

The visitor is next conducted to the church, but of this more anon. And then the schools are gone over. There are found there 238 Catholic children, for whom the Government pays 5s. a head per week, requiring, however, that the nuns show a set-off against each crown amounting to 7s. 6d. Everything still continues to give satisfaction. "Nuns are working in every place, and cleanliness and order are visible everywhere." "The Sisters' quarters" are described, and the foundation and design of the Order are glanced at. Again the "Vagabond" dwells upon the possibility of escape if it be so desired, and again we are amazed that any one should in sincerity think such an allusion necessary. "Their only bonds are moral ones, for any one wanting to leave could walk out of the front gate at any hour of the day. The whole question of conventual seclusion has been argued," he continues, "so often, that I doubt if I can say anything new on the subject. Of course I object to it. I object to anyone making or incurring solemn and binding obligations in their youth, which in after years they might think fit to break. Such a course infringes that personal freedom, which, so long as it does not interfere with any one else, I hold is the right of every one. I would not object to any ladies, and especially in the old world, where there is such a disproportion in the sexes, shutting themselves up and praying or working—it is the sacrifice of youth which I dislike. *Quien sabe?* Perhaps many of them, both for here and hereafter, are doing better work than if out in the world following the devices of their vain sisters." *Perhaps!* "I take the convent at Abbotsford as it is, and I am bound to say that all the sisters I met seemed cheerful, happy, and contented." But where shall we find that unique phenomenon—a doleful nun?

This most interesting paper and most valuable testimony is concluded with a pleasant sketch of the impression produced upon the writer by the rev. Mother and her companion sister. He finds these ladies, as it invariably happens to those who come in contact with the denizens of a convent, cultured gentlewomen, of cheerful mind, chastened further in thought and manner by the influences of religion, interested by all that is of interest in the topics of the day, and totally void of all prudish stiffness or affectation of a superior goodness, and he comes away evidently charmed by what he has witnessed.

We have, however, reserved certain sentences of the "Vagabond's" article, wherewith to conclude this imperfect sketch which we have given of it. They are taken from those in which he describes the convent church, with his remarks on what he finds there. "It is a pretty little church, nothing, however, very striking about it. A nun is praying, kneeling on the bare stone, and in the vestry we find another sister. Here, framed, is a diploma or certificate from the *Collegio Romano della Propaganda Fede*, the headquarters of the Catholic missions, where men are taught all living tongues, and from whence they sally forth and spread over the face of all the earth, preaching a kingdom not of this world, and carrying the Cross of Christ where the soldiers of the flesh dare not penetrate. I admit this fact, although as a scoffer I say *cui bono?*" Has not the acute become involved in the obtuse to an extent that is marvellous? "*Cui bono?*" Even for that upon which your eyes have looked, O, widely errant man. Do not such institutions afford you already a full answer?

"Non ragionam' di lor, ma guarda e passa."

There is no need to further dwell upon their excellencies, they are apparent to the superficial glance. But these things, and all their connection, are fruits of the Catholic faith, and a potent plea in favor of its propagation. Deal with the tree according to its fruits, and no longer oppose by your abundant talents the growth of those branches whereon are to be found grapes and figs, lest, hereafter, to your confusion, you be found to have promoted the too plenteous crop of briars and thistles.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

THE tickets for the Art Union, which it is proposed to hold in September next, for the purpose of aiding in the erection of the new conventual buildings so much needed in Dunedin, have now been pretty widely disseminated amongst those persons who are believed to be friendly to the cause of religion in New Zealand and elsewhere, who, it is hoped, will kindly endeavor to dispose of them. It is devoutly to be desired that a commendable spirit of zeal may so animate all the parties concerned that satisfactory results may follow from the steps already taken. There is no doubt but that all who will undertake to exert themselves in the matter will be

