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Current Topics

AT HOME AND ABROAD.

THE NEW PARLIAMENT. 'ALL things come to him who waits.' So runs the proverb. Like many another expression of ancient wisdom it is not more than half true. However, some things do

come to those that know how to wait. For instance: *apropos* of the number of grocers in some of the Australian parliaments—a proportion said to be due to their familiarity with soft-soap—we inquired some time ago if some friend with a statistical turn of mind would favour us with a return of the trades and professions of the legislators of New Zealand. Well, a member of our staff has done this for our present issue, and added other particulars regarding the *personnel* of the new Parliament, which cannot fail to interest our readers.

WAR AND DISEASE.

THERE are, perhaps, few things that so effectually knock the starch out of a soldier's patriotism as typhoid fever and the other destroying diseases that are incidental to camp life. To the mind of the average civilian the vast majority of the soldiers who never return from the wars fall nobly fighting for their country's honour upon the bullet-swept field or die of wounds in the military hospital. As a matter of fact, the great majority die by the more prosaic and frequently more agonising way of disease, and not from contact with bullet or bayonet or the other death-dealers whose direct purpose is to dissolve partnership between soul and body. This, however, is a feature of campaigning life which appeals to the military man and the statistician with greater force than to the war-correspondent, the war-poet, and the war-historian. Hence we hear so little of this unpleasant feature of campaigning life. In the Philippine campaigns some of the battalions lost full half of their strength by sickness. The hospitals were crammed full with the victims of disease. But all reference to the condition of affairs was persistently and mercilessly scored out by the military censor. In South Africa at present the tale of the war correspondent is subject to even a keener eye and a more merciless red-pencil or scissors. But yet enough has been let pass along the wires to show that disease is decimating the garrisons both of Mafeking and Ladysmith. We are left to form our own judgment as to the health of the rest of the army. But, as Otto Berndt has pointed out in his *Figures and War*, the losses through sickness in campaigns are very considerable even in temperate climates. They must be relatively very great indeed in the conditions under which marching, camping, and fighting have to be done in the rainy season of such a climate as that of South Africa. Perhaps we have here one partial explanation of the masterly inactivity which has kept the British troops so long stuck fast south of Colesberg and the Modder and the Tugela.

Where bullet and bayonet slay their thousands in war, disease kills its tens of thousands. In the 114 days' struggle between the United States and Spain, only 279 Americans were killed in battle, and 1423 wounded. The number swept off by disease was 2086; those stricken by disease were, in round numbers, 40,000. In 1870 some 200,000 Germans corralled Bazaine within the walls of Metz. As many as 130,000 of the investing force were in the hospitals. Out of a total of 467,000 sick men that lay in the German military hospitals during the same war, only 88,000 were there on account of wounds received in battle. In the great American Civil War of the sixties, the Northerners lost 78,246 men who were killed upon the battle-field or died of wounds. Their losses from disease reached the appalling total of 149,030. The two great scourges of the private soldier are camp-fever and dysentery. Mulhall, however, has shown that rheumatism is not to be sneezed at as a factor in putting men out of action. In his *Dictionary of Statistics* for the present year we find the following significant

entry under the heading 'Disease': 'During the war of 1861-63 in the United States the Federals had 5,825,000 men under colours, and of these 254,700 were sent to hospital for rheumatism.' In the bungling campaign of the Crimea 362,000 out of a total of 428,000 Anglo-Franco-Sardinian troops were stricken with disease. Of this great host of sufferers, 69,200 died. The deaths from wounds made the relatively insignificant total of 6200. Of the British soldiers, 2755 met their deaths in action; 1847 died of wounds in hospital. The total of British victims of Russian bayonet-thrusts and sabre-strokes and marksmanship was, therefore, 4602. This was, however, a mere bagatelle beside the mighty holocaust of 75,375 men who were cut off in the prime of life by disease. It is the same old tale as far back as military statistics are available. Thus, the long and strenuous campaigns against France from 1795 to 1815 showed an annual death-rate in the British army of 57 per thousand. Only seven per thousand of these met their deaths in action. The overwhelming majority of the remainder were swept off by disease. Improved methods of surgery and sanitation have diminished the proportion of deaths from wounds and disease in the campaigns of later years. But despite all this, the experience of the British troops in South Africa will, like that of the Americans in Cuba and the Philippines, undoubtedly go to show that the worst horrors of modern warfare are those of the military hospital and not of the battle-field.

WAR AND FAMINE.

You remember the lyric in which Tom Moore represented love, valour, and 'wit, the sprite, wandering

Through Erin's Isle
To sport awhile

together, and how he made them 'three godlike friends,' inseparable for ever. The bond that holds them together is, we fancy, a very loose and conventional one. For valour, we fear, often breaks away from the pleasant little triple alliance. Let Valour but stand for war, and we find it frequently allied with two grim powers, pestilence and famine, which are at daggers drawn with love and wit. We have already touched upon war's alliance with disease. The Christchurch Press of last Saturday furnishes us with the following evidence that in South Africa, as in other places, it is associated with famine as well as pestilence:—

The war is reported to have driven things to prohibitive prices between Capetown and the Orange River. Horseflesh is at a high premium. Old screws that in normal times would be dear at £30 are now offered at 70, 80, or 90 guineas. A covered gig with two ponies and a driver can only be hired at a charge of £40 monthly; a bottle of the cheapest lager beer costs 2s, a soda and whisky costs half-a-crown, soda and milk 1s 6d, whilst 8s is the lowest price asked for a bottle of whisky.

Any doubts that may exist as to the destination of a portion of the 'horseflesh' is set at rest by the correspondent of another paper who tells us that it is being used as food in some parts of South Africa. If this be true, the story of the premium on horseflesh tells a more pitiful tale than the enhanced price of 'a soda and whisky.' The poor in Paris, Brussels, Milan, and other Continental cities habitually use and relish the tender, nutritious, and not unsavoury flesh of young horse. But the inhabitants of the British Isles raise around their stomachs a sturdy barrier of insular prejudice which admits the foul-feeding porker but excludes the clean-feeding horse. And this barrier they never lower except under the stern pressure of hunger—as in a protracted siege.

During the Cuban campaign last year horse-flesh, mule-flesh, and even dog-flesh was in great demand, and at high prices. During the siege of Manila, the following cable-message appeared in the New Zealand dailies: 'The richest people are slaughtering dogs and horses for food. The natives are eating rats and mice.' Messages such as this tell in a few words the story of a thousand concentrated griefs and woes. The garrison of Ladysmith has been for some time on short rations, and when the story of the siege is told we shall

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probably hear of many a baggage mule and many a disabled charger being converted into food that Thomas Atkins loathes in time of peace but must learn to tolerate, perhaps to relish, under the stern conditions of war. By an easy association of ideas we are reminded of the things that befel the city of Paris after the German army had cut it off from the outside world with a double line of sullen earthworks guarded with bristling bayonets and menacing guns. Readers of the history of that greatest of all sieges will readily recall the siege-dinner given at the beginning by Baron Brisse to the members of the Paris Jockey Club. The first course consisted of soup of corned horse, cutlets of donkey, mule's liver *sauté*, horses' lights with white sauce, and fried gudgeon. The second course was equally characteristic of siege days—grilled quarter of dog, roast leg of rat, rat-pie with mushrooms, &c

* * *

The time soon came, however—in January, 1871—when Baron Brisse and his merry guests had to subsist on seven ounces of black bread per day and one-third of an ounce of horse-flesh, which looked as if it had been cut out by a tram-conductor's punch. To secure this the besieged Parisians had to await their turn for hours at the food depôts in snow, sleet, sunshine, or rain, or under the more pitiless downpour of German shells. Sometimes a family contrived to secure from carefully hidden sources of supply a dog at £3 to £8, or a turkey at £5, or a goose at £4, or a fowl at 36s, or a cutlet of donkey at 15s, or an apple at 3s, or an egg at 2s. A vigorous trade was done in rats, mice, and 'rabbits'—the 'rabbit' being in practically every instance a cat. Adults can tolerate for a period the stunted and unnatural fare of siege-times. Children, as in Paris, die like flies: The war-demon is a Herod that slaughters the innocents.

LONG before the war broke out in South Africa we expressed in fitting terms our strong conviction that there would be no armed struggle merely to compel Oom Paul to enable a certain number of British Uitlanders to give up, on easy terms, their allegiance to the flag under which they were born. We maintained that if war broke out, whatever its pretext, its direct and immediate object would be the reconquest of the South African Republic and the Orange Free State. The jingoes made no secret of this before the war. British Ministers are making as little secret of it now, although they do not set forth their purpose with the brutal frankness of the speculators—chiefly with German names—whose interests lie in the rich mining regions of the Transvaal. Even Mr. Chamberlain, in his laboured and unconvincing defence of the Government policy, treats the franchise question as a trifling item in the South African muddle. The chief element in the situation, according to him, was the independence of the Boers and their manifest determination to defend the integrity of their Republics, if necessary, by force of arms. Briefly, his speech was, in effect, an admission that he deemed war to be necessary, not for the sake of the Uitlander franchise, but in order to establish or re-establish British prestige in South Africa. A poor justification, indeed, for a war which is to cost such a vast deal both of blood and treasure, which will set back the progress of South Africa by fifty years, and will leave behind it an enduring legacy of mutual distrusts and race-hatreds between Boer and Briton!

* * *

From time to time we have published extracts which go to show the marked aversion with which this unhappy war is viewed by a considerable section of the clergy who man the Protestant pulpit. Every mail brings fresh instances in point. Perhaps the most outspoken utterance we have read is that in which the Rev. Hirst Hollowell, in a speech delivered at the Congregational Union at Bristol, on October 19, referred to the war as 'the assassination of a free people.' No words of such exalted vigour as these have, so far as we know, fallen from the Irish Nationalist Party, who join with the British Liberals in condemning the war as unnecessary and unjustifiable. In the columns of the *Times* Mr. Justin McCarthy thus deals with the jingoes who condemn the Irish Nationalists for their attitude regarding the war: 'We Irishmen condemn the war because it is unjust, cruel, and ignoble, and we are entitled to say that the policy which directs this war is not English in the true sense of the word. The best intellects and the highest minds amongst Englishmen are opposed to this war as we Irish Nationalists are. Herbert Spencer, Frederick Harrison, John Morley, Leonard Courtney, Sir William Harcourt, Sir Edward Clarke, W. T. Stead, Philip Stanhope—these are some of the men who have again and again denounced the war. Mr. Chamberlain and Mr. Cecil Rhodes are its principal authors. There can be no glory to be won for English arms in a struggle like this, where the overwhelming superiority of strength on the side of the British force leaves the ultimate issue of the contest only a question of time and money.'

UNEXPECTED PRAISE.

DR. RENTOUL, of Melbourne, is the hero of the Orange lodges and the oratorical champion of ultra-Protestantism in the colony of Victoria. Rome is to him the Mistress of Abominations, and the Pope the Man of Sin. His utterances upon both have been termed grand displays of verbal pyrotechny. They might more aptly be compared to the rush and roar of a forest on fire in a high wind. Dr. Rentoul's prejudice is of the robust quality which often marks the honest and upright bigot who hates, not the Catholic Church, but the hideous effigy with horns and tail and cloven hoof which he erroneously fancies to be the Catholic Church. Dr. Rentoul has, however, at last come to see that there is some good in the Old Church of the Ages. The discovery must have come to him with the impact of a blank surprise. His announcement thereof struck the Melbourne *Age* with a great astonishment which it did not try to conceal. At the Presbyterian Assembly on November 23, the doughty Doctor figuratively patted his old antagonist, the Archbishop of Melbourne, on the back for his Grace's timely and effective utterances on the sanctity and the moral obligations of the marriage bond. We dealt editorially with the Archbishop's pronouncement in our last issue. The *Age* of November 24 reports Dr. Rentoul to have spoken as follows: 'He honoured Dr. Carr the more because he had had at times to oppose him, and might have to do so again. They all honoured the Roman Catholic Church for the high estimate that it had always put upon the marriage tie. Perhaps that Church had taken too strong an attitude as to divorce, but it must be honoured for the high standard of morality of its womanhood. He thanked the Archbishop for his courageous utterance, which was made just at the right time. (Applause.) . . . The utterance of the Archbishop struck a chord that would vibrate in the churches—Protestant and Catholic. He again thanked Dr. Carr for his courage and tactfulness. (Applause.)'

THE LAITY AND THE CHURCH.

PERHAPS we shall get back some day to the pre-Reformation plan of parochial finance. In those days the laity undertook the task of providing funds for the erection, repair, and maintenance of churches, chantries, presbyteries, schools, and for church requisites, etc. Nowadays the burden falls almost wholly upon the priest. In many instances he finds it like a millstone around his neck, and a hindrance to much of the good work that he might effect for the welfare of souls if he could devote his energies untrammelled to other fields of activity. The Montreal *True Witness* has the following lines in point:—

It would be a blessing if the priests did not have to bother or worry about the temporalities of the parish, but could devote all their time to the spiritual work of the congregation. When they do, because they must, as circumstances make it necessary, touch on money matters, some, and the least generous, say: 'Oh, I wish we did not hear so much about money.' Take your share of the burden and it will not be necessary to bring up the subject so often.

Just so. You will find many well-to-do persons who are ready and willing to travel to heaven at their neighbours' expense, just as, according to Sydney Smith, 'you will find people ready to do the Samaritan without the oil and the two-pence.' In a letter written some time ago to an English Catholic weekly, a poor and hard wrought priest wrote as follows on the subject of giving the laity the part they had of old in bearing the burden of parochial liabilities:—

I have no objection to the principle of no taxation without representation; but if I have laymen, they do something besides contracting parochial bills and then sending them to the rector to pay. So I would inquire if your modern Catholic church-wardens will actually raise the cash and meet the bills like men. It will not be of any use for them to come to the rector to organise a bazaar; for the obvious reason that if the rector has to money-grub at all, it is much more pleasant to grub for the debts he contracted himself than for those contracted by his beloved flock. To the principle of no taxation without representation I would add another: no responsibility without control. No priest, no *man*, will accept liability for bills sent round for payment. My own congregation is at present in want of a good organ; about £600, they say, will do it. Will any group of the laity band together and, with my blessing, get the money? But they must not disturb me reading *The Spiritual Combat*. Let us have church-wardens, by all means; let them foot the bills, and, if necessary, face the bailiffs. But they must not go cheerily into the contract of £600 for an organ and send me round to beg from door to door. If any lay gentlemen are willing to be church-wardens on these terms, they are just the men I want.

We know an odd dozen or two of Catholic priests who are also pining to find among their flocks such ideal modern representatives of the trusty Catholic church-wardens of the olden time.

THE POPE AND HIS ASSAILANT.

THE Liverpool *Catholic Times* tells the following interesting incident of Leo's life at Brussels. The story is told by a personage of high station in the Vatican:—'Our Pope,' he said, 'reads character at a glance, and is rarely deceived. One evening when Nunzio at

Brussels, he was entering his carriage to go to dinner at the house of Count de Baillet, when just as his foot was on the carriage step, a workman, wretchedly dressed, rushed forward, insulted him, and attacked him personally. His servants, ready in his defence, seized the aggressor, and proceeded to make things hot for him; but the Pontiff—then simply Monsignor Pecci—stopped them, and, calmly and kindly addressing the man, said: "My friend, I bear you no malice for what you have done; are you in need? Come to see me some other time," and let a five-franc piece slip into his hand. Needless to say, the workman, after such encouragement, went to see him, and went so often that the Nuncio eventually took him into his service as a domestic, and even now Leo XIII. retains a benevolent recollection of him, and recounts that he never had a servant more respectful and more to be trusted.'

THE RESULT OF THE GENERAL ELECTION.

THE result of the General Election upset the calculations of the political prophets, and the man who said 'I told you so' was not even in evidence the day after the contest. The election resulted in an overwhelming majority for the Government, the reduction of the Opposition to a feeble minority, and the almost total annihilation of that party called the Left Wing—a noisy little group that will 'never be missed.' From a precarious majority of six among the European members in a House of 70, the Government have increased their strength to a majority of about 30. The state of parties in the new Parliament will be—Ministerialists, 49; Opposition, 19, with two electoral contests yet to take place. As Mr. J. Hutcheson has practically thrown in his lot with the Opposition, the only representative of the Left Wing is the creator of the party—Mr. Pirani, his trusty lieutenants, Messrs. Kelly, Taylor, and Smith, having suffered defeat.

A feature of the election was the rejection of some of the most prominent Opposition men in favour of candidates practically without any claims on the constituencies save that they declared themselves in favour of the Liberal policy. Among these may be mentioned Mr. W. C. Buchanan (Wairarapa), Mr. Scobie Mackenzie (Dunedin), and Mr. Rolleston (Riccarton). The surprise of the election was the rejection of Mr. T. E. Taylor in Christchurch, where it was supposed his seat was quite secure owing to the solidity of the Prohibition party, and the support which was due to him by the Opposition for his work in trying to bring the Ministry into disrepute. Two promising young politicians, from whom much was expected, were also unfortunate, namely Messrs. Montgomery and O'Regan. The former lost his seat to an anti-Ministerialist, and the latter to a Government follower. The surprise of the contest, from the individual standpoint, was the return of Mr. George Fisher, who is to-day, as he had often been before, one of the chosen of the Empire City. The *quidnuncs* said he had not the remotest chance of success; he was not the selected of any party; he played a lone hand, addressed but few meetings, and spent but nine shillings altogether on the contest—a record for the Colony. His return was no doubt all the pleasanter when he learnt that Mr. Taylor was not to occupy the seat immediately in his rear in the new House, where the late member for Christchurch worried him with 'asides,' which never reached the Speaker's ears. Another feature of the election was the rejection of nearly all the 'Independent' candidates; evidently the time has not yet arrived for the doing away with party government in this Colony.

The *habitués* of the galleries will miss the rapier-like thrusts of the late senior member for Dunedin, but they will have some consolation in knowing that the redoubtable Mr. 'Ironsand' Smith in all the glory of a white vest, bell-topper, and the most pronounced of 'buttonholes,' will be present to keep the House in good humour.

CALLINGS AND PROFESSIONS.

In making a rough estimate of the callings and professions of the new House we find there is a pretty general distribution, but that of farmer or runholder predominates. The following are the various callings or professions represented:—Farmers or runholders, 21; solicitors, 9; journalists, 7; storekeepers, 4; contractors, 3; schoolmasters, 3; merchants, 2; and one each of the following:—Native interpreter, livery-stable keeper, estate agent, clothier, tinsmith, mining agent, newspaper proprietor, sailmaker, clicker, bootmaker, stationer's assistant, lecturer, gasfitter, bookseller, master mariner, sawmiller, salesman, auctioneer, and butcher.

Taking the members according to the countries of their birth we find that about 20 of them were born in England, 16 in New Zealand, 14 in Ireland, 10 in Scotland, 4 in Victoria, 2 in India, 1 in Tasmania, and 1 in South Australia.

The following is a list of the members elected last week, including the name of Mr. Field, returned for Otaki, and who died on Friday:—

AUCKLAND.

