

FUNERAL OF THE REV. FATHER BOIBIEUX.

SHORTLY after nine o'clock yesterday morning, the solemn Requiem High Mass for the repose of the lamented Rev. Father Boibieux, commenced at St. Patrick's Cathedral. The Very Rev. H. J. Fynes, V.G., was the celebrant; Fathers Walter McDonald and J. O'Dwyer being deacon and sub-deacon. The anti-pendium of the altar, and the reredos were covered with black cloth, and the side altars draped with crepe. The Bishop's throne, etc., had violet colored covers. Besides the clergymen, whose names have been mentioned, all the priests of the diocese who could reach Auckland in time for the obsequies were present, viz., the Revs. J. Paul, of Orehunga; M. D. O'Hara, of Otahuhu; J. P. Hoynes, of Panmure; J. B. Simpson, of St. Patrick's, Auckland; S. Hallum, of St. Mary's J. Golden, of Waikato, and F. Chastagnon, of the Thames. The seats in the church near to the sanctuary were arranged choir-fashion, thus giving space for the coffin, which rested upon a catafalque, covered with a black pall, having a large white cross upon it. On the coffin were the insignia of the priestly dignity of the deceased, the cap, stole, surplice, chalice and paten. There were also two beautiful wreaths placed there by loving hands. Immediately surrounding the coffin were the orphans from Mount St. Mary's, to the number of about 50, in their neat uniform of blue and white, and about 30 of the young lady borders clad in mourning. The remainder of the church was filled to overflowing. There was a very efficient choir. The mass sung was Wabbe's Requiem in G minor. The offertorium was the "Quando Corpus," from Rossini's "Stabat Mater," and at the of mass the Miserere psalm, as arranged by Novello for Tenebrae, was chanted. The choir was under the able direction of Miss Shanahan. The very reverend celebrant after mass addressed the congregation in a few earnest and appropriate words as to the labors in the cause of religion of the deceased, taking for his text the words, "Blessed are the dead that die in the Lord." The Absolution having been recited, the funeral cortege was formed, and proceeded to the cemetery by way of Hobson street, in the following order: Four carriages containing the clergy and acolytes; plumed hearse, bearing the body and drawn by four horses; a carriage with private mourners, members of the Hibernian Society to the number of about 100; and about 200 other pedestrians; the procession being closed by two private carriages. A large crowd accompanied the funeral to the cemetery. Several flagstuffs on the route were noticeable as having their flags at half-mast. The grave was prepared for the reception of the mortal remains of the deceased in close proximity to the large cross, and at right angles to that of the late venerated Rev. J. Norris. Here the last sad and solemn rites were duly performed over him, whose career, though short, had been marked by a spirit of devotion to religion seldom surpassed. The deceased was ordained priest in Auckland, having been too young when he left France to be admitted to the plenitude of Holy Orders. He was, upon his arrival here, sent to conduct the theological course of the students in the college then existing at the North Shore. Unforeseen circumstances leading to the breaking up of the college, he was sent as a missionary to the Maoris in the neighbourhood of Lake Rotorua. Here for seven years he labored with much success, conforming himself to the manners and customs of the natives, and enduring hardships which probably sowed the seeds of the diseases to which he succumbed at the early age of 37. After leaving Rotorua, for some two or three years he officiated in Christchurch, and for a shorter period in Lyttleton, in which places, as in Auckland, he made many friends amongst members of all denominations. Upon the arrival here of the late Bishop, Dr. Croke, deceased was recalled to this diocese, and stationed for some time at Panmure. Thence he was removed to Parnell, and latterly has been assistant priest at St. Patrick's Cathedral. As a preacher, Father Boibieux was much admired for the close reasoning and genuine earnestness of his discourses, which left no doubt in the minds of his hearers of his sincere belief in the doctrines he was proclaiming. His genial disposition, and devotion to the duties of his high vocation, made him a universal favorite. Those who knew him best esteemed him the most, and his loss to them is simply irreparable.

GERMAN ITEMS.

Bishop of Paderborn.—On the 14th July Dr. Conrad Martin finished his second period of detention in the fortress of Wesel. He was desirous of proceeding to Holland, in order to take some baths which were necessary for his health, and signified his wish to the proper authorities. But he has been prohibited to leave the town of Wesel unless he will produce a certificate from the State physician of the district that such a journey is an absolute necessity. For the present, therefore, his Lordship has taken up his residence again under the hospitable roof of Herr Dorsemagen.

The Bishop of Münster.—Dr. Brinkmann, for whose "deposition" proceedings have been commenced, was summoned to appear before the Judge of First Instance, on Saturday, 10th July. At the time of leaving the summons at the episcopal residence his Lordship was absent on a confirmation tour, returning to Münster only late on the evening of the 10th. Thereupon a fresh summons was issued citing the Bishop to appear on the 16th, and threatening him with severe penalties if he failed to appear. But this second citation was equally ineffective.

