

**A Sane Opinion**

How will the new Pope view the war against religion in France? A highly probable answer to this query is supplied by Mr. Sedgwick in a recent number of the 'Atlantic Monthly.' Mr. Sedgwick takes, for a non-Catholic, a singularly sane and reasonable view of the situation, and this is part of what he has to say. 'It is not likely that the Pope will submit to what he believes an endeavor to eradicate Christianity from France. It would not be fair to desert the Religious Orders, whose main object is to promote the interests of the Church, since he believes that those interests and the spiritual interests of men are one and inseparable. One cannot glance over the history of the papacy for the last hundred years without thinking it likely that the Church will find means to retrieve her position in France. Her opportunity may come there, as it will may in the rest of Europe, out of the general need for an antidote to the materialism of successful socialism; then perhaps she may persuade leaders of men that religion even mingled with superstition—if that qualification please them—is more necessary to the laboring classes than municipal ownership of the means of production or the equal division of the fruits of labor. All things may come to the Church that waits.'

**DIOCESE OF DUNEDIN**

The Very Rev. Father O'Farrell, C.S.S.R., arrived in Dunedin from Melbourne on Tuesday evening. He proceeded by the express to Christchurch on Wednesday.

The Dunedin Catholic schools' picnic is fixed for February 3. Arrangements in connection with the day's outing are already in full swing.

We understand that the St. Vincent de Paul Orphanage will receive the handsome return of some £135 net from the recent performances of the 'Rose and Shamrock.'

Rev. Father O'Connell, S.M., Christchurch, arrived in Dunedin on Thursday last, and was the guest of the Bishop. He proceeded on Monday to visit Invercargill and the Lakes.

The quarterly meeting of the Dunedin branch of the H.A.C.B.S. was held on the 8th inst., a large number of members being present. A keen interest was displayed in the business to be brought forward at the triennial meeting of the district Board, to be held in Timaru about the end of February, 1904. The report of a committee previously appointed to consider the same was unanimously adopted and the delegates were instructed to act accordingly. It was decided to pay the proposed friendly visit to the Milton branch on Saturday, the 19th inst., when it is expected a good muster of members will attend, as a large number have already handed in their names. During the evening eight new members were initiated and five candidates were proposed. The following officers were nominated for the coming term:—President, Bro. J. J. Marlow (re-elected); vice-president, Bro. J. M. Casey; secretary, Bro. J. O'Connor (re-elected); treasurer, Bro. D. O'Mahoney (re-elected); warden, Bro. W. Butler; guardian, Bro. J. Curran; sick visitors, Bros. J. Casey and T. McDermott (re-elected); auditors, Bros. W. Carr and J. Hally (re-elected); delegates to Timaru, Bros. J. J. Marlow and J. O'Connor.

**PORT CHALMERS.**

(From a correspondent)

The pupils attending the Convent School at Port Chalmers gave their annual entertainment in the Foresters' Hall on Friday evening, December 11. There was a very large audience and the programme was carried out in a most commendable manner. The opening chorus, 'The harp,' by the pupils, was followed by a duet played on three pianos and an organ by Misses Cox, Borlase (2), Hart, S. Anderson, Earl, and A. Anderson. The infant class gave an action song, 'Pretty Kit,' which was very much admired by the audience. Miss Dunsmuir delighted the audience by singing 'The carnival' with great taste, and was loudly encored, when she gave a beautiful rendering of 'Kilmarney.' The action song, 'Little soldiers,' was very nicely given by the junior boys. A comedieta entitled 'Mrs Willis' Will' was played by the Misses Hart, M. Borlase, L. Salter, J. Cox, and A. Borlase, and created a great deal of mirth. Miss N. Drake's singing of 'The rose

