

sermons on the first book of Moses, published in 1527, he said: 'It was almost desirable that servants should be subjected to a kind of slavery, such as existed among the Jews.' He spoke approvingly of the days when men-servants and maid-servants were, like sheep and oxen, 'all personal property, and the owners might sell them as they liked; and,' he added, 'it would verily be almost best that this state of things should exist again, for nobody can control and tame the populace in any other way.' In the previous year (1526) he wrote that rulers 'must drive, beat, throttle, hang, burn, behead, and torture, so as to make themselves feared and to keep the people in check.' Melancthon, Butzer, and other reformers gave expression to similar ideas. Their testimony will be found in the fourth volume of Janssen's great work, the 'History of the German People' (pp. 361-9). Bond slavery of a particularly odious kind was introduced into England with the Reformation—its sad details can be learned from Gibbins's or any other good industrial history of the country. The Treaty of Utrecht gave Great Britain a monopoly of the slave-trade with America. Bristol first, and afterwards Liverpool, were the headquarters of the traffic in human chattels. Queen Elizabeth was a partner with Sir John Hawkins—the first Englishman who engaged on a big scale in the African slave-trade. In twenty short years—from 1680 to 1700—English traders exported, according to Chambers, 300,000 negro slaves, and from the year 1700 to 1768, 40 Jamaica alone, 610,000 unhappy Africans, with every circumstance of callous inhumanity.

In Scotland slavery disappeared at a very early date. Serfdom also gradually died away. But the Reformation changed all that. As soon as it had been firmly established in the country, laborers, hitherto free, were turned in large numbers into slaves by the Acts of 1579 and 1597. The odious function of enslaving free men was made over to the Presbyterian Kirk Session. The 'Edinburgh Review' for January, 1899, in the course of a learned article on the subject, shows how 'about six hundred little ecclesiastical courts' were, in 1597, empowered to reduce to perpetual slavery 'perhaps a tenth of the inhabitants of Scotland.' In the coal and salt mines of the country slavery existed till the year 1799, when it was abolished by Act of Parliament. We have barely touched the fringe of our subject. But the little we have said we commend to the attention of our youthful preacher-politician. It may serve him in good stead when next he couples together the Catholic Church, Martin Luther, and human slavery, and may aid him in the toilsome advance from the mental rawness which is rash in statement to the mental ripeness which is more diffident and a better judge of facts and of their right place in the perspective of things.

Miss E. McQuinness, our talented organist (writes our Timaru correspondent), is to be congratulated on the success that attended her pupils at the recent Trinity College examinations. Four of them—the Misses Egan, Twomey, Stuart, and Ward (a daughter of Sir Joseph Ward) obtained their certificates as pianoforte teachers. Miss E. Fitzgerald, of this town, also obtained a like distinction. She is a pupil of the Dominican Convent, Dunedin.

Mr. J. Meagher, Tattersall's Hotel Buildings, Christchurch, has for sale a general store in Canterbury, a hotel in Taranaki, and a hotel near Christchurch.

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OUR SCHOOLS.

ST. BENEDICT'S SCHOOL, AUCKLAND.

(From our own correspondent.)

At St. Benedict's Hall on Wednesday evening the pupils of St. Benedict's School, under the charge of the Sisters of St. Joseph, held their annual entertainment and distribution of prizes. The hall was crowded, and the performance went off very well. Rev. Fathers Gillan, McMillan, and Duffy were present. The programme was as follows.—Quartette (piano), Misses Denz, Fouhy, Wheeler, and Grevatt; chorus, infants; maypole, junior girls; song, 'As your hair turns grey,' Miss S. Fernandez; dialogue, 'Message from Ireland,' Misses M. Coupland and Elsie Torritt; tambourine drill, senior girls; quartette, Misses Joseph, Denz, Wheeler, and Grevatt; chorus, 'Sea flowers,' senior girls; drill, junior girls; chorus, 'Niggers,' boys; drama; song, Master Jack Quinlan; tableau, Miss Frances Denz acted as accompanist. During the interval Rev. Father Gillan presented the prizes to the following students:—Miss Frances Denz—Music—Junior division (honors), theory, 98; intermediate, practical, 67, gold medal; Rita Gravatt—Junior (honors), 98, gold medal; Edith Foreman—Junior (honors), 97, silver medal; junior division (honors), Maggie McEvoy, 85; Hilda Heighton, 85; primary division (honors), Louisa Gaspard, 86; Frances Field, 74; Edna Amos, 78; also passed junior grade Evelyn Sheath, 69. The medals were the gifts of Rev. Father Gillan.

