

GOOD-BYE, NEW ZEALAND!

(Lines written by the late Father Taylor, S.M., on leaving New Zealand as a boy.)

I.

My island home, dear land of peace and joy,
My childhood's nurse, my youth's wild passionate love,
Thy scenes which gladdened, soothed me as a boy
Are not to cheer my manhood—doomed to rove.

Too well I loved thee, something like a mother—
Death early tore her from my lonely heart,
It searched in vain the wide world for another
Its filial love to thee it did impart.

I well remember, even as a child,
How close I clung, and even loved to be
In some lone spot of beauty green and wild,
Or else in rapture by the queenly sea.

There's not a leaf, a tree, a flower that blows
Upon thy bosom, natural garden fair,
But round my heart has wound a tender close
To rend—to sever—which I cannot bear.

II.

Fond isle, the stout ship bears me far away,
Thy blue line fades before me like a cloud;
Can'st thou, departing child of Maui, stay
Tears and sighs for home or wailings loud?

My tongue be loosed, my thoughts, heart, soul be thrilled,
Spirit of home of tender life awake,
Breathe through these strings and let the air be filled,
Love's departing grief a dying dirge doth wake.

My sense grows dim, I sink as in a trance,
Accept, oh, Ocean's pride in sight a while
The tears of Scotland's Queen for lovely France,
Childe Harold's fond good-night to Albion's isle.

I will not weep, I dare not even sigh,
Such outward grief is loud, but early fled;
Love's keenest sorrows wrapt in silence lie
Around the heart: it throbs as though it bled.

III.

The patriot's love at times to frenzy burns,
The poet's lyre re-echoes from the sea,
No heart for island home too fondly yearns,
The siren's song is music sweet to me.

Each clime with charms is full in Protean hue,
Rare beauty blooms where man has never trod,
But all Earth's glories, in condensed review,
Reflect thine image—noble work of God.

Oh, bitter doom! we ne'er shall meet again,
Perhaps souls haunt the scenes beloved of yore;
In dreams, in thought, in death I'll cross the main,
My spirit freed shall hover round thy shore.

Farewell! a long farewell; for I cannot
Say *au revoir*, such hope doth fear to bloom;
If I forget thee let me be forgot,
Inscribe one word, "ungrateful," on my tomb.
J. T. (Aroha.)

(North Island.)

To make a proper use of time, both for the requirements of this world and the world to come, is the sublimest knowledge, for it exalts man by bringing him nearer to the perfection of the Infinite.

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Carterton

The juvenile plain and fancy dress ball, which had been looked forward to for some time with keen interest, was held at the King's Theatre recently, and was very successful (writes a correspondent). There was a large attendance, representing all parts of the district, and the children were attired in many quaint and pretty costumes. The Mayor and Mayoress, Mr. and Mrs. W. Howard Booth, critically judged the costumes, and first prize was awarded to little Miss Jean Miller (Butterfly), the prize for which (10s 6d) was kindly donated by Mr. Geo. Morris. In the boys' section, Master Anthony Downes (Chinese Emperor) was the first prize-winner. As there were so many other dresses of such equal merit, the judges donated two special prizes, and these were awarded to Maggie Stratford (Roller Flour Mills) and Jackie Lenihan (Wee Irishman). During the evening Miss Jessie Bond danced a spring dance, and was heartily applauded. Master Teddy Quill, of Masterton, who is the possessor of a beautiful voice, sang twice, and was enthusiastically encored, Miss Dudson playing the accompaniment. The music for the dancing was played by Mr. V. Fraser, while extras were contributed by Misses Berrill, Bouzaid, Redmond, and Dudson, while Miss D. Dudson assisted with her violin. Messrs. G. Morris and J. Slutkowski made capable M.C.'s. The supper arrangements, which were on an elaborate scale, were in charge of an enthusiastic committee of ladies, and the decorations of the hall and the supper room were also of special merit. The hon. secretaries for the event were Misses C. Berrill and K. Redmond, who had all arrangements well in hand, and this contributed to the success of the function.

Nelson

(From our own correspondent.)

October 6.

Within the past fortnight St. Mary's Choir has met on two occasions for the purpose of saying farewell to valued members: Misses Rita Armstrong and Eileen Joyce. Miss Armstrong has left for Greymouth, while Miss Joyce (organist) takes up a position in Begg's music warehouse at Wellington. At both gatherings Father McGrath spoke words of appreciation on behalf of the choir and congregation, and voiced the general regret that such valuable and willing helpers were leaving the parish.

The St. Mary's Tennis Club held its opening on Saturday last under most favorable conditions. Father Fay, patron of the club, declared the season open, and afternoon tea was then served to the members and their friends, of whom many were from other church clubs.

Parishioners in Takaka, a remote corner of this extensive parish, are working hard for a bazaar to be held there next month.

ST. JOSEPH'S LADIES' CLUB, DUNEDIN.

This year's session of St. Joseph's Ladies' Club was brought to a close last week, when, on the ordinary meeting night, an enjoyable social was held in the clubroom, St. Joseph's Hall, there being an excellent attendance of members. The first part of the programme consisted of progressive euchre, the prizes being won by Misses M. Lemon and E. Schoen. Songs were contributed by Miss Freda Kennedy, and a vocal duet by Misses A. McCready and N. McKenzie. At an interval Father Kaveney (chaplain to the club), in addressing the assemblage, sincerely thanked the president (Miss N. Knott) for the able manner in which she had managed the affairs of the club, and also Miss A. McCready, who had proved herself a very capable secretary. As the activities of the club, so far as weekly meetings were concerned, would be suspended till next year, Father Kaveney said he hoped the present membership would remain intact and that many new members would be induced to join next year when the club reopened.



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