Bay of Islands—B. M. Houston	...	...	G
Marsden—R. Thompson	...	...	G
Waitemata—R. Monk	...	...	O
Eden—J. Bollard	...	...	O
City of Auckland (three members)—			
W. J. Napier	...	...	G
G. Fowlds	...	...	G
W. Crowther	...	...	O
Manukau—Sir G. M. O'Rorke	...	...	G
Thames—J. McGowan	...	...	G
Ohinemuri—Jackson Palmer	...	...	G
Parnell—F. Lawry	...	...	G

Franklin—W. F. Massey	...	...	O
Bay of Plenty—W. H. Herries	...	...	O
Waikato—F. W. Lang	...	...	O
Waipatu—J. Carroll	...	...	G
HAWKE'S BAY.			
Hawke's Bay—Captain W. R. Russell	...	...	O
Napier—A. L. D. Fraser	...	...	G
Waipawa—C. Hall	...	...	G
TARANAKI.			
Taranaki—E. M. Smith	...	...	G
Hawera—F. McGuire	...	...	O
Egmont—W. Symes	...	...	G
WELLINGTON.			
Wanganui—A. D. Willis	...	...	G
Patea—G. Hutchison	...	...	O
Pahiatua—J. O'Meara	...	...	G
Palmerston—F. Pirani	...	...	LW
Manawatu—J. Stevens	...	...	G
Masterton—A. W. Hogg	...	...	G
Wairarapa—J. T. M. Hornsby	...	...	G
Otaki—H. A. Field	...	...	G
Wellington City (three members)—			
J. Hutcheson	...	...	LW
A. R. Atkinson	...	...	O
G. Fisher	...	...	G
Wellington Suburbs—T. M. Wilford	...	...	G
NELSON, MARLBOROUGH, AND WESTLAND.			
Nelson City—J. Graham	...	...	G
Motueka—R. McKenzie	...	...	G
Buller—J. Colvin	...	...	G
Wairau—C. H. Mills	...	...	G
Westland—Rt. Hon. R. J. Seddon	...	...	G
Grey—A. R. Guinness	...	...	G
CANTERBURY.			
Ashley—R. Meredith	...	...	G
Kaiapoi—D. Buddo	...	...	G
Riccarton—G. W. Russell	...	...	G
Avon—W. W. Tanner	...	...	G
Selwyn—C. A. C. Hardy	...	...	O
Christchurch City (three members)—			
W. W. Collins	...	...	G
C. Lewis	...	...	O
H. G. Eli	...	...	LW
Ellesmere—R. H. Rhodes	...	...	O
Ashburton—J. M'Lachlan	...	...	G
Geraldine—F. R. Flatman	...	...	G
Timaru—Hon. W. Hall-Jones	...	...	G
Waitaki—Hon. W. J. Steward	...	...	G
OTAGO.			
Oamaru—T. Y. Duncan	...	...	G
Waihemo—Hon. J. M'Kenzie	...	...	G
Waikouaiti—E. G. Allen	...	...	G
Dunedin City (three members)			
J. A. Millar	...	...	G
J. F. Arnold	...	...	G
A. R. Barclay	...	...	G
Caversham—A. Morrison	...	...	G
Taieri—W. C. F. Carnoross	...	...	G
Bruce—J. Allen	...	...	O
Tuapeka—J. Bennet	...	...	G
Clutha—J. W. Thomson	...	...	O
Wakatipu—W. Fraser	...	...	O
Mataura—R. M'Nab	...	...	G
Invercargill—J. A. Hanan	...	...	G
Awatua—Hon. J. G. Ward	...	...	G
Wallace—M. Gilfedder	...	...	G
STATE OF PARTIES.			
Government	...	...	49
Opposition	...	...	19

WHERE THE TOYS COME FROM.

NINE-TENTHS of all the toys which will fill the stockings of youngsters on Christmas morning are manufactured in Germany. In Sonneburg, a little town in Thuringen, almost the entire industry is confined to the manufacture of dolls. The inhabitants are poor people and are brought up to doll making. From all over the world large numbers of dealers in toys go to Sonneburg every year. There are at least five hundred different kinds of dolls, and while the French invent many of the most attractive, the Germans copy them so cheaply that the buyers go principally to Germany for their supplies. From Nuremberg come the magnetic toys, swords, guns, woolly sheep, jumping-jacks, trumpets, and many ingenious mechanical toys. The carved wooden toys are made in Saxony. Toy horses, cows, elephants, cats, lions, tigers and all kinds of animals are made in German prisons.

Persons about to purchase boots and shoes would do well to pay a visit to Messrs. Loft and Co.'s establishment, Royal Arcade, Dunedin, where they will find an extensive stock of Colonial and imported goods to make a selection from.—*.*

The cycle is already proving its worth for despatch work in the Transvaal, the detailed accounts to hand from the seat of war showing that the Dunlop-shod cycle is eminently suited for carrying orders and instructions when decent tracks are available.—*.*

THE WAR IN SOUTH AFRICA.

KRUGERANIA.

President Kruger is above all things a wily diplomatist, as was well shown when a deputation of Uitlanders waited upon him to hint that he was responsible for the decrease in value of mining shares. Oom Paul answered them in a parable about a pet monkey he once had. 'Years ago,' said the President, 'on a cold day, I and the monkey made a fire, in which the animal burnt his tail, and in revenge bit me. I said to him, "I made a fire to warm us both, but you burnt your tail in it. That was your own fault, and I don't see why you should be angry with me." When the anecdote was finished, the deputation concluded it was no place for them, and withdrew without a word. When Johannesburg was a mere mining camp, President Kruger was once riding there dressed as an ordinary burgher. He fell in with a German who did not know him, and the son of the Fatherland waxed eloquent on what he would do were he President. The Teuton was a diminutive individual, and was much surprised when his new acquaintance took off his coat and held it towards him, saying, 'Put this on.' 'It's too large,' replied the other, amused. 'I know that,' responded the other, 'I'm President Kruger; if you could fit my coat you might accomplish mighty deeds.' Oom Paul, as President of the South African Republic, which has a population of about double that of Dunedin, gets a greater salary than the whole of the New Zealand Ministers with their travelling expenses thrown in, besides which he is allowed between £2000 and £3000 for extras, and £300 a year additional for rent.

OLIVE SCHREINER.

Olive Schreiner, the literary champion of the Boers of the Transvaal, has not a drop of Dutch blood in her veins. Her father was a German missionary, her mother an Englishwoman. All her early life was spent at an inland station, and it was from this lonely place that she wrote *The Story of an African Farm*, which was rather a treatise on a woman's right to a career than a novel. Miss Schreiner married a man named Conwright, who took her name instead of giving her his. She is now known as Mrs. Conwright-Schreiner.

KRUGER AND RELIGIOUS EQUALITY.

A small deputation accompanied me to Pretoria (says Dr. Joseph H. Hentz in *The Menorah*) to interview President Kruger. He, however, would hear of nothing before he had gone through the usual preliminary discussion on the Bible. It cannot be denied that he has his Bible at his fingers' ends. After an hour's wrangling, during which he tried to prove from Genesis, Habakkuk, and John that the Boers are the descendants of Isaac and that we (the Jews) are the descendants of Ishmael, and that it would, therefore, be against the letter and the spirit of the Scriptures that these two should inherit the land together, we came down to the real point for which the deputation came. Of course, he maintained that he personally was in favour of religious equality, but in all such radical measures, involving the amending of the Grondwet, he must carry his burghers with him; he could not, therefore, promise anything; a favourite argument of his, but not true, because in the Proverbs of Paul we find, *vox populi, vox dei*.

One by one he began to repeat the stock arguments of the Boer against removing disabilities from Jews and Catholics. Naturally, we took him up at every point and exposed his fallacies. But he, nothing daunted, resorted to his trump card whenever driven into a corner, he lost his temper and began to shout. This time, however, he reckoned without his guests. We (Mr. Goldrich and myself) also began to shout, only much louder, and the three of us, wildly gesticulating on the President's stoop, was a sight not altogether devoid of the ludicrous to the passer-by, as well as to the philosophical Zaps, patrolling before the Presidency. The upshot of the whole discussion was the old to-be-expected Afrikaner motto, 'Wacht een beetje, alles zal recht komen'—Wait a little, all will come right! The warrant question we also submitted to him. He denounced such law as 'a devil's law,' and promised to have it repealed. Next week we were informed that the law when it says 'Christians' really includes Jews as well! No distinction, but what a difference!

A TRANSVAAL DICTIONARY.

The following explanation of the meaning of many of the names of things and places, which are referred to in the war news, will be of interest to our readers:—

Afrikaander Bond.—Cape political party, of Dutch and Cape-born British, with an anti-Rhodes and anti-jingo party.

Armoured Trains.—Each train consists of an engine and four eight-wheeled waggons, entirely armoured-plated with thick steel. Each wagon accommodates 60 men, and is provided with loopholes in such a way that all can fire at once.

Burgher.—Male adult citizen of Transvaal or Orange Free State, entitled to vote and fight.

Commando.—The summons to Boer burghers to assemble armed against enemies.

Dorps.—Boer towns.

Drifts.—Fords over the rivers into the Transvaal. The Transvaal Government closed them in order to prevent any road competition with the railway, but they were re-opened.

Imperial Light Horse.—New volunteer corps of 500 men raised by Johannesburg refugees in Natal.

Kopjes.—The stony hillsides where the Boer marksmen lie.

Laager.—The entrenchments of Boer commandos.

Staats Artillery.—A force of Dutch and Germans, armed with quick-firing guns by the Transvaal Government.

Taal.—The Dutch-French dialect of the Boers.

Veldt.—The treeless plains of the Transvaal plateau, where each makes a road for himself.

Vierkleur.—The old flag of the Transvaal—crimson, green, and white.

Volkeraads.—The Parliaments of the two republics.

'Volkstem.'—Official organ of Transvaal Government at Pretoria.

THE BOERS AND FREEMASONRY.

A 'past master' in Freemasonry draws the attention of a contemporary to touching incidents between 'brethren' in the last Boer war and at Majuba Hill. He also points out that not only are President Kruger and Piet Joubert enthusiastic Freemasons, but practically every educated Boer belongs to the Order. As most of the British officers also belong to the craft, it will be a real case of 'brothers' slaying 'brothers.' During the last Transvaal war an appeal was sent by the Grand Orient of the Netherlands to the M.W.G.M. the Prince of Wales, entreating him, as a 'brother,' to use his influence in favour of peace. The Prince replied that, as this was a political question, he could not intervene.

THE NAMES OF SOME SOUTH AFRICAN TOWNS.

The origin of the names of some of the towns in Cape Colony and Natal, which are at present so prominently attracting public attention, are of interest. Durban is named from Sir Benjamin Durban, who was Governor of the Cape in 1834. Grahamstown and Harrismith are named respectively from military commanders—Colonel Graham and Colonel Sir Harry Smith. Caledon, Beaufort, Somerset, and Cradock are named from former Governors—the Earl of Caledon, Lord Charles Somerset, and Sir John Cradock (Lord Howden). The towns of Ladysmith, Port Elizabeth, and Lady Grey are called after the wives of Cape Governors. Kimberley is named after the Earl of Kimberley, who was Colonial Secretary from 1870 to 1874, when that town advanced from the position of a mushroom camp to that of a permanent mining centre.

THE WORD 'BOER.'

It has been asked when did the word 'Boer' assume its present form and spelling. Judging from *Hansard* down to the late fifties, it was printed with a small 'b,' and spelt 'boers.' Mr. Gladstone, when Secretary of State for the Colonies, and afterwards, frequently referred to the 'Dutch boers at the Cape.' In the glossary attached to Mr. McCall Theal's *History of the Boers*, this primitive form of word is not given. Boer is there defined as 'a Dutch word signifying a tiller of the ground.' In South Africa the word is now used as a proper name to denote anyone of European descent who uses ordinarily the broken Dutch language of the country.

WAR BALLOONS.

As balloons have already played a part in the South African war, the following particulars taken from an English exchange will be of interest:—Fifty vats, each containing a ton of materials for making gas for captive balloons, are being despatched with a number of balloons from Aldershot. It has been found that a height of 100 fathoms, at a horizontal distance of 600 fathoms from the enemy, enables the observers to secure the widest expanse of view. The war balloons having taken a stationary position, eight cameras and lenses spread round the balloon at equal distances will enable a complete view of the surrounding country and enemy's camp to be photographed, and subsequently examined. Lines of telegraph can be carried round through the air, from the ground, to a balloon several miles distant. The wire can be paid out as fast as the balloon travels, and if a captive balloon should break or soar away communication can be kept up with it for six miles, and the result of the observations telegraphed to the general commanding.

The word 'Nek,' which is continually figuring in the geographical details in the war telegrams, is the term generally used in South Africa to describe the lowest dip in the ground between two heights. Laing's Nek, for example, is the lowest point in the ridge joining Majuba to the hills extending to the Buffalo River.

Diocesan News.

ARCHDIOCESE OF WELLINGTON.

(From our own correspondent.)

December 9.

St. Joseph's Choir is to give a sacred concert in aid of the organ fund on Sunday.

Lady Buckley left for Home on Thursday by the Gothio. She intends to reside in the Old Country.

The Rev. Fathers Mahoney and Claney, of the College, left on Thursday for a short holiday in Masterton.

The Ven. Archdeacon Devoy has been advised that the result of the examinations of the Catholic schools in Blenheim was highly satisfactory. As in the last few years the schools were examined by the Education Board's Inspector. Ninety-seven per cent of the scholars presented passed.

His Grace, Archbishop Redwood, returned to Wellington on Thursday, and will remain here until after Christmas. The Rev. Father Ainsworth, who has been conducting the missions with him, will return in a few days. He is, I hear, to spend a short holiday on the West Coast where his people reside.

The election expenses of a successful candidate generally take the better part of the first year's honorarium to liquidate but, if what I hear is correct, the junior member for this city has established a record which should stand for some time. He is reported to have declared that his total expenses were nine shillings!

THE FAMOUS "VICTORY" SEWING MACHINE.

for Catalogue (mention this paper).

EASY TO WORK, EASY TO LEARN, EASY TO PURCHASE on our Special Terms. Write 6 PRINCES STREET, DUNEDIN.

The result of the General Election has been the sole topic of conversation since Wednesday. Even the most sanguine supporters of the Government scarcely hoped for so overwhelming a majority. For the City seats the 'Triple Alliance'—Messrs. Hutcheson, Atkinson, and Hislop—were looked upon as absolute certainties until the last return, that from the Skating Rink, came to hand. At that booth, however, the 'Alliance' collapsed, the result being that Mr. Fisher, who there polled a two-to-one majority, secured the third seat for the Government from Mr. Hislop. Great was the disappointment and disgust in the 'Alliance' camp when the final figures were posted. This was certainly a complete surprise to the public in so far as Mr. Fisher's return was concerned. Mr. Hutcheson, in returning thanks, said he would have preferred defeat in honourable company than election with Mr. Fisher. Mr. Atkinson, the other successful candidate, and a recognised advocate of Prohibition, was in his usual intemperate speech mood and stigmatised the defeat of Mr. Hislop by Mr. Fisher as 'a disgrace and a scandal to the city and the name of democracy.'

The results of the Royal College practical examination in music, which was held last week, are now to hand and are a flattering testimony to the teaching of St. Mary's Convent here. Several of the 30 candidates presented from that institution passed with distinction, nine with honours, while all obtained passes. In a letter to the Superiress of the convent Mr. Graham Moore, the examiner, remarks: 'I was delighted with the way the work was prepared for the examination. I can hardly recall an instance of so many candidates passing from one institution. Singing, indeed, is generally a weak point in most schools. Even when candidates are sent in they very often fail owing to defective methods of teaching. I shall let the examiner for next year know what he has to expect at Wellington. The following pupils passed:—Local Centre Examination: Possible marks, 150; pass, 100; honours, 130. Honours—K. Connell (senior singing), 141; R. Falconer (senior piano), 130. Pass—M. McLeod (senior singing), 112; I. Blundell (do), 100; T. Shapter (senior piano), 111; A. McDonald (junior piano), 113; C. Smith (senior piano), 104; M. Waldegrave (do), 107; S. Clarry (do), 107. Local School Examination: Possible marks, 99; pass, 66; distinction, 84. Passed with distinction—G. Flanagan (higher singing), 90; N. Drummond (do), 84; E. Maginnity (do), 88; E. Waddy (do), 84; O. Rittleng (piano elementary), 86. Pass—M. Waldegrave (piano higher), 80; M. Redmond (singing higher), 71; Mary Waldegrave (do), 68; V. Meredith (do), 78; B. Flynn (do), 78; M. Blake (do), 66; M. Evans (piano higher), 68; B. Gamble (piano higher), 73; N. Driscoll (singing higher), 66; T. Rowe (do), 68; M. Twohill (do), 79; O. McManaway (do), 73; J. Baillie (do), 72; E. M. Collins (piano elementary), 71; M. McDonald (do), 74; J. Broadbent (do), 66.

DIOCESE OF CHRISTCHURCH.

(From our own correspondent.)

December 11.

On Sunday evening last five aspirants were admitted to membership of the Children of Mary at the Pro-Cathedral, the Very Rev. Father Le Menant des Chesnais, S.M., Vicar-General, performing the ceremony.

At St. Aloysius' Hall on Monday evening, December 4, a very successful entertainment was given under the direction of the Rev. Father Richards in aid of the Pro-Cathedral funds. There was a good audience and the various items of a well-arranged programme were received with evident appreciation.

His Lordship the Bishop concluded his mission services in Rangiora on Tuesday, the 5th inst. The episcopal visitation of the parish and the administration of the Sacrament of Confirmation were comprised in the ceremonies performed by the Bishop during his stay. The collection for the Cathedral fund realised about £300. During the remainder of the week his Lordship and the Very Rev. Dean Foley were occupied at Oxford, another portion of the Rangiora parish, the services there being concluded on Sunday last, after which Dr. Grimes was expected to return to town.

The General Election passed off very quietly in Christchurch, and whether owing to the wise provision of having all hotels closed, or the moral effect of Prohibition tenets which have for the last three years been persistently instilled into the minds of the people, but one solitary first offender against the liquor laws made his appearance next morning before the presiding justice. Prohibition advocates were particularly prominent at all the polling places, and their doctrine seemed to pervade the very atmosphere, but notwithstanding their efforts the advocates of liquor reform suffered a most crushing defeat, losing not only the local option vote, but also meeting with the additional disaster of having their two former members and candidates on this occasion rejected.

The schools, conducted by the Sisters of the Mission, Barbadoes street, were, as I indicated in a previous letter, examined by Mr J. Baldwin, headmaster of the Sydenham State school, and Inspector of Catholic schools for the diocese of Christchurch under the Education Department, on precisely the same basis of examination as his own school (one of the most important under the North Canterbury Education Board) is conducted. In his general report the Inspector says: 'The schools on the whole have passed a very satisfactory examination. The neatness of the work in the upper standards appears to be a speciality, and is highly commendable. The singing in both schools is very good, and the needlework throughout is excellent. The discipline and general behaviour of the children during the examination were good.' Referring to the high school department the examiner says: 'The algebra is in advance of what I expected, the three pupils in the upper division and the six in the lower would, with very little preparation, be equal to the work required in the matriculation examination. The Euclid papers on the whole are very well done.' The French of the

upper division is marked by the examiner as very good, the weak point being the translation of English into French. In the lower division four of the six pupils are marked very fair. For algebra in the lower division three pupils obtained 100 per cent., two 98 per cent., and one 93 per cent., others ranging from 50 per cent. upwards. In the upper division the marks ranged from 58 per cent. up to 100 per cent.; in Euclid, 57 per cent. up to 71 per cent. Of 16 candidates for Stand VI., all passed; of 14 for Standard V., 13 passed; of 13 in Standard IV., 12 passed. Ten passed Standard Standard III. out of 11, and in Standard II. the whole class passed, the same being the case in Standard I. In the Convent parish school of 12 in Class V., 11 passed; of 18 in Class IV., 15 passed; of 25 in Class III., 19 passed; out of 15 sent up for examination in Standard II., 13 passed; and of 33 in Standard I., only two failed. It must, therefore, be conceded that the pupils of the Catholic schools easily hold their own with those of the State institutions as the foregoing report and list of passes amply prove. It must be borne in mind also that this was the first occasion the children underwent examination by one who was strange to them, and whose methods, too, were perhaps dissimilar to what they were accustomed to.

GREYMOUTH.

(From a correspondent.)

The annual examination of the Catholic schools by the Government Inspector was held recently. The results were most gratifying, the Convent schools gaining 96 per cent. This speaks well for the education imparted by the good Sisters.