ST. MARY'S CONVENT HIGH SCHOOL, PONSONBY.

The annual distribution of prizes in connection with St. Mary's Convent High School, Ponsonby, took place on Saturday evening, December 10, at St. Mary's Convent. Various exhibits of painting, fancy work, carving, etc., were much admired. A capital concert programme was gone through during the evening, the following being contributors:—Misses G. Casey, Insoll, Histed (2), M. Ralph, C. Gallagher, McGinley, A. Sarah K. Mahoney, Cullen, Brown (2), Kelly, Hutchinson, Amodeo, M. Gibbons, B. Knight, M. Moriarty, Cullen, McLean, K. Ralph, M. Cronin, Moody, A. Ralph. A number of choruses and dances were given by the children, who displayed a high standard of training in everything they did.

The Very Rev. Dr. Egan, O.S.B., presented the prizes, at the conclusion of which the Right Rev. Mgr. O'Reilly delivered a happy speech, being heartily applauded. The Bishop (Dr. Lonihan) was also present.

The following is the prize list:—

Matriculation and Civil Service Class—Ellen Brown, mathematics; Eileen Cronin, French and English; Jenny Hutchinson, English and French; Alda Ralph, singing and elocution.

Class VII.—Kate Mahoney, French and science; Monica Gibbons, French and writing; Bertha Knight, geography and French; Elsie Maguire, geography; Alice Davison, general proficiency.

Class VI.—Janie Amodeo, French and writing; Lucy Moody, wood-carving and elocution; Mary Cronin, general proficiency; Alma McCraig, English; Kathleen Mathias, general proficiency; Norah Quinn, drawing; Winnie Eddowes, general proficiency; Dorothy Insoll, arithmetic.

Class V.—Celia Gibbons, geography; Ida Histed, arithmetic; Flo Histed, reading; May O'Brien, general proficiency; Eva Eddowes, dictation and spelling; D. McGarry, writing.

Class IV.—Alec. Sneddon, arithmetic and geography; Anthony Gibbons, arithmetic; Hazel Dalbey, conduct and writing; Edith Buck, reading; D. Blakey, general proficiency.

Class III.—Rosie Ralph, application; Margaret Ralph, writing; Elsie Eddowes, composition; Edith Dalbey, arithmetic; Elsie Thomson, reading; Gussie Wakefield, general proficiency.

Class II.—Stella Fraser, conduct and reading; Irene McGarry, writing and spelling.

Class I.—Doris Murphy, conduct and spelling; Dorothy Sneddon, conduct and reading; Rena Ralph, reading; Joe Darby, spelling and reading; Patricia Darby, general proficiency; Eileen Moriarty, arithmetic; Mauris Noton, general proficiency; Irene Beckett, reading; Jone Dalbey, writing; Pauline O'Connor, general proficiency; Dave Malavey, application.

Preparatory Class—Gertrude Darby, reading and spelling; Louis Cullen, spelling; Rosetta Beckett, general proficiency.

Gold medals were awarded to May Maguire, for success in matriculation examinations; Alda Ralph and Eileen Cronin, for obtaining senior honors in practical music; Olive Insoll and Katie Ralph, for gaining highest marks in arithmetic.

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