from sluice boxes used for saving gold; W. B. Jones, Hastings, improved spring tine-cultivator. Baldwin and Rayward's handbook on patents for inventions is obtainable free on application. Just issued pamphlet describing the new Patent Law of the Commonwealth of Australia, sent post free to any address on application...