

And Manchan, the hermit, would have his hut with

A southern aspect to catch the sun, a brook across the floor,  
A choice land, rich with gracious gifts, down-stretching  
from my door.

### Laments

Miss Hull gives us the lament of a country girl for her Donall Oge:  
You have taken the East from me and you have taken the West,  
You have taken the path that is before me and the path that is behind;  
The moon is gone from me by night, and the sun is gone by day,  
Alas! I greatly dread you have stolen my God away!

I heard the dog speak of you and the sun gone down,  
I heard the snipe calling aloud from the marshlands brown;  
It is you are the lonely bird flitting from tree to tree—  
May you never find your mate if you find not me!

To Miss Hull also we owe the following translation:

The stars stand up in the air,  
The sun and the moon are set,  
The sea that ebbed dry of its tide  
Leaves no single pebble wet;  
The cuckoo keeps saying each hour  
That she, my Storeen, is fled—  
O Girl of the brave free tresses,  
Far better had you struck me dead!

### Prayer

Speaking of these old songs, Robert Lynd says: "No study of the psychology of race could enlighten the careful reader in regard to Ireland half so well as the songs of love, of war, of religion, of death, of revenge. Irish history survives alike in flashing war-songs, and in triumphant pieces of melancholy, such as Mangan's *O Woman of the Piercing Wail*. Not less important as a key to the secrets of the old Irish civilisation are the religious poems, like that noble prayer of St. Patrick's which contains the lines:

Christ on my right, Christ on my left,  
Christ when I lie down, Christ when I sit down, Christ  
when I arise,  
Christ in the heart of every man who thinks of me,  
Christ in the mouth of every man who speaks of me,  
Christ in every eye that sees me,  
Christ in every ear that hears me.

And in Douglas Hyde's translations of the religious songs of Connacht you will find abundant evidence of what religion meant to the old forebears of the men and women who in after years were able to defy the power of England arrayed against them for the extermination of their faith. In our time Ireland has awakened from her sleep and gone back to the fountains of nationhood and is drawing from them that strength which is at present sustaining her in her fight against the low ideals and the materialistic principles which enable Englishmen to survive their shame before the whole round world to-day.

## DIOCESE OF DUNEDIN

Rev. Fathers Ryan, S.M., of St. Patrick's College, Wellington, and A. Cullen, S.M., of St. Bede's College, Christchurch, are at present on a visit to Dunedin, and are guests of his Lordship Bishop Whyte.

The annual spiritual Retreat of the clergy of the diocese of Dunedin, to be conducted by Rev. Father Slattery, C.M., of Ashfield, Sydney, at Holy Cross College, Mosgiel, will commence on Monday next (January 16). Parochial needs will be attended to, meanwhile, by a priest at St. Joseph's.

The Christian Brothers direct attention to the fact that they have opened a hostel for the accommodation of boys attending their school in this city. Particulars regarding charges, etc., will be supplied on application to the principal of the Christian Brothers' School, Dunedin.

The Sisters of Mercy, South Dunedin, desire to acknowledge with sincere thanks the undermentioned donations to St. Vincent's Orphanage: From "W.D.," £2; "Wellwisher," Invercargill, 10s; "H.J.P.," £2. The request for novena to St. Anthony has been complied with.

The members of St. Joseph's Glee Club have in active rehearsal a bright and humorous operetta entitled "The Peppery Pa," which it is their intention of staging during February, in aid of St. Vincent's Orphanage fund. The conductor (Mr. T. J. Anthony) is particularly desirous of making the production as perfect as possible, and invites any of our young people possessed of musical voices, who would care to join the club, to attend the rehearsals on any Monday evening.

The following are the results of the Associated Board examinations conducted by Dr. Haigh at St. Dominic's Priory:—Licentiate solo performer's diploma, 1 (complete). Local Centre—Advanced grade, 2; intermediate, 3. School examinations—Higher division, 3; lower, 2; elementary, 12; primary, 2 (distinction), 1 (pass). Trinity College examination—Three associates.

The members of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, South Dunedin, will hold their second euchre party and social evening on Wednesday evening next, the 18th inst., at St. Patrick's Schoolroom. The proceeds will be applied to their stall requirements at the forthcoming bazaar in aid of St. Vincent's Orphanage building fund. As at the previous social, in addition to the usual card prizes all patrons will have a chance of winning a special prize, to be drawn for during the evening. As the object is a very deserving one, a large attendance is hoped for.

At the last meeting of the Otago District Council of the Self-Determination for Ireland League, Mr. C. A. Shiel (vice-president), who presided, spoke eulogistically of the services rendered to the Irish cause by Rev. D. V. Silk, and wished him every success and happiness in the diocese of Auckland to which he was about to leave. On behalf of the lady members of the council, Very Rev. Father Coffey in appropriate terms asked Father Silk's acceptance of a wallet, suitably inscribed, as a memento of his much-valued connection with the League in this district. In acknowledging the gift Father Silk said the services he had been privileged to render in connection with the League, and incidentally in the cause they all had so deeply at heart was always a pleasure to him, and he would not soon forget the many friends he had made and the kindness extended to him during the years he had spent in Otago.

### Children of Mary, Cathedral Sodality, Christchurch

A very pleasant reunion of the Children of Mary of the Cathedral parish was held at the close of the year, and tea was dispensed in the convent schoolroom. The convent boarders contributed musical items, which were greatly appreciated. Opportunity was taken to wish Miss Janet O'Malley (now Mrs. Neo) every happiness in her new state and to present her with a small token of esteem from her companions. Presentations were made also to Rev. Father Gallagher (director of the sodality), and to Sister Antionette, to both of whom the sodality has every reason to be grateful. On Boxing Day the members of the sodality and their friends journeyed to Diamond Harbor for their annual picnic. Glorious weather prevailed, and pleasure and happiness was the order of the day. Sports were held, and walks indulged in, and everyone agreed that the picnic was the best ever.

### St. Mary's School, Gisborne: Examination Results

The following are the results of the November examinations held in connection with the National Business College, Sydney:—Advanced shorthand: Una Presland, 98 per cent. Intermediate shorthand: Mechtilda Smith, 95; Mary Mahoney, 94; Freda Williams, 95; Patricia Hennessey, 93. Advanced book-keeping: William McDonald, 94; Allan Lockett, 97. Diploma book-keeping: Una Presland, 98; Elizabeth Touhy, 94; Ellen Brosnahan, 95. Intermediate book-keeping: Mavis Snell, 95; Mechtilda Smith, 96; Freda Williams, 94; Mary Mahoney, 94; Rona White, 95. Junior typewriting: Mary Mahoney, 97. Interme-