

**Too Realistic.**

Douglas Jerrold knew a thing or two in his time. And has he not told us the ugliest trades have their 'moments of pleasure'! Even the grave-digger and the hangman are popularly supposed to smile like cherubs at play whenever they happen to dispose of their tailors or the rate-collector. Mr. Wilson Barrett's trade is a bit funereal at times; but one of the 'moments of pleasure' that light it up must have come to him and his company a few evenings ago in Christchurch. The play *The Silver King* had reached one of its most 'intense' situations. The apple in my throat grew as large as a full-grown purple-top Swede, and in the midst of an emotional and expectant silence the villain of the piece ('the Spider'—a real top-notcher, by the way, at everything 'ornery') sneaked out by a door just as the hero (Mr. Wilson Barrett) stalked in majestically by one of the wings. We have all heard of 'the many-headed monster of the pit' that 'still remains to mortify a wit.' But in the present instance an excited pittance, carried away by the realism of the situation and bubbling over with zeal to aid the hero in vindicating truth and vanquishing villainy, pointed excitedly to the spot where 'the Spider' had vanished and yelled to Mr. Wilson Barrett: 'The ruffian's just gone out that door!' A chivalrous farmer from somewhere near 'the pleasant waters of the River Lee' gave the stall villain a somewhat livelier time in the Gaiety Theatre, Dublin, some thirty years ago. He waded through the 'cello and two kettle drums—breaking them (so the report said) into a million smithereens,—jumped on the stage, cracked the skull of Danny Mann, and prematurely rescued from his murderous grasp the Colleen Bawn, the sweet 'Lily of Killarney.'

*Quips*

**DIOCESE OF DUNEDIN.**

The Provincial Seminary, Holy Cross College, Mosgiel, re-opens on Saturday, the 15th inst.

Rev. Father Ganly, of St. Kilda West, Melbourne, who arrived in Dunedin on Friday evening from the north, left on his return journey to Melbourne by the Mokoia on Sunday afternoon. During Father Ganly's stay in the city he was the guest of the local clergy.

The annual picnic of the children of the Catholic schools of the city and suburbs took place at Waitati on Wednesday where they were conveyed by special train. The morning was fine, and consequently the attendance was large. A considerable number of adults also took advantage of the outing to visit that pretty district.

A Solemn Requiem Mass for the repose of the soul of the late Mother M. Catherine was said in the chapel of the Dominican Priory, Dunedin, on Thursday. Rev. Father Murphy, Adm., was celebrant, Rev. Father O'Reilly deacon, Rev. Father O'Malley sub-deacon, and Rev. Father M. Ryan master of ceremonies. There were also present in the choir Rev. Fathers Coffey and Cleary.

The ceremonies in connection with the solemn opening of the recently-completed and handsome Convent of Mercy, South Dunedin, will commence at 10.30 a.m. on next Sunday week, the 16th inst. His Grace the Archbishop of Wellington will preach on the occasion, and their Lordships the Bishops of Christchurch and Auckland are also expected to be present.

A very successful social gathering in aid of the Home for the Aged Poor was held in St. Joseph's Hall, on Wednesday evening of last week. There were upwards of 200 persons present. It is pleasing to record that the movement for the establishment of this very necessary and deserving institution is meeting with every encouragement, and has been taken up with the greatest enthusiasm.

**INVERCARGILL NOTES.**

(From a correspondent.)

The institution which has locally made great progress of late in connection with the church is St. Mary's choir. Under the baton of Mr. A. R. Wills this choir has made very rapid strides and to his unflinching energy, together with the cordial co-operation of its various members, it owes its present high state of efficiency. On Sunday, the 19th, they were favored with the assistance of Miss McCloskie, from Wellington. At the Offertory at 11 o'clock Mass she sang 'O Divine Redeemer, and at Vespers 'There is a green hill far away,' in both of which, especially the latter, her fine mezzo-soprano voice was heard to the best advantage.

I hear a great deal of talk about starting a branch of the H.A.C.B. Society in Invercargill. We have here amongst us ample material for the successful working of such a society. There are at present a sufficient number of Catholics paying into other lodges to form a branch, to say nothing of the number who are willing to join a Catholic lodge should one be formed.

