

CRICKET.

On Saturday last, the 17th inst., the employees of Messrs. Mills, Dick and Co.'s printing establishment (TABLET office) played a match at Montecillo. The day was all that could be desired, and a most enjoyable afternoon was spent. The match was Married v. Single members of the firm—eight of the Benedicks playing twelve of the single men. The single men were captained by Claxton, the married by Woodfield. The married men were the first to appear at the wickets; Gresham and McDermott facing the bowling of Woods and Julius. McDermott opened the ball by a good drive for 2 off Woods, and quickly placed 4 more to his credit. Gresham followed suit in the next over by scoring a few singles, when McDermott gave a chance to Shepard (A.), which he held. 1—6—8. Woodfield was the next to appear, the score running up rapidly. These two batsmen were expected to render a good account of themselves, but Gresham was finely caught by Woods, after making 5 singles. 2—5—16. Caradus supplied his place, and soon made a nice 3 hit. These two players kept the field moving, until a pretty ball from Woods shivered Caradus' timbers. 3—8—28. Woods was now well on the wickets, and sent Jolly, the next man, away with his first ball. 4—0—28. Ryan now made his appearance, and from his well-known "sticking" propensities, it was thought it would enable Woodfield to tot up a good score, for he seemed well set; but, after a few overs, he was cleverly caught by Claxton at mid-off. 5—16—36. Ryan added 3, Harwood 1, a substitute for M'Mahon carrying out his bat for 3. There were 9 extras, making the total 51. The single men now took possession of the willows, sending in Terry and Shepard (C.) to the bowling of Gresham and Caradus. Terry gave Gresham a chance in the first over, which he was not too proud to refuse. 1—0—0. Barclay joined Shepard, but Caradus sent Shepard to the right-about after scoring 1. 2—1—1. Pilling was next, but was stumped by Woodfield without scoring. Barclay and Bayliss were now together, and a few maiden overs took place; Caradus giving too many wides. The captain took his end, and Bayliss' wickets fell in his first over. 3—4—5. Things were looking rather gloomy for the single men until Woods made his appearance, which he signalled by sending the "leather" all over the field. Barclay was stumped by Woodfield. M'Donald followed, and after carefully defending his wickets for several overs, he gave one to Woodfield, which was collared. 7—2—16. The next four wickets fell to the bowling of Woodfield, only adding 2 to the score, Woods carrying out his bat for a carefully got 16. There were 16 extras given by the Benedicks, which showed a lamentable looseness in the field, thus bringing up the single men's score to 47, the married men gaining the victory by 4 runs. Subjoined are the scores in detail:—

Married.		Single.	
Gresham, c Woods	5	Terry, c Gresham	0
McDermott, c Shepard	6	Shepard, A., b Woodfield	5
Woodfield, c Claxton	16	Shepard, C., b Caradus	1
Caradus, b Woods	8	Barclay, at Woodfield	1
Jolly, b Woods	0	Pilling, st Woodfield	0
Ryan, c Pilling	3	Bayliss, b Woodfield	4
Harwood, b Julius	1	Woods, not out	16
Substitute, not out	3	M'Donald, c Woodfield	2
Extras	9	Julius, b Woodfield	1
		Claxton, b Woodfield	0
Total	51	Russell, b Woodfield	0
		Tierney, b Woodfield	1
		Extras	16
		Total	47

CELEBRATION OF CECIL'S HOLIDAY IN AUCKLAND, A.D. 1876.

A SHORT paragraph appeared in the 'Herald' to the effect that the 271st anniversary of the Gunpowder Plot was celebrated in Auckland as usual on the 5th November.

This little announcement seems at first sight, and to the general reader, a very trivial and innocent matter, not worth serious notice, and, no doubt, was inserted without the most remote intention of injuring any one. Yet it may excusably be viewed in a serious light, as tending most cruelly and unjustly to load with infamy, the memory of the general body of the Roman Catholics who lived in the reign of James I., and to insult the feelings of the Roman Catholic subjects of the Queen in our day, and expose them to unjust odium and suspicion in the eyes of their fellow-subjects of other creeds.

The paragraph referred to, short though it be, and harmless though it seem, may be said to contain a whole volume of most injurious historical misrepresentation, damaging to the memory of the dead, and unjust towards the character of the living members of the Roman Catholic Church. It implies, if it do not actually assert, that the Gunpowder Plot was the work of the Catholic body collectively; that, at all events, they who planned and attempted to put it in execution had the sympathy of the leaders of the Catholic party; that Catholics generally wished it to succeed, and that such a scheme is sanctioned by the tenets of the Catholic religion. All this, if I mistake not, is implied in the annual celebration of the Gunpowder Plot. Yet it is the very opposite of the truth. That a most diabolical plot was concocted by some nine men, reputed to be, or professing to be, Roman Catholics, but who in reality were no Roman Catholics at all but sons of Belial, and fanatics more fit for a lunatic asylum than anything else, is a well attested historical truth. But the respectable leaders of the Catholic party, and the Catholics generally, had no more connection with it or guilty knowledge of it than the man in the moon. They regarded the conspirators and their attempted plot with horror and indignation. The first respectable Catholic who got any hint of it, Lord Monteagle, immediately communicated with the Government, and led to the exposure of the plot ostensibly. But there are not wanting respectable Protestant historians, who have entertained

