

## SUCCESSFUL ENTERTAINMENTS IN JOHNSWELL.

On last Sunday and Monday nights two splendid entertainments were brought off in the school house Johnswell, which were eminently successful. The first part of the programme consisted of several choruses, solos, recitations and variety items, which were capitally rendered and highly appreciated by a very large audience. The training of the school children was brought to the pitch of perfection, and Mr. and Mrs. D. F. Hearty, the energetic and devoted teachers, are to be heartily congratulated on the success of their efforts. The second part of the programme consisted of the production of a very amusing three-act play, entitled "Paid in His Own Coin," and the artistes one and all acquitted themselves admirably. The entertainments were held in aid of the school and realised a very respectable sum.

The concert opened with a "Song of Welcome" by the school children, who were very prettily attired. Their voices were tuneful and the rendering of the choruses was excellent. A very attractive item was "Little Gipsies" chorus. The youthful vocalists were garbed in conventional Bohemian costume, and sang the pleasing number exquisitely, and with much gracefulness. The next item, "Garland Drill and Flower Song" was a very attractive display, and gave evidence of careful and patient training. The youthful mites who participated were really wonderful. Mr. Thomas Dowling, of Kilkenny, next contributed "Carrickdown," which was enthusiastically received. Mr. Dowling possesses a magnificent baritone, which he uses with charming effect. As an encore he sang "Killarney." The "High Cauleed Cap," Irish folk dance by the children, was performed with much precision and pace, after which a duologue, by Misses Mollie Tobin and Katie Butler, entitled "A Pot of Shamrocks," was gone through, and evoked great applause. The magnificent vocalism of Mrs. D. F. Hegarty was a treat indeed. This gifted and talented lady was never

heard to better advantage than in her splendid rendering of "The Colleen Bawn," which was received with prolonged applause. To an imperative encore she contributed "Home of My Heart" in magnificent style. The "Hunting Song" by the school children was very effective and well rendered, as was also a selection from the "Pinafore" opera, Miss Kathleen Purcell taking the solo part, in which she was most successful, possessing as she does a voice of very pleasing quality. The chorusing was well balanced, and went very well indeed. The duet by Messrs Tom Dowling and Nicholas Dunne, entitled "Life's Dream is O'er," was one of the most finished items on a good programme. These popular and talented gentlemen deserve a high tribute of praise for their cultured vocalism. The chorus, "The Dirty Boy," by the school children was very amusing and capitally rendered. A three hand reel with great applause. Mr. N. Dunne gave a delightful rendering of that beautiful ballad, "Mother Machree" which was deservedly encored. He acknowledged the latter by singing "Sweet Eileen." The duologue by two very clever young people, Lizzie Walshe and Andy O'Keeffe, caused great amusement, and was very well delivered. The chorus and dance by the children, entitled, "Will you Come?" was characterised by a high standard of excellence and evoked much applause. "The Johnswell Volunteers," action song by a "section" of male pupils was, perhaps, one of the most acceptable of the many excellent items on the programme.

The cast of the play was as follows:

"Katie Sweeney" .....	Miss Nellie Murphy
"Brian Cleary" (her lover) ...	Mr J. Hoban
"Michael Guinan" .....	Mr. Paddy Byrne
"Michael John Guinan" .....	Mr. J Hoban
"Biddy Norris" .....	Mis Bridie Murphy
"Mrs. Duffy" .....	Miss N. Barrett
"Judge" .....	Mr. J. B. O'Neill
"Egan" (Solicitor) .....	Mr. D F Hegarty
"Browne" (Solicitor) .....	Mr T Dowling
Foreman of Jury .....	Mr. Wm Manning
Constable .....	Mr. Jas. Purcell

The acting of this excellent little play was characterised by a degree of naturalness that made for its instant success. It would be invidious to single out any particular person or exceptional merit, since the caste could hardly be improved upon. Suffice to say that there is material in Johnswell for the nucleus of a very successful dramatic class, and we hope to see one established there in the near future. Mr. D. F. Hegarty, the popular teacher, was responsible for the coaching of the players, and his efforts were rewarded by a fine dramatic presentation.

After the performance on Sunday night the Rev. Father Holohan, Adm. St John's, in a brief speech, congratulated all who contributed to the success of the entertainment. The parents were indeed fortunate in having such excellent tuition for their children. They were a credit to their teachers and to the district. He also thanked the audience for their kind attendance, and congratulated the teachers on their painstaking efforts in making such a magnificent success of the concert.

With that characteristic generosity for which he is famous, Mr. Wm. Manning hospitably entertained those who were connected with the entertainment, and their friends, at his residence on both evenings, and offered them a Caed Mile Failte to Johnswell.

Rev. Father Brady, C.C., speaking at the conclusion of the performance on Monday night, pointed to the moral of the play (which was concerned with the gentle art of "match-making"), and hoped that every single young man in the district would begin to think of "taking unto himself a wife," and settle down in the peace and harmony of the married state.

## Kilkenny Journal August 15<sup>th</sup> 1914

This was the month in which Britain declared war on Germany. Only the previous week, the Kilkenny Journal reported the departure of Reservists and Militia from Kilkenny Train Station, on their way to join the army.

Mr. D.F. Hegarty's name is given as Hearty the first time he is referred to, but this is corrected afterwards.