of Lucerne' was very well received. A cantata, 'Soot, and the Fairies,' in which the parts were taken by the Misses M. Hart and A. Anderson, with Masters McCann, King, W. Hart, E. Hind, J. Connolly, and G. Albertson, brought the first part to a close. The second part of the programme also proved very successful, opening with the song, 'Japanese fan,' by the senior girls. This was followed by a duet on three pianos and organ, entitled 'Sans souci,' by the Misses Borlase (2), Drake, Cox, Hart, Earl, and A. Anderson. Master S. King sang 'Comrades,' the senior boys singing the chorus. A dialogue, 'Little helpers,' followed, in which Misses R. Anderson, M. Mackie, M. Johnson, K. Anderson, and Masters Neill and Mackie took part. Miss Dunsmuir's reappearance brought forth rounds of applause, when she sang 'Good bye,' but the audience were determined not to let her off so lightly, and as an encore she consented to sing again, delighting them by singing 'Home sweet home.' A duet, 'Flambeaux march,' played on three pianos and organ, was the next item, and was very nicely rendered by the Misses Cox, A. Anderson, Hart, Earl, Borlase (2), and N. Drake. A drama, 'The Mad-cap Student,' created great merriment and was very well carried out by the following: Masters J. Anderson, W. Anderson, G. Albertson, S. King, W. Hart, L. McCann. A pinafore song and dance followed by the Misses McCann, Ruddy, A. Anderson, Cowan, Drake, R. Anderson, and Mackie, all of whom sustained their parts with great credit. The song (in character), 'Jolly old men,' by Masters Mead, Hind, Scott, Albertson, and Neill (2), which was received with shouts of laughter, brought a most successful programme to a close. The Rev. Father Howard returned thanks to those who had so kindly assisted in the entertainment, especially Misses Dunsmuir and Earl, and to the Sisters who had taken such great pains in training their pupils, also to the public who had given their hearty support and made it a financial success.

**St. Dominick's College, Dunedin**

The closing exercises of St. Dominic's College, Dunedin, took place on last Tuesday evening. St. Joseph's School (the old Cathedral) was densely crowded. Among those present were his Lordship the Bishop, Very Rev. Father O'Farrell, C.S.S.R. (Ballarat), Very Rev. J. O'Neill (Milton), and the clergy of Dunedin and Mosgiel. An exceptionally clever and interesting entertainment was given by the pupils, and it elicited the warmest encomiums both for the teachers and the taught. It opened with a finely rendered chorus ('April Showers'). A cleverly played piano selection followed (three pianos), by Misses Miller, Collins, and Martyn. Misses Helps and Paton gave a finished rendering of the 'Dunorah duct' on harp and piano, and Misses Montague, Carey, Sweeney, O'Grady, Paton, and Wood gave a finely executed 'Valse Caprice' on three pianos. A spirited piece was the 'Cornelius March' by the College orchestra of twelve performers. Miss H. Sweeney gave a fine interpretation of Beethoven's vocal solo, 'Intermezzo.' Scene 1, act 4, of 'King John' was next staged with quite exceptional ability and elocutionary skill by the Misses McGrath, Collins, Byrne, and Flannery. Miss Myra Montague, who is a specially gifted pianist, contributed two splendid numbers from Czerny and Scharwenka. A fine chorus followed, and a very enjoyable musical programme was brought to a close by a capital rendering of a grand duo on Russian airs by the Misses Paton and O'Grady.

The prizes were distributed by his Lordship the Bishop at intervals between the various items of the programme. The following is the prize list:—

Junior Grade, Class B.—Religious knowledge, May Burke, English, Helena Maloney; arithmetic, May Burke, reading, Olive Jolly; class singing, Maggie Burke, attention to studies, Norma Naismith; politeness, Maud Begbie. Class A.—Religious knowledge (silver medal), Annie O'Brien; English and arithmetic, Rachel Johnson; violin, Kitty Byrne; French, Rachel Johnson; general improvement, Irene Robertson; order and neatness, Milly Woodger; deportment, Dolores McDonald; good conduct, Dolores McDonald.

Intermediate Grade, Class B.—Class Medalist (silver medal), Bella Lahey; arithmetic, Maggie Jopp; French, Nellie O'Sullivan; needlework, Maggie Jopp; penmanship, Vera McConnochie; history, F. Crosse; application, Kath'een Stewart, Nora O'Donnell, and S. Drury. Class A.—Class Medalist (silver medal), Madge Fletcher; arithmetic, Winnie Power; order, Mary Tobin; history, Irene Ford; elocution, Kathleen Collins; mapping, F. Crosse; calisthenics, Lucy Waite; attendance, Mary Murphy; physiology, Margaret Gawne; application, Mary Caldwell; model drawing (silver medal), Ethel Clark; composition, Frances Byrne; needlework, Eva Taylor.

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