

Palmerston North

(From our own correspondent.)

March 8.

His Grace Archbishop O'Shea was here on Sunday, when he administered Confirmation to a large number of children, and he also preached in the evening.

Palmerston has been establishing quite a record for quick work. Some little time ago it was apparent that funds must be raised somehow to finance the orphanage at the Upper Hutt. Owing to the war and the epidemic throwing a much heavier burden on the Sisters of Mercy, who are responsible for this institution, the need was urgent. It was so apparent that Mrs. Maurice Cohen, who visited the orphanage during a holiday in Wellington, offered the use of her beautiful gardens for a fête, in order to help so worthy and pressing a cause. Our parish priest, Father McManus, in spite of the many calls which have been made upon his parishioners lately, made an earnest appeal for help, and so inspired the people that by the co-operation of priest, people, and nuns, a noteworthy success was achieved. In exactly nine days the garden party was organised, and a sum of £250 was cleared.

The convent pupils staged a fairy operetta last week. Over 300 children took part in the performance, which was prepared in the very brief period since the opening of school. The Opera House was not large enough to hold the audience, and numbers were turned away, so it has been decided to repeat the performance at a later date. The dressing and staging were quite original and effective, and the solo vocalists were a particularly strong feature. Miss Barbara Evans was "Will-o'-the-Wisp," Miss Rose Palmer "Queen of the Marsh Spirits," Miss Doris Ricketts the "Lost Maiden," and Miss M. de Rosa "Fairy Queen." About 80 small boys, as the naughty black elves, disported themselves with much enthusiasm, their acrobatic turns being singularly effective. In the "Fairy Court" scene a number of solo dances were contributed, the performers being Misses Diana Tabor, Eileen Trask, Dorothy, Mona, and Babette Rodgers, Phyllis Torphy, Kavanagh, Zaloum, and E. and A. Rush.

Gisborne

(From our own correspondent.)

March 4.

A large gathering of the parishioners of Gisborne entertained the Rev. Father Lane, pastor of the district, on last Wednesday evening. The Very Rev. Dean McGuinness and Rev. Father Van Beck were present as guests of Father Lane. Mr. Frank Sexton presided. In presenting Father Lane with a beautifully illuminated address, and a dinner service, the Very Rev. Dean McGuinness, speaking on behalf of the parishioners, eulogised the good work done by the recipient in the interests of the people of the parish. Father Van Beck also spoke in complimentary terms. Father Lane very feelingly thanked the people for their thoughtful and, to him, highly valued gifts. After an enjoyable musical programme, supper was served, and the social was extended for some hours. The address was designed and tastefully illuminated by a clever Italian artist, Mr. C. Bergamini, the text being expressive of the people's grateful recognition of Father Lane's devoted services in the cause of religion and education, as evidenced by the freedom from debt of St. Mary's Church and parish schools.

IF BEAUTY CAME TO YOU.

If Beauty came to you,

Ah, would you know her grace,
And could you in your shadowed prison view
Unscathed her face?

Stepping as noiselessly

As moving moth-wings, so
Might she come suddenly to you or me
And we not know.

Tumult of clangs and cries—

Alas, how should we hear
The shy, dim-woven music of her sighs
As she draws near,

Threading through monstrous black,

Uncharitable hours,
Where the soul shapes its own abhorred rack
Of wasted powers?

WILLIAM KEAN SEYMOUR, in the *New Witness*.

PRESIDENT WILSON AND THE PEACE CONFERENCE.

The fact that no representative of the working class was present at the Peace Conference doomed it to failure, declared Oswald Garrison Villard, editor of the *Nation*, recently at a public forum in New York. Relating his experience while representing the *Nation* at the Conference, the editor said the only hope for the world was a real league of nations. "What we want," Villard said, "is an international parliament of representatives of the working classes as well as other classes." Only a league based on absolute disarmament and with a genuine desire to help the stricken people of Europe, fashioned not by diplomats but by representatives of the people, can bring the world out of its present chaos, the speaker declared. The Peace Conference failed because it was a league of Governments instead of a league of nations.

Villard presented a dismal picture of President Wilson to his hearers. He came away with "an inhumane and barbarous treaty" instead of his democratic principles, said the editor. The speaker described the Peace gathering as "no conference at all," because of the 250 delegates, at first ten, then five, four, and finally but three guided the destinies of the Conference. He felt disappointed, Villard said, when he discovered that no workingman, no woman, and no representative of the colored races was numbered among the Peace commissioners who were deciding the fate of the world.

The Conference was doomed from the first (he continued), because the same diplomats who "cooked up" the war were trying to pull the world out of the catastrophe. Because Wilson made no fight upon his first point of "open covenants openly arrived at," when newspaper men were kept out of the Peace parley by Clemenceau and Lloyd George, it gave insight into Wilson's real character, Villard said, and the Allied diplomats then knew that it was an easy thing to trim him.

Villard asserted that the League of Nations was drafted by a law partner of the son-in-law of Colonel House and an English journalist named Hirst. It was this pact that Wilson demanded be accepted in its entirety, Villard added. "If the Conference had been a poker game," Villard continued, "Wilson would have come home without even his clothes." There was no reason for Wilson's failure other than that he lacked moral fibre, the editor asserted, because America entered the Conference with the "big cards"—the finest army, food, ships, and money. Had Wilson threatened to go home, revolution would have occurred in many European countries, Villard maintained. Instead Wilson returned beaten. "The peace existing to-day following the Conference's work is a covenant with death because of the spirit of revenge left in Russia, Germany, Austria, and other countries," Villard added.

Mr. O'Connor, of the Catholic Book Depot, Christchurch, has on hand seasonable souvenirs of the festival day of the Apostle of Ireland, St. Patrick. These consist of three designs of buttons in green, white, and gold, also brooches. A reference to Mr. O'Connor's announcement in this issue of the *Tablet* will show that no patriotic man, woman, or child need deprive themselves on the score of expense, of a suitable emblem to be worn on the great national festival day....

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