and expressed a strong suspicion that Cecil was at the bottom of the plot himself; that, to use their words, "it was forged on Cecil's anvil;" that the conspirators were his tools and dupes, and consequently the plot could never have issued in mischief to any one. He pulled the wires himself, and by his emissaries could pounce on the conspirators at any moment. His object was to turn the King and the nation against the Catholics, and to fix a lasting stigma on their name and religion. The King himself, after the discovery of the plot, in his address from the throne, acquitted the Catholic body of any connection with it, and said the guilt of it was chargeable only on the few desperadoes who were engaged in it. The tenets of the Catholic religion sanction no such schemes. How effectually the crafty Cecil has succeeded in casting unjustly a lasting stigma on Catholics and their religion by means of this his plot, if the suspicions of Protestant authors that it emanated from him be well founded, is shown by the above paragraph in the 'Herald,' penned nearly three centuries after Cecil's death.

James I. used to call the 5th November "Cecil's Holiday." He knew well Cecil's object in instituting such a holiday. The Gunpowder Plot, "Cecil's Holiday," is not now commemorated in England as it was at no distant period, by a "special service" in the Church of England, and by Government ordering the firing of a royal salute to thank God for the pretended or sham "deliverance" of the King and Parliament from the horrid "Papists." But the day, as we see, is still celebrated publicly, and the celebration announced through the press. The little boys on the streets who celebrate the day have some notion of it—a vivid though false notion, such as I have exposed above. They will in process of time, grow up to be electors, or possibly some of them members of Parliament, and they will carry with them, into the polling booth or Parliament, those unjust prejudices against their Catholic fellow-citizens which their false historical readings and impressions are calculated to produce. Errors and prejudices imbibed and fostered in youth are difficult to shake off in after life. In some countries, Ireland for instance, party demonstrations of an irritating and offensive kind are forbidden by law, and properly so, as they may lead to a breach of the peace. In England or the colonies there is no risk of any breach of the peace from the insulting demonstrations on "Cecil's Holiday." But is it the correct, or respectable, or manly thing to insult publicly any person's feelings, or permit them to be insulted, merely because it may be done with impunity? Perhaps the Government, the head of the police, and the press will answer that question.

It is most extraordinary to see with what brazen assurance some editors in this colony publish the most groundless and injurious statements respecting the clergy of the Roman Catholic clergy, from the Pope downwards. One would fancy a respect for their own reputation would restrain them from doing such acts. A Dunedin paper tells its credulous readers, that Pius IX. has actually fulminated a decree ordering certain persons to be burnt.

LAIC.

THE FENIAN PRISONERS.

Two patriotic Irishmen of London, Messrs. Collins and Ryan, succeeded in obtaining an interview with Sergeant McCarthy in Chatham prison. A "visit" excludes so much as the clasp of a hand, were it even a brother's. Nothing but the claim of kinship is allowed as a reason to admit a visitor within hearing of the condemned. As a consequence of those harsh rules most of the Fenians in prison have never been cheered by one friendly voice from the beginning of their terrible doom to the present day. All efforts to see Chambers (supposed to be in Portland with O'Meagher Condon) have proved unavailing. Messrs. Collins and Ryan found themselves at last, after passing through many iron gates and courts, in the fenced and sub-divided kind of cage which is the visiting-room of Chatham prison. A few minutes more and a single figure in convict dress, but without chains, appeared between guards, who entered the cage. It was Sergeant McCarthy, penned up in a compartment or human horse-box, barricaded with wood and wire tellis-work. Between him and his visitors was stationed a warder, in the presence of whom every word must pass across that listening warder. The semi-shaving of poor McCarthy's head, by which the hair has hardly time to grow when it is again cropped close, gives almost a skull-like aspect to the wan man's appearance. As he looked out wistfully from behind the gratings of his cage at the friends who would have brought him comfort if they could, what could be said in twenty minutes in such a place? McCarthy spoke of his wife and family, of the love he bore them, of the desire to have the education of his children provided for. Again and again he thanked his visitors. He took the sight of their faces as a glimpse of paradise. There was deep horror in every allusion to the frightful companionship to which he was condemned. The repulsive, scoundrelly yoke-mates were, as doubtless the government intended, the worst portion of the mental and moral torture to be inflicted "as long as life shall last" upon the Irish rebel. There could only be half allusions on such a subject, but his visitors understood them. They learned that O'Brien, who is confined in Chatham, having protested against being coupled with some desperate ruffian, was punished for refusal by being put into the chain-gang. Poor McCarthy cannot sleep at night except in a half-sitting position, on account of heart disease; his food was coarse, and destitute of the nourishment he ought, under his condition, to have. He had heard of the escape of the Australian prisoners. The warder again interposed. McCarthy said there was a scare in Chatham, too, and the warders came around several times in the night, waking him up to see if he had or had not escaped through a three foot wall. The warder said he must stop that sort of talk. McCarthy is a practical Catholic, and bears a good character with all the prison authorities, from the Governor down. O'Brien, for an attempt to pick a hole through his cell wall, was kept in chains in a dark cell for some six months. Such is the prison life of two of the Fenian prisoners.—Trans-Atlantic in the 'Irish World.'