The pupils of the Marist Brothers gained 100 per cent. Thus for the two years that Brother Canice has had charge the pupils have obtained this honourable distinction.

Regarding the High School, the Brothers are somewhat handicapped in that they are not allowed to teach Latin. This, in a High School, is a serious defect and will no doubt be rectified.

A new brick school 80ft by 30ft is about to be erected for the nuns. The estimate is £1000, most of the money being in hand. The work will be pushed on rapidly.

Brother John, Provincial of the Marist Brothers, is on a visit to Greymouth, and expressed himself highly pleased with the remarkable success of the school.

DIOCESE OF AUCKLAND.

(From our own correspondent.)

December 7.

The pupils of the Sisters of Mercy of St. Patrick's parish intend to give a concert in the Catholic Institute this week.

The Very Rev. Dean O'Reilly paid a visit to the Thames in the early part of the week in connection with the local Hospital Board and returned to Auckland yesterday morning.

The Rev. Father Patterson, lately of Palmerston North, is at present in Auckland, and on last Sunday preached a very fine sermon to a crowded congregation at St. Patrick's.

Very many of the candidates for Auckland City when wooing the electors averred they were in favour of the State examination of private schools. It is to be hoped our people will keep them to their promises.

The usual monthly procession of the Most Holy Sacrament took place last Sunday evening at the Cathedral. In the procession were the confraternities of the Children of Mary and the Guard of Honour, and the children of the Convent schools. There was a crowded congregation.

The General Election has absorbed local interest entirely. It has completely dwarfed Elandsagte, and Modder River. Politics, however, play a secondary part in it, pride of place being given to the liquor question. In this connection large calico sheets were exposed in every part of the City, upon which, amongst other names, appeared that of the Right Rev. Dr. Grimes as denouncing prohibition.

Lieutenant-General Clery, whose name appears frequently in connection with the present operations in South Africa, is a brother of the Rev. Father Clery, who was the first parish priest of Onehunga, but now stationed in the diocese of Southwark, England. Father Clery built the old church at Onehunga, having come to Auckland in 1850 and staying until 1859. The Clery family comes from County Cork.

Last Friday evening a large and representative meeting from the four city parishes, in connection with next St. Patrick's Day celebration, was held. The clergy were represented by the Very Rev. Dean O'Reilly (St. Patrick's), and Rev. Fathers Gillan and Darby (St. Benedict's). It was decided to at once apply for the Domain Cricket Ground, and to hold a national concert, etc., on St. Patrick's eve, Friday, March 16. The greatest interest was shown in the proceedings.

The Young Mens' Club, Ponsonby, gave another of their enjoyable entertainments in the Sacred Heart schoolroom on Monday evening last. The Very Rev. Dr. Egan and Rev. Father Patterson were present. The first part of the programme comprised a chorus by the Club Chorists, and vocal items by Messrs. Harkins, Culhane, Bryant, White, and Reardon, and a recitation by Mr. Young. The second part consisted of a comic operetta, 'Offenbach,' by Messrs. Donovan and Young, a ventriloquist entertainment by Very Rev. Dr. Egan, and a vocal duet, 'Life's dream is o'er,' by Messrs. Harkins and Patterson. The whole concluded with scene 3 from 'Handy Andy,' the parts being sustained by Messrs. Symons, Reardon, Culhane, Simpson Young and McCoy.

A NEW ZEALAND LITERARY ANNUAL.

THE 'DOMINICAN STAR.'

We are in receipt of the *Dominican Star*, a literary annual edited at the Dominican Priory, Dunedin, and printed and published at the office of the N.Z. TABLET. The success of the first number of this interesting and welcome annual last year has encouraged the Dominican Nuns to issue it this year in an enlarged and improved form. As a result the *Dominican Star* for 1900 contains 200 pages of reading matter—an increase of 50 pages on last year's initial issue; the illustrations—some 30 in number—are larger and more numerous than before; the feast of literary good things is more varied and abundant, and of even a higher order of merit than the excellent *pabulum* supplied for 1899; the annual appears in a very handsome dark-green crocodile cloth-binding, heavily gilt; and the price of the new issue remains the same as last year, 3s 6d. The *Dominican Star* reflects credit alike on the editor and on the Institute which has had the pluck and brains to put so excellent a publication upon the market. Paper, binding, letterpress, and illustrations do credit to the N.Z. TABLET Company's Office, which has succeeded in producing one of the best specimens of book-work that have appeared in this Colony for some time.

The *Dominican Star* is not a school annual. It is, as its title-page states, a literary annual for the Catholic home, and as such appeals to a wider range of interests than those that are purely or chiefly local or personal. This is true even of the literary contributions from the pens of the youthful competitors in its columns. There is a singular lack in them of local flavour; they come from places as far apart as Adelaide and Caversham; and they deal with subjects which would retain much of their fresh interest even if transferred to the Children's Column of, say, the *Milwaukee Catholic Citizen* or of the *South African Catholic Magazine*. The aim of the annual is distinctly high—not to say ambitious. And we are glad to say that it has hit the mark pretty squarely. Both by reason of its unique scope and real excellence in the field of Australasian Catholic periodical literature, it deserves a more than ordinarily detailed criticism at our hands.

Imprimis and in general terms: the *Dominican Star* offers 'a charmin' variety' of subjects. They embrace six stories; a like number of essays; four lengthy and interesting correspondences from places so widely separated as the North Island of New Zealand, London, India, and South Africa; five pieces of poetry; 'Chats in the Library'; timely biographical sketches; all the pleasant chatter of the children to the 'G.O.M.' and of the 'G.O.M.' to the children—and a few other items besides. It is needless to say that the contributions are all original; and those who perused last year's *Dominican Star* will be prepared to learn that they are in the main of a high standard of literary merit. Some of them are, in fact, from the pens of writers who, like Father Finn, S.J., and Lady Mulholland Gilbert, have already made their mark in the world's literature. Others are the work of skilled and cultivated writers, most of whom tantalise our legitimate curiosity by either giving no clue to their identity, or by concealing it behind the *domino noir* of a pen-name.

The annual opens with a well-told story entitled 'Herbert Howenden.' It is a tale of America, Ireland, and New Zealand. It enforces the gospel of work, of resignation under affliction, contains a powerful description of 'that curse of the land, an Irish eviction,' some bits of practical life wisdom, and so sweet, though brief, an appreciation of child thought and child philosophy that we confess to a wish to meet little Ethna again in a sequel to 'Herbert Howenden.' A capital short story—'Detective Burke'—is contributed by Father Finn, S.J., the well-known writer of tales for boys. It will be very much enjoyed by every reader, the drollery of the whole situation created by the imaginative Father being greatly enhanced by its humorous and altogether unexpected *dénouement*. 'Will and I' (by Emily Moreton) is a simple and straightforward, but singularly sweet-tempered and charmingly told tale of brotherly and sisterly affection. We do not know who wrote 'The Experiences of Uncle Paul Pry,' for he—we presume it is he—leaves a blank where his name should appear. But his tale is singularly well sketched in, with all the fresh directness, too, of a personal experience, and with a quiet drollery and an occasional suggestion of *naïveté* that are very winning. It is, briefly, a story of the Dunedin University students, their 'studies,' their manners, and their ways. Of the two other short stories in the annual, we are very much taken with that of 'The Old Violin.' It is told by Mr. P. J. Nolan, and is handsomely illustrated. The scene of the story is laid chiefly in Wellington, and it tells of the hopes, struggles, trials, fears, disappointments, and successes of a poor young lady violinist. The plot is well constructed, and the development of the leading characters in the story and of their mutual action and reaction upon each other is marked with a tenderness and truth and skill which stamp Mr. Nolan as a really clever writer of short tales. The last story in the annual is entitled 'A Practical Joke with Practical Results.' Queensland and New Zealand are the scenes of this well-told tale of squatter life. It is the story of the marriage of an excellent Catholic girl to an Agnostic, and of his chance conversion to faith in God as the result of a practical and almost fatal joke played by him upon his wife with a poisonous snake. Snakes proceed to bite in a much more direct and business-like way than the author describes; but that is an unimportant detail. The tale is a decidedly interesting one and is ably presented to the reader. We are much mistaken if most readers will not thoroughly enjoy the airs put on by the New Zealand maid who contrives to make such an amusing display of her ignorance in the endeavour to establish, at the expense of others, a reputation for being better educated than they. A notice of other articles, etc., in the *Dominican Star* is unavoidably held over till next week.

SCHOOL CONCERT AT MILTON.

On Tuesday, November 28, in St. George's Hall, Milton, an excellent entertainment was given before a packed house. The proceedings opened with an orchestral selection, 'Memories of Erin,' in which three pianos were used. The Convent pupils had assiduously practised for this and the other concerted items, and during the rehearsals had given a good account of themselves. Unfortunately the influenza epidemic made it impossible for a few of them to appear on the evening of the concert, but their close application and the excellence attained by them give them a right to special commendation. The young ladies who were entrusted with the pianoforte arrangements were the Misses Scanlan, Iza Leslie, Elsie and Edith Sparrow, C. Wyber, T. O'Neill, and W. McTigue. The other instrumentalists were Mr. H. Marryatt and members of his family, together with Miss Mason, Messrs. Brown, Bryce, and Walsh. The orchestral arrangements were under the direction of Mr. H. Marryatt, whose readiness to give his services on all occasions is well known. Another item by the same performers at the beginning of the second part of the entertainment was 'A Highland wreath,' which was given with equal success and heartily applauded. The school children contributed an action song, 'The court of the Empress Shan.' The scene was Japanese, the children being dressed in Japanese costumes, with fans in hand. The effect was very picturesque, the performers using their fans to good purpose in various attitudes. A piano duet, 'Linden leaves,' on three pianos, was well received. Mr. J. MacDonald gave a Scottish recitation, 'Boo! aboot,' and in response to an encore gave an amusing piece, 'O'Grady's goat.' A piano selection followed, in which the Convent pupils scored well. The children of St. Joseph's School sang the chorus 'I saw from the beach,' in which the parts were very well sustained. The next item consisted of a cantata by the school children, 'Little Red Riding Hood's Rescue,' the part of Red Riding Hood being taken by a little girl, Nellie Coleman, who possesses a sweet and sympathetic voice, the other soloists being Nellie and Josie Lynch, Bridgid Hanify, and Mary Coleman. The accompaniments were played by Michael Scanlan in a manner that indicated careful tuition, a juvenile violinist, Willie Casserly, giving efficient assistance. By way of variety Master Powley treated the audience to an Irish jig, which he executed in excellent time and with considerable grace. The final part of the programme was a farce by ex-pupils, 'Cool as a Cucumber,' in which Masters Keogh, McTigue, and Gibson, assisted by Misses Moloney and Lynch, took the several parts. The piece went with a good swing from start to finish and provoked considerable mirth: Songs by Miss M. Lynch, Messrs. Scott and J. Orbell, together with a piano solo by Miss Scanlan and a duet by the Convent pupils, which were down on the programme, were unavoidably omitted, partly owing to the influenza epidemic, and partly to a desire that the entertainment should not be unduly prolonged. During an interval the Very Rev. Father O'Neill thanked the audience and the performers, the former for their generous support to a deserving cause, and the latter for a very pleasing entertainment.

THE LONGEVITY OF THE POPES.

The Archpriest Pietro Piacenza, Missionary Apostolic, has contributed to a Roman paper some interesting facts concerning the longevity of the Popes. The following are some of the results of his researches:—

His Holiness Leo XIII was born on March 2, 1810, and he was elected Pope on February 20, 1878; thus, on October 18, 1899, he had reached the age of 89 years 7 months 16 days, and 21 years 7 months and 28 days of Pontificate.

Now the following is the place he occupies in the order of the longest-lived Popes:—

1. St. Agatho, died in 682, age 107 years.
2. Gregory IX, died in 1241, aged 99.
3. Celestine III, died in 1198, aged 92.
4. Gregory XII, died in 1471, aged 91.
5. John XXII, died in 1334, aged 90.
6. Leo XIII, on October 18, 1899, counts, 89 years 7 months and 16 days.

It may be noted here that Pius IX, whose days seemed very long, died in 1878, at the age of 85 years 8 months and 24 days.

Proceeding in this study the author finds that 3 Popes lived to the age of 83; 5 to 81; 5 to 80; 2 to 78; 1 to 77; 1 to 76; 1 to 74; and 1 to 70 years of age. The others lived from 50 to 70 years.

With regard to the duration of Pontificate Leo XIII has gained a high position. The longest reigns are:—

1. St. Peter, who from A.D. 33 to 68 reigned 34 years and 6 months.
2. Pius IX (1846-1878) reigned 31 years 7 months and 22 days.
3. Pius VI (1775-1799) reigned 24 years 7 months and 14 days.
4. Adrian I (771-795) reigned 23 years 10 months and 17 days.
5. Pius VII (1800-1823) reigned 23 years 5 months and 6 days.
6. Alexander XIII (1151-1181) reigned 21 years, 11 months and 23 days.
7. St. Silvestro I (314-335) reigned 21 years 10 months and 27 days.

8. Leo XIII (up to October 18, 1899) has reigned 21 years 7 months and 28 days.

Another fact in this respect is, that being consecrated Archbishop of Damiatina on January 27, 1843, at the age of 33, he is at present the most ancient of all the bishops of Christendom, and the only one living promoted to the episcopate by Gregory XVI. He is also the most ancient of the Cardinalate, having been elected by Pius IX on December 19, 1853. The bishop who follows next the Pope in the order of time is Mgr. Joseph George Strossmayer, Archbishop of Sirmio.

Friends at Court.

GLEANINGS FOR NEXT WEEK'S CALENDAR.

(Written for the N.Z. TABLET.)

December	17, Sunday.—Third in Advent.
"	18, Monday.—Expectation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
"	19, Tuesday.—St. Urban, Pope and Martyr.
"	20, Wednesday.—Quat. Tense.
"	21, Thursday.—St. Thomas, Apostle.
"	22, Friday.—Quat. Tense, St. Deusdedit, Pope and Confessor.
"	23, Saturday.—Quat. Tense, St. Columbanus, Abbot.

FEAST OF THE EXPECTATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY.

The Feast of the Expectation has been instituted by the Church to commemorate the longing desires and fervent aspirations with which the Immaculate Virgin greeted the near approach of that happy day when she was to bring into the world the long expected Messiah, whose coming to redeem mankind had been the continual object of her sighs and prayers. Yet a few short days and she would hold in her arms the Incarnate God, worship Him on bended knee wrap him in swaddling clothes, feed him from her virginal breast and pour forth into His Sacred Heart the most ardent affections of praise, thanksgiving and love! For now the time appointed by the Divine Decree was accomplished, and the Great Mystery hidden under veils and figures from the beginning of the world was about to be revealed to the astonished eyes of angels and of men.

During four thousand years had the earth groaned under the dominion of Satan, while kings, patriarchs, and prophets had looked eagerly forward for the coming of the promised Redeemer who was to break the fetters with which mankind was bound, and restore men to the liberty of sons of God.

The four weeks of Advent are intended by the Church to recall to our minds that anxious time of expectation. Meanwhile the promise made by God to our first parents, that the Seed of the woman should crush the serpent's head, was carefully treasured up and handed down from father to son through succeeding generations.

As time went on the promise was renewed to King David, of whose family it was declared that the Redeemer was to be born. Many of the psalms of the royal prophet are full of ardent aspirations after the coming of the Saviour, who was to destroy the power of hell and re-establish the kingdom of God in the hearts of men. It was also permitted him to behold in the far-off future the accomplishment of the promises of God by the incarnation, passion, and death of our Lord. These sacred mysteries he has described to us with a minuteness which reads to us rather like a record of the past than a prediction of the distant future. The same may be said of the writings of some of the other prophets, who were sent by God to prepare the minds and hearts of men for the coming of His Son.

Conspicuous among these was Isaiah, who, after announcing that the Redeemer would be born of a Virgin, relates in detail many circumstances regarding His passion and the establishment of His Church. In his ardent longing for the speedy coming of the Incarnate God he cries out, 'Drop down dew ye heavens from above, and let the clouds rain the just; let the earth be opened and bud forth a Saviour.' The same eager desire of the prophet Daniel for the coming of the Messiah brought down from heaven the great Archangel Gabriel, who revealed to him the precise time when the Saviour should be born. Thus did the saints of old continually aspire after the coming of the Son of God, whom, however, they were not permitted to behold with the eyes of the flesh.

Wherefore our Blessed Lord reminded His apostles of the special privilege which they themselves enjoyed in beholding and conversing with Him during His mortal life. 'Blessed,' said he, 'are your eyes because they see, and your ears because they hear. For amen I say to you, many prophets and just men have desired to see the things that you see and have not seen them, and to hear the things that you hear and have not heard them.'

Let us, too, pour out our hearts in gratitude to God that we have been made partakers of the abundant graces which are the fruits of our Lord's incarnation, preparing ourselves at the same time by fervent desires and loving aspirations, in union with the Immaculate Virgin, to celebrate in the spirit of the Church the coming birthday of the sweet Infant Jesus.

ST. THOMAS, APOSTLE.

St. Thomas was one of the fishermen on the Lake of Galilee whom our Lord called to be His apostle. There are only three incidents related of him in the Gospel, but these are enough to make his character more familiar to us than that of any other except St. Peter and Paul.

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Irish News.

ANTRIM.—Art Exhibition in Belfast.—The Marquis of Dufferin opened a Kensington Art Exhibition in Belfast on October 12. Lord Mayor Jaffe presided, and there was a very large and fashionable attendance. Lord Dufferin delivered an interesting address, in the course of which he referred to the vast strides which art had made in Belfast since the first exhibition of Kensington works of art in 1850. This advance he attributed largely to the writings of Ruskin and the development of the pre-Raphaelite school of art.

CARLOW.—A Memorial of the late Bishop Comerford.—The inauguration of the new pulpit recently erected in Carlow Cathedral, which is a diocesan memorial to the late Most Rev. Dr. Comerford, Coadjutor Bishop of Kildare and Leighlin, took place recently. The new pulpit is very handsome and is over 20 feet in height. The design is in perfect harmony with the architecture, which is of the Tudor period. At the base of the pulpit stands the figure of St. Victor, and at either side those of St. Lazarus, Bishop of Old Leighlin, and St. Conleith, Bishop of Kildare, being the patrons of the united diocese.

CORK.—A Cork Man Killed in Johannesburg.—Great regret was felt in the 'rebel' city when it became known that Mr. Anthony Wolfe, a former resident, had been killed in the Transvaal. The news of Mr. Wolfe's tragic death, in a collision between two trains engaged in conveying fugitives from Johannesburg, came upon his friends and relatives as a serious shock.

DONEGAL.—Cardinal Logue at Burtonport.—His Eminence Cardinal Logue received a hearty welcome from the people of 'Old Donegal' on his visit to dedicate a church to St. Columba at Burtonport on Sunday, October 22. His Eminence took advantage of the opportunity again to commend the cause of the old tongue to the people who have not yet lost it. At the termination of the solemn ceremonies a number of eloquent and patriotic addresses were presented to Dr. Logue, amongst others an address in Irish on behalf of the Lower Rosses branch of the Gaelic League. His Eminence, in reply, expressed the great pleasure which it gave him to visit the people of this ancient diocese over which he formerly ruled. The proceedings terminated with a speech from the Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell, Bishop of Raphoe, who said that it gave him much satisfaction to see that the priests and people were able to show the Cardinal such a noble monument of their piety, earnestness, and zeal, and the truly Catholic spirit that flourishes in the Rosses.

