

increase of lunacy, and Dr. O'Neill, R.M.S. agreed that the inordinate drinking of overdrawn tea tended to produce insanity.

LOUTH.—Clerical Change.—The Rev. Father McNeece left Dundalk about the end of September to take up the duties of his sacred ministry in Coalisland, Tyrone. During the time he was in Dundalk Father McNeece endeared himself to all classes by his many good qualities of head and heart. The members of the Catholic Young Men's Society, of which Father McNeece was spiritual director, made him a presentation.

TYRONE.—A Chapel for Asylum Patients.—At a recent meeting of the committee of management of the Omagh Lunatic Asylum it was unanimously resolved, on the motion of Mr. George Murnaghan, M.P., seconded by Mr. Jeremiah Jordan, M.P., that the new church be used exclusively for Catholic purposes. Heretofore, Catholic inmates have had to attend Catholic services under disabilities and in violation of the canons of the Church. It was pointed out that when the chapel for that institution was first attended by Catholic inmates the toleration for Catholics at that time was not as broad and as liberal as it is at present. The motion was supported by Mr. E. T. Herdman, D.L. and Mr. H. de F. Montgomery.

WATERFORD.—Presentation to a Christian Brother.—The Rev. Brother Nugent, who had for many years been in charge of the Christian Schools, Waterford, has been presented by the Sodality of Mary Immaculate with a portmanteau, rug, dressing case, etc., as tokens of regard on the occasion of his removal from Mount Zion.

WESTMEATH.—The National Flag in Mullingar.—A piece of stupid officialism, on the part of the High Sheriff, is reported from Mullingar. Captain Fulke Greville, who is High Sheriff for Westmeath and Tory member for one of the Bradford divisions, has been the offender. The members of the Westmeath County Council, of which Captain Greville's father, Lord Greville, D.L., is chairman, decided unanimously to erect a green flag over the county courthouse in Mullingar, which has been transferred to their care by the Local Government Act. The dashing Captain would not hear of it, and when the day arrived on which the flag was to be erected he had a *posse* of police stationed at the courthouse to prevent the councillors carrying out their avowed intention. A large crowd collected, and there was a desperate tussle between the police and civilians. At one time the minions of the law were successful, and at another the townspeople. The flag was captured and recaptured. It was then waved from the windows of the building amidst great applause. Eventually the police succeeded in retaking it. The people dispersed and held an indignation meeting, at which Captain Greville's arbitrary conduct was condemned. The result is that the Nationalist County Councils all over the country are taking the matter up, and in a short time, thanks to Captain the Hon. Greville, M.P., the green flag will be seen waving over nearly every county courthouse in Ireland. In justice to Lord Greville, father of the victorious Captain, it must be said that he boldly declared his readiness to sit under an Irish flag.

WICKLOW.—An Evicted Tenant Reinstated.—Mr William Bergin has been reinstated in his holding at Rathdrum, County Wicklow, from which he was evicted seven years ago, and the Land Commissioners will advance the money for the purchase of his farm.

GENERAL.

Postulants for the United States.—Nine young ladies, between the ages of 17 and 25 years, left Queenstown recently in the White Star steamer *Majestic* for New York, *en route* for San Antonio, Texas, with the object of entering on a religious life there. Four of them belong to Cork and five to Galway. They are in charge of Sister Margaret Mary, of the Sisters of Charity of the Order of the Holy Ghost. The Order has two houses in Texas, one in San Antonio and the other in Victoria. The nuns of this Order exclusively devote themselves to the religious and secular education of the negro and Aztec children. The Order has been established only 11 years, and has no branch houses in any other part of the United States.

D. I. C. grand display of new spring novelties, style, value, and assortment unequalled, at the leading fashion house.—*.*

MR. P. LUNDON, Phoenix Chambers, Wanganui, is still busy putting people on the soil. He has also hotels in town and country For Sale and To Lease Write to him.—*.*

LONDON DENTAL INSTITUTE.—£1000 has been deposited by the principal with the Bank of Australasia at Dunedin as a guarantee of our worth. See advertisements. Complete sets from £3 3s; gas, 2s 6d; extractions, 2s 6d and 1s. Absolutely painless. All work guaranteed 10 years. Money refunded if not found satisfactory.—*.*

Lyttelton Times says:—"Gawne and Co., the manufacturers, of George street, Dunedin, send us a sample of their Worcestershire Sauce, made like Lea and Perrin's "from the receipt of a country nobleman," who must have been a fastidious feeder, and Gawne and Co. must have got the same receipt, as their sauce is indistinguishable from the famous Lea and Perrin's. People who like a relish with their meats—and what man does not—should be grateful to that anonymous country nobleman for spending his time in experimenting to such good purpose.—*.*

A HISTORIC SPOT.

THE FIRST MASS IN AUSTRALIA.

THREE HUNDRED YEARS AGO.

