

cooking vessel), and everything, pignatta and all, has gone!" remonstrated the poor woman. "Have patience," insisted the Eminentissimo, smiling, "the fault was yours; you went off and did not watch, and some sinner who evidently tries to catch others in fault, took the pignatta while the cat took the meat!" Finally the mystery was solved: A poor man had come to the Cardinal with a pitiful story of a sick wife and hungry children who had nothing to eat and no one to make dinner for them, and seized by a sudden inspiration, his Eminence had hit upon the clever plan of sparing to the poor man even the trouble of going to buy the broth with the money, of which he had given him, besides the pignatta, a considerable sum to provide for many future meals.'

The Nancy Convent

The Eskimo loves his feed of blubber best when it is 'high' enough to drive a clean white man up the chimney and spread a pestilence over a whole country side. In the same way the fanatics of the saffron sash and their leaders in the conventicle pulpits chew and mouth upon every infected and purulent tale which circumstance or the father of lies places before them to the discredit of the great object of their hate, the Catholic Church. They have lately been exploiting to an unconscionable degree what has come to be known as 'the Nancy Convent affair,' with a view to crippling the reputation and the work of the great institution of the Good Shepherd in Melbourne. Some of their preachers, and especially a clerical firebrand from New Zealand, have attacked such Catholic institutions with frantic violence. Their weapon in every case was the historic one which Sampson used once on a time against the Philistines. Those excitable white Dervishes persist in reminding us of the big drum that plays such a leading part in the outer ceremonial of the Irish Orange lodges—they are all noise and emptiness. We have already laid before our readers the facts of the Nancy Convent affair. The vitriol-throwing campaign of the Yellow Agony in Melbourne has resulted in the publication, by Massina and Co., of Melbourne, of the fullest, most complete, and most unanswerable vindication of the Nancy nuns, that has yet come under our notice. It is translated from the 'Reforme Sociale' of June 16, and is from the pen of Mr. Henri Joly, who is a noted author and crime expert, and Vice-President of the International Society of Social Economy and of the General Society of Prisons. The pity of it is, that we have not yet a Catholic Truth Society to spread this excellent little publication to the furthest inhabited corners of Australasia. If M. Joly's article were adequately circulated, the miscalled 'Nancy scandal' would be speedily snowed under.

DIOCESE OF DUNEDIN

On Sunday next his Lordship Bishop Verdon will hold a visitation at Ophir and administer the Sacrament of Confirmation.

The annual meeting of St. Joseph's Ladies' Club was held in St. Joseph's Hall on Wednesday week. There was a large attendance of members, and the Rev. Father Murphy presided. The report showed a very satisfactory state of affairs of the past season's transactions. One of the principal paragraphs had reference to the successful production of the operetta, 'A Dress Rehearsal,' on two occasions, and also to Mr. Anthony's excellent coaching of the performers. The Club gave several invitation social evenings during the season, and on each occasion the attractive musical programme presented was greatly appreciated. The annual social, which was held in the Victoria Hall, proved to be the most entertaining yet given under the auspices of the Club. There were over 300 present, and a plentiful supply of refreshments, good music, and a first-class programme were the chief factors in the evening's proceedings. The usual classes connected with the Club have been conducted with successful results, besides various amusements helping to pleasantly pass away the winter evening meetings. The election of office bearers for the ensuing twelve months resulted as follows:—President, Miss Staunton (re-elected); hon. secretary and treasurer, Miss Purton; committee, Misses Johnston, Hannan, Poppel-

well, and O'Neill. The Rev. Father Murphy congratulated the Club on the great strides it had been making each season, and also on the increase in membership. The balance sheet was one the Club had every reason to be proud of, and he wished them every success in the future. Votes of thanks to the retiring office-bearers were carried unanimously. The balance sheet is published elsewhere in this issue.

The Dunedin Musical, Literary, and Elocutionary Competition Society's second annual festival began on Saturday last. The pupils of the Christian Brothers' School have as usual gained more than their share of the elocutionary honors, especially in the junior sections. In the recitation, 'The soldier's dream,' for boys under 14 years, out of 22 competitors Masters R. Burke, T. Lafey, and P. Schiuter obtained the second, third, and fifth places respectively. Referring to this competition, the 'Evening Star' says: 'Gestures varied from none at all to very good; or, rather, to what was worse—to action that was quite inappropriate, and even bizarre. Those of the competitors who had been trained at the local Christian Brothers' School seemed to have imbibed the best notion of appropriate gesture, No. 11 (Master William O'Connor) being particularly good.' In the selection from Shakespeare, 'Henry V. before Harfleur,' open to boys and girls under 15 (number of competitors 19), Masters R. Burke and Thomas Rogan were placed second and fifth respectively. The 'Otago Daily Times,' referring pointedly to the Christian Brothers' School, after enunciating the theory that competitors should be encouraged to be original rather than to be imitative, adds: 'But at the same time it had to be admitted that these boys were far and away better than any others who were competing.' But the most important achievement to the credit of the Christian Brothers' School in this year's elocutionary competitions was the winning of first place in the recitation, 'Roderick Dhu,' open to gentlemen under 21 years. Mr. Henry Hungerford was the successful competitor, and his victory was all the more creditable as he had to beat last year's winner of the same class.

Opening of a New Church at Clyde

(By Telegraph.)

On Sunday the new Catholic Church just erected at Clyde was solemnly blessed and opened by his Lordship Bishop Verdon, assisted by the Rev. Father Murphy, Adm., St. Joseph's Cathedral, and the Rev. Father Hunt, pastor of Cromwell. The church was crowded both morning and evening, and the Catholics of Clyde are naturally very proud of their new church, which is a substantial building of stone, roofed with Marseilles tiles. The ceremony of blessing took place shortly before nine, immediately after which his Lordship celebrated Mass. At 11 o'clock a Missa Cantata was sung by the Rev. Father Murphy, when Bishop Verdon preached the occasional sermon. The music of the Mass—Farmer's in B flat—was splendidly rendered by the choir under the leadership of Mrs. O'Kane, Mrs. Costelloe taking the principal soprano solos. An efficient orchestra under Mr. Briasco gave valuable assistance. The sermon in the evening was preached by the Rev. Father Murphy. The church, which is dedicated to St. Dunstan—Dunstan, by the way, being the former name of Clyde—is certainly a great credit to the Catholics of the district, who, although few in numbers, make up for it in generosity, a practical demonstration of which was given during the day, when the collections totalled the respectable sum of £150. In making known this result at the evening service, the zealous and popular pastor of the Cromwell parish, Rev. Father Hunt, expressed his pleasure at his people's liberality, and thanked all who had assisted at the day's ceremonies. It may be mentioned that the church was very appropriately and tastefully decorated, the work reflecting great credit on those responsible for it.

Style and Dimensions.

The new church is a very substantial and well-finished building, being constructed on most permanent principles. The foundations are of cement concrete fixed on the solid rock, the walls of masonry, and the roof of Marseilles tiles. The fittings generally are of sound timber and workmanship. The style adopted by the architect (Mr. F. W. Petre) in designing this building is the early English Gothic, which, though simple, has many recommendations for church architecture. Externally, the high pointed gables of both main building and porch, the long, narrow pointed window openings with their splayed reveals and the buttresses are quite in keeping with the style, and contribute greatly to the effect of the building. Internally, the building consists of a porch over the main entrance, a nave 18ft. by 36ft., sanctuary 12ft. by 14ft., and a sacristy 8ft. by 14ft., opening into