

at the Crimea was to send home all volunteer nurses. It was expert attendance that was required and not inexperienced volunteers. Then for the first time nuns—the Sisters of Mercy—were summoned to the battlefield, and their heroism and devotedness left nothing undone. From that day to this wherever there was an enterprise that would engage the highest talent and highest devotedness, nuns have been summoned. In the late war between the United States and Spain in Cuba and Porto Rica, we had experience of what the results are of the ministrations of the nuns. At first none but volunteer nurses were admitted to the hospitals, and among the patients—suffering not only from wounds, but from plague and yellow fever and a thousand other maladies—the death rate was 52 per cent. of those admitted to the hospital. It was seen that such things could not continue. Then 250 nuns were placed in charge of the hospitals, and the death rate fell from 52 per cent. to 7 per cent. That is to say, out of every 100 poor soldiers taken to the hospital, 45 were saved through the devoted ministrations of these heroic Sisters.

Mr. W. W. Wardell, the distinguished Catholic architect and brother of Mr. H. S. Wardell, S.M., of Wellington, New Zealand, died at Sydney on Sunday, November 19. The deceased (says the Sydney *Freeman's Journal*) closed a life of noble labours a life crowded with artistic triumphs, in a manner in keeping with the modest gentleness which marked his whole career. He had devoted the best of his rare gifts to the service of religion, making the designing and superintendence of church buildings a labour of love, and he died as he had lived a fervent Catholic. His old friends, the Jesuit Fathers, gave him the last consolations of Holy Church. The deceased had reached his 76th year. His name will go down in history as the man who designed and directed the erection of two great cathedrals—St. Mary's in Sydney and St. Patrick's in Melbourne. The position and the honour, and perhaps we should add the good fortune, Mr. Wardell enjoyed in connection with these two cathedrals, made him a truly remarkable figure among the architects not of Australia alone, but of the world. We believe we are correct in saying that to no other man in our own times has the great privilege fallen of preparing the plans of two magnificent Gothic cathedrals and of seeing his lofty conceptions in one case completed and in the other case nearly so. If Mr. Wardell had done no other work, such monuments as St. Mary's and St. Patrick's would be sufficient to give him enduring fame. Yet, while he lived, he himself spoke of these achievements without the faintest sense of pride or boastfulness. His last days were given to St. Mary's, and it is of interest here to recall that it was he who first mounted the recently-completed central tower of the cathedral. Almost up to the day of his death he gave directions to the contractors, who are just finishing the groining of the aisles. Deceased leaves two sons—Messrs. E. S. Wardell (Melbourne) and Herbert E. Wardell (the well-known Sydney architect)—and three daughters—Mrs. Dr. Power, Mrs. Cowley, and Miss Constance Wardell. Mr. Wardell was born in London in 1823, and was educated for the profession of a Civil Engineer, but a strong desire to be a sailor sent him to sea at an early age. After a few years he returned to his first destination, and entered the office of Mr. Morris, one of the surveyors to the then Commissioners of London Sewers, who was also engaged in general practice, and afterwards Mr. Wardell entered the office of Mr. W. F. East, a London architect. During the railway mania of 1843, and after Mr. Wardell was largely engaged on surveys for projected lines, and at this time when the attention of all artistic England was engrossed by what was called the Gothic revival, he made the acquaintance of Mr. A. W. Pugin, then a prominent leader in the movement, and soon caught the enthusiasm of his friend, devoting his spare moments to sketching and measuring ancient buildings within reach of his railway surveys, the localities of which being constantly changing offered a very large field for such pursuits. In 1846 he received his first commission for a small church on the Thames, and immediately after another for one of greater pretensions at Croom's Hill, Greenwich. From this time to 1858 he erected besides other works some thirty churches and other ecclesiastical buildings in England and Scotland. In 1858 his health failed, and he had to seek the more genial climate of Australia, and shortly after his arrival in Melbourne he accepted the appointment of Chief Architect to the Government, and in the following year succeeded the late Major-General Pasley, R.E., as Inspector-General of Public Works and Buildings. While filling this appointment, which he held for nearly 20 years, Mr. Wardell had the responsible charge of the design and execution of all the works except railways and roads undertaken by the Government, embracing an extensive and varied range of engineering and architectural practice. In 1878 Mr. Wardell's connection with the Victorian Government ceased, and since then he resided in Sydney, during which time he designed many public and private buildings. He was amongst the oldest of the Fellows of the Royal Institute of British Architects.

Strange is life, into which we enter weeping, through which we weeping pass, and out of which we go, still weeping.

It is a good thing to learn to stand upon one's own feet; but it would be very foolish, because of that, to spurn the solid earth which bears and holds us up.

The Australasian Amateur Championship Athletic Meeting opened at Brisbane on the Prince of Wales' Birthday, the weather being very hot, and the attendance consequently poor. Two important championships were decided, Sanderson (on Dunlops) winning the Five Miles Queensland Championship, whilst A. M. Greenfield, the Victorian representative, succeeded in carrying off the Half-Mile Championship, defeating De Lisa, the N.S.W. representative.—*.