DUBLIN.—The New Church at Howth.—The Archbishop of Dublin recently solemnly dedicated the Church of the Assumption at Howth, a building in the Romanesque style of architecture which has been raised under the rule of Canon Flanagan, P.P., at a cost falling little short of £11,000, over £9,000 of which has been already paid. The sermon was preached by the Rev. T. Finlay, S.J. After the High Mass a public meeting was held at which the Archbishop, who presided, delivered an address. He paid a high tribute of praise to the energy of Canon Flanagan, and the hearty co-operation of his parishioners, as well as to the generosity of Lord Howth who had given so splendid a site. His Grace undertook to be responsible for one-half of the debt remaining upon the building, an undertaking which encouraged many others to generous contributions.

The Late Father Alphonsus O'Neill, C.P.—I announce (writes the Dublin correspondent of the *Catholic Times*, under date October 10) with deep regret the death of Father Alphonsus O'Neill, C.P., the well-known missionary. He passed away on Friday at Mount Argus, Dublin, after about twenty-four hours' illness. Father O'Neill was born in Stewartstown, County Tyrone, on October 11th, 1830, so that he was in his 69th year. He became a Passionist on the 12th of July, 1852, and was ordained in Italy by a Passionist Bishop in 1856. From the very beginning of his sacerdotal career he showed marked powers of that winning and moving oratory which goes to the heart of the sinner and helps the earnest Christian in his onward course. He filled every office of trust and dignity in the Order, from Vice-Master of Novices to that of Provincial, with care and diligence. His missionary work extended all over the three kingdoms, and Australia was the scene of his labours for six years. He was rector of Mount Argus from 1866 to 1869. His death creates a void in the community to which he belonged. The remains were interred on Monday in the private burial ground attached to St. Paul's Retreat, Mount Argus. The interment took place immediately after the obsequies, which were held in the Church of St. Paul. Solemn *Requiem* Mass was preceded by Solemn Office for the Dead, at which the Very Rev. Canon Fricher, P.P., Rathmines, presided. More than seventy priests took part in the Dirge and *Requiem*, and there was a large attendance of the laity.

St. Vincent de Paul Orphanage.—A large and influential meeting, over which his Grace the Most Rev. Dr. Walsh presided, and having for its object consideration of improving the financial position of the male orphanage of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, Glasnevin, was held in Dublin on October 22. The orphanage was founded in 1855, for the purpose of sheltering the children of the poor who had suffered from the terrible ravages of famine which had then visited the country. The orphans of the Irish Catholic soldiers who had fallen in the Crimea were also received and provided for in this institution. Pensions, legacies and bequests had hitherto helped to counterbalance deficits, but in later years the necessity of keeping pace with modern educational requirements has imposed a heavy burden upon the revenue of St. Vincent's, and it is now heavily in debt. During 30 years the

orphanage has been managed by the Christian Brothers, and had been splendidly controlled by them, but now, owing to the deficit in the necessary funds, it was impossible for them to continue their noble work on the old lines. Either of two courses was open to them—the sphere of usefulness of the institution must be very much narrowed, or the public generosity must be appealed to. The latter course was adopted, a subscription list was opened and a number of subscriptions were handed in, whilst many more were promised.

GALWAY.—The Nuns and the Local Hospital.—Great dissatisfaction has been caused by the refusal of the Local Government Board to sanction the appointment of the nuns to the charge of Galway General Hospital, Prospect Hill. Sister Mary Bernard Ryan, of the Mercy community, who holds the certificate of a fully qualified nurse, having passed the examination and served the usual period in the Galway Workhouse Hospital, which is a clinical hospital, and always recognised as such by the licensing bodies, was unanimously appointed to the position of matron of the institution two months ago. A memorial signed by a number of persons in Galway, protesting against the appointment of nuns to the charge of the General Hospital has been forwarded to the Local Government Board, and after a delay of over two months a letter was received from the Local Government Board, read at a recent meeting of the hospital governors, refusing to sanction the appointment although the hospital had hitherto been in charge of nurses who, as stated at the meeting, had no qualification whatever. Mr. J. C. McDonnell moved:—In reference to the Local Government Board letter, refusing to sanction the appointment of Sister Mary Bernard Ryan as matron of the hospital, we, the Board of Management, desire to inform the Local Government Board that we are perfectly satisfied that Sister Mary Bernard Ryan possesses all the necessary qualifications to fulfil the duties of the office of matron, and we would refer the Local Government Board to the certificate of training of Sister Mary Bernard Ryan sent to the Board in July last, when she was appointed to the position. We absolutely refuse to appoint any other person to the position, and we request the Local Government Board to save further discussion or correspondence by confirming the appointment made by the Board of Management. Mr. John Joyce seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

The Late Sister Aloysius.—The late Sister Aloysius, of the Carmelite Convent, Loughrea, who died very recently, was the daughter of Mr. Reddington, of Ryehill, County Galway, and belonged to one of the oldest and most aristocratic families of the county. Sister Aloysius is deeply mourned for. Her bright and cheerful disposition endeared her to the community to which she had the happiness to belong, and her loss will create a void which will be difficult to fill.

KERRY.—The O'Connell Memorial Church.—The Very Rev. Canon O'Riordan, P.P., Cahirciveen, County Kerry, has taken up with the greatest activity the work which his predecessor in the parish, Canon Brosnan, started and persevered at until his death—the erection of the O'Connell Memorial Church. Practically all that is now required is the roofing, the flooring, and the internal fitting of the church. Canon O'Riordan contemplates, at an early date, a visit to America with a view to obtaining funds for the completion of the church. Although only about a year installed in his parish he has collected £1000 in County Kerry alone for the O'Connell Memorial Church. Steps will be taken soon to bring the claims of the O'Connell Memorial project before Irishmen in every direction at home and abroad, and there should be no difficulty in raising the sum of about £12,000, which is required to bring the work to a successful accomplishment.

KILDARE.—The Mansion of Castletown.—In the last issue of the N.Z. TABLET it was announced that Mr. Eugene Kelly, a son of the late Irish-American banker and millionaire, had purchased the mansion of Castletown, in the county of Kildare, which has been for upwards of a century and a half the home of the Conollys, a famous Irish Parliamentary family, and has been for the last five years rented as his permanent residence by Sir Peter O'Brien, the Irish Chief Justice. Castletown, which is one of the most magnificent private residences in the United Kingdom, is built in the Italian style, and is practically a replica of Carton, the country residence of the Duke of Leinster, which is within easy distance. Castletown and Carton were both the work of the same architect, and were built by the orders of the Conolly and the Duke of Leinster of the day, who were brothers-in-law. Their wives were daughters of the Duke of Richmond and aunts of Charles James Fox.

LEITRIM.—White Gloves for the Judge.—At the last quarter session at Manorhamilton there was no criminal work for Judge Waters, and consequently he was presented with a pair of white gloves.

LIMERICK.—Death of a Sterling Nationalist.—While transacting business at the Rathkeale fair, Mr. John Magner, a member of the Rathkeale District Council, and a sterling Nationalist, died suddenly.

Tenants Purchasing their Holdings.—Forty-seven of the tenantry on the Ellis estate at Abbeyfeale are negotiating for the purchase of their holdings. It is noteworthy that before the granting of the judicial leases, the majority of these tenants suffered eviction. They now offer fourteen years' purchase.

WESTMEATH.—The Agricultural Organisation Society.—An important conference of the affiliated Societies of Westmeath, Roscommon, and King's County in connection with the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society was recently held in the Father Mathew Hall, Athlone. There was a large attendance of delegates and the Rev. Father Hurley was called upon to preside.

The chairman having addressed the Society, the Rev. O'Donovan next addressed the meeting, mentioning among other things that it was the duty of these agricultural organisations to see that they were properly represented in Parliament. Resolutions were then passed impressing on farmers the desirability of joining in this co-operative movement, expressing thanks for the benefits which had already been derived from the agricultural organisation and that a small sum should be annually allotted from the profits for the purpose of establishing and maintaining village libraries, etc. In conclusion a vote of thanks to the Hon. Horace Plunkett for the past services rendered by him in the cause of co-operation was passed and enthusiastically responded to.

TIPPERARY.—A Ninety-Eight Monument in Thurles.—Ever to the front where anything is to be done for Ireland's cause, the great and venerable Archbishop of Cashel has sent £20 for the erection of a '98 monument in Thurles. The subscription was acknowledged at a recent meeting of the Memorial Committee, and the ceremony of unveiling was fixed for November 1.

WEXFORD.—Proposed Presentation to a Priest.—A representative committee has been formed in New Ross to take steps to present Rev. James F. Nolan, O.S.A., with an address and testimonial. Father Nolan spent 25 years of missionary usefulness in the district.

GENERAL.

Religious for British Guiana.—A religious of the Sisters of Mercy, Demerara, British Guiana, was in Ireland in October with a view to securing suitable subjects who may feel disposed to join in the good work so needed in that distant and interesting part of the world.

Postulants for the United States.—Twenty-nine young ladies from various parts of Ireland—Carlow, Kilkenny, Kerry, Clare, Galway, Leitrim, and Fermanagh—left Queenstown about the end of October for New York *en route* for San Antonio, Texas, with the object of joining the Order of Divine Providence, of which the young ladies propose to become postulants.

Church Building in Ireland.—Week by week almost we (London Tablet of October 21) have to record the progress made in church building up and down the country. On Sunday the Bishop of Meath laid the foundation stone of a new church at Oldcastle. The new church, as its title indicates, will be a memorial—a noble and enduring memorial—to the martyred Primate, Oliver Plunkett, who was born in the parish of Oldcastle. The cost is estimated at £13,000. The Most Rev. Dr. Clancy, Bishop of Alphin, preached an eloquent sermon. The collection realised the sum of £500. In the afternoon an address was presented to the Bishop of Meath, who, in the course of his reply, dealt with the land question, denouncing the present system, which was depopulating the country.

The Inspectorship of National Schools.—The result of the recent examination for the Inspectorship of National Schools has been made known. The successful candidate was Mr. James J. Mullany, B.A. As a student of Blackrock College, from which so many inspectors have already come, Mr. Mullany's name was conspicuous in the Exhibition lists of the Intermediate and Royal University. Mr. Mullany has had, moreover, a very considerable experience in teaching at Blackrock and elsewhere.

The Bishops of Connaught and the Land Question.—The following resolutions, adopted at a meeting held in Tuam, were sent to Mr. Gerald Balfour by the Bishops of Connaught:—1. That we desire to express our grateful appreciation of the efforts now being made by the Congested Districts Board to create a peasant proprietary with enlarged holdings in the most impoverished districts of the West of Ireland. We confidently believe that the possession of these larger holdings with the sense of permanent ownership will prove to be a very strong incentive to thrift and industry, as well as a sure source of happiness and contentment in future. 2. We desire to express our earnest hope that the Congested Districts Board will continue and extend their policy of seeking to purchase the large uncultivated grazing farms of the West, with a view to their sub-division and allotment amongst the poorer class of tenants. At present, in numberless cases, these tenants are struggling to maintain a wretched existence on a few barren acres of bog or mountain, from which, too, they are forced to migrate at the busiest season of the year, in order to earn in England or Scotland the means of paying a rent that could never be extracted from the land itself. 3. We desire also to express a hope that the Congested Districts Board, with your powerful help, will seek to procure from Parliament extended powers so as to be able to carry out the same wise and beneficent policy throughout the whole Province of Connaught. It contains nearly everywhere vast tracts of the best land, admirably suited for cultivation, but now almost derelict and daily deteriorating in value. By the ungrudging labour and skill of a peasant proprietary, these desolate tracts might be made once more highly productive and profitable not only for the cultivators, but for the entire community. 4. We are convinced that this wise and generous policy can be carried out, with the help of the Government, without causing wrong or injury to any man; and it is on that understanding we advocate its adoption. We should greatly regret to see any means or methods of actions employed to further the cause of the tenants which were not perfectly just and legitimate. A just cause can only be weakened, and a holy cause can only be nullified, by the commission of any crime; and, if necessary, we shall not fail to take steps to warn our clergy and our flocks to abstain from any course of action that could be rightly regarded as unjust or immoral.

He who receives a good turn should never forget it; he who does one should never remember it.

CARDINAL GIBBONS AND ADMIRAL DEWEY.

THE concluding feature of the ceremonies that marked the presentation to Admiral Dewey of the sword voted by Congress was a prayer by Cardinal Gibbons. The prayer finished, the Cardinal turned to Admiral Dewey, who extended his hand, and said: 'Admiral, I cannot let this opportunity pass without congratulating you on your magnificent victory, which has added renown to the American name throughout the world. I hope you will live many years to enjoy your honours, the fruits of your splendid achievement. Permit me, Admiral, to thank you for your kindness to the chaplain of the *Olympia*, Father Reaney, who is a priest of my diocese. I hope that the benediction of seventy millions of people will make your remaining years exceedingly happy. I rejoice to be present on this eventful occasion.' Admiral Dewey responded: 'I thank you sincerely, your Eminence, for your gracious and complimentary words. I appreciate the honour of having you present on this, the happiest occasion of my life.'

THE ENGLISH PILGRIMAGE TO ROME.

THE English pilgrims who went to Rome about the middle of October had a very unpleasant experience before arriving at the Eternal City. In consequence of the destruction of the railway line by floods they were detained for several hours at a little railway station fifteen miles from Rome, with water all around. The weather was raw and wet, and to add to their discomfort no refreshments were procurable. Instead of getting to their destination on Monday night, it was only on the afternoon of Tuesday they arrived. The pilgrimage was under the direction of the Very Rev. Father Bannin, of the Pious Society of Missions.

The pilgrims spent three or four days in visiting various places of interest, and on the Monday, accompanied by a number of Italian Catholics, they were received in audience by the Pope in the Sala Clementina of the Vatican, the fine apartment erected by direction of Pope Clement VII. Indescribable enthusiasm was manifested by all present when the aged Pontiff, borne in his sedan chair, entered the apartment in which were assembled 124 English and Irish pilgrims and about 200 Italians. Not a few of them were moved to tears as they kissed his hand on one of the fingers of which was the Fisherman's Ring. Among the Papal retinue in attendance on his Holiness was Sir Thomas Esmonde, M.P. They were presented by Mgr. Stonor, titular Archbishop of Trebizond.

THE POPE'S ADDRESS,

which was in Italian, was read by Mgr. Mery del Val, and ran as follows:—'We greatly rejoice at seeing an assemblage of English Catholics gathered before Us. This is the third pilgrimage during Our pontificate to come from the land formerly known as the Island of Saints. In the approaching jubilee We hope shortly to see a fourth pilgrimage led by a large-minded man—namely, the Duke of Norfolk, the honour of the English nobility, whose dignity of birth is rendered the more illustrious by the light of the Catholic faith professed by him with so much zeal and munificence. The homage and filial love which you now render Us, dear sons, after having venerated the tomb of the Prince of the Apostles, are deeply prized by Us. In coming to Rome, to the feet of the Vicar of Christ, you perform a solemn and public act of faith. You give also a noble example of sincere love for the Apostolic See, with that docility full and entire without preconceived ideas and without criticism which is due to him who is the Supreme Chief, with the divine mandate of governing the Church. God grant that your example may be followed. Several of your number come from Catholic Ireland. How noble are the religious traditions of the blessed isle! How many are the continual proofs of devotion and generosity which reach Us from her sons! We rejoice to-day to see you together, the one and the other, united in this centre of Catholic unity before the Common Father, ranked as brothers under the flag of the common faith. To one and the other We equally express Our satisfaction and Our pleasure. We enjoin upon you obedience to your pastors and continuance in well doing. As an earnest of Our fatherly affection, We bestow from Our heart Our blessing upon you and your far-off families, relatives, and friends.'

The reception, which made a profound impression upon all, lasted three-quarters of an hour. His Holiness, who addressed a few words to each pilgrim, exhibited no marked signs of fatigue. At its close the Pope, raising himself in his chair, imparted his Apostolic Benediction. A number of contributions to the Peter's Pence Fund were made by several of the pilgrims.

MR. P. LUNDON, Phoenix Chambers, Wanganui, is still busy

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The death is reported of Sir Peter O'Brien, Lord Chief Justice of Ireland, at the early age of 58 years.

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FIRST. Boots with this Brand on the heel are Guaranteed to Fit and Wear Well.	SECOND. On this Brand only the Very Best of Workmen are employed.	THIRD. Only the Very Best of Materials are used in this Brand of Boots and Shoes.	FOURTH. Farmers, Miners, and all who want to keep their feet dry, try this Brand.	FIFTH. The "STANDARD" Brand Boots and Shoes are known from Auckland to the Bluff for sterling quality.
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Commercial.

(For week ending December 13).

MR. J. A. CHAPMAN, Sharebroker, Dunedin, reports as follows:

BANKS.—National, from 2/15/6 to 2/16/6; New South Wales, from 39/0/0 to 40/0/0; Union of Australia, Ltd., 35/0/0 to 36/0/0; Bank of Australasia, 63/0/0 to 64/0/0.

INSURANCE.—National, from 17/3 to 17/6; New Zealand, 3/1/0 to 3/2/0; South British, 2/14/0 to 2/16/0; Standard, 13/6 to 14/0.

SHIPPING.—New Zealand Shipping, from 4/17/0 to 5/0/0; Union Steam, 10/7/6 to 10/12/0.

COAL.—Westport from 3/6/0 to 3/7/0.

LOAN AND AGENCY.—Commercial Property and Finance Company, from 5/0 to 5/6; National Mortgage, 23/0 to 21/0; Perpetual Trustees, 12/6 to 13/0; Trustees and Executors, 29/6 to 30/6.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Kaiapoi Woollen Co., from 6/5/0 to 6/6/0; Mornington Tramway, 16/0 to 16/6; Mosgiel Woollen, 4/0/0 to 4/1/0; New Zealand Drug, 2/12/0 to 2/13/0; New Zealand Drug, new issue, 1/18/6 to 1/19/0; Milburn Lime and Cement, 2/0/0 to 2/2/0; do., new issue, 1/0/0 to 1/0/6 (30/- paid); Otago Daily Times, 13/4/0 to 13/5/6; Ema Bay Railway, 12/0 to 12/9; Wellington Woollen, 5/0/0 to 5/2/6; Silverton Tram, 4/17/0 to 4/18/0; New Zealand Refrigerating, 1/13/0 to 1/14/0; Roslyn Tramway, 5/3 to 5/9.

GOLDFIELDS.—Reefton: Big River Extended, from 9/6 to 10/0; Keep-it-Dark, 23/0 to 24/0; Alpine Extended, 4/6 to 5/0; Crossus (Paparua), 2/6 to 3/0.

DREDGING COMPANIES.—Chatto Creek, 59/0 to 61/0; Clyde, 56/0 to 60/0; Dunedin, 10/6 to 11/6; Empire, 3/17/0 to 4/0/0; Enterprise, 85/0 to 88/0; Evan's Flat, 35/0 to 36/0; Ettrick, 14/6 to 15/6 (paid up); Golden Gate, 122/0 to 124/0; Golden Beach, 26/0 to 28/0 (prem.); Golden Point, 34/6 to 36/0; Tuapeka, 23/0 to 25/0; Vincent, 43/0 to 44/0; Hartley and Riley, 7/17/6 to 8/0/0; Jutland Flat, 4/0 to 4/3 (contrib.); Macraes Flat, 10/0 to 11/0; Golden Run, 48/0 to 51/0; Golden Terrace, 13/0 to 15/0; Magnetic, 60/0 to 61/6; Matau, 70/0 to 75/0; Molyneux Hydraulic (B), 30/0 to 32/0; Nevis, 22/0 to 24/0; Otago, 1/14/0 to 1/16/0; Upper Waipori, 2/3 to 2/9; Waimumu, 26/0 to 27/0; Sunlight, 32/0 to 34/0; Cromwell, 58/0 to 59/0 (prem.); Riverbank, 6/6 to 9/0; Nil Desperandum, 42/0 to 45/0; Klondyke, 31/0 to 32/0; Waikaka Forks, 1/0 to 1/6 (prem.); Dunstan Leads, 15/0 to 16/6; Ophir, 8/0 to 9/0; Golden Gravel, 1/0 to 1/6; Dunstan Pioneer, 1/6 to 2/0; Golden Reward, 9d to 1/0.