His Eminence Cardinal Moran had an unique experience on his return from Rockhampton, where he had assisted at the opening of the new Cathedral. On his way south (says the *Catholic Press*) he arrived at Gladstone, accompanied by all the other prelates, priests, and distinguished laymen who had been to Rockhampton. The Rev. Father Plornel and the citizens of Gladstone had made all arrangements for the entertainment of the party. An address was presented to the Cardinal on Auckland Hill, overlooking the harbour, and commanding one of the most charming views to be found on the Australian coast. It was here, about the dawn of the seventeenth century, that the first prayers of a Christian people ascended from the shores of Australia, and, curiously enough, the Cardinal in whose honour the gathering was held was the discoverer of the unquestionable fact that Port Curtis is the harbour of Holy Cross mentioned by the Spanish navigator, Admiral De Quiros, in his annals.

Among those present were the Right Rev. Dr. Murray (Bishop of Maitland), Right Rev. Dr. Corbett (Bishop of Sale), Right Rev. Dr. Doyle (Bishop of Grafton), Right Rev. Dr. Reville (Coadjutor-Bishop of Sandhurst), Hon. W. G. Grey, M.L.C., his Honour Judge Real, Mr. J. L. Blood-Smyth (Registrar Supreme Court), Mr. P. W. Crowe (Brisbane), Dr. and Mrs. McNeal, Mr. E. Parr-Smith.

The beautifully-illuminated framed address said, among other things:—

"The presence here of your Eminence, and of so many venerable prelates and devoted priests from all parts of our Continent, the object being to assist at the solemn opening of our Cathedral, awakens in our minds the remembrance of another celebration of similar import enacted on this spot 300 years ago. This is the harbour of Holy Cross of the Spanish Admiral De Quiros. There is the wide bay described in his narrative; there are the eternal mountains; you have crossed the rivers with their crystal waters glittering ever under our bright sky. The sturdy mariners landed where we stand—that was a great day for Australia. The little shrine is erected in honour of our Lady of Loretto; the royal standard of chivalrous Spain floats on high in the breeze that has swept among the smiling islands of the Pacific; the children of Catholic Spain kneel in front of the altar on the herbage that still clothes our hills, bending their heads low and striking their breasts in sentiments of religious awe, as the chiming of the little bell and the roar of the culverin announce to the prostrate multitude that the most Holy Sacrifice has sanctified a newly-discovered portion of the globe."

In the course of his reply the Cardinal-Archbishop said there were special features in connection with the spot on which they stood. The mind went back 300 years to the days when De Quiros landed there. The great commander set out with the special blessing of Pope Paul V., and special reference is made to this in the report which the Admiral furnished to the king. It was on the Feast of Pentecost, a pledge of the best gifts of heaven, that De Quiros landed in the great Southern land, and this it was that induced him to name the country *Tierra Austral de Espiritu Sancto*, and he trusted that every cherished wish of the early discoverer would be borne out. Some of our literary men hesitated to assign to the scene which lay before them, that it was the one marked out by De Quiros. It was only lately, however, that the officials had been published. He (the Cardinal) had the good fortune to secure a copy of the original Spanish despatch as well as a French translation of the originals published in 1616. De Quiros not only described the spacious bay and its surroundings, but also stated that its water would shelter the united navies of the world. The seven islands which sheltered the bay, with the special island, which he described as 50 leagues in circumference, were before them, and the report harmonised in every detail with the spot. He had just been informed that in 1875 Mr. Nesbitt, in reporting upon the harbour of Port Curtis to the Queensland Government, had stated that the harbour offered safe anchorage for 1000 of the largest vessels afloat. This was a wonderful confirmation of the remarks of De Quiros in his memorial to Philip III. of Spain. The one great point of argument made by the opponents was that the latitude and longitude set down did not correspond. But we know from what has been set down by the chaplains to the Spanish fleet that that was one of the arts of the Spanish Admirals. They purposely concealed the proper situations of land they had discovered lest Drake and his *confrères* would follow in their tracks, and, except in Royal despatches, such details were not given correctly, in order that they might be the better secured for future Spanish explorations. Thus the discrepancy of latitude and longitude strengthens the opinions that Port Curtis is the Harbour of the Holy Cross. He sincerely congratulated the Catholics of Gladstone, and their fellow citizens, on the prominence which this place had played in the early history of Australia. Here for the first time the Mass has been celebrated on Australian soil almost 300 years ago. The Spanish troops had assembled, the royal banner of Spain was unfurled on this very spot, here the culverins had thundered a welcome, and the assembled chaplains of the fleet had invoked the blessing of Heaven upon the whole of Australia—a blessing which had already borne fruit as seen in the virtue, the enlightenment and devotion of the sons and daughters of the land. He was looking forward to the time when that blessing would be multiplied a hundredfold in our united Australia, and he hoped that the Federal Government would erect a monument here as a memorial of the most interesting religious and historical event in our history.