

membership was initiated and eight were nominated. The District Board wrote confirming the appointment of Bro. F. J. Doolan as District Deputy for North Canterbury. The balance sheet and auditors' report for the quarter, which showed the funds to be in a good condition, were adopted. Accounts for £45 15s 9d were passed for payment. The anniversary concert committee reported that an excellent national programme had been arranged.

His Lordship the Bishop presided at the annual meeting of the Cathedral Altar Society, the resident clergy being also present. In response to his Lordship the Bishop's invitation, about eighty ladies of the parish attended, and formed themselves into a sewing guild and other useful sections for work in connection with the Cathedral and sanctuary. The annual report presented by the secretary (Miss Kearney) revealed a most creditable amount of useful operations. In an address to those present his Lordship the Bishop expressed his deep appreciation of the excellent, painstaking, and devoted work of the members over a long period, and cordially welcomed the large body of additional helpers. He spoke in detail of the privileges with which membership of the Altar Society was so richly endowed, and predicted great results in the interval before the next annual gathering. The present meeting, he said, was one of the most promising and enthusiastic at which he had the pleasure of presiding for a considerable time.

A very successful entertainment was given on last Wednesday evening by the pupils of the Lyttelton Convent School in the local Oddfellows' Hall, before a crowded audience. A lengthy programme was rendered, including the following items:—Chorus, singing class; 'The sandwich man's greeting,' by nine boys; trio, Masters T. McGill, J. Jacques, and C. Ryan; piano and violin quartet, Misses I. Sinclair, T. Lawfield, M. Kennedy, and Master C. Mazey; comic duet, Misses J. and M. Lufaro; Irish jig and reel, four little girls; 'Little gipsies' (action song), little girls; 'Grace Darling' (song and dance), ten girls; 'Chinamen,' by the junior boys; hornpipe, by eight girls; 'Jimmy's experience,' J. Jacques; comic song, by the boys; Spanish dance and tableau, by the girls; miniature farce, 'Aunt Maxwell's Return,' Misses J. Lufaro, G. McEvedy, M. Lufaro, E. Riordan, K. McConville, R. Flynn, K. Sargentina, and M. Blackler; burlesque, 'The Auctioneer,' J. Goodman, H. Jacques, M. Nelson, J. McGifford, L. Veal, G. Ryan, W. Toomey, P. McConville, and C. Wheeler.

Greymouth

(From our own correspondent.)

October 6.

A very interesting debate took place in Trinity Hall last Monday evening between St. Columba Catholic Club's B team and Trinity B team. The subject for debate was, 'That Monarchical form of government is preferable to Republicanism.' The Mayor (Mr. A. C. Russell) occupied the chair, whilst Mr. Wallace, M.A., acted as judge. There was a large attendance of members of both clubs, and the general public. The Trinity team took the affirmative, and were represented by Messrs. G. Hills (leader), W. de Berry, J. Andrews, and C. Taylor. The St. Columba team took the negative, and were represented by Messrs. H. M. Moriarty (leader), A. McSherry, C. A. Carmine, and J. O'Donnell. The judge, in giving his decision in favor of St. Columba Club, congratulated both teams on the high standard of the debate, and specially complimented Messrs. McSherry and Carmine on their really brilliant efforts.

A euchre tournament was held in St. Columba Club rooms last Wednesday evening, when there was a large attendance of members and their friends. The ladies' prizes were won by Misses E. Crowley and N. Duffy, whilst Messrs. C. Cotter and E. Heaphy accounted for the gentlemen's prizes. After supper was handed around by the ladies' committee, musical items were contributed by the following ladies and gentlemen:—Mrs. King and Messrs. Cotter, Barlow, Mullins, Redshaw, Gardner, and Reid. The president (Mr. A. F. O'Donoghue), in thanking those present for their attendance, announced that the last euchre tournament of the season would be held in three weeks' time.

The quarterly meeting of the Grey branch of the Hibornian Society was held on Thursday evening. The president (Bro. W. P. Sullivan) occupied the chair, and was supported by a full attendance of officers. There were about forty members present. The president expressed his pleasure at seeing such a good attendance, and hoped it would continue to increase. The sick visitors reported that two brothers were still on the sick list, and sick pay was passed to them accordingly. During the evening four candidates were proposed, and four initiated. The president intimated that he had a very pleasing duty to perform, and that it was to elect Mr. F. Bierne, sen., as a life honorary member for the past services he had rendered to the branch in connection with their sports gathering. Mr. Bierne was duly presented with a certificate to that effect, after which he returned thanks for the honor the branch had conferred upon him. The receipts for the evening amounted to about £18. Accounts for the past quarter amounting to £3 19s 8d were passed for payment.

