

fortress of Nationality in Belfast remains impregnable, notwithstanding the desperate efforts of the combined Tory forces to bring about its downfall. An expert scrutiny of the register as it stands makes full allowance for appealed cases, reveals a solid and unbeatable majority, gauged purely on the sectarian basis. But apart from this, it is well known to all who have taken part in electoral work in the division that a large body of democratic Protestants, who are calculated upon by the Unionists in arriving at their total, are quite out of sympathy with the present propaganda. There is also to be reckoned with the percentage of Protestants who are unswerving supporters of the progressive cause, and are recognised, even in Unionist circles, as certain voters against an ascendancy candidate. It is now estimated that in an election on the new register the present Member for West Belfast would retain his seat by a majority of at least one thousand.

Wairoa

(From an occasional correspondent.)

December 5.

The annual concert, given by the pupils of St. Joseph's Convent, was held last night in the Royal Albert Hall. As on previous occasions, the hall was packed to overflowing. The concert, which is given solely by the pupils attending the convent school, and music pupils of the Sisters, is always looked forward to by the people of Wairoa for the excellent programme presented, and last night's entertainment was no exception. The Sisters are to be congratulated on the success of their efforts, more so, because the majority of their little folk are so young. Each item was loudly applauded by the large audience, and on most occasions an encore was demanded. During the interval the prizes were presented by his Worship the Mayor, Mr. Corkill, assisted by Messrs. Curtyane and Broad. One prize which is worthy of mention was a gold medal, presented for attendance, being won by Master Gilligan, who had not missed one day for eight years.

The following was the programme:—Chorus, 'List to the convent bells,' pupils; pianoforte trio, 'Lady Betty,' Misses D. Corkill, Gilligan, and Wilson; tent drill, senior girls (this was very pretty, and was loudly applauded); song, 'Jolly old men,' senior boys (this item, which was encored, was given at last year's concert, and by request was included in this year's programme); skipping rope dance, Miss F. Pothan (this young lady had to respond to more than one encore, and was the recipient of several bouquets); recitation, 'Jimmy the nurse,' Master C. Brown (encored); action song, 'Gay little Japanese,' junior girls (encored); song, 'Life on the ocean wave,' boys (this was a very good item, six wee sailor lads danced a hornpipe, which was encored); pianoforte duet, Misses R. and F. Pothan; drama, 'The madcap student' (very well done, the parts being taken by Masters C. Brown, G. Dillon, T. Corkill, and R. Cram); pianoforte duet, 'Il bacio,' Misses Davis and McShain; action song, 'The gleaners,' girls (very pretty—encored); song, 'Mississippi moonlight dance,' senior boys; chorus, 'God bless the friends we love,' pupils. The gem of the evening was an action song by Master C. Brown, assisted by Masters Dillon, Corkill, Helean, Finucane, and Dieman, Misses Taylor, Pothan, Smith, and Toomey. 'The coach and four' was very well done. Orchestral selections were played by Corkill's orchestra. The accompanist was Miss Corkill, who very creditably filled the position.

ELECTRIC MASSAGE

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People We Hear About

Mr. J. T. Donovan, well known in New Zealand, which he visited a couple of years ago in company with Messrs. R. Hazleton and W. A. Redmond, has just passed his examination for admission to the Irish Bar. Hitherto he was a solicitor by profession.

Catholics are numerous in official Washington. The private secretary to the President, the Treasurer of the United States, two Justices of the United States Supreme Court, and seventy members of the present Congress—four in the Senate and sixty-six in the House of Representatives—are Catholics.

The capacity of Irishmen for public affairs is witnessed once more by the present crisis in Mexico. The British representative is Sir Lionel Carden, a Tipperary man, while the American Government has confided its interests to a gentleman with the unmistakably Irish patronymic of O'Shaughnessy.

The feast of St. Raphael (October 24), was the name-day of Cardinal Merry del Val, Secretary of State to his Holiness. Congratulations poured in on his Eminence. On October 10 he was forty-eight years of age, and on November 9 he completed the first decade of his Cardinalate, having been raised to the purple at the first consistory held by Pius X., on November 9, 1903, when he was only thirty-eight. His 'creation' and his appointment as Secretary of State were simultaneous. The appointment (says *Rome*) caused far more surprise than the 'creation.' He was the youngest Secretary of State since the office was founded and entrusted to St. Charles Borromeo, he was the first non-Italian to occupy it, and he was perhaps the only one in hundreds of years who had not been trained for it by a long diplomatic career.

Thomas Guy, the founder of the famous London Hospital which bears his name, enjoyed the reputation of being one of the most frugal men of his age. The extravagances in drink and food and dress, evidences of which were presented to him on every side, cruelly shocked his miserly soul. A writer tells the following with regard to Guy: 'Thomas Guy was the most notorious miser of his age, and a story of an encounter with a kindred spirit, "Vulture Hopkins," illustrates his philosophy, and reveals the secret of his wealth. Hopkins called on him one evening, to find him working by the light of a farthing candle. "I wait upon you," he said, "for a lesson in frugality, an art in which I used to think I excelled, but in which I am now told you are my superior." "If that's all you've come about," said Guy, "why, then, we can talk as well in the dark." He promptly extinguished the candle, and Hopkins left with his lesson learned.'

His Grace the Archbishop of Adelaide celebrated his sixty-seventh birthday on November 19, and received a large number of congratulations from all quarters. The *Register* published an interesting chat with his Grace in his garden, under the heading 'A Much-loved Prelate.' The article concluded as follows:—The sun was dipping and pencilling the paths of the garden with shadow. Three hours had gone, and I was still enjoying the radiance of a great personality. 'Tell me,' I remarked, as we walked down among the hedges to the gate, 'you have been very happy in South Australia?' The Archbishop gripped my hand. 'I've been as happy as a black-boy,' he rejoined, in his own humorous and expressive way. 'I have never regretted coming. Never for one moment. I have met with kindness on every side. And, on the whole, my fellow-clergymen are very decent fellows. I dearly love the South Australian people. I am friendly to all classes, to all denominations, and they are all friendly to me. There is a great future before our State. I hope God's hand will ever be extended in blessings over it. May a share of those blessings come to every man, woman, and child in the land.' That was his message on the eve of his sixty-seventh birthday.

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