

who go about the country disturbing the peace of cemeteries, raking ghosts out of the graves at all kinds of inconvenient and ridiculous hours to answer all kinds of foolish questions at so much per question. Corney flatters himself with being a good Catholic. But stung by curiosity and egged on by idleness, he lapsed into folly last week and attended one of the long-haired fraud's *séances*. After three or four 'dear departed' had informed their inquiring friends, with sweet indefiniteness, that they were quite 'appy, that the climate was temperate, and the company 'fair to middlin', etc. Corney stood up and called for the 'sperret' of one John Tobin, a 'townee' of his from th' Ould Sod who was a 'smiddy' in the good old days in Central Otago. John, when 'called up' must have been at the bank or at a committee meeting or in some other inconvenient place. At last the periwig-pated fellow on the stage announced that the carbonic acid gas—or whatever it was that constituted John Tobin's invisible ghost—was present and ready to be interrogated. Corney began:

'Ye're dead, ain't ye, John?'

'I ham,' came in sepulchral tones out of the darkness,

'It was a fine berrin' the Crummle people gev ye, John?'

'It wuz a reg'lar slap-hup haffair,' replied John.

'An' I suppose ye're plazed intirely wid the headstone they've put to y'r grave, John?'

'It's a wery fine one, and I'm wery thankful for it.'

'Well, John, me bouchail, ye were a liar livin', an' ye're a liar dead. I was in Crummle last week an' divil the bit of a headstone ye have, and divil the sign of a one ye're likely to get.'

After that the ghosts got their vapory backs up and the *séance* came to an abrupt and inglorious conclusion. The 'mop-head' intended to remain a week on the Island, but he discovered that he had important engagements to fulfil on the mainland. And he went to fulfil them.

### An Errant Sun.

The Paris *Figaro* (so say our daily papers) publishes a telegram from San Francisco stating that the astronomers at the Lick Observatory have discovered a sun travelling at the rate of 56,250 miles an hour. It is a very strange coincidence, but this is the precise rate at which the only son of my father used to travel home from school. His pace when sneaking like a snail unwillingly to school was one mile in 56,250 hours. The Lick astronomers are certain about the pace of this new sun because the man that sweeps out the Observatory went up and measured it with a bit of string. This samo official also watched its direction. He says that it is romping along towards the earth, but he is unable to tell, within a thousand or two of years, when it will be here. But don't let that discourage you. You will be made aware of its arrival when it does come. Meanwhile do not leave anything breakable where it is likely to fall off, as there may be a bit of a bump, and try and persuade your wife's mother to sit regularly in the shade of any tall and shaky chimney that you have about the premises.

## Quips

### DIOCESE OF DUNEDIN.

The mission which was conducted by the Very Rev. Father Boyle and the Rev. Father Henry in the Gore Catholic Church (says the *Standard*) was well attended. It was brought to a close on last Sunday evening.

His Lordship Bishop Verdon will administer the Sacrament of Confirmation in St. Patrick's Basilica, South Dunedin, on Palm Sunday, the 23rd instant.

A mission will be opened by the Vincentian Fathers in St. Joseph's Cathedral on next Sunday at the 11 o'clock Mass, and in St. Patrick's Basilica, South Dunedin, at the same hour.

In the list of subscriptions to the building fund of the Convent of Mercy, South Dunedin, published in our issue of the 20th ult., 'Mrs. P. Monaghan' should read 'Mr. J. Monaghan.'

At the recent Junior Civil Service examination the names of Thomas Pound, Cornelius G. D. Maher, John M. Brennan, and William O. Shane are found amongst the successful candidates. These were the only pupils presented from the Christian Brothers' school, Dunedin.

The Cardrona correspondent of an exchange writes:—The Catholics have got their church lined and fitted up, and are to be congratulated on the change. It must have required something of an enthusiast to turn out to service in the winter in the rather too well ventilated building that did duty as a hall and chapel. Now it looks cosy and comfortable and is a credit to all concerned.

THE marks obtained by the pupils who passed the Trinity College practical examination in music from the Convent of Mercy, Greymouth, have come to hand. The following is the list of successful candidates, and marks obtained:—Senior honors—Eileen Kemple, 85. Senior pass—Augusta Skoglund, 61. Intermediate honors—Mary Ellen Noonan, 80. Intermediate pass—Mabel Harris, 72; Annie Macdonell, 71; Lily Cottle, 70; Katie Macdonell, 60. Junior pass—Eileen Hannan (singing), 74. Preparatory—Joan of Arc O'Reilly, 85 (specially commended); May Petersen, 78; Annie Bowman, 72; Mary Ellen McCarthy, 69.

The half-yearly meeting of the Altar Society connected with St. Patrick's Basilica, South Dunedin, was held on Sunday afternoon and was well attended. The Rev. Father Coffey complimented the members on the good work accomplished during the past year.

