

still remembered by many of our readers throughout New Zealand. It is estimated that in Australia alone he obtained pledges of abstinence from 50,000 people. The funeral sermon of the great missionary was preached by the Rev. Father Tubman, who, we may mention, is a brother of the Rev. Father Tubman of Timaru. The *Evening Chronicle*, of Virginia City, gives the following account of the discourse:—At the conclusion of the Mass, which was an unusually interesting and impressive ceremony, Father Tubman, as orator, delivered one of the finest funeral sermons ever listened to on the Comstock. In his exordium he dwelt upon the vanity and futility of worldly efforts, achievements and advantage; instanced the cases of Alexander and Hannibal, and said that the deeds of men like Father Hennebery should shine immortal like the stars in the glowing firmament. In the course of his remarks he paid an elegant tribute to the Press of Virginia City. He rapidly but graphically reviewed the laborious life of the dead missionary, his travels and toils amid the jungles of Africa, the burning sands of Australia and the plague-stricken regions of India. He concluded with a peroration of extraordinary beauty, powerful eloquence and much pathos, during which many a moist eye might be observed in the church. The apostrophe of the spirit of the dead man was particularly fine. The funeral of the veteran missionary was a very large one, the cortege including the members of about a dozen different societies, in addition to large numbers of people who were not attached to any particular organisation. The great missionary is gone, but he will never be forgotten. He rests from his labours, but his works do follow him, and in many a home in both hemispheres the name of Father Hennebery will be mentioned with love and gratitude for many a year to come. May his soul rest in peace.

A TRIBUTE TO THE IRISH CONVENTS.

The London *Standard* has sent a special correspondent over to Ireland to inquire into the extent of the distress caused by the almost total failure of the harvest, to which we have already referred, and his report is interesting both because of the sensible suggestions which he makes, and also because of the splendid tribute which he pays to the work carried on by the Irish convents. Government help is certainly needed, he says, to enable people to earn a living, and he is of opinion that it is in the "development of textile and other industries from convent centres and under convent supervision, and the labours of the Congested Districts Board in the direction of the enlargement of holdings, the improvement of stock, and the cultivation of proper methods of fishing" that the best method of meeting the distress will be found. The correspondent was present at the Textile Exhibition in Dublin, and had ample opportunity for examining the exhibits from the various convents, of which he speaks in terms of the highest praise. Speaking of such places as Foxford, Ballaghaderreen, and Slabbreen, he says that the girls there, taken from among the "very roughest and most helpless in all Ireland, have been turned into skilful workers, who produce articles that can hold their own with the best in the trade." And of the work done at the Providence Convent at Foxford, he gives the following full and interesting description: "Like the other similar institutions, this is an Elementary school, to begin with, and a thoroughly efficient school, as the Board's inspectors testify. But everything, from the kindergarten class upward, is directed to practical and technical ends. The smallest children are taught to use their eyes, their fingers, and their heads in a way that is unknown in the ordinary National schools, and when they grow a little they are, in consequence, very quick at learning the things that will be of real use to them in after life. There are classes for cooking, dairying, laundry work, carpentry; and these poor children, who, although living in the country, never saw a flower-garden in their lives till they came to the convent school, are taught that the front of a house can be used for other purposes than that of a manure heap. One of the results of this last matter alone is that in a circuit that includes some 800 cottage homes of the very poorest sort, the manure pits have been removed, and replaced by little plots of flowers. The nuns also, acting as agents for the Congested Districts Board, give the people shrubs for planting round their cabins, teach them that if grass-seed is sown with corn they will have a succeeding crop of hay instead of one of weeds, and lure them into consenting to have one corner of their potato patch sprayed free of expense, in the hope that the object lesson thus afforded will induce them to do it for themselves in after years. In the factory, where over 100 hands, who otherwise would be left in hopeless idleness, are employed, blankets, rugs, druggets, hosiery, stockings, and many other things are produced, the annual turnover amounting to some £8000. Napoleon is credited with the saying that what is wanted in war is not men, but a man. In this case it was a woman, and the six years' work of the Reverend Mother and her little band of Sisters in this poverty-stricken Mayo village is an achievement as notable in its way as the winning of a battle." This is a splendid tribute to the good nuns, but it is not one whit more than they deserve, and everyone who knows what they have done and are doing for the people, will agree with the correspondent's conclusion that "there is no nobler or more useful work being done in Ireland."