engaged in forwarding an excellent cause. Elsewhere will be found a sketch of the impressions received by one who is known to be anything but friendly to the Catholic Church, from a visit paid by him to an institution conducted by nuns in Melbourne. True, it is an institution differing widely from that whose interests it is sought to promote in Dunedin; but it has so much in common with the latter that it affords a striking example of the thorough manner in which all works undertaken by the members of a religious order are carried out. And it stands to reason that it should be so, for it is evident that they whose firm and constant conviction it is, that their eternal welfare depends upon the faithfulness with which they perform their tasks, and who have, moreover, already sacrificed all worldly pleasures and advantages to the promotion of that welfare, will not now be held back by any considerations whatever from energetically fulfilling their duties; therefore, the work they do is always the best of its kind. A printed appeal has been forwarded by the Lady Superior of the Dominican Convent together with each parcel of tickets issued by her, and there may, perhaps, be persons who are ready to believe that it has cost this lady no effort to solicit the aid of the public in her undertaking; such, however, is not the case. It is never pleasant to apply for pecuniary assistance, and still less so when it is done with the full conviction that the applicant, however unfairly, will be considered as benefitted personally by the advancement of the cause upheld. Where nuns are concerned this is not so: they have literally nothing to gain by any increase to the size or importance of their convent, asylum, hospital, or schools, as the case may be. In all probability they will suffer rather in personal comfort by being called upon to work all the harder, and it is but just to remember that when they solicit help they do so not for themselves, but altogether on behalf of the community in general. In the present instance this is especially so, and we know for a fact that the Dominican Sisters would now hardly have courage for their present task, were it not that they believe that by making one bold and determined effort, they will be able to accomplish, once for all, everything that is requisite, so that in future they may depend on their own earnings, and instead of feeling themselves obliged to claim the aid of their friends and well-wishers, they may become in their turn the dispensers of material charities, amongst whom it is the custom for members of their order to be reckoned.

His Lordship the Bishop of Dunedin purposes to leave Dunedin to-day for Invercargill, in order that he may officiate at the dedication of the church of St. Columbkil at Riverton on Sunday next. His Lordship will be accompanied by the Rev. Fathers Kelly, S.J., and O'Sullivan, who are about to return to Melbourne. The Rev. Father Kelly, however, has consented, prior to his departure from New Zealand, to deliver in the Southland metropolis one of his eloquent and much appreciated lectures.

It is our privilege to announce, the conversion to the Catholic faith of Miss Emily Buchanan, a young lady well-known and much esteemed in Dunedin, who has been received into the Church at London.

It is not necessary for us to comment at any great length on the improvements made in the appearance of our journal, they speak for themselves, and are evident to the duller eyes. We desire, however, to draw particular attention to our new heading, which is taken from the design of a local artist, Mr. Power, and which we think will be generally allowed to reflect much credit on the inventive genius and taste of the gentleman alluded to. We would further hold up to special notice the method in which our advertising columns are arranged, as we believe that the conspicuous position in which the advertisement of each of our patrons is placed cannot fail to meet with his approbation, and deserve for us a continuance of his support.

At a meeting of the Dunedin Catholic Young Men's Society, held in St. Joseph's Schoolroom on Friday evening last, the following appointments of officers were made—*nem con.* President, His Lordship the Bishop of the Diocese; Vice-President, the Rev. T. Crowley; Warden, Mr. R. Dunne; Secretary, Mr. A. Norman; Treasurer, Mr. J. Griffen; Librarian, Mr. A. Corrigan. It was decided that in future the meetings of the Society should take place on the evening of Wednesday, instead of that of Friday as heretofore.

It is to be hoped that the mystery which seems in some degree to have been allowed to attach to the management and inmates of the Fever Hospital, is not about to be dissipated in a most unsatisfactory manner. Above all things, we should say it ought to be made clear to parents, that the tactics of Mesdames Gamp and Prigg are not those in vogue in an institution, whither the law may compel them at any time to send their children.

The correspondent of a contemporary in a telegram dated Berlin, Tuesday, says:—With regard to Prince Czartoryski's denial of any agitation amongst the Poles to improve the present occasion in favor of unfortunate Poland, I may be permitted to quote some remarks from the Polish papers. While the "Gazeta Toruńska," published at Thorn, is quite satisfied with the Prince's statements, and professes that the time to act has not yet arrived, the "Gazeta Narodowa," at Lemberg, demands that the Polish question shall be mooted at Constantinople, that the Powers shall ask for the same rights for the Poles under Russian dominion which Russia claims for the South Slavs. If there were any pleading for the rights of the Poles the aspect of affairs would be totally changed, because 200,000 Poles now serving unwillingly in the Russian army would, in the event of war, go over to Russia's enemies, and consequently bring about a disorganisation of the Russian army, composed as it is of so many heterogeneous elements. The "Gazeta Narodowa" concludes thus:—"The holy duty now devolves upon us to remember the Polish business." At the same time a pamphlet has been published at Lemberg pleading for the rights of the Poles, and bearing as its title, "We also stand upon our guard."