SLUICING COMPANIES.—Moonlight (contrib.), 13/0 to 14/0; Roxburgh Amalgamated (contrib.), 6/9 to 7/0; Deep Stream, 22/0.

PRODUCE.

Messrs. Donald Reid and Co. report as follows:—

OATS.—Our catalogue comprised a few lots of good short feed, but was made up for the most part of medium to good Danish. For all sorts there was good competition, and nearly all the lots offered were readily cleared at prices fully equal to late quotations. We quote: Prime milling Sutherland, to 1s 11d; good to best feed, 1s 9d to 1s 10d; medium to good, 1s 7d to 1s 9d per bushel (sacks extra).

WHEAT.—The demand for milling quality is extremely quiet, and business is almost at a standstill. Fowl wheat is in moderate demand, at prices a shade below late quotations. We offered several lines to-day, and sold good whole wheat at 2s 2d to 2s 3d; medium and inferior, 1s 8d to 2s per bushel (sacks in).

POTATOES.—Old Derwents are in over supply, and quite unsaleable. We have still a small stock on hand, suitable for pig-feeding.

CHAFF.—Prime chaff is in fair demand, and can be readily placed. Other qualities are neglected, and difficult to quit. We quote: Prime oatens sheaf, L2 10s to L2 15s; medium to good, L2 to L2 7s 6d per ton (sacks extra).

MR. F. MEENAN, King street, reports:—Wholesale price only—Oats: Good demand. Feeding, 1s 8d to 1s 9d; milling, 1s 10d. Wheat: milling, 2s 6d to 2s 9d; fowls' wheat, 2s 2d to 2s 5d. Hay: ryegrass and clover, best, L3 0s. Straw: pressed, 22s; loose, 28s. Bran: L3. Pollard: L3 5s. Flour: L6 10s to L7. Butter: best brands factory, 10d to 11d; dairy, 6d to 8d. Oatmeal: L10. Potatoes: well picked, good sample, 20s; old stock from 1s per bag. Chaff: much easier demand; L2 5s to L2 15s. New potatoes, 5s, Auckland; local, 8s.

Messrs. Stronach Bros. and Morris report as follows:—

WHEAT.—Market very quiet. Milling, 2s 6d to 2s 8d; fowl wheat, 2s to 2s 3d per bushel (sacks in).

OATS.—The demand continues steady, and prices are firm at late quotations. Prime milling, 1s 11d; good to best feed, 1s 9d to 1s 10d; medium, 1s 7d to 1s 8d per bushel (sacks extra).

CHAFF.—Prime chaff is in good demand, but other sorts are very hard to place. Prime chaff, L2 10s to L2 15s; medium, L2 to L2 7s 6d per ton (bags extra).

POTATOES.—Derwents unsaleable.

SOUTHLAND PRODUCE MARKET.

The Grain Brokers' Association report: There is good inquiry for oats, and the prices are somewhat firmer. A grade are quoted at 2s 1d, B 2s, C 1s 11d (f.o.b. at Bluff, sacks in).

Invercargill prices current:—Wholesale: Butter, fresh, 5d; eggs, 7d per doz; cheese, farm, 3d; bacon, farm, 7d; do (rolled), farm, 6d; hams, 8d; potatoes, L1 10s per ton; barley, 2s to 2s 6d; fowl wheat, 2s; chaff, L2 per ton; flour, L8; oatmeal, L9 to L10; pollard, L3; bran, L2 10s, including bags. Retail—Fresh butter, 7d; eggs, 9d per doz; cheese, 6d; bacon, rolled, 8d, sliced, 9d; hams, 10d; potatoes, 2s per cwt; flour, 200lb, 15s; 50lb, 4s 3d; oatmeal, 50lb, 5s; 25lb, 2s 9d; pollard, 5s 9d per bag; bran, 3s 6d per bag; chaff, L2 10s per ton; fowls' feed, 2s 3d per bushel.

Napier, December 7.—Messrs. Nelson Bros. have received the following cable from the C. C. and D. Company, dated London, 5th inst.:—Frozen meat market depressed. No change in prices.

London, December 8.—The wheat market is slightly firmer, but inactive.

Butter is slow, the damp weather and heavy supplies checking sales. Choicest, 100s to 104s; Danish (strong), 122s.

Wellington, December 11.—The Agent-General cables: 'No alterations in the butter market since last week. Cheese, 58s; market firm.'

London, December 10.—Frozen Mutton: Cross-brad wethers and maiden ewes—Canterbury, 3 1-16d; Dunedin and Southland, 2 15-16d; North Island, 2 13-16d. Lamb—prime Canterbury (nominal), 4d. Fair average (including Dunedin, Southland, Wellington, and secondary Canterbury), 3d. River Plate cross-bred or Merino wethers, heavy and light, both 2 9-16d.

DUNEDIN HORSE SALEYARDS.

Messrs. Wright, Stephenson, and Co. report as follows:—

The number of horses forward this week was not great—about 40 head altogether, made up of a couple of first class six or seven-year-old heavy draft geldings (the one sold for L48 10s and the other for L46), half a dozen medium draughts, a score of useful light harness horses, and 10 Shetland ponies. As already indicated the heavy draughts sold at big prices. The medium draughts, however, commanded less attention, and were all but passed in. Most of the lighter harness horses changed hands at quotations, and for the Shetland ponies there was a good competition at prices varying from L4 10s to L6 15s. We quote: First-class young draught mares and geldings at from L45 to L50; good do, L38 to L45; medium, L30 to L35; aged, L18 to L23; upstanding young spring-carters, at from L25 to L30; good do, L18 to L23; light harness horses, and hacks, first class, at from L18 to L25; good do, L14 to L17; medium, L8 to L12; aged and weedy sorts, L2 to L5.

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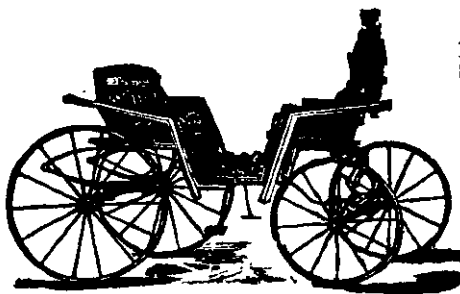
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Giant King. *Yellows*: Aberdeen Green Top.
Aberdeen Purple Top. Romney Marsh (our strain
gave very great satisfaction last Season). Fosterton
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Red Globe.

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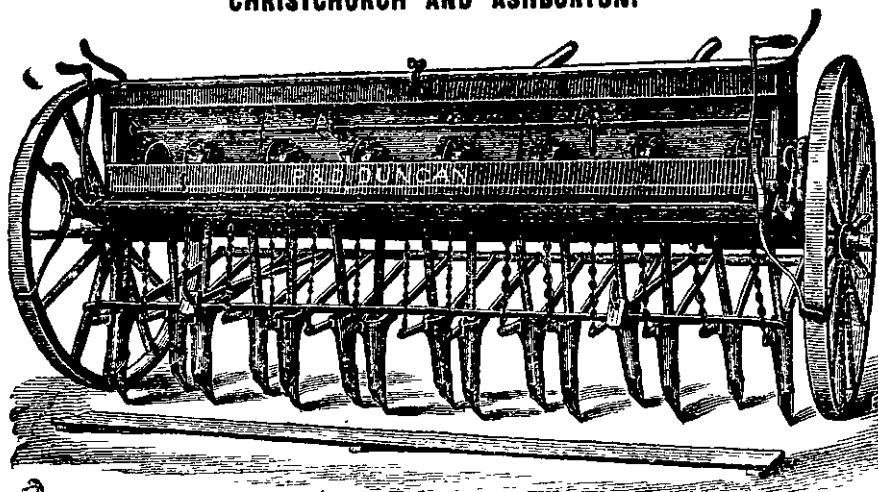
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Waikare	Thurs., Dec. 21	2.30 p.m. tr'n

NAPIER, GISBORNE and AUCKLAND—

Te Anau	Fri., Dec. 15	3 p.m. D'din
Tarawera	Fri., Dec. 22	3 p.m. D'din

SYDNEY via WELLINGTON—

Monowai	Thurs., Dec. 14	2.30 p.m. tr'n
Waikare	Thurs., Dec. 21	2.30 p.m. tr'n

SYDNEY via AUCKLAND—

Mararoa	Tues., Dec. 26	2.30 p.m. tr'n
Waihora	Tues., Jan. 9	2.30 p.m. tr'n

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NEW ZEALAND EXPORTS

The export of butter in November was valued at L81,448; cheese at L6 214; frozen beef, L18,648; and mutton, L119,647.

WOOL, SKINS, TALLOW, ETC.

Napier, December 6.—The first wool sales of the season were held to-day: 2,500 bales were catalogued, and there was a large and representative attendance of buyers. During the morning bidding was very brisk. Lincoln crossbred averaged 3d a pound more than last year, and, up to noon, the highest price realised for greasy half-bred was 11½d.

London, December 6.—At the wool sales the 'Matamata' clip realised 9½d.

At the tallow sales 1850 casks were offered, and 1625 sold. Fine mutton, 28s; medium, 26s 9d; fine beef, 26s 9d; medium, 25s 6d.

London, December 7.—At the wool sales the 'Elderslie' clip sold at 13½d.

The wool sales have been again postponed owing to the fog.

London, December 8.—The Bradford wool market is very firm. Common sixties, 31d; supers, 32½d.

London, December 9.—At the wool sales yesterday bidding was less spirited. Prices were unchanged.

The Argentine wool clip is estimated at 225,000 tons and the Argentine exportable wheat surplus at 2,000,000 tons.

London, December 10.—The wool market is very firm. Up to date for the present series 88,415 bales have been catalogued, and 85,194 sold.

London, December 11.—The wool sales closed with prices fully 5 per cent. above the opening rates.

Melbourne, December 12.—At the wool sales prices of greasy and crossbreds were well maintained. Greasy sold up to 16d, crossbreds to 15½d.

The New Zealand Loan and Mercantile Agency Company (Limited) have received the following cable from their London office:—'Wool: The sales closed firmly this day. Since close of last sales greasy merino is 20 per cent. dearer and greasy crossbred 25 per cent. dearer; nearly all descriptions have advanced 3d per lb. Other descriptions unchanged.'

WELLINGTON WOOL SALES.

At the opening wool sales of the season on Friday 2500 bales were catalogued. There was a large attendance of buyers from all parts of the Colony, and competition was brisk. The advance in prices at the London sales was fully reflected. The advance as compared with last year was about 3d per lb on fine crossbred wools, and 1d to 1½d on coarse. Some of the prices were such as have not been obtainable here for years. The range of values current to-day was as follows:—Fine halfbred, 10½d to 11½d per lb; fine crossbred, 8d to 10d; clean, coarse wools, 7d to 8d; log-stained wools, 5d to 6d; first pieces, 5d to 6½d; bellies, 4d to 5½d; locks, 2d to 3d.

Messrs. Stronach Bros. and Morris report as follows:—

RABBITSKINS—Very few offering, and prices unchanged.

SHEEPSKINS—Market very firm, and all offering meet with a keen demand at late quotations.

WOOL—The first sale of the season takes place on Thursday, 21st inst., when big prices are expected. Wool for this sale should reach us not later than Tuesday, 19th inst.

HIDES—In good demand. Prime heavy ox, 3½d to 4½d; medium, 3d to 3½d; light and inferior, 1½d to 2½d per lb.

TALLOW—Market steady. Best rendered mutton, 15s to 17s; medium, 13s 6d to 14s 6d; rough fat, 10s 6d to 12s per cwt.

THE WEEK'S DREDGING RETURNS.

During the week ended Saturday, 9th inst. (says the *Otago Daily Times*), returns were reported from the following dredges:—Success (Waipori), 139½ hours, 55oz 4dwt; Manorburn (Manuhirika), 51oz 10dwt; Golden Treasure (Miller's Flat), 7½ days, 50oz 10dwt; Golden Gate (Island Block), 5 days, 49oz 3dwt; Chicago (Alexandra), 29oz 10½wt 6gr; Inch Valley (near Palmerston), 109 hours, 21oz 10dwt; Tuapeka (Tuapeka Flat), 115 hours, 19oz 2dwt; Nil Desperandum (Manuhirika), 19oz; Molyneux Hydraulic (Alexandra), 18oz 13dwt; Golden Terrace (Lower Shot-over), 16oz 5dwt 7gr; Golden Point (Alexandra), 16oz; Enterprise (Alexandra), 96 hours, 15oz 11dwt 15gr; Nevis (Nevis River), 117 hours, 15oz; Waimumu (near Gore), 100 hours, 15oz; Sunlight (Beaumont), 142 hours, 10oz 6dwt; Dunedin 2½ days, 9oz; Morning Star (Manuhirika), 127 hours, 8oz; Ophi (Blacks), 10½ hours, 7oz 14dwt 6gr; Matau (Clyde), 7oz. Total, 433oz 19dwt 10gr.

LATE BURNSIDE STOCK REPORT.

(Per special favour Messrs. Stronach Bros. and Morris.)

Wednesday, 5 p.m.

FAT CATTLE—284 yarded, being more than was required. Prices from 10s to 15s less than last week. Fat bullocks, L8 5s to L9 10s; extra heavy, L10 10s; medium to good, L6 5s to L8; best cows and heifers, L6 to L7 15s; medium, L5 to L5 15s.

SHEEP—2226 penned. Prices about same as last week. Best crossbred wethers (in wool), up to 19s 6d; do do (shorn), 14s 6d to 16s 6d; medium, 13s to 15s; best ewes (in wool), 19s; do do (shorn), up to 14s 6d; medium, 12s 6d to 13 3d.

LAMBS—535 penned. Prices slightly easier. Best lambs, 11s 6d to 12s 9d; medium, 10s to 11s.

PIGS—170 forward. No change in prices. Suckers, 11s to 15s; slips, 18s to 24s; stores, 26s to 28s; porkers, 30s to 34s; baconers, 35s to 38s.

WEDDING BELLS.

DENNEHY—MAHAR.

A very popular wedding took place at Lyttelton a few weeks ago, the contracting parties being Mr. F. Dennehy, Charleston, West Coast, and Miss Mary Mahar, eldest daughter of Mr. D. Mahar, a highly respected citizen of Lyttelton. The ceremony was performed at St. Joseph's Church by the Rev. Father Salvador. The bride, who was given away by her father, was handsomely attired in white ivory satin, stylishly trimmed with pearl passementerie and rich lace, the Limerick lace veil being daintily fastened with the orthodox orange blossom. She wore a diamond brooch (the gift of the bridegroom) and carried a lovely shower bouquet. The bridesmaids were Misses Winnie, Lizzie, and Jewel Mahar (sisters of the bride), and Dennehy (sister of the bridegroom). The bridegroom presented the bridesmaids with engraved gold crosses. The bridegroom was attended by his brother, Mr. J. Dennehy, and Messrs. D. and J. Mahar. The ceremony was witnessed by a large number of friends, and as the bridal party left the church to the strains of Mendelssohn's 'Wedding March,' played by the organist, Miss O'Brien, many sincere and hearty wishes were expressed for the future prosperity of the happy couple. Having adjourned to the residence of the bride's parents, about fifty guests partook of a sumptuous wedding breakfast. After the usual toasts had been proposed and responded to, the newly-married couple left for the North.

M'CARTIN—M'CLEARY.

A pretty wedding took place in the Leeston Catholic Church on November 15, when Mr. John A. M'Cartin, eldest son of Mr. P. M'Cartin, of Bellfield, Southbridge, was married to Miss Elizabeth A. M'Cleary, eldest daughter of Mr. F. M'Cleary, of Dunsandel. The bride looked very nice in a pretty lavender poplin dress trimmed with white silk, with veil and orange blossoms. She carried a pretty bouquet of white camellias. The bridesmaid was Miss Mary M'Cleary (sister of the bride), who was dressed in a chocolate-coloured poplin dress trimmed with white. Mr. A. M'Cartin acted as best man. The ceremony was performed by the Very Rev. Father Chervier, assisted by the Rev. Father Aubrey, a large number of friends attending to witness it. As the happy couple left the church the 'Wedding March' was played by Miss Mary M'Cartin (sister of the bridegroom), after which the guests were entertained at the residence of the bride's parents where a large marquee was erected for the purpose, about 40 sitting down to the wedding breakfast, presided over by Fathers Chervier and Aubrey. The usual toasts were proposed and duly honoured. The young couple took their departure by the evening train for Dunedin, where they intend to spend their honeymoon.

OBITUARY.

MR. WILLIAM MELODY, WANGANUI.

An old and respected colonist in the person of Mr. William Melody passed away at Wanganui on the night of November 4, being accidentally drowned in the Wanganui River. The deceased was born in Ballina, County Mayo, Ireland, in 1829. When only nine years of age he went with his parents to Illinois, U.S.A., and later on during the gold fever he spent some time in California. From there he came on to Victoria in the early fifties, and was present at the Eureka stockade incident. He married Miss Elizabeth Moran in Ballarat in 1858, and a few years later left for the Otago goldfields, where he resided for a time, having a store at Arrowtown. After spending a time on the West Coast he eventually settled down at Wanganui about 20 years ago, where he remained until his death. He was laid to rest in the Catholic Cemetery, Wanganui, on November 22, where his wife was also buried eight years previously. The funeral ceremonies were conducted by the Very Rev. Dean Kirk, and a very large number of friends assembled to pay their last tribute of respect to the deceased, many coming from very long distances. He leaves one son (Mr. John P. Melody, of Aramoho, Wanganui) and two daughters (Mrs. John Brennan, of Wanganui, and Mrs. Christopher Brownlie, Wanganui) to mourn the loss of a loving father.—R.I.P.

MRS. F. M. BYRNE, LAWRENCE.

It is with deep regret we have to announce the death of Mrs. Byrne, wife of Mr. F. M. Byrne, of Lawrence, which occurred on the 5th inst. The deceased had been ill for a considerable time, still her demise was a severe shock to her husband and a large circle of friends in the Lake district, where she resided previous to her marriage. Since her residence in Lawrence Mrs. Byrne had endeared herself to all in the community by her many estimable qualities, and her husband and family have the sincerest sympathy in their bereavement.—R.I.P.

MR. ALBINUS CARTER, DUNEDIN.

We have with sincere regret to record the death of Mr. Albinus Carter, of Dunedin, which occurred on the 20th ult. The deceased was son of Mr. Henry Carter and grandson of Mr. Albinus Carter of the Royal Exchange, London. He was born in 1856, and was therefore in his forty-third year at the time of his demise. Mr. Carter arrived in New Zealand in 1882, soon after entering the employment of Messrs. Paterson and McLeod, and later on that of Messrs. W. and J. Scoullar, with whom he remained until his death. The deceased was only ill for a few days, his demise being wholly unexpected. The interment took place in the Southern cemetery, the Rev. Father Murphy officiating at the graveside. The deceased leaves a wife and five young children for whom the greatest sympathy is felt in their bereavement.—R.I.P.

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NEW ZEALAND RAILWAYS.

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS, 1899-1900.

EXCURSION FARES.

Holiday Excursion Tickets will be issued from ANY STATION to ANY STATION on Hurunui-Bluff section, from Monday, 18th December, 1899, to Tuesday, 2nd January, 1900.

The Return Fares will be:—

First Class.	Second Class.
2d per Mile.	1d per Mile.
The minimum being 4s and 2s respectively.	

These tickets will be available for return up to and including Tuesday, 30th January, and may be extended to make them available for return for a further period of 14 days on payment of the difference in value between an Ordinary Single Ticket and half the Excursion Fare. Persons desiring an extension of time must apply at the station to which the ticket was issued on or before 30th January.