The Famous Paris Hill

I climbed the heights of Montmartre (says a recent visitor to Paris), to see the great Basilica of the Sacred Heart, and to get the superb view of Paris which is to be had from that elevation on a clear day. Montmartre has great attractions for the Catholic and the Irishman. The great Basilica, raised to make reparation for the outrages upon God and His Church committed by the Communists in 1871, is enough to induce any Catholic who finds himself in Paris to negotiate the many steps that lead to the top. We climbed these countless steps because we did not know till next day that there was a tramcar at the other side of the hill! But what Catholic would not desire to ascend the mount, however he got there, and join in the Perpetual Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament that goes on by way of reparation for dark deeds done?

And an attraction for all Irishmen is the old Cemetery of Montmartre, where the remains of poor Pamela Fitzgerald were first deposited—after they had narrowly escaped being lost in the pits where bodies of the poor and friendless were carelessly laid. As many now know, the remains of the once beautiful Pamela were ultimately taken from Paris to London, and buried at Thames Ditton, opposite Hampton Court Palace, in the same grave with Pamela's brother-in-law, a brother of her husband, Lord Edward Fitzgerald.

But this spot has another and holier source of fame. Here, it is said, St. Denis, the first Bishop of Paris, and his companions were martyred in the year 270. Some state that, from this circumstance, the hill was originally called Mons Martyrum—the Martyrs' Hill. Louis VI., in the middle of the twelfth century, founded a Benedictine Abbey upon this spot, to which the Church of St. Peter of Montmartre, on the summit of the hill, belonged. And it is the memory of a lifetime to adore the Blessed Sacrament in the great Basilica, and take part in the Reparation that is there perpetually made. That one should be able to join with those of countless nationalities assembled in the stately temple was something to be profoundly grateful for. The catholicity of the Church was well illustrated by the persons of divers nations who knelt together in the chapel of the Blessed Sacrament with a common faith and purpose.

It was from this elevated spot that the horrors of the Commune of 1871 commenced. In March the National Guard, with their artillery, occupied the heights of Montmartre. On St. Patrick's Day they were there, and, no doubt, on that day the feast of the Apostle of Ireland was celebrated at the Irish College over near the Pantheon. The next day the insurgents climbed Montmartre, killed General Lecorate, and General Clement Thomas, who were in charge of the National Guard, and seized the guns. Then began the Communist rebellion, which raged for a month and a half—another Reign of Terror, which almost exceeded in its horrors that of the previous century. On May 24 the troops dislodged the Communists from Montmartre, and directed their guns upon the Cemetery of Per-Lachaise and the Hills of Chaumont, where the Communists had taken up positions. A public park and a graveyard were the last places occupied by the insurgents!

On the top of one of those hills, which are now a public park, was the place of execution in the Middle Ages. Indeed, it was not till 1761 that the gallows were removed from Montfaucon. In 1865 a great dust-heap, the resort of thieves and cut-throats, was converted into a beautiful park at a cost of three and a half million francs. One of the streets running up to the park is called the Rue Cavendish. Who was this Cavendish? The Chaumont Hills were one of the very last places held by the Communists in 1871. They received a ceaseless cannonading from Montmartre, and at length were driven out on May 27.

This was not the first time that Montmartre, with its magnificent range of the city, had been made a battery. On the second last day of March, 1814, the mount was the scene of the last struggle between the French soldiers and the Russian and Prussian allies. The French were defeated, and Napoleon went to Elba.

The Ashburton Agricultural and Pastoral Society has decided to ask farmers to co-operate in lighting fires at dusk during the next fortnight in order to destroy the moth of the grass grub. Mr. M. Murphy, speaking to a *Lyttelton Times* reporter, explained that the destructive insect is not a moth, but a beetle, whose scientific name is *Odontia Zealandia*. The larvæ live in the ground, and carry on the work of destruction. In the third year the chrysalis stage is reached, and in the following spring the fully-fledged beetle flies about. In the adult form the beetle lives largely on the leaves of plum trees and other fruit trees. Mr. Murphy thinks that the lighting of gorse fires will be an effective means of destroying large numbers of the pests. It is somewhat early to light them yet, but he suggests that in a few weeks this step should be taken, numbers of fires being lighted at dusk where the pest is prevalent.