On Sunday next the Catholic members of the Ninth Contingent, numbering about 55, will attend in a body the nine o'clock Mass at St. Patrick's Basilica, South Dunedin, and approach the Holy Table. Afterwards breakfast will be served in the schoolroom by a number of the ladies of the congregation. The Rev. Father Coffey has been most assiduous in his attention to the spiritual wants of the troopers.

During his missionary visit to South Dunedin recently, the Rev. Father Colgan, S.J., established in St. Patrick's Basilica another of those excellent religious societies which are the means of doing such a vast amount of good throughout the world at the present time. The obligations attached to the Adoration Society are that the members will spend half an hour each week before the Blessed Sacrament. When it is considered the large number who have already joined the society, and also the great edification shown daily in the church, it must be gratifying to the Rev. Father to learn that the good work started by him is all that could be desired.

All arrangements for the Irish National concert, to be held in the Garrison Hall on St. Patrick's night, are now completed, and the committee anticipate that it will be the most successful ever given in Dunedin. Some of the leading vocalists in this city have consented to assist, and from the reputation of the performers it is safe to say that the exquisite songs of Ireland will be interpreted in a manner worthy of the occasion, and to the entire satisfaction of the audience. It has been decided to make the charge for admission as low as possible, so that everyone may have the opportunity of attending.

The following are the results of the Practical examination in connection with Trinity College, London, held in St. Dominic's College by Mr. A. Mistowski, Mus. Bac., in November last:—Senior Grade: May Duggan (honors), 84; Josephine Griffin (honors), 80; Edith Roughan (pass), 77; Isabel Seelye (pass), 77; M. O'Grady (pass), 76s; G. Meenan (pass), 76. Intermediate Grade: Mabel King (honors), 81. Junior Grade: Minnie Collins (honors), 87; M. Gawne (honors), 80; V. Thonson (violin, honors), 82; E. Clark (pass), 71; T. Millar (pass), 70; A. Carmody (pass), 68; F. Larnor (pass), 61. Preparatory: Kitty Byrne (violin), 96; Kathleen Collins (pass), 88; Frances Byrne (pass), 76. The following pupils of St. Dominic's College were successful at the recent Junior Civil Service Examinations:—Teresa Kilmartin and Annie Plunkett.

The Catholic community of South Dunedin have every reason to feel pleased at having erected in St. Patrick's Basilica the handsome set of Stations of the Cross which came to hand last month. The Stations are mounted in massive oak frames, the figures, in terra cotta, standing well out from the background, the scenery on which is painted in true artistic taste. The Stations were solemnly blessed and erected by the Rev. Father Coffey, and on Friday evening last the Rev. Father Murphy preached an eloquent sermon appropriate to the occasion. The donors of the Stations (amongst whom it may be mentioned are several working men) no doubt feel greatly pleased at seeing such beautiful and lasting monuments to their relatives and friends placed so prominently in the church, and indeed all who have seen them are loud in praise of the grand works of art which adorn the walls of the sacred building. The following are the names of the donors of the Stations:—Miss Murphy, Mr. M. Tynan, Mr. M. Fleming, Mrs. Hegarty, Mr. J. O'Connor, Mr. J. Fitzpatrick, Mr. D. O'Mahoney, Messrs W. and A. Shiel, Mr. M. M-Key, the late Mr. F. Johnson, Mrs. Liston, the Women's Confraternity of the Sacred Heart, Mr. John McGowan, and the Rev. J. Coffey. The total cost of the Stations, including erecting, amounts to close on £250.

### INVERCARGILL NOTES.

(From a correspondent.)

I hear that the pupils of the Dominican Nuns intend holding an entertainment here shortly.

Quite a gloom was cast over the town, and flags were lowered to half-mast last Friday when news was received that 20 men belonging to the Seventh N.Z. Contingent had been killed and 38 wounded. Many and eager were the inquiries of those who had friends in that contingent, and when the list of casualties arrived a few hours later it came as a great relief to many to learn that it contained no Invercargill names, although three Southland representatives had nobly shed their blood on the battlefield.

Mr. J. A. Hanan, M.H.R., has lately been very busy holding forth on the claims of this district to have the Railway Workshops reinstated here. Some time ago, in answer to a deputation, the Minister for Railways stated that this matter would be attended to, and immediately purchased a suitable site. Since then nothing has been done in the matter, and now that a number of mechanics are idle Mr. Hanan has been urging upon the Government the necessity of getting the work under way at once. The sooner this matter is taken in hand the better for the district.

The chief topic of interest in the political world at present is 'Rating on Unimproved values.' Messrs. Raymond and Morris have been busy lately visiting the main centres explaining the many advantages and disadvantages of the new system, which I believe is so intricate as to require a Philadelphia lawyer to thoroughly understand it.

After an absence of a few years the Rev. Brother Walter is again back among us. During his previous residence here he made numerous friends, being a special favorite with the members of the Young Men's Club, who will all be glad of his presence again amongst them.