The journey must be commenced on the date that ticket is taken out, and may be broken at any station where the train is timed to stop after travelling 25 miles from the original starting station, provided the specified time is not exceeded.

On 23rd and 30th December SPECIAL NIGHT TRAINS will run as under:—

Dunedin dep. 10.35 p.m., Palmerston dep. 12.45 a.m., Oamaru dep. 2.35 a.m., Christchurch arr. 8.50 a.m.
Christchurch dep. 10.40 p.m., Oamaru dep. 4.45 a.m., Palmerston dep. 6.45 a.m., Dunedin arr. 9.0 a.m.
Dunedin dep. 11.20 p.m., Mosgiel dep. 12.20 a.m., Milton dep. 2.10 a.m., Balclutha dep. 3.25 a.m., Invercargill arr. 8.20 a.m.
Invercargill dep. 11.15 p.m., Balclutha dep. 3.55 a.m., Milton dep. 4.55 a.m., Dunedin arr. 7.10 a.m.

Goods and Live Stock Traffic will be suspended on December 25 and 26 and on January 1 and 2.

By Order.

NEW ZEALAND RAILWAYS.

From Wednesday, 20th December, 1899, to Tuesday, 9th January, 1900, inclusive,

FAST PASSENGER TRAINS

Will run daily (Sundays excepted) as under:—

DUNEDIN TO OAMARU.

Dunedin depart 10.20 a.m., Waitati 11.23 a.m., Seacliff 11.50 a.m., Waikouaiti, 12.9 p.m., Palmerston, 12.35 p.m., Hampden 1.14 p.m., Herbert 1.39 p.m., Maheno 1.49 p.m., Oamaru arrive 2.10 p.m. This train will stop at the stations named, and at Upper Port Chalmers, Shag Point Junction, and Hillgrove to pick up passengers for Oamaru, also to pick up and set down passengers for and from stations at which train stops.

OAMARU TO CHRISTCHURCH.

Oamaru depart 2.25 p.m., Christchurch arrive 8.25 p.m. This train will take passengers for Glenavy, Studholme, Makikihi, St. Andrews, Timaru, Temuka, Winchester, Orari, Rangitata, Hinds, Ashburton, Chertsey, Rakaia, Dunsandel, Rolleston, Hornby, and Christchurch.

OAMARU TO DUNEDIN.

Oamaru depart 4.40 p.m., Maheno 5.6 p.m., Herbert 5.19 p.m., Hampden, 5.44 p.m., Palmerston 6.26 p.m., Waikouaiti 6.49 p.m., Seacliff 7.18 p.m., Waitati 7.37 p.m., Dunedin arrive 8.30 p.m. This train will stop at the stations named, and at Hillgrove, Shag Point Junction, and Upper Port Chalmers to pick up passengers for Dunedin, also to pick up and set down passengers for and from stations at which the train stops.

ALTERATIONS TO ORDINARY TRAINS.

The following alterations in the ordinary Time Table will be observed from Wednesday, 20th December, 1899, till Tuesday, 9th January, 1900, inclusive:—

Holiday Excursion Tickets will not be issued for, nor will return halves of such tickets be available by the North Express train, excepting from stations south of Oamaru to stations north of Oamaru.

Holiday Excursion Tickets will not be issued for, nor will return halves of such tickets be available by the South Express train, excepting from stations north of Oamaru to stations south of Oamaru.

The train usually leaving Oamaru for Kurow at 4 p.m. will not leave until 4.30 p.m., running 30 minutes later than Time Table times to destination.

The train usually leaving Oamaru for Ngapara and Tokarahi at 4.30 p.m. will not leave until 4.50 p.m., running to destination and back to Oamaru 20 minutes later than Time Table times.

The train usually leaving Oamaru for Palmerston at 4.10 p.m. will not leave until 5.55 p.m., Maheno 7.0 p.m., Herbert 7.25 p.m., Hampden 8.0 p.m., arriving Palmerston 9.20 p.m.

The train usually leaving Palmerston for Oamaru at 5.32 p.m. will not leave until 5.40 p.m., Hampden 6.50 p.m., Herbert 7.22 p.m., Maheno 7.44 p.m., arriving Oamaru 8.15 p.m.

By Order.

V.



R.

MOUNT COOK HERMITAGE.

THE season for ALPINE WORK commenced on 1st November. The Hotel is in charge of Mr. and Mrs. Ross, as before. Mr. Clark will act as guide up till the end of February. The huts have been provisioned to meet the wants of tourists and climbers.

HANMER SPRINGS.

The daily coaching season commenced on 1st November. For Invalids afflicted with RHEUMATISM, SKIN DISEASES, etc., the BATHS are ample, and are still in charge of Mr. and Mrs. Rogers. The SANATORIUM has accommodation for visitors, and is in charge of Mr. and Mrs. Macdonald. A new building for board and lodging at lower rates will be ready about the New Year.

There are other houses where ample accommodation and excellent rooms may be obtained.

For Coach and railway fares and time-table see *Railway Time-table and Tourist Guide*.

S. WEETMAN,
Commissioner of Crown Lands.

CONVENT OF THE SACRED HEART,

TIMARU.

THE ANNUAL SPIRITUAL RETREAT FOR LADIES preached by the Rev. Father J. COLGAN, S.J., will begin on the Evening of MONDAY, January 8, and end on SATURDAY, January 13.

Ladies who wish to attend should apply as soon as possible to the Reverend Mother.

DEATHS.

CARTER.—On the 20th ult., at his residence, Duncan street, Albinus (Dick), the beloved husband of Ellen Carter; aged 42 years. Deeply regretted.—R.I.P.

BYRNE.—On December 5, at her residence, Lawrence, Liz, the beloved wife of F. M. Byrne, aged 40 years.—R.I.P.

MELODY.—Accidentally drowned in the Wanganui River on November 4, 1899, William Melody, aged 70 years.—R.I.P.

The New Zealand Tablet.

FIAT JUSTITIA.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1899.

A LESSON FROM THE ELECTIONS.



THE general elections have come and gone. They are an old story now. But they will long be remembered for this: that they have supplied, in their results, one of the sharpest surprises in the political history of New Zealand. Mr. SEDDON's victory has been overwhelmingly complete. The Opposition has passed through its Sedan: its fate has been not so much a defeat as a disaster. It has been reduced from a powerful and energetic minority to a small and inoperative 'corner,' deprived of most of the leaders that gave a soul of energy to its work and an element of piquancy to the parliamentary debates of the past few years. As is usual in such cases, the party that is left in the minority and its organs in the Press have set themselves the task of accounting for a defeat that was as unexpected as it was complete. And thus we hear of the relative disorganisation of the Opposition forces; the preparedness and energy of the Government and its supporters; the absence of burning questions; and a continent of other reasons why. All these things had, perhaps, their due weight in determining the startling results of the campaign. But deep at the root

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of all there probably lay a not unnatural unwillingness on the part of the great mass of the electors to discard in a period of high prosperity the leaders who, they were convinced, had a considerable share in bringing the Colony through a period of waiting, if not of anxiety, to its present flourishing condition. These are, however, matters that little concern our present purpose. We wish to point out and mark our strong condemnation of the wholesale use of the element of personal abuse by one of the parties to the contest. If followed up, such a campaigning method would undoubtedly soon impair the decency of public life in our Colony, turn election contests into squalid personal squabbles of party leaders, restore the era of fierce lampoons, and lower the dignity and diminish the usefulness of our legislative institution.

Invective—even personal invective—has its legitimate place and use. But it is rather a rotten stick to depend upon almost exclusively in an election campaign. It is, perhaps, the misfortune of the Opposition that some of its chief standard-bearers have proved themselves adepts rather in hard and biting invective and destructive criticism than in the higher art of constructive ability which distinguishes the statesman from the mere politician. As a result, their party committed the grave error of coming before the country without even a decent pretence of a policy. The situation found apt expression a few days ago in a conundrum given at an entertainment down south: 'Why cannot Mr. SCOBIE MACKENZIE get his life insured?' The answer came prompt and pat: 'Because nobody can make out his policy.' Instead, the Opposition and its organs fell back upon personal abuse of the Premier, who, whatever his shortcomings—and we are not concerned to defend them—had at least a broad and definite and far-reaching policy to place full square before the public eye. Now, a good, bulky administrative scandal is acknowledged to be a valuable electioneering asset, when it is a scandal, and when it is fresh and timely, and when the party who have the usufruct of it have something else—a policy, for instance—with which to woo the affections of the free and independent voter. But when an administrative 'scandal' 'ain't no sich a thing'—as Mrs. GAMP might say—or when, even if genuine, it is of ancient date—and events move swiftly nowadays—or when it is such as is usual with all parties in power, that portion of the voters whose political feelings are more or less in a state of flux, and who decide the fate of elections, resent harping upon it, just as the hale good sense and propriety of our day abhors a resort of the old electioneering argument of cats that are 'high' and eggs that are addled. We are not so squeamish as to believe in the principle of doffing our hats to real abuses or treating them with kid gloves and honeyed words. On the contrary, we hold by describing them with what KIPLING terms 'adequate adjectives.' But it is quite another thing to run an election contest not on a set political programme, but chiefly or altogether on personal abuse of opponents. People get very sick even of the ill-used termagant whose tongue volleys abuse as a Maxim gun does bullets. Sir PAUL NEAL fancied he had discovered an elephant in the moon. It turned out to be only a dead mouse in his telescope. And the public of New Zealand are not likely to soon forget that the only two serious personal charges against the Premier—one of them the disgraceful 'Bun Tuck' affair—were 'discoveries' of a similar kind. They were pushed with singular persistence and acrimony, but in the end recoiled upon the accusers. Like the *Times* charges against the late Mr. PARNELL, such things only result in placing the intended victim upon a higher pedestal of public esteem. As to the charges of maladministration of marine affairs and of the police force, Mr. TAYLOR himself has said in the course of an interview at Christchurch that 'the official Opposition could not lodge any complaint [on these matters] without laying themselves open to have committed similar offences.' We hold no brief for Mr. SEDDON. But we have a firm conviction, strengthened by an exchange of views with many people of various political parties, that the tornado of personal abuse which was intended to sweep the Ministry out of power has acted as one of the most efficient forces in establishing them more firmly than ever. A measure of decent and dignified personal reference is an unhappy necessity of every electoral campaign. But this wholesale resort to mere abuse is as

objectionable in its way as vitriol throwing. Our dislike to it lies not merely on the score of political expediency. We object to it on the higher ground of political morality. It embitters feeling at election times; it exasperates temper; it strains the personal relations of both the leaders and rank and file of parties in and out of the House, and thus directly or indirectly interferes with the course of legislation; and it makes possible those undignified and disorderly scenes for which some of the colonial parliaments have acquired an unpleasantly conspicuous notoriety.

The return of three Government candidates at Dunedin formed, perhaps, the biggest surprise furnished by the ballot-boxes. It also supplied a signal proof that political abuse is, like the boomerang, a dangerous weapon that may come whirling back and wound its thrower. No attempt was made by their clerical, nor, so far as we know, by their lay, leaders, to organise or direct the numerically strong Catholic vote that exists in the Dunedin and Caversham electorates. The Catholic electors were left to follow in peace their individual preferences. The Opposition organ, the *Otago Daily Times*, was not satisfied with this. In his onslaught on the anonymous scurrilities of the *Globe* in 1836, DISRAELI said: 'An anonymous writer should at least display power; but we can only view with contemptuous levity the mischievous varlet who pelts us with mud as we are riding along, and then hides behind a dust-bin.' The *Otago Daily Times* opened its columns day after day to anonymous varlets of this kind. They penned venomous and malicious attacks on the Catholic body in its relations with the Public Service. 'Civis'—a member of the staff—was another of the effete literary varlets who pelted us and our bishops with political mud from behind the dust-bin of anonymity. Catholic and Protestant alike promptly recognised the intended purpose of this new departure in mud-slinging. Its plain intent was to benefit a party by arousing the demon of sectarian distrust and hate. The *Otago Daily Times* mistook its public. The attempt signally failed—and it is just such failures that add to the happiness of human existence. The exasperation produced upon the minds of Catholics by the cowardly attacks of 'Civis' and of 'JENNY GEDDES' (ominous pen-name!), and the rest did more to solidify the Catholic vote and bring it to the poll than could have been effected by six months of unwearied and searching organisation. Political causes which we need not specify here, would, in all probability, have led to the loss of one seat by the Opposition in Dunedin. But the Opposition representation was completely annihilated. And its annihilation is due to the *Otago Daily Times*. In the TABLET of November 23, we wrote: 'Whatever the final issue of the elections, some of the tactics of the *Otago Daily Times* will result in casting many a vote in favour of Mr. SEDDON; and 'Civis,' with his clumsy innuendos, could do no worse service to any cause than to be its advocate.' We thought so then. We know it now.

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

In consequence of the Christmas holidays (December 25 and 26) all letters for insertion in our issue of December 28 should reach this office not later than Saturday morning, December 23. Only the briefest items coming to hand on Wednesday morning can be inserted.

Since the death of the late Mr. T. M. Wilkinson, the old-established chemists' business, Princes street, Dunedin, has been carried on by his son, Mr. R. Wilkinson. All prescriptions and recipes are dispensed with care from the purest drugs and chemicals, orders by post receiving special attention. Messrs. Wilkinson and Son have a very fine stock of goods suitable for Christmas presents, comprising perfumery, hair brushes, toilet soaps, sachets, etc.—*.*

Now that the season of Christmas is at hand many of our readers are thinking of purchasing cards to send to friends, and the question naturally arises where to get the best assorted and most up-to-date selection, and that too at a moderate cost. Mr. E. W. Dunne, the well-known Catholic bookseller, of George street, Dunedin, informs the public that he can satisfy their requirements in this direction. Not alone is his establishment replete with the choicest collection of Christmas and New Year cards, but he has a very fine stock of prize books, albums, purses, gifts suitable for the season, and novelties of all kinds. His new supplies of Catholic prayer books, and Catholic requisites are unsurpassed in the Colony, and are well worth inspection. Persons about to purchase Christmas gifts would be consulting their own interests by visiting Mr. Dunne's establishment before buying elsewhere.—*.*

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DIOCESE OF DUNEDIN.

Mr. Walter Kirby, the rising young New Zealand tenor, who is proceeding Home next year to place himself under the tuition of Mr. Santley, sang at Vespers at St. Joseph's on Sunday evening.

Miss Drury, of Port Chalmers, who passed in the middle grade Trinity College (London) musical examination, is a pupil of the Sisters of St. Joseph. A pupil of the Sisters of St. Joseph at Arrowtown passed with honours.

On Thursday evening last a social was given by the Rev. Father McMullen in the Foresters' Hall, Port Chalmers, to the ladies and gentlemen who assisted with such conspicuous success at the bazaar held recently in the marine borough. There were about 80 persons present, and the function was an exceedingly enjoyable one.

The handsome new Catholic church erected at Tapanui will be opened on Sunday next, the 17th inst. The occasional sermon will be preached by the Very Rev. Father O'Neill (Milton). In addition to the Rev. Father O'Donnell (Gore), the Very Rev. Dean Mackay, Administrator of the Diocese, and other members of the clergy are expected to take part in the opening ceremony.

The annual entertainment in connection with the distribution of prizes to the pupils of the Christian Brothers' Schools will take place in St. Joseph's Hall to-morrow (Friday) evening. An excellent programme, consisting of competition contests in solo singing, elocution, and gymnastics, will be presented, and considering how creditably the boys acquitted themselves at recent entertainments, an excellent evening's amusement is anticipated.

A concert will be given on Wednesday evening in Mosgiel in aid of the funds of St. Mary's Convent School. A very fine programme is in course of preparation, and the following performers from Dunedin have promised to assist:—Miss Rose Blaney, Miss Mary Blaney, Miss Moloney, Miss A. Marks, Miss Morrison, Mr. Jago, and Mr. Eagar. An interesting *finale* to the concert will be given by the St. Joseph's minstrels, whose performances at various times in Dunedin have been highly appreciated.

In its comments on the production of the 'The Messiah' at Invercargill the *Southland Daily News* says of the singing of Mr. E. Eagar, of Dunedin:—'The most difficult position to fill is that of leading tenor, and so that this exacting part would receive a good rendering the services of Mr. Eagar, of Dunedin, were secured. The visitor is not gifted with a powerful voice, but his interpretation of the music was accurate and the florid passages were well executed, while his sweet soft tone enhanced the delight of the efforts. The récit 'Comfort ye My people' and air 'Every valley shall be exalted,' were received with marks of approbation.'

A concert in aid of the widow and family of the late Mr. A. Carter will be given in the Garrison Hall on Monday night. A very good programme, in which Mrs. Hudson, Mrs. J. Coombs, Miss R. Blaney, Miss M. Landells, Miss F. Brewer, Miss K. Moloney, Miss May Donaldson, Miss M. Morrison, and Messrs. A. C. Haulon, J. Jago, E. Eagar, J. McKennah, J. Coombs, F. H. Stokes, and the pupils of the Christian Brothers' School will take part, has been prepared for the occasion. The case is a most deserving one, Mrs. Carter and family of five young children having been left totally unprovided for. It is to be hoped that the organisers of the concert will meet with a generous response to their appeal from the public, who are ever ready to assist in the cause of charity.

The devotion of the Forty Hours' Adoration began at St. Patrick's Basilica, South Dunedin, on Friday morning, when Solemn High Mass was celebrated by the Rev. Father Moloney, S.M., the Rev. Father Ryan being deacon, the Rev. Father O'Donnell sub-deacon, and the Rev. Father Coffey master of ceremonies. On Saturday morning the Rev. Father O'Donnell sang a *Missa Cantata*. At the Solemn High Mass on Sunday the Rev. Father Moloney, S.M., was celebrant, the Rev. Father Kelsh (Tasmania) deacon, the Rev. Father O'Donnell sub-deacon, and the Rev. Father Coffey master of ceremonies. The Rev. Father O'Donnell preached on Friday evening and the Rev. Father Murphy on Sunday evening. The choir, under the conductorship of Mr. G. Neill, rendered the music appropriate to the ceremonies in a finished manner, Mrs. Neill presiding at the organ. On Sunday evening at Vespers Miss Morrison gave a devotional rendering of an 'Ave Maria.' The attendance at all the services was very good.

INVERCARGILL

(From our own correspondent.)

The General Election is now an event of the past. Southland has shown decidedly that its sympathies are with the Liberal Government, and has returned four good men, three of whom—the Hon. J. G. Ward, Messrs. McNab and Gilfedder—are tried veterans. Mr. J. A. Hanan, the fourth member, had a great victory over Mr. J. W. Kelly, who for years had represented Invercargill. Mr. Gilfedder had a hard fight in the Wallace electorate, but he came out on top with a substantial majority of 198 votes.

An event which is of much importance to the Irishmen of Southland was the annual meeting of the Irish Athletic Society, which took place on December 1, when the following office-bearers were elected:—President, Hon. J. G. Ward; vice-presidents, Messrs. J. W. Ford and T. McGrath; secretary, Mr. W. Hinchey; treasurer, Mr. T. McGrath; directors, Messrs. T. Cavenagh, J. Sheehan, N. Kelly, P. Dunn, J. Shepherd, J. McNamara, F. Downey, N. Moloney, J. Sinclair, J. McEntyre, C. Wells, W. Brettenden, J. B. Ford, W. Murdoch, and W. Nolan.

