

**Reefton**

(From our own correspondent.)

April 20.

A very full house rewarded the Sisters of Mercy on the occasion of their annual school concert, held on both Tuesday and Wednesday evenings, April 16 and 17, when the very pretty cantata, 'Mildred and Patty, or seeking Santa Claus' was most successfully presented by the pupils. The stage had been very prettily arranged as a forest, and when filled with the snow fairies and the evergreen fairies, with their many pretty costumes, made a very brilliant spectacle. Jack Frost (Master L. Elliston) and Santa Claus (Miss A. Rodden) did remarkably well, while Miss Malloy and Miss A. Castles as Cedar and Sparkles respectively were very good. The singing was most natural, as was the acting, and the various grouping and dances were very pretty indeed, reflecting much credit on their painstaking teachers. Miss Norah Crabbe and Miss Eily Scarlett as Mildred and Patty, acted their part perfectly. Their singing was charming; the enunciation was most distinct, enabling the pretty plot to be easily followed. The entrance of the holly fairies was a very pretty part. Several solos and choruses were very nicely rendered, the singing on the whole being much better than was expected. The second part contained a very pretty butterfly dance, a floral song and drill, also a scarf drill, all by the girl pupils. One of the most popular items

was a pretty action song, 'Little mothers in pantomime,' by a number of very small pupils, who did their parts very nicely. These were loudly applauded and a repetition was demanded. 'Three white mice,' by Misses Crumpton, Duncan, and Harris, was another clever representation, each little girl presenting a most natural imitation of a white mouse. Their singing was also very good. Then followed a song in character, 'The new kingdom,' by Misses C. and M. Duncan, who were warmly applauded. Master R. Kirwan sang 'Jimmy Law,' his effort meriting the hearty encore he received. Miss Green contributed a pianoforte solo, while Miss C. Duncan, in her song, 'The Swiss toy-girl,' was very successful. A butterfly dance by the senior pupils met with much favor, as did also the scarf rhapsody by the junior pupils. At the close a grand march and tableau by the pupils were most effective. During the evening Dr. Conlon, on behalf of the Sisters of Mercy, returned thanks for the patronage accorded the entertainment.

Grandpa sits in his easy chair,  
 And talks of when he 'was young';  
 He sings the praise of those bygone days,  
 And the theme never tires his tongue.  
 But if we talk of our modern times,  
 And things that are near and newer;  
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