THE WAR IN SOUTH AFRICA.

THANKS to the Press Censor, an officer who has come recently into prominence in connection with the British army, our war news of late has been very scanty, uninteresting, and at times misleading. During the past week the outside world has been left in ignorance of what is transpiring at the seat of war. The cable messages have been devoted principally to details of battles which took place a fortnight ago. The only reliable news which comes to these colonies regarding events in South Africa is that which filters through the War Office. The messages of the various war correspondents, after being through the censorial mill, are so unconnected and apparently contradictory, that it is very difficult for the ordinary newspaper reader to follow the sequence of events.

According to the official report received here towards the end of last week the battle at Grass Pan on the Modder River was the most desperate fought during the war. General Lord Methuen states he encountered 8000 Boers on Tuesday week, and that after the most desperate fighting, lasting for 10 hours, he defeated them. The General states that the battle was one of the hardest and most trying in the annals of the British Army. The Boers were again most strongly entrenched, and had a number of heavy guns, which were well served. The enemy's position was defended stubbornly and with determination. It was impossible to out-flank them. The British Artillery and the Naval Brigade rendered themselves especially conspicuous by their bravery, and were distinguished throughout the conflict. The Brigade anticipated an easy task, but suddenly the Boers, who remained hidden until the sailors were within 200 yards of them, blazed away, a murderous fire encircling the kopje, mowing Lieutenant Ethelstone and others down. Out of 16 officers only three came through unscathed. It was a marvel how the Boers stood shell fire, motionless and silent, under their defences. Then a retreat was made without rout, the Boers taking their guns along with them.

The British casualties at the battle of Modder River totalled 482—100 killed and 382 wounded.

The news from Natal is of the meagrest description. It is reported that outpost fighting in connection with Ladysmith began last week, but no details have been received. It is said that General Sir Redvers Buller is at Frere with a British force of 18,000 men. The Boers are reported to be massing in the neighbourhood of Colenso.

The reinforcements that are being sent from England to South Africa are the result of the dislocation of the original plans, and are necessitated by the isolated movements of troops. The original plan decided upon by General Buller for a concerted advance having gone to pieces, it has been abandoned. Lord Wolseley confirms the statement that a second army corps will be despatched to the scene of war. The second division of this corps leaves within a week.

General Buller commands 23,000 troops, including volunteers, Major-general Methuen 10,000, Major-general Gatacre 6000, and Major-general French 3000. The maintenance of communication between De Aar and Grass Pan absorbs 8000.

RETURNING TO THE FOLD.

The Rev. Hubert Hickman, vicar of St. Mary's District Church, Frome, has been lately received into the Church by the Bishop of Clifton.

According to the London correspondent of the *Cork Examiner*, Mr. Lionel Phillips, the Kaffir magnate, and Mrs. Meyer are among the recent converts to the Church.

Mrs. Mocenni, wife of Mr. Philip Mocenni, well known in business circles in Perth, Scotland, was on Sunday, October 1, received into the Church by Father P. J. Brady, St. John's, Perth.

The papers of the city of Mexico announce the reception into the Catholic Church of Miss Mary Heimke, daughter of one of the secretaries of the United States Embassy. One of her sponsors was Senora Diaz, wife of the President of the Mexican Republic.

Nineteen converts were recently received into the Catholic Church at the Convent of the Good Shepherd, Newport, Kentucky, United States, by the Right Rev. Bishop Maes. A month previous seven were baptised by the chaplain, Father McDonald, making a total of 26 conversions within a few months.

Mrs. Madely, of Bracondale, Norwich, England, was received into the Catholic Church at St. Mary's, Great Yarmouth, by the Rev. Father Hassan, S.J., on Thursday, September 7, and made her first Communion the following morning, the Feast of the Nativity of Our Lady, when her three sons were also received by Father Hassan.

Hon. Casey Young, ex-member of Congress, and for 35 years one of the most distinguished lawyers in Tennessee, is dead. For some months prior to his death Colonel Young had been receiving instructions in the Catholic faith through the Dominican Fathers of St. Peter's Church. He was baptised and received into the Church by Rev. Father Meagher, O.P. A couple of days before his death he received the last sacraments of the Church from Rev. Father Lockinger, O.P.

On Monday, September 25, at St. Joseph's Church, 50 Avenue Hoohe, Miss Whitcombe, a well-known member of American society in the French capital, was received into the Church by Very Rev. Father Osmond Cooke, Superior of the Passionists. In a few days after Miss Russell Hancock and Miss Ethel Bannister made their profession of faith and were baptised by the Rev. Father Edward Lemaitre, C.P., in the same church. Later on Mrs. Walter Ellis, of San Francisco, a recent convert, together with the above-mentioned ladies, were confirmed by the Cardinal-Archbishop of Paris in his private chapel.