Old Catholicism.—The Berlin newspaper, the 'Provincial Correspondent,' gives an analysis of the "Old Catholic" law which was enacted in the last session of the Prussian Landtag, and has been lately promulgated. By this law these sectaries are recognised as members of the Catholic Church, and entitled to a full share of all ecclesiastical buildings and other property. The 'Correspondenz' closes its analysis with the statement that "henceforward the Old Catholics have secured to them the most complete protection in everything where the State law will reach. Their further progress and

their permanent establishment among the Catholic population will depend on the verification of the truth and interior force of their doctrines." The 'Frankfurter Zeitung' observes with reference to these remarks that "hitherto at least there has not been much proof of this 'interior force.'" In Baden, where a similar law has been in operation for a year, the hopes which were entertained of its effects have been easily disappointed. In spite of the ostentatious assistance of the bureaucracy the number of congregations is insignificant. Those congregations are made up, not of the faithful Catholics, who were at first shy of the Vatican decrees, but chiefly of persons the majority of whom were really outside the Church even before 1870, either as her opponents or as being utterly indifferent. Roman Catholicism has lost just as little in respect of such elements as Old Catholicism has gained by them. On the contrary those persons do great mischief to the reputation of the new 'Old Church' among the masses, who are accustomed to look to personal credit as a guarantee." It may be observed that the invitation issued by Dollinger some months since to the Greek schismatics has been accepted by the Servian Church, which has deputed the Archimandrite Sava to take part in the Old Catholic congress which is to be held at Bonn.

The Bishop of Mayence.—The good people of this city and diocese are quite occupied in preparing for the celebration of the jubilee of their Bishop on the 25th instant. Several Bishops are expected to be present, besides many of the leaders of the Catholic party. The newspapers have reproduced within the past fortnight several accounts of the festivities connected with the reception and consecration of the Bishop 25 years ago.

Election in Baden.—Under the provisions of the Constitution of the Grand-duchy of Baden new elections must shortly take place for half the members of the Landtag, or local Parliament. A Catholic central electoral committee has been formed, and has issued an address to the Catholic electors, referring in very guarded and moderate language to the difficult position of Catholics in the Grand-duchy, and to the practical impossibility of improving matters, unless every man takes it to heart as a matter of simple duty to vote according to his conscience at the forthcoming elections.

Alsace.—People are beginning to complain in Alsace that they are being subjected to a "suspension law" of exceptional severity. The German Government, since the occupation of Alsace, has acted on the basis of the Concordats formerly concluded between the Holy See and France, and the Organic Articles. Hence the nomination of all parish priests and higher ecclesiastical functionaries must be submitted to the provincial governor. The Bishop has invariably complied with this regulation. But how does the Government act? It heaps difficulty on difficulty, it "does not approve of the nominations" submitted to it; it "declines to accept" the candidates proposed for the vacancies. In this way the most important ecclesiastical positions remain vacant. Thus, for example, the post of Vicar-General has been vacant for two years, hence the banishment of Dr. Rapp, although the Bishop has submitted several names to the governor. It is nine months since the death of the parish priest of St. Peter-the-Young in the city of Strassburg. It is said that five or six successive nominations have been rejected by the Government. The Government is using to the utmost its power of rejecting any one who is not a *persona grata*. But this conduct is arousing intense dissatisfaction everywhere.

Bishopric of Passau.—The Bavarian Government has not yet been able to decide upon whom to propose to the Holy See as successor to the late Bishop of Passau, who died last Whitsuntide. It is said that they first thought of the Abbot of the Benedictine Monastery Zenetti; but the Abbot would not consent to his nomination. It was then reported that another Benedictine, Father Pius Bayer, who is director of a college, had been named, but the matter has not been definitely settled. Another report mentions Herr Achats, parish priest of Vilshofen.

Religious Orders.—The law abolishing the Religious Orders is being put in force. At Treves the Royal Commissioners for carrying out the law have called upon the Religious to furnish them with tabular statements, setting out all items of information connected with the persons and property of their establishments. At Düsseldorf notice has been served on the Franciscans, Dominicans, and Poor Clares, ordering them to quit their establishments before the 15th of August. This will be a great loss to the Catholic people of that city, for the secular clergy were greatly helped in the discharge of their spiritual duties by the assistance of their religious brethren.

Contrasts.—Under the heading "The Minister Baron von Stein and the new Prussian Church Policy," the *Germania* has been publishing a series of articles, in which "the great contrast is shown between the policy of the Ministers Stein and Hardenberg, who organised the relations between Prussia and the Catholic Church more than half a century ago, and the policy of Prince Bismarck and Dr. Falk, who have devoted themselves to shattering that organization."

Posen.—The newspapers of Posen and the neighbouring districts contain accounts of several new prosecutions instituted against parish priests and other clergymen for "illegal exercise of ecclesiastical functions," in contravention of the May laws and for similar offences.

Dresden.—On 9th July the coffin of the late King John of Saxony was deposited in the splendid sarcophagus of bronze, which was made by order of the present King Albert, in the workshop of MM. Schäfer and Roch in this city. The sarcophagus is in the old French style, three metres long and two broad, and is a beautiful piece of workmanship, which reflects great credit on the artists. It rests in the crypt of the court chapel on a slab of granite, having the heads of cherubim at the corners, at its foot there is the portrait of the king, surrounded with laurel and oak leaves. At the head there is a Latin inscription set in a wreath of flowers. On the cover resting on a cushion a crucifix is wrought surmounted by a crown. The transfer of the coffin took place in the presence of the parish priest of the Court chapel, who recited the appropriate prayers; but there was no state ceremonial.