

perfect it is, and the more various and numerous the elements that have flowed into its perfection, the more powerful will be the emotion, the power, the god it calls among us. . . .

"Because an emotion does not exist, or does not become perceptible and active among us, till it has found its expression in color or in sound or in form, or in all of these, and because no two modulations or arrangements of these evoke the same emotion, poets and painters and musicians, and in a less degree, because their effects are momentary, day and night and cloud and shadow, are continually making and unmaking mankind. It is indeed only those things which seem useless or very feeble that have any power, and all these things that seem useful or strong, armies, moving wheels, modes of architecture, modes of government, speculations of the reason, would have been a little different if some mind long ago had not given itself to some emotion, as a woman gives herself to her lover, and shaped sounds or colors or forms, or all of these, into a musical relation, that their emotion might live in other minds. A little lyric evokes an emotion, and this emotion gathers others about it and melts into their being in the making of some great epic: and at last, needing always a delicate body, or symbol, as it grows more powerful, it flows out, with all its gathered emotion, among the blind instincts of daily life, where it moves a power within powers, as one sees ring within ring on the stem of an old tree. This may be what Arthur O'Shaughnessy meant when he made his poets say they had built Nineveh with their sighing: and I am certainly never certain, when I hear of some war, or of some religious excitement, or of some new manufacture, or of anything else that fills the ear of the world, that it has not all happened because of something that a boy piped in Thessaly. . . .

"It is the intellect that decides where the reader shall ponder over the procession of the symbols: and if the symbols are merely emotional, he gazes from amid accidents and destinies of the world: but if the symbols are intellectual, he becomes himself a part of pure intellect, and he is himself mingled with the procession. If I watch a rushy pool in the moonlight, my emotion at its beauty is mixed with memories of the man that I have seen ploughing by its margin, or of the lovers I saw there a night ago; but if I look at the moon herself and remember any of her ancient names and meanings, I move among divine people, and things that have shaken off our mortality, the tower of ivory, the queen of waters, the shining stag among enchanted woods, the white hare sitting upon the hill-top, the fool of faery with the shining cup of dreams, and it may be, make a friend of one of those images of wonder, and 'meet the Lord in the air.'"

We do not publish this long extract without some compunction. To many of our readers it will be Greek. Yet, to others a little light on a problem in Aesthetics may be welcome. Yeats hardly pretends to be a philosopher, but we, who once upon a time read avidly everything the sages had to say on the subject, from Longinus and Aristotle down to Hermann Lotze and Tolstoi, believe the Irish poet throws in the light of his own genius a fresh illumination on those intangible, shadowy problems of the rationale of art and poetry. The extract is too short to do him justice: it is long enough to give our readers a fair idea of his mastery of nervous, clear, beautiful English prose.

EDITORIAL NOTE

Several readers have been writing to us under the impression that every politician's advertisement in our pages implies that the editor has set the seal of his approval on all these candidates. A little reflection will tell them that such is by no means the case. The manager accepts all sorts of advertisements from budding politicians on the principle that it is just as well for them to do some good for their country. The editor of course has his own opinions about most of them, but he does not set them down here or go round the Dominion offering (with the help of the boss behind who pulls the wires) to pay the expenses of inconvenient candidates and secure them a seat in the Legislative Council.

DIOCESE OF DUNEDIN

Mr. Thos. P. Cummins, late editor of the *Green Ray*, has been offered and has accepted the position of sub-editor of the *Grey River Argus*, the new Labor daily on the West Coast. Mr. Cummins is at present engaged in journalistic work in Dunedin.

There was Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from the eleven o'clock Mass, at St. Joseph's Cathedral, on last Sunday, and many attended in adoration during the afternoon. After Compline and sermon in the evening, there was the usual procession followed by Solemn Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

The annual entertainment by the pupils of the Christian Brothers' School, Dunedin, prior to the Christmas vacation, will be given in the Burns Hall, on Thursday evening, December 18. Besides a high-class concert programme, an exhibition of physical drill in all its varied branches, and numerous other attractive items will be staged.

It is pleasing to learn that the two senior national scholarships which were won at the beginning of the year by Masters Raymond Marlow and John Smith, of the Christian Brothers' School, have, after considerable delay, been granted. At the recent examination of the primary department of the Christian Brothers' School, out of a Sixth Standard Class of 39 pupils 37 obtained proficiency certificates and two competency.

Playing in last Saturday's 2nd grade cricket Mornington A (113, and 2 for 144) defeated Christian Brothers (57 and 7 for 86). L'Estrange 33, Baker 21, Moroney 21, Brookes 16, batted well for the losers, and E'Estrange and Collett divided the bowling honors. In the 3rd grade Christian Brothers defeated Albion. Scores were Christian Brothers 54 and 75. Albion 18 and 49. Wills 25 and 18, Baker 15, Toomey 14 not out, secured double figures for the Brothers, and Sheehy 7 wks, Baker 3 wks, Moroney 4 wks, and Arnold 6 wks, were the Brothers' best bowlers.

The results of the practical examination conducted by Dr. Creser, Trinity College, London, held at St. Patrick's Dominican College, Teschemakers, are as follows:—L.T.C.L. diploma, one (Convent, Oamaru). A.T.C.L. diploma, one. Senior honors, one. Intermediate honors, one (Convent, Oamaru); pass, one. Junior honors, two; pass, two; singing, one. Preparatory honors, one; violin, one; pass, violin, two. First steps, two; Oamaru Convent, three.

On the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, a number of children made their first Holy Communion at the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Mosgiel. The little girls wore wreaths and veils and the boys a neat white rosette. The elder children sang hymns during the Mass. In appropriate terms, Rev. Father Morkane addressed the children prior to their first reception of Holy Communion. There was quite a large congregation of parents and friends, and all were edified by the devotion of the first communicants. The Sisters of Mercy, on whose careful training the children reflected credit, treated the children to breakfast after Mass.

What promises to be one of the most pleasurable events of the year, is the garden fete, to be held in the beautiful and spacious grounds of Holy Cross College, Mosgiel, on next Saturday (December 13). Those who attend this outing will be afforded a splendid opportunity of seeing the college, with its exquisite chapel, valuable paintings, and magnificent surroundings. The Mosgiel Brass Band, and Taieri Pipe Band will be in attendance, and numerous attractions will be provided. Trains to and from Mosgiel will run at convenient intervals throughout the afternoon and evening. It is anticipated that there will be a very large gathering on the occasion.

CHRISTIAN BROTHERS' NEW RESIDENCE: CARNIVAL NOTES.

Among the functions arranged in the interests of the North Dunedin Stall is a jumble sale and dolls' afternoon and evening, on next Saturday (December 13) in the Sacred Heart Schoolroom, North-east Valley. There is also to be a social in the George Street School Hall, on Thursday night, December 11, in aid of the same object.

The four-hour social, arranged by the members of St. Joseph's Ladies' Club in aid of their stall funds, to be held in the Smith Hall, corner of George and Hanover Streets, Dunedin, on next Saturday night, promises to be an enjoyable and successful function.

The members of the Hibernian Society are particularly desirous that all returns from sale of tickets in connection with the concert, recently given in His Majesty's Theatre, be handed in without further delay. For the convenience of those who may have a difficulty in sending in their returns members of the society will be in attendance to receive same after each Mass next Sunday.