The members of the Catholic Literary Society believe in the development of the body as well as the mind. In pursuance of this principle, and under the patronage of the Very Rev. Dean Burke, they built for themselves a fine, well-furnished gymnasium and formed in connection with it cricket and football clubs. These have

been so successful that they decided to go a step further and to hold a sports' meeting on December 6. They engaged the Queen's Park and, although the General Election took place on the same day, the sports' committee have every reason to feel gratified with the result. A large number of trophies and medals were donated by the leading people of the town. Competition was open only to members of the Society. The principal winners were: 100yds and 120yds champion race, L. Morton; 120yds hurdles and 220yds race, P. Reynolds; one mile and 440yds race, and Irish jig, T. Grace; throwing the stone and hammer, A. Maher; high jump, J. Crawford; long jump and hop-step-and-jump, P. Scully. Besides these there were a number of smaller events, all of which were well contested. On Thursday evening the Society held a small social gathering at which the Very Rev. Dean Burke distributed the prizes.

THE BISHOP OF DUNEDIN IN EUROPE.

A PLEASING RECORD OF SUCCESS.

A LONG and cheery communication has reached Father Murphy, Administrator of St. Joseph's Cathedral, Dunedin, from the Right Rev. Dr. Verdon. It is dated Dublin, October 29, and contains a record of his Lordship's travels and labours in the interests of his diocese. We learn from it that after landing in Ireland, Bishop Verdon proceeded to Maynooth just in time to see 80 students of that famous Alma Mater of the Green Isle raised to the priesthood. He afterwards, by special invitation, conferred Holy Orders in the great foreign missionary college of All Hallows at Drumcondra, Dublin. His next visit was to the Irish College, Paris. His Lordship has met with gratifying success in connection with two of the chief purposes of his visit to the Old Land—namely, securing a supply of priests for the needs of his diocese and for making an early start with scholastic work in the fine Ecclesiastical Seminary which his prudence and foresight has secured for the training of secular priests for the whole of New Zealand.

Among the new subjects secured by his Lordship for the diocese of Dunedin are the following: Two promising young priests—Fathers Hearn and Geary—who were ordained in St. John's College, Waterford, in June, are now on their way to Dunedin, having left by the Austral the week previous to that on which the Bishop, wrote. They are expected in Dunedin within the next few days. On November 10 two other young priests, from Thurles College took steamer for Dunedin. As they intend to make a stay at Naples and Rome on their outward journey, they are not expected in Dunedin till the new year. At his old college of Clonliffe—of which, by the way, his Lordship was for many years President, and where his memory is still held in affectionate remembrance—he secured another student, whose ordination is fixed for Christmas. He, and probably another young priest as well, will accompany his Lordship on his return journey to Dunedin. In June next year two other students will be ordained for the diocese of Dunedin, the one in St. John's College, Waterford, the other in St. Patrick's College, Maynooth.

An announcement which will be received with much pleasure by the Catholics of the Colony is conveyed in his Lordship's letter. It is this: that the Ecclesiastical Seminary will be opened as soon as he returns to Dunedin. This happy consummation is now not many months off, as his Lordship, who is now in Rome, expects to sail from Naples by the Omrah on February 25, and to arrive in Dunedin early in April. We may state that, by his Lordship's instructions, the furnishing of the Seminary will shortly be proceeded with. The opening of the new Seminary will be one of the most marked of the many evidences of the fast-growing life and energy of the Catholic Church in New Zealand, and should in due course once and for all settle the perennial difficulty hitherto experienced of finding a constant and assured supply of labourers for the Vineyard of the Lord in this young land.

Bishop Verdon reports a fine summer and a very abundant harvest in Ireland. He likewise writes in terms of grateful enthusiasm of the generous hospitality extended to him on all hands both in America, Ireland, and elsewhere during the course of his travels—especially from the Archbishops of New York, Philadelphia, and Dublin, and by his many old friends among the secular and regular clergy. Altogether his Lordship's letter is a pleasant record of successful achievement not alone for his own diocese, but, in the matter of the Seminary, for the whole of New Zealand.

A MUNIFICENT DONATION.

(By telegraph, from a Wellington correspondent.)

It was announced some time ago in the columns of the N.Z. TABLET that Mr. Sydney Johnston, of Waipawa, had donated the sum of £500 to the Wellington Cathedral Building Fund. By the last mail from Home there came to hand a subscription of £500 for the Sacred Heart Basilica, Wellington, from Miss Johnston, now residing in England. Miss Johnston is a sister of Mrs. Grace, the Hon. O. Johnston and Messrs. Walter and Sydney Johnston, a family noted for their munificence to the Church in Wellington.

The Omrah, which arrived in Sydney in the early part of December, brought two priests from the old country for the Australian mission—the Rev. Father V. Peters, for the diocese of Maitland, and the Rev. Father Shanahan, for the diocese of Sandhurst. Two Sisters of the Sacred Heart for the Rose Bay Convent of that Order also arrived by the Omrah.

NEW ZEALAND: GENERAL.

Mr. H. A. FIELD, M.H.R. for Otaki, died on Friday afternoon of disease of the heart.

THE December number of that popular monthly, *The Triad*, is well up to its usual standard of excellence. The reading matter is varied, and comprises articles on music, literature, and science.

THE Bluff Harbour Board on Saturday accepted the tender of J. P. Rennoldson and Sons, of South Shields, England, for the construction of a tug, the amount being £10,875, and the vessel to be delivered at the Bluff by August next.

CROPS in the South Island are looking splendid, and there is every prospect of an abundant harvest, according to reports received by the Agricultural Department. The dairy produce export for the current year, it is anticipated, will greatly exceed the quantity sent out of the Colony during any previous year.

THE distribution of prizes to the pupils of the Convent of the Sacred Heart, Timaru, will take place on Tuesday next at one o'clock. His Lordship the Right Rev. Dr. Grimes has promised to preside. A retreat for ladies, conducted by the Rev. Father Colgan, S.J., will commence on Monday evening, January 8. Ladies desirous of attending should apply to the Rev. Mother.

IN its issue of October 1 the *Commercial Appeal* of Memphis, United States, has a leading article on the destruction of forests in the district, and the consequent evils which result from such a course. The *Appeal* basis its comments on an editorial on the destruction of forests in this Colony, which appeared a few months ago in the N.Z. TABLET, and which it quotes *in extenso*.

IF virtue is not always its own reward then the virtuous in many instances run the risk of going unrewarded (remarks the *Christchurch Press*). It is stated in support of this that last Sunday a guard on one of the Sumner trams found a gold watch and chain and pendant, valued at £15, and restored it to the owner, through the offices of a boy. The overjoyed owner of the valuables offered the boy a shilling for his services, but the boy, in declining the proffered guerdon, remarked, 'Keep it, mister, until it gets larger.'

DREDGE masters and miners should be very careful that foreign substances do not get mixed up with their gold samples. Through some unaccountable means a small quantity of brass filings got mixed up with a sample of gold that a Chinaman sold to a bank in Cromwell the other day. The bank official being under the impression that he could purchase brass filings at a cheaper rate than gold invited the Chinaman to explain the matter at the Magistrate's Court. As the explanation was not considered satisfactory the seller was fined 10s with costs.

AN important announcement was made by the Hon. J. G. Ward in the course of his address in Invercargill last week. After enumerating the substantial reductions in railway rates made by the present Government, he stated that it was intended at an early date to reduce passenger fares to 1½d per mile first class and 1d second class ordinary single. Under this scale it would cost only 17s 4d first class to go to Dunedin, as against 29s under the existing rate, and 11s 7d as against 19s 4d second class. These liberal concessions, he remarked, were to be granted irrespective of low fares for special purposes, such as school excursions and holiday trips, which would, of course, still remain in operation. The intimation was received with cheers by the crowded meeting.

It appears to us (*Oamaru Mail*) that one of the regrettable episodes in connection with the election just past was the rejection of Mr. O'Regan, who had represented Buller in two Parliaments. There may have been some special circumstances to account for the preference given to Mr. Colvin; but Mr. O'Regan is a strong man whose heart is in the right place, and his Parliamentary career has been marked by blamelessness and ability. It is a pity, however, that Mr. O'Regan should feel so sore over his rejection. The same misfortune has been suffered before now by the greatest and best of men, and, as he is very young as well as vigorous, there is no reason why he should not at some future time occupy a high place amongst the statesmen of this Colony if he will only be tolerant and patient.

A highly interesting lecture was given at Waihai, near Morven, Canterbury, on Tuesday night, by the Rev. Dr. Kennedy, S.M., B.A., lecturer on natural science at the Meance Seminary. Dr. Kennedy is an enthusiastic entomologist, and has devoted a great deal of his time to the study of insects and insect life, consequently his remarks were full of interest. He is also a practical photographer and an adept in microscopy, and the views with which the lecture was illustrated were taken by him with the aid of a microscope. The various 'subjects' dealt with included pictures of the common house fly, spider, butterfly, moth, &c. The lecture was highly enjoyed, and being delivered in plain language devoid of technicalities, was the more thoroughly appreciated by the audience. It is likely that the lecture will be repeated in Waimate this evening.

AREAS of Flax which have been cleared at great expense by owners of land and dissipated in smoke would now be worth more than a dredging claim in Otago. Wherever there are a few acres of the green blade left in the Manawatu and Rangitikei Counties (writes the *Marton correspondent of the Wellington Post*) a mill has been started or is about to be established. The price paid at present for fibre evidently provides a sufficient margin to allow of millers sending far afield for the raw material. Small patches of flax are being cut in the vicinity of Feilding, carted to the station, and railed to mills near Foxton for cleaning. If the enhanced prices imply so much additional profit, too, it must pay to transport the green leaf for a considerable distance. One miller near Foxton just previous to the boom was selling fibre at £14 10s per ton, while at present he is executing a contract at £27 per ton.

Writing after the General Election the *Otago Daily Times* said: The Colony as a whole, however, is manifestly disposed to entrust Mr. Ward once more with the control of the Treasury department. We are not inclined to join in the chorus of alarm with which this prospect has been received. Mr. Ward has retrieved his position to a very large extent, and it is most unlikely that he will repeat any of his former mistakes. His financial ability is undeniable, and the grasp which he has of the state of the finances of the Colony is unequalled on his own side in politics. His administration of the Postal department, when he was formerly in the Government, was admittedly most successful, and there will hardly be a dissentient voice to his again returning to it. When he does, a new period of progressive management will be inaugurated, and amongst his earliest acts will probably be the institution of the system of inland penny postage.

IN the November number of the *Austral Light* it was announced that that magazine would cease publication at the end of this year. We are pleased to notice by the December issue to hand that this is not to be the case. A new proprietary has been formed, with his Grace the Archbishop of Melbourne at its head, for the purpose of continuing the *Austral Light* in a new and improved form. It will be considerably enlarged, and will be issued directly under ecclesiastical authority. It is intended also to have two or three pages of illustrations, so that it should command that support which was denied to it in the past, and without which it is impossible for a magazine or newspaper to be a success. The old proprietary was severely handicapped for want of capital, but still it did remarkably well, thanks to the gratuitous assistance received from nearly all the contributors. We hope the *Austral Light* will be a great success in the future, and that it will long continue to illumine the minds of its readers.

How temperate and orderly the great bulk of the people of this Colony are was shown by the manner in which the General Election was conducted last week. There were immense crowds in the streets of Dunedin on Wednesday night and up to the early hours of Thursday morning, yet there was not a single individual looked up for drunkenness in the police cells. In a word there was not a single arrest for drunkenness in Dunedin from the Tuesday evening before the election until the Thursday evening after. At the Christchurch City Police Court on Thursday the presiding magistrate said that there were 40,000 people interested in the late election and not one of them had been brought up for drunkenness. This was a complete answer to the prohibition party, and showed clearly that Christchurch was not a drunken community. He expected that at least one dozen might have overstepped the mark. Sub-Inspector O'Brien said the election was a most orderly one. He did not hear an angry word pass between two persons all day. He agreed with the chairman as to the sobriety of Christ church.

THE WAR IN SOUTH AFRICA.

WITH the exception of that received on Tuesday morning, the war news of the week has been meagre and unimportant.

News received here on Tuesday reported another serious British reverse. General Gatacre, with a force of 3000, including the 2nd Northumberland, the 2nd Irish Rifles, 800 mounted infantry, and the 74th and 77th Batteries of Artillery, marched on Saturday night from Molteno with a view of surprising 2500 Boers at Stormberg, the junction of the branch railway connecting the East London and Port Elizabeth railways. When within two miles of Stormberg he encountered the enemy, who opened a sudden fire on the front and right flank. The British sought cover behind a kopje, but, being still within range, they shifted thence, the batteries covering the retreat. Boer reinforcements appeared, and the Northumberlands and the Irish Rifles were sent to intercept them, but suffered heavily from the fire of the machine guns. The enemy were underestimated and occupied an impregnable position. The infantry were unable to assail the Boers, while the enemy's two 40-pounders harassed the retreat. The Northumberlands and Irish Rifles behaved splendidly, but it is feared the losses are heavy. General Gatacre telegraphs his regret at the serious reverse, and says he was misled as to the enemy's position by the guides. He found them on impracticable ground. The British force was followed for three hours by the enemy's artillery. It is feared this disaster will intensify the Cape disloyalty. It is said that over 670 of General Gatacre's force are missing, and are supposed to be prisoners.

We regret to learn that on Sunday last (says the *Freeman's Journal*, December 2), Mr. J. J. Fitzpatrick, of Windsor (father of the M.P. for Rylstone and of Mr. O. Fitzpatrick, C.P.S.), died suddenly of heart weakness. The deceased gentleman had for over a generation been identified with Windsor. Some years ago, after more than 30 years' service in the police force, he retired on pension, his rank at the time being Inspector; and since then has taken a prominent part in the advancement of the old town. He was buried in the Windsor Catholic cemetery.

On the evening of October 31, the school hall at Waverley, Sydney, was well filled with the Catholics of the district, the occasion being a presentation to the Rev. A. S. Mullan, O.F.M., who for twelve years past has laboured in the Franciscan mission, which embraces the districts of Woollahra, Bondi, and Paddington. Father Mullan has been recalled to Ireland by his superiors. Although presentations are not encouraged in the religious Orders, it was found impossible in this case to oppose the warmly-expressed will of the people. An address and purse of sovereigns were presented to Father Mullan.

People We Hear About.

Mr. W. E. Lecky, M.P., the eminent historian, is married to a Dutch lady.

Among the war correspondents in South Africa is Lady Sarah Wilson, who is likewise a Red Cross nurse.

The learned Catholic historian, Dr. Pastor, professor of history at the University of Innsbruck, has been appointed by the Emperor of Austria a Councillor of the Imperial Court.

Colonel J. J. Scott Chisholme, who was killed at the battle of Elandslaagte, on October 21, was a Catholic. Colonel Scott Chisholme was commander of the Imperial Light Horse, which he raised and organised.

President Kruger's wife is a descendant of the same family as Cardinal Richelieu. His Honour has been wedded twice, and both his wives were chosen from the Du Plessis family. He has had seventeen children. His grandchildren number 101.

The Communal Council of Weimar, Germany, have decided to demolish a house in order to make clear the approach to a Catholic church. It is curious that the name of the proprietor of the house is Luther and that of the demolishing syndicate Papst, in English Pope.

Major Lord Edmund Talbot, who is an officer of the 11th Hussars, is among those who are now in South Africa. He is the only brother of the Duke of Norfolk. He assumed the name of Talbot in lieu of that of Howard as he was heir of Bertram Talbot, the last undisputed Earl of Shrewsbury. He is M.P. for the Chichester division of Sussex.

Mr. Kegan Paul has been writing his reminiscences, which will shortly be published by his old firm under the title *Memories of the Past*. As a publisher and a man of letters Mr. Kegan Paul knew many distinguished authors, including Tennyson, Tyndall and Huxley, and his book is rich in stories of them. Through the volume there runs the course of thought which led Mr. Kegan Paul by gradual steps towards the Catholic Church.

Professor Markham, the author of the much discussed poem, 'The man with the hoe,' has taken winter quarters in New York, and sent for his wife, who will be an acquisition to the literary world, especially to the Catholic Writers and Authors' Guild, which will not be slow in enlisting her interest in its work. She is well known in the literary society of San Francisco and Sacramento, where she met Edwin Markham, long before he gave indications of being the poet of the hour.

Signor Foli, the eminent vocalist, whose real name was Allan James Foley, and who was a native of County Tipperary, Ireland, died on October 20, at Southport. Only three short weeks before Signor Foli entertained a Glasgow audience, and the concluding lines of one of the songs which he then sang ('The mill wheel') have acquired a startling significance by his unexpected death—

'I would the grave could hide me,
For there alone is peace.'

The great basso was an immense favourite in Scotland.

The 500th anniversary of the birthday of Johann Gutenberg, the inventor of the art of printing, will be celebrated at his birth-place, Mainz-on-the-Rhine, in June, 1900. The festival is to be an international one, and a 'printing exhibition,' to which all nations are invited to contribute, will be opened on the first day of the festival. The exhibition will be arranged in three distinct classifications: (1) Historical; (2) graphic; (3) mechanical. The first will illustrate the development of printing in different ages and amongst different races. The second will attempt to give as complete a survey as possible of the reproductions of graphic art by means of the printing-press in the present age. The third will contain the most modern machinery of the press.

Mr. W. J. Napier, who headed the poll at the General Election for Auckland City, is a well known member of the legal profession. He was born in Ireland, but arrived in Auckland when only five years of age. He received his early education at St. Peter's Catholic School, Hobson street, Auckland, and later on attended the Grammar School. He was a great friend and admirer of the late Sir George Grey, whose legal adviser he was for a number of years. Mr. Napier is now for the second time chairman of the Auckland Harbour Board, and has been instrumental in largely improving the harbour and wharfage accommodation. He has led a life of great activity, and is a member of many societies—social, scientific, and literary. He has been, or is, secretary of the French Club, president of the Navy League, and Fellow of the Royal Colonial Institute. He established a corps of Garrison Artillery Volunteers 12 months ago, of which he is captain. He is a good writer and an able platform speaker, and frequently lectures on Imperial topics. Mr. Napier is just 40 years of age, and is full of vitality and vigour. He is a supporter of the present Government.

Mr. Kinniard Rose, who has gone to the front in the Transvaal war as the representative of Reuter, is one of the greatest if not the greatest living war correspondent. Rose (says a writer in the *Sydney Catholic Press*) was my chief on the Brisbane *Courier* eight years ago, in the days when the *Courier* was a power. He was a tremendous swell, and with his fine figure, beautifully attired, was the handsomest man in Queen street. To see him you would never dream that he was equal to the rough life of the battlefield, yet Rose had before coming to Queensland undergone untold hardships on the battlefields of Turkey and Russia. Most gentlemanly in his bearing and manner, he had won the friendship of the Russian generals, and is the author of the life of one whose name has slipped my memory. He dictated nearly all his work, and could dictate to a shorthand writer a brilliant 'leader' in about 20 minutes. During the Cardinal's first visit to Brisbane Mr. Rose met him, and was deeply impressed with his Eminence's personality. Rose's character sketch of John Dillon after an interview with the Irish member also won for him the hearts of the Irishmen of Queensland. Rose's departure for Europe was celebrated in true Bohemian style at the Press Club. Since, he has gone through the war in Greece, in which he carried off the highest honours; he was with Kitchener at Khartoum, and had a terrible ride for his life through the desert, chased by Arabs.

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The Storyteller.

GOOD LOOKS ARE NOT EVERYTHING.

I WAS the plain one of the family. Lucy was fair and blue-eyed; Myra was dark, with a bright colour and neat features, whilst Mave was tall and stately, with the face and figure of a Diana. My sisters were all well pleased with themselves, and very angry with me. I had no right to be so ugly, they often remarked—it spoilt the harmony of things and made people talk.

'After all, Mave, what does it matter?' I heard my mother say, in a tone of expostulation, one morning. 'Good looks are not everything. "Handsome is as handsome does," remember, and a better girl than Molly never lived. She ought to be a model to you all.'

I blushed to the roots of my hair, and wished I dared come out from my hiding place behind the window curtains. But I was afraid to show myself, and sat very still, hoping my mother and sister would soon leave the room.

