

ther; who has had threepence a week spending money, and perhaps not that; who has had to give up his bed for his sick brother and sleep on the couch; who has lived on plain food; who is not afraid of a little tooth or stomach ache; whose sisters have taught him to be polite, and pointed out his coarseness, and who has a kind and noble heart and soul. That boy will become a man, but the boy from a small family has not had these glorious things to fight against.'

Paddy Atkins

Paddy Atkins is assiduously 'coorted' in the days when the band has begun to play and there's something heavier than atmosphere in the air. But mark the difference when the piping times of peace have come. Paragraph 3 of the 'Irish Command Orders' of September 14 notifies an approaching 'vacancy for a drill instructor in the Royal Hibernian Military School.' The school in-question is (says the Dublin 'Freeman') 'in the main an orphanage for the sons of deceased soldiers. Catholics and Protestants are alike eligible, and there are, if we mistake not, chaplains appointed for all the denominations represented in the school.' But Lord Grenfell's Order officially proclaims religious inequality and intimates, sans phrase, that no Papist—and, for that matter, no Presbyterian or Methodist—need apply for the position of drill instructor to the Royal Hibernian Military School. Thus the Order runs:—

'There will shortly be a vacancy for a color-sergeant (gun drill instructor) on the establishment of the Royal Hibernian Military School. . . . Candidates should not have less than ten years' service, not to be (sic) under the rank of sergeant, and must be married. . . . The religion of applicants must be Church of England.'

We should have no great objection to this sort of favoritism if, in the event of war, it was as clearly intimated that all the fighting were to be done by Anglican Tommy Atkinses. But it so happens that this Order represents the usual practice in Ireland. 'An Irish Catholic non-commissioned officer,' says the 'Freeman,' 'has as much chance of getting into one of these posts as a camel through the eye of a needle. . . . But the principle of exclusion is not usually proclaimed openly to the men of all ranks; and Lord Grenfell's Order is, therefore, unusual, though it explains the usual practice.'

And yet some New Zealand dailies cannot understand why recruiting should be unpopular in Ireland, and why it has become difficult in Scotland. 'If,' says the Dublin 'Freeman,' 'the Irish or Scotch lad who is thinking of enlisting is now to be told that, though he may be good enough to cover retreats like those from Spion Kop, or advances like those on the Tugela, when it comes to distributing the "soft jobs" at home his beliefs will be a disqualification, we know what results may be expected to follow.'

DIocese OF DUNEDIN

A beginning has been made with the new convent at Port Chalmers.

The annual entertainment by the pupils of the Christian Brothers takes place in St. Joseph's Hall on tomorrow (Friday) evening.

We offer our congratulations to Mr. J. B. Gallan, jun., B.A., who has just passed his final examination for the LL.B. degree.

At St. Joseph's Cathedral on Sunday evening nine young ladies were received into the Confraternity of the Children of Mary by the Rev. Father Coffey, Adm., assisted by the Rev. Father O'Malley.

The work of carving the stonework in the interior of St. Joseph's Cathedral is now well advanced towards completion. The diapering is finished, and the capitals of the pillars in the nave are being proceeded with. The handsome appearance of the sacred edifice is greatly enhanced by the work already executed.

A presentation to the Rev. Father Hearn was made in Gore last Friday week. A committee consisting of Messrs. Poppelwell, O. Kelly, D. Ryan, P. Flanagan, J.

Keaney (Mataura), J. McGrath, Moriarty, M. Carmody, J. O'Connor, W. O'Brien, and J. Murtagh paid a surprise visit to the presbytery, where the Rev. Father Hearn was temporarily staying as the guest of Very Rev. Father O'Donnell, and presented him with a splendid gold watch and cross. The watch bore the following inscription:—'Presented to the Rev. P. Hearn by the Catholics of the Gore parish on his transfer to Port Chalmers, 18th August, 1905.' The presentation was made by Mr. Poppelwell, who spoke in very complimentary terms regarding Father Hearn. Laudatory speeches were also made by Fathers O'Donnell and O'Neill, and Messrs. Kelly, Keaney, and Ryan. Father Hearn suitably replied.

On Tuesday afternoon the annual distribution of prizes to the pupils of St. Joseph's School took place. Owing to the unavoidable absence of Rev. Father Coffey, Adm., the prizes were distributed by Rev. Father O'Malley, by whom feeling reference was made to the death of Father Coffey's uncle, Very Rev. Dean Foley. Father O'Malley, who had himself examined the papers of the pupils in some subjects, expressed great satisfaction at the progress made during the year. He wished all a very pleasant vacation, and hoped there would be a full attendance on the day of the re-opening, January 29. The following is the prize list:—Christian Doctrine, R. Wakelin, 1; L. Higgins, 2; G. Smith, 3; J. Skinner, 4. Good conduct, E. Salmon. Attendance, J. Black, H. McQuillan. Needlework, J. O'Sullivan. Neatness and politeness, O. White. History and recitation, L. Walsh. Home work, E. Barry. Drawing, N. O'Sullivan. Singing, E. Salmon. Standard I., P. Higgins, N. O'Brien; Standard II., S. McQuillan, J. Ross; Standard III., R. Wakelin, L. Higgins; Standard IV., R. White, E. McLellan; Standard V., N. Dunn; Standard VI., M. Corcoran Standard VII., Y. Stevenson.

CROMWELL

The annual entertainment by and distribution of prizes to the pupils of the Dominican Convent School (writes a Cromwell correspondent) took place on Wednesday, December 13, a large number of the parents and relatives of the pupils being present. The school-room was beautifully decorated with flowers for the occasion. The recitations by the kindergarten pupils were well delivered. Songs by the Misses M. Scoles, N. Thomas, and Vera Scott were nicely rendered. The pole drill and scarf fantasies were beautifully executed, the dancing by the Misses Kathleen Thomas, Martha and Ivy Mitchell, and M. Scoles being very graceful. Miss Maggie Cahill played the accompaniment in a finished manner. Miss Maude Mitchell played a piano solo, 'La Gazelle,' splendidly. The Misses Tottie Frewen and Fanny Scott also played solos very nicely. Piano duets were played by the Misses Cissy and Amy Thomas, Frances Hayes and Ivy Mitchell, Martha and Ivy Mitchell, and Cissy and Sarah Scoles in brilliant style. Rev. Father Hunt distributed the prizes, and addressed the pupils in an earnest speech. He hoped that they would enjoy their holidays, and trusted they would all come back on January 29 as well and as happy as they were at the present time. A Christmas tree loaded with toys was swiftly denuded by the smaller girl and boy pupils.

PALMERSTON NORTH

(From our own correspondent.)

December 17.

The quarterly meeting of the local branch of the H.A.C.B. Society will be held on Thursday next.

The Rev. Father A. Herring preached his first sermon to a large congregation at Vespers to-day, his subject being Our Blessed Lady.

The Ven. Archdeacon Devoy preached to a large congregation on Monday evening during the devotion of the Forty Hours' Adoration. At all the Masses during the devotion large numbers approached the Holy Table. The ceremonies ended with a procession of the Blessed Sacrament.

On Sunday next the first celebration of Hospital Sunday will take place under the auspices of the Friendly Societies' Council. The five local societies, including the H.A.C.B. Society, will meet in full regalia at their various rooms at 1.30 and, together with the three local bands, will walk in procession to the sports' ground, where each band and speaker will give an item not to exceed ten minutes. Some forty ladies have arranged to collect for the same object on Saturday in the town.

This issue contains eight extra pages of seasonable reading matter, devoted to Christmas stories, etc.

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