

presented by the Hibernian Society, by Master D. Hanrahan. Rev. Brother Justin, Director, notifies that as the school will now have a full staff, the Brothers will be able to take boys for the second standard this year.

At the meeting of St. Matthew's (ladies') branch of the Hibernian Society, held on Monday evening, January 2, presided over by Sister R. Rodgers, sick allowance (£2) was passed for payment, and a motion of condolence with the relations on the death of Sister O'Connor, wife of Mr. David O'Connor, was carried in respectful silence, and the secretary was instructed to convey the same to the bereaved relatives.

The following successes at the recent Police Force examinations will prove of interest:—Sergt. J. J. O'Grady gained a complete pass for the qualification of sub-inspector; Detective-Sergeant T. Gibson passed in the literary subjects for sub-inspector; Constable J. Smyth qualified for the position of senior-sergeant, and Constable M. Hodgins for that of sergeant.

The Marist Brothers destined for Timaru, Invercargill, and Greymouth are at present enjoying a holiday with the local Brothers. A number of them have renewed acquaintance with old pupils of the school and old-time friends.

Rev. Father Walsh, C.S.S.R., who is to conduct the retreat for the clergy during the week, preached an eloquent sermon on Sunday evening on the Epiphany.

Rev. Mother M. Gertrude and five Sisters of Nazareth arrived at Nazareth House from the Mother House, Hammersmith, England, on the 28th ult. by the Arawa. They are to take charge of the Sisters' farm property at Middleton, formerly the residence of Sir John Hall, but which will now be known as St. Joseph's Home. On the morning following their arrival his Lordship Bishop Brodie celebrated Mass in their new home, and afterwards blessed the buildings. A new building has recently been erected for the accommodation of boys—some 80 of whom will be transferred from the near-by Nazareth House—where they will be trained to farm work and various trades. Already a few of the lads, under a farm manager, have been engaged on the property, which consists of 88 acres, and the crops show excellent results, while the 16 cows in full profit, and team of horses show how well and carefully they have been attended to. The newly-arrived Sisters express themselves in terms of delight regarding the property and with what they have seen of New Zealand, and all are full of hope for the future. Besides 200 children, Nazareth House has at present about 80 old people in residence and the Sisters desire to publicly acknowledge the courtesy extended them by all classes of the community and the generous response given their continuous appeals, especially during the year just closed. Their constant prayer is that the benefactors to the needy and helpless within their walls may receive God's choicest blessings. The property management during the year has been greatly assisted by advice, help, and donations from Messrs. Harry Stuart (Middleton) and Hugh McCarthy (Prebbleton). The spiritual needs of the new community will be attended to by the clergy of the Sacred Heart parish, while the Cathedral clergy will attend to Nazareth House.

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OUR ROMAN LETTER

By SCOTTUS ALTER.

The death of the Lord Mayor of Cork has produced here, as elsewhere, strong feelings of sympathy and indignation. The *Tempo* and the *Corriere d'Italia* comment briefly, but forcibly, upon the news, while the *Tribuna* gives a detailed account of the Lord Mayor's career. In this, indeed, they are but following the press and public opinion not merely in Italy but all over Europe, especially in France and Spain. In Barcelona, for instance, the Catalan newspapers for a week or more devoted their foremost columns to the heroic "Alcade" of Cork, while the shops closed in sign of mourning and crowds expressed a burning indignation of which, we believe, the windows of the British Consulate there bear the marks. The *Corriere d'Italia* for October 26 writes:—"An untiring champion of the independence of his country, his wish has been to sacrifice his life for her in testimony to his faith; and this sacrifice may well be equivalent for England to a very crushing defeat."

Even previous to this Irish events had been attracting considerable attention. They were, naturally, all considered under the light of the British Premier's defence of "reprisals" some time ago—"that unfortunate defence of the reprisals," wrote the *Messaggero Meridiano* for October 13, "to justify which even the most faithful friends of the Government are embarrassed." Another pronouncement of Mr. Lloyd George which has attracted some attention is his economic objection to Irish independence: "Would the workman in England be ready to pay eight shillings for a pound of tobacco when the laborer in Ireland would only pay sixpence?" The force of the objection is appreciated by Italians at a time when they, suffering from the decreasing value of the lira, are disposed to attribute to Great Britain a policy of baulking all efforts for their financial or industrial betterment on the part of her Allies and protégés, though it harmonises poorly with the refrain that Ireland stands to lose by separating from Great Britain.

Many Italian papers continue to draw, largely at any rate, their Irish news from London sources. The accuracy is of such a degree as would naturally be expected as the result of such a process, a good specimen being the statement, repeated more than once in such papers as the *Osservatore Romano*, *Corriere d'Italia*, and *Tribuna*, that the [Capuchin] confessor of the Lord Mayor of Cork was a Dominican friar. The amount of credence, however, which they give to some of these sources may be judged from the comment of the *Messaggero Meridiano* for October 24 on the official version of some events in Dublin: "This morning an official communication announced that such rumors must be considered contrary to the truth. There is question only—always according to the official version—of unimportant incidents without serious consequences. This appears worthy of little consideration, and is this evening the subject of much comment."

The *Tempo* for October 18 has a London letter on "the woes of Albion" which deals chiefly with Egyptian and Irish independence. "English ministerial policy," writes this special correspondent, "is at present certainly not a matter of sailing in tranquil waters, and the Cabinet of Lloyd George is seriously shaken on the foundations of its heterogeneous coalition. From right and from left, never perhaps as today, criticisms and threats, sharp and excited, are raised against it. On two points in particular large circles of public opinion and authoritative representatives of the daily press reproach the Government with having followed a line of conduct gravely prejudicial to the health and vitality of the imperial organism—on the Egyptian difficulty and on the Irish one."

He then proceeds to criticise the English attitude towards Egypt, and in particular the recent schemes for giving Egypt a nominal "independence." "In truth," he writes, "the scheme for the future government of Egypt which has been, not officially, made public, has been described very arbitrarily as a treaty or an accord. In reality it represents up to the pre-

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