

THE SCOTS CHURCH

There was a large gathering of this congregation—as well as of many others who do not belong to it,—at the church in Collins-street last night, on the occasion of an organ recital which was given by **J. R. Edeson**, the organist to the church, assisted in various vocal selections by Miss Pitta, soprano; Miss Jukes, contralto; and Mr. E. Exon, tenor. Before the musical performance commenced, a meeting was held at half-past 7, at which the Rev. C. Strong presided, which was opened and closed with prayer. The business at this meeting was the naming of eight gentlemen for election, to supply the places of an equal number who retire annually by rotation from the board of management. The following were those nominated:—John Anderson, John H. Blackwood, the Hon. John Cumming, Alexander Dick, John Falconer, James Lyall, Dr. Alexander Morrison, Thomas Russell, and William Strachan. It was also agreed to hold a social meeting of the congregation in the Town-hall on Wednesday, the 23rd August, that day being the anniversary of the arrival of the Rev. C. Strong.

The musical performance was full of interest, both on account of the organist, who is comparatively new to Melbourne, and of the instrument he played upon, which is one of local manufacture and the next best to, although a long way after, the magnificent organ in the Town-hall. The instrument at the Scots Church was built by Messrs. Lee and Kaye, associated with Mr. Mackenzie, who came here from the house of Hill and Sons in London. We have described this organ before in the terms of the general specification. In its finished condition it presents a very handsome appearance, although it is hidden away from at least one-half of the congregation. The building generally in its interior fittings, and especially as regards the gas lighting arrangements, shows that a large amount of money must have been expended under the guidance of very good taste. **Mr. J. R. Edeson**, the organist, had most of the work to do, his selections consisting of Mendelssohn's sonata No. 1, the first movement from Spohr's quartett in G minor, a "Fanfare" by Lemmens, the fugue in D minor by J. S. Bach, the concerto in B flat by Handel, the offertoire No. 5 by Lefe-

flat by Handel, the offertoire No. 5 by Lefebure Wely, an adagio movement by Mozart, the chorus "But the Waters" by Handel, and a march by Scotson Clark. In his performance of these nine different numbers, Mr. Edeson displayed good taste in selection and grouping, and power in the management of the numerous stops contained in the instrument. The "Fanfare" mentioned above was an excellent performance, and the performance of the Handel concerto No. 2 was admirable. In the grand chorus by Handel, "But the waters," the player showed a masterful command of pedal passages; and throughout the whole evening, whether as solo organist or in playing accompaniments to the voice parts, he acquitted himself in a manner most satisfactory to the congregation who heard him. And this was afterwards expressed in a vote of thanks, proposed by Mr. Thomas Bailey, in which the vocalists were also included.

Miss Pitts sang "With verdure clad" in good style, and Miss Jukes was quite successful with Blumenthal's fine song "The Children's Kingdom." Mr. Exon sang, with accustomed good taste and expression, the air, "In native worth." The trio, by Curschmann, "Ti prego," was not a success, because the contralto voice showed a want of knowledge of the part to be sung. A meeting of the ladies of the congregation is to be held on Wednesday next, at 3 o'clock p.m., in connexion with the social meeting mentioned above.