The Invercargill Amateur Dramatic Club are at present busily engaged rehearsing a drama entitled the 'Siege of Sebastopol,' which they are staging on the night of the Irish Athletic Society's sports and the following night. The greater number of those taking part are actors who have already won names for themselves on the local stage, and if the vigor and enthusiasm which they put into the rehearsals be taken as a criterion, the public can rely upon getting a good night's enjoyment. The drama, which is a military one, has a plot that is stirring all the way through, and in some parts is very pathetic, and will be staged with full military effects. The whole is under the able management of Mr. A. R. Wills.

On last Sunday night the Rev. Father Lynch preached his first sermon to an Invercargill congregation, and created a very good impression. He warned his hearers against the inclination that there was in the struggle for the gold-getting to entirely discard the duties imposed upon them by their Creator. People, he said, should come to church not to be entertained by the mere eloquence or attractiveness of a sermon, but to hear the word of God contained therein and learn practical lessons therefrom. The Vespers were rendered by the choir in their usual excellent style, and Miss E. Kelleher sang 'Nazareth' in a finished manner.

**NEW ZEALAND: GENERAL**

A MAORI named Hamiria Ma'in died at Puketeraki last week at the extraordinary age of 110 years.

MR. J. HUTCHESON, senior member for Wellington, states that he is not likely to seek re-election in December.

THE Cheviot postmaster reports that a very sharp shock of earthquake, accompanied by a loud boom, occurred on Sunday night.

THE Christchurch City Council is about to erect municipal abattoirs at a cost of £10,000. Several of the local butchers object to the proposal, as they consider it unnecessary.

THE *Triad* has a well established reputation for the excellent reading matter which it supplies to its patrons, and the February issue of this popular monthly is well up to its usual standard.

SIR JOSEPH WARD says that the system of keeping telegraph offices open to midnight has been a failure throughout the Colony, and the Government will therefore shortly revert to the old system of closing the offices at 8 p.m.

IT will be of interest to the farming community to know that the Premier has received a cable from the Imperial authorities stating that a large order for general produce, mostly oats, for South Africa would be placed in New Zealand.

THE Department of Agriculture estimates the yields of cereal crops as follows:—Wheat—163,462 acres at 25 bushels per acre, 4,086,550 bushels; oats—405,921 acres at 34 bushels per acre, 13,801,416 bushels; barley—26,511 acres at 28 bushels per acre, 742,392 bushels.

THE Mokoia, which left Dunedin on Sunday for Melbourne via the South, took away 4000 head of poultry for South Africa. The shipment will have to be transferred to a South African liner at Melbourne, and it is expected the extra cost of transhipping and other charges will prevent the exporter from reaping much profit from the venture.

THE bakers in Christchurch have raised the price of the 2lb loaf by one halfpenny, making it now 3d. They say this step has been forced on them by the rise of 25s per ton in the price of flour, and also by the increase in general expenses, such as wages, coals, coachbuilding, rates, and so on.

A meeting of citizens interested in the proposal to arrange a farewell social to the Premier on behalf of the people of Auckland prior to his departure for London to take part in the Coronation ceremonies was held on Monday. Mr. J. H. Wutheford, M.H.R., presided. The Mayor, in a letter apologising for absence, trusted the affair would be successful, which he believed would be the case, provided the function was of a non-political nature. After discussion it was decided that those present, together with the town and country members of Parliament, the city and suburban Mayors, chairmen of county councils, road boards, and other public bodies, leaders of Auckland organisations, and a number of prominent citizens who had expressed a desire to assist, should form a General Committee.

THE plans for the new electric tramway service submitted to the Wellington Council provides for an express service from Berhampore, beyond Newtown, right through to the Hutt road at the north end of the city, escaping the crowded streets by running along the harbor frontage wherever possible. A slower service will be provided through the centre of the city and to Upper Cuba street and Wallace street, also through Upper Willis and Aro streets to Polhill Gully. Lines will also be laid up Molesworth street and Tinakori road and right around Oriental Bay to the end of the city boundary. This will mean a complete revolution in the city transport service. The new order of things is supposed to be in full working order three years hence, and work is to commence forthwith.

AT the Conference of the Chambers of Commerce which was opened in Wellington on Tuesday Mr. D. J. Nathan (Wellington), president, occupied the chair, and in his opening said that the position of the mercantile and industrial life was far from justifying the pessimism that had characterised the utterances of public men and the press. No doubt wool was as low in price as would ever be known, but signs of improvement were noticeable. Com-