SISTER MARY HELEN ELLIS, one of the band of THE ANGELS OF THE BATTLE-FIELD

Sisters of Mercy who, under Miss Florence Nightingale, went to attend the British soldiers in the Crimean War, died at Walthamstow in England, on Saturday, September 18, in her 82nd year.

The deceased Sister was one of the very few survivors of that devoted band whose noble work amid the horrors of the Crimea has never received the recognition and appreciation at the hands of the English people which it undoubtedly deserved. Miss Nightingale has earned—and justly earned—undying fame for her devotion to the sick and wounded soldiers, but the good nuns who were associated with her were not one whit behindhand in heroic devotion and were equally entitled to the public recognition and public honours which were so freely bestowed on Miss Nightingale. It is pleasant to know that no one more cheerfully or more warmly acknowledged the good work done by the Sisters than Miss Nightingale herself who, on the conclusion of peace, wrote as follows to the Rev. Mother: "You know that I shall do everything I can for the Sisters you have left me. I will care for them as if they were my own children. But it will not be like you. I do not presume to express praise or gratitude to you, Rev. Mother, because it would look as though I thought you had done this work, not unto God, but unto me. You were far above me in fitness for the general superintendency in worldly talent of administration, and far more in the spiritual qualifications which God values in a Superior; my being placed over you was my misfortune, not my fault. What you have done for the work no one can ever say, I do not presume to give you any other tribute but my tears. But I should be glad that the Bishop of Southwark should know, and Dr. Manning, that you were valued here as you deserve, and that the gratitude of the army is yours." It is gratifying to note also, that in spite of the efforts of unscrupulous bigots to have the nuns withdrawn from the hospitals, the authorities at the actual scene of action gave unqualified praise to the work done by the devoted Sisters. Before leaving for England, the Rev. Mother Bridgeman received from Sir John Hall, the Inspector-General of Hospitals, the following letter: "My dear Madame,—I cannot permit you and the Sisters under your direction, to leave the Crimea without an expression of the high opinion I entertain of your administration, and of the very important aid you have rendered to the sick under your care. I can most conscientiously assert, as I have on other occasions stated, that you have given me the most perfect satisfaction ever since you assumed the charge of the nursing department of the General Hospital of Balaklava, and I do most unfeignedly regret your departure. But, after what has occurred I would not, even with that feeling uppermost in my mind, urge you to stay. I enclose a letter from Sir William Codrington, Commander-in-Chief, expressive of the sense he entertains of your services and those of the Sisters, which, I trust, will be acceptable to your feelings; and I feel assured you must leave us with an approving conscience, as I know you do with the blessings of those you have aided in their hour of need. To Him who sees all our outward actions, and knows all our inward thoughts and wishes, I commend you. And may He have you and those with you in His holy keeping is the prayer of yours faithfully, JOHN HALL, Inspector-General of Hospitals." The letter referred to, from Sir William Codrington, Commander-in-Chief, was in the following terms: "Sir,—I regret much to hear that circumstances have reduced Mrs. Bridgeman, Superior of the Roman Catholic Sisters, to quit the General Hospital, and proceed to England with the Sisters who have been associated with her. I request you to assure that lady of the high estimation in which her services and those of the Sisters are held by us all, founded as that opinion is on the experience of yourself, the medical officer of the hospitals, and of the many patients, both wounded and sick, who, during the fourteen or fifteen months past, have benefited by their care. I am quite sure that their unflinching kindness will have the reward which Mrs. Bridgeman values, viz., the remembrance and gratitude of those who have been the objects of such disinterested attention. Your obedient servant, W. CODRINGTON, General Commander." Two of the Sisters, Sister Elizabeth and Sister Winifred, died at their posts, the one from cholera and the other from typhus fever. Of the Irish Sisters who took part in the expedition there is now only one survivor, Sister Mary Aloysius of Gort, who a few months ago received from the Queen the distinction of the Royal Red Cross. It is safe to say that of all the multitude of Jubilee titles and honours, none was more fittingly or more deservedly bestowed than this.

A SHORT time ago we showed in these columns THE CHURCH AND PROGRESS.

that the progress of events is furnishing a slow but most complete refutation of two of the most venerable among the many calumnies that are circulated about the Catholic Church. The calumnies referred to were that the Church loves to "keep the people in ignorance," and that she is the sworn foe of scientific progress and research. The splendid successes achieved by our Catholic schools, not only in Ireland but throughout the world, were instanced as supplying an

TIGER BLEND TEAS HAVE NO EQUAL.