'Good!' Mave tossed her handsome head and shrugged her shoulders. 'Goodness doesn't count for much in this world. If a girl can only be a saint, she had better go into a convent at once.'

'I don't see that,' my mother answered sharply. 'And you'll please keep such thoughts to yourself. It's all very well to be pretty—but, we're as God made us. And a girl like Molly would bring a blessing on any home.'

'I'm glad you think so,' Mave laughed a little contemptuously. 'For I'm quite sure you'll get leave to keep her. No one will be anxious to steal her away from you.'

'You are very severe. But wait till Molly puts up her hair and gets suitable frocks, and you'll see how nice she'll look.'

'She'll cost you a fortune. Her dress allowance will have to be twice as big as ours.'

'And so it shall be, if necessary. Everything shall be done to make my sweet Brownie appear to the best advantage.'

'Dear, kind mother!' I cried, as I heard the door shut, and I knew that I was alone. 'I don't think dress will make much difference in your Brownie. And she must be content to remain plain and unnoticed. It is God's will. And if He will but make her good and gentle and patient, and you will love her thus, she will not complain.'

The tears that had been long gathering in my eyes now splashed down in great drops upon my clasped hands, and for a moment or two I sat in my secluded corner weeping silently. Then I jumped up and said:

'What a goose I am. These are the last tears I shall shed over such nonsense. If I am plain what matter. My sisters are pretty and admired, and as frivolous as can be, but they are not happy, always wanting something—craving for something that they never seem to get. I shall never be pretty, never be admired, and am not naturally frivolous. I shall not try to be either one thing or the other. But I will be happy. The secret of happiness is to be content—never to expect or to look for anything beyond what we've got, and to devote ourselves to others. I'll do that. My mother shall be my first object. I'll do all I can to make her life bright and happy.'

Having come to this determination I went upstairs, bathed my face and re-arranged my hair, and putting on my freshest white blouse, hurried down to tea.

In three months' time I was to come out as a young lady. My skirts were to be lengthened, my dresses made by Mave's Parisian dressmaker.

'I don't think they'll suit my style, mother dear,' I said, smiling into her loving eyes. 'Sweet simplicity is the best thing for me.'

'Not at all, dearie,' kissing me. 'As long as I can afford it you must be well dressed.'

I laid my cheek against hers, saying softly:

'It will be a waste of money, mother dear. Your little Brownie is not worth it.'

'My little Brownie,' pressing me in her arms, 'is worth more than I can ever give her. And as far as I can I'll see that she has everything of the very best.'

Taking little interest in my new finery, which I felt could never make me look anything but a small, brown, insignificant person, I was greatly relieved when my last visit to the dressmaker had been paid, and my outfit was complete.

'You're a lucky girl,' said Mave, coming into my room one evening and gazing round at the dainty clothes that lay upon the bed and chairs and couch. 'I'd love to be beginning all over again like that.'

'But you have lots of lovely things.'

'Not half what I want. And my allowance is so absurdly small that I'm always in debt.'

'That's a pity,' I said gravely. 'I think a hundred a year is a good deal to spend on one's clothes.'

'Oh! do you? Well, just wait. But then, of course, you're different. You'll never have the temptations I have to be extravagant.'

'I hope not. Anyway, I don't mean to give in to them.'

'You're a virtuous creature. Too good for this world,' laughed Mave, and she swept gracefully out of the room.

'Too good and too plain,' I sighed. 'Molly Craven, you're a mistake. If you hadn't a mother to love you, your lot would be a sad one.'

When I went down to the drawing-room before dinner that evening, in one of my new frocks, an exquisite white muslin, trimmed with fine lace and insertion, a bunch of scarlet poppies on my breast, a tall, good-looking young man was standing by the piano turning over Mave's music. He was very fair, but with deep-

set dark grey eyes, that gave colour and intelligence to his handsome face. Mave looked superb in pale mauve silk and Honiton lace. She laughed as I came in and, turning on the music-stool, introduced me to our guest.

'Miss Molly Craven, Lord Vandeleur,' she said. 'Her first appearance in long frocks.' And she swung round again to the piano with a silvery, and I thought somewhat mocking, laugh.

Lord Vandeleur bowed, and as I met his frank eyes I recovered my composure, which had been suddenly routed by Mave's peculiar introduction.

'I am delighted to make your acquaintance, Miss Molly, either in short frocks or long,' he said with a friendly smile. 'I have heard a great deal of you as a tennis-player.'

'Yes, Molly is terribly energetic,' Mave remarked with a drawl. 'These little people always are. Now, Lord Vandeleur, we'll go over this again, please.'

He turned to the piano, and after sitting quite still for moment with crimson cheeks and loudly-beating heart I stole away to look for my mother.

As I paused in the conservatory I heard Lord Vandeleur say to Mave:

'There's something very nice about your little sister, although she's not at all like the rest of the family.'

'Happily not,' she answered dryly. 'We consider her very plain.'

'Oh, do you? Well, I'm not so sure. Those little brown things are very fascinating.'

'This is too bad,' I cried, stamping my foot. 'Why can't they leave me and my looks alone?' And I fled away, angry and ashamed.

For the next few days we lived in a whirl of excitement and gaiety. There were dances, tea-parties, and tennis, both at home and abroad. I went everywhere—my mother insisted on that—and thanks to the kindness of friends and my own good spirits I enjoyed myself thoroughly.

Lord Vandeleur was a welcome guest at all these entertainments, and although he was an acknowledged admirer of Mave's and was constantly by her side, he was extremely kind to me and paid me many little attentions that filled me with wonder and gratitude. I was always bright and happy in his company, and the only time I felt inclined to envy Mave her good looks was when I saw him talking and dancing with her and heard people say what a handsome couple they made. But I resolutely put these thoughts aside, and was as merry and free from care as the prettiest girl amongst the many at these gay parties.

The idea of trouble was far from our minds in those days. No fear of coming sorrow dimmed our happiness for a moment. And yet, though we knew it not, our time of trial was fast approaching, our years of ease and luxury were drawing to a close.

One evening we came home late from a tennis party. I was in high spirits. Lord Vandeleur had been my partner in a set that afternoon, and as I had played my very best, we had won. My success, the compliments I had received, and my partner's evident pleasure in being with me, had almost turned my head, and I was in a state of wild elation when I ran into the morning-room to look for my mother. But she was not there, and to my surprise Father Ryan, our parish priest, came forward to meet me, and with grave, sad eyes, took my hand in his.

'Molly,' he said (he had known me from my infancy and had given me many words of advice and comfort during my life), 'a great sorrow has fallen upon your mother and upon you all. But God will help you to bear it. You are brave and good and ready to submit to His holy will in all things, I know.'

'Father, what is it?' I cried, growing white and trembling with sudden fear. 'My mother!'

'Your mother is well, dear child, but in sad trouble. Your father was taken ill soon after you went out. He was worried and anxious. Things had been going wrong in the city of late and—'

'He—is—dead. Oh, father! I see it in your eyes.'

'He—God rest his soul. His call was sudden. But Our Lord is good. His mercy is great. And He will help and care for you as He has always done. Go to your mother, Molly. You were the only one she asked for in her sorrow.'

'Oh, father!' I sobbed. 'It is very terrible. Poor, dear father—dead.'

And then I turned away and staggered out of the room.

A moment later I was weeping my heart out in my mother's arms.

My father's sudden death, and the discovery that he had left us well nigh penniless, was an awful blow to us all. We were prostrate with grief and misery, and for some weeks were incapable of raising a hand to help ourselves.

But the situation was a grave one, and before the first two months had elapsed we were obliged to sell off everything and leave our beautiful home for ever. Then came the question of what we were to do. For every one of us, mother and all, had to turn round and, ill-fitted as we were for any kind of really remunerative work, try and earn our own bread.

A cousin of my mother's, a hard-working old priest in a poor and lonely parish in the Cotswold Hills, offered her the post of housekeeper in his modest establishment, at an almost nominal salary.

And glad to get away to some quiet spot, where she could think of and pray for her lost darling in peace, she accepted his offer. Tall, beautiful Mave, with her graceful figure and stately carriage, soon found a place at a hundred a year in Messrs. Jay's big show-rooms in Regent street. Lucy went as a governess to Lady Dalrymple's children, and Myra joined a well-to-do friend, who was opening a bonnet shop in Bond street, and wanted a pretty, dainty little person to sail about her rooms and persuade people they looked charming in her very costly and extremely fashionable head-gear.

'You're all suited now except me,' I said disconsolately. 'And I don't know what to do. I'm not tall, not pretty. I couldn't teach a baby, and I can neither bake nor sew.'

'You might be a lady-help,' suggested Myra. 'You could make beds and dust.'

'Perhaps. But the prospect is not a lively one.'

'Here's an advertisement that doesn't seem bad,' Lucy answered, taking up a number of the *Lady*. 'I'm not sure I wouldn't rather have it than a place as governess. Only I know Lady Dalrymple, and she's so kind, and will treat me well.'

I took the paper and ran my eye over the advertisement:

'Wanted as companion and lady-help to an elderly lady, living in quiet country house, a well educated girl of eighteen or twenty; duties light; salary, £18 a year and washing.'

'I'll answer it,' I cried. 'And if the old lady's reply is fairly promising I'll go to her. And I shall not want many dresses in her quiet country house. I daresay it's a hundred miles from everywhere. But beggars can't be choosers. So I'll go to this old lady if she'll only take me.'

My mother caressed my hair with a trembling hand.

'I'd have liked something more promising for my Brownie,' she said. 'But I am sure your decision is a wise one.'

'I am sure it is,' I answered, trying hard to speak cheerfully. 'And something tells me it will prove a blessed one. My old lady will prove an angel in disguise.'

'You're a brave little soul and deserve to prosper,' whispered my sweet mother in a choking voice. And kissing her silently I ran off to answer the advertisement.

Very promptly came Mrs. Lester's reply to my letter, and even my mother was forced to admit that it was perfectly satisfactory. She was evidently a lady, and every word she wrote showed extreme politeness and delicacy of feeling.

'I feel that I love her already,' I said, my eyes full of tears. 'Since I must leave you, mother, I'm glad to go to her. I'll accept her situation at once.' And I did so without an hour's delay.

All this time little had been seen or heard of Lord Vandeleur. A few days after our father's death he had called and left a card, but since then he had made no sign.

'Was he only a fair-weather friend after all?' I thought, stealing a glance at Mave, lovely and stately in her deep mourning. 'No, I can't believe that. Perhaps she sent him away. Well,' sighing, 'it's no business of mine, and she doesn't seem to mind. But still I'm sorry. He was such a pleasant friend.'

The end of the week saw us all scattered. Saying good-bye to one's nearest and dearest is a terrible ordeal, and I was red-eyed and sick at heart when I at last reached the 'Lodge' on Banstead Common.

Mrs. Lester, a sweet-looking lady just verging on seventy, her snow-hair lying in smooth bands upon her broad forehead, a cap of soft tulle tied with white ribbons under her chin, and a fichu of old lace folded across the bosom of her handsome black silk dress, received me in the kindest manner possible and invited me into the drawing-room to take a cup of tea.

'I—I didn't know lady-helps were treated as friends,' I said, blushing furiously, as she pressed me to eat some cake, and waited on me as though I were an honoured guest. 'You—you are far too kind.'

She smiled and patted my hand softly.

'It is a little unusual, perhaps. But then I am unusual. And you, my dear, are just a little unusual. I think we'll get on together.'

'I'm sure we shall,' I cried. 'But,' half laughing, half crying, 'you must not spoil me and take me out of my place. You must give me work and—'

'Of course I shall. But I want you as a companion more than anything. Your duties, otherwise, you will find very light, and I hope not too irksome.'

'Oh, I don't mind what I do. I am young and strong, and,' blushing, 'not beautiful enough to give myself airs.'

'No.' She examined me a little critically. 'You are not beautiful; but you have a sweet face.'

And she bent down and kissed me.

I was soon perfectly at home at the Lodge. My duties were light, and Mrs. Lester was kindness itself. The days and weeks passed away fairly quickly, and in spite of a little sadness of heart and a feeling of dulness that came over me very strongly at times I was content, almost happy.

My place at the Lodge was really an easy one. I helped Mrs. Lester to dress, kept her clothes in order, and dusted and arranged her room and the drawing-room. I did the marketing and saw that the servants did their work. In the afternoon I walked or drove out with my mistress. In the evening I read to her or sat sewing by her side whilst she played 'Patience' or wrote her letters. All my meals were taken with her, even when she had visitors, and she introduced me to everyone in the sweetest manner as her 'friend, Miss Molly Craven.'

'You're a good girl, to be always so bright and cheerful in such a dull house as this, Molly,' she said one day when I had been with her about three months. 'But by-and-bye we'll be more lively. A nephew of mine is coming for a fortnight at Christmas-time, and he'll wake us up a bit.'

I felt sorry to hear this. I didn't want waking up, and I was sure that a man about a tiny house like the Lodge would be a nuisance. However, I kept my thoughts to myself and did my best to look pleased when the young stranger's visit was talked about.

'I've been most fortunate to find such a place, and such a friend,' I told myself on Christmas Eve, as I dressed to walk across the Heath to do my marketing. 'I cannot expect to have everything my own way. And, after all, this young man may add to our happiness. And if not—well, a week will soon fly over.' And little guessing the joy that lay before me, I tied on my veil and running downstairs, passed out of the house, through the frosty garden, and away at a brisk pace, over the hard, white common.

'I never in my life,' I told myself, 'liked but one man—except, of course, my dear father. But he—ah, well! I never deceived myself. He was kind and pleasant, and—'. But it was not likely that his feelings would ever be any deeper for poor, plain little me, when Mave—tall, beautiful, graceful Mave was about.'

I gave my orders, made my various small purchases, and turned homewards. At the top of the hill, a fly bearing a couple of portmanteaus, a hat-box and a big dressing-bag, passed down the road from the station.

'It's too early,' I thought, 'or I'd think that was—our visitor. I laughed merrily. 'It's very funny, but now I come to think of it, I don't know his name. I don't believe Mrs. Lester ever mentioned it. Well, what matter—I'll know it soon enough.'

On entering the lodge gates I met the fly again. There was no one inside and the luggage had been taken off the top.'

'Why, it is our visitor after all,' I cried in surprise. 'Well, I'll not disturb the aunt and nephew just yet. Mrs. Lester wishes the place to look as Christmassy as possible, so I'll get my scissors and basket and go and cut a lot of holly and ivy. The berries are lovely this year. And—'

In the porch stood Mrs. Lester, smiling and radiant.

'He has come,' she exclaimed. 'Dear Vandeleur looks bronzed and handsome after his stay in Egypt. But what's the matter, child? Are you ill?'

'No, no,' I answered, feeling horribly conscious that my cheeks were changing from white to red. 'I was a little surprised. We knew a Lord Vandeleur at the awful time of my father's death.'

'He told me he knew you well. Vandeleur, you have not been forgotten.'

'I trust not.' And before I had time to recover my dignity and presence of mind Lord Vandeleur caught my hand and looked straight into my eyes.

'Molly, little Molly,' he whispered, 'you are glad to see me?'

'Certainly,' I answered, affecting an indifference I was far from feeling. 'You have been long away.'

'I could not help it. I was obliged to go abroad. When I returned you had all gone; your old home was deserted.'

'Such is life,' I said lightly. 'Nothing but change and—'. But we'll meet again. I have work to do now.' And I sped into the house and up the stairs to my room.

At lunch Lord Vandeleur and Mrs. Lester kept up a lively conversation. The old lady had many questions to ask about absent friends, and seeing that they were happy together I slipped away.

'I can't breathe in the house,' I cried, putting my hands to my burning cheeks. 'I'll get the holly now.'

As I stood on tiptoe trying to break off a branch of holly laden with bright berries a deep voice said in my ear:

'Allow me, Molly,' and in an instant the branch was lying in my basket.

'Thank you,' I said; 'you are very kind.' And I took a step back towards the house.

But Lord Vandeleur sprang to my side.

'Molly, I came here to see you. I heard by accident that you were with my aunt, and I travelled night and day to ask you a question that was often on my lips four months ago. Molly, will you be my wife?'

I grew crimson, then pale.

'But Mave,' I stammered. 'I—I thought you loved Mave.'

'You thought wrong. Mave knew I loved you. But she said you did not care for me, and I feared—'

'She should have allowed me to answer for myself,' I blazed out. 'I—'

'You will do so now. Molly, sweet Molly, do you love me? Will you marry me?'

'A lady-help—your wife!'

I began with a wild attempt at gaiety; then I burst into tears.

'Look up, my darling, and whisper "Hugh, I love you."'

But I could not speak. My heart was too full, and I raised my eyes in silence to his face. What he saw there satisfied him. The mute eloquence told him more than any words, and drawing me gently to his side he murmured:

'God bless you, my love, you have made me very happy.'

CLARA MULHOLLAND, in the *Catholic Fireside*.

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The Catholic World.

CANADA.—The Golden Jubilee of a Priest.—The sacerdotal Golden Jubilee of the Rev. Father Philippe Hypolite Suzor, Vicar-General of the diocese of Nicolet, was celebrated on September 26. Over 200 priests were present. The sermon was preached by the Rev. Father Mathieu, rector of Quebec Laval University. Sir Wilfrid Laurier, accompanied by Lady Laurier, arrived at nine o'clock. A grand banquet was held at twelve o'clock in the convent. The speeches were opened by Mgr. Gravel, who announced that Father Suzor had been named a domestic prelate by the Pope. Father Suzor made a touching answer. Sir Wilfrid Laurier congratulated Father Suzor in a few well-chosen words, remarking that he was both a friend and an ancient parishioner of his. Monsieur Suzor was born at Quebec on May 1, 1826, and was ordained priest on September 26, 1849, by Mgr Turgeon, then Archbishop of Quebec.

Good Feeling between all Denominations.—At an open meeting of the Catholic Order of Foresters, held in Winnipeg, Manitoba, on September 13, in honour of Archbishop Bruchesi, of Montreal, Mayor Andrews welcomed his Grace and spoke of the friendly feelings which exist amongst all the citizens of Winnipeg, regardless of creed. Archbishop Langevin said he was glad to hear the nice terms in which the Mayor had spoken of the social relations that existed and should exist amongst the citizens of Winnipeg. He was sure the Mayor was sincere in what he had said, and he willingly re-echoed the Mayor's expressions. He hoped that these feelings would prevail over the whole country and bring peace, tranquillity and mutual respect for the rights of all. He was glad the Archbishop of Montreal was there. They all knew that Archbishop Bruchesi could do a good deal for the cause of justice and right and his word went along way. Not long ago his word brought about peace and prosperity in the commercial institutions of Montreal, and, knowing this, they were all delighted to have him visit Winnipeg at this time, and see for himself the actual state of affairs. Archbishop Bruchesi, in replying, said that the words the Mayor had uttered should be the programme of the day for all men in all parties. He (the Archbishop) belonged to a French city, where all the inhabitants lived in perfect peace together. The Catholics were in a majority, but as Archbishop and as a citizen he would always be opposed to any mode of action which would be against those who did not belong to his own Church, and as he was respectful of the convictions of others, he thought he was entitled to expect and to hope that others should always respect his rights and convictions.

ENGLAND.—A New Catholic Magazine.—The new magazine which is to be brought out under the auspices of his Eminence the Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster is to bear the title of *Faith of our Fathers and the Net of St. Peter*. The first number was to appear last month.

Prayers for the Soldiers who fell at Glencoe.—In all the Catholic churches of London, on Sunday, October 22, prayers were offered for the officers and men of the Dublin Fusiliers who fell in the memorable charge at Glencoe, Natal. References from the pulpit were also made to the heroic conduct of the troops, the majority of whom were Catholics. At St. George's Cathedral the Rev. F. Mason said that the Catholics had been accused of being disloyal to their country, but conclusive proof had now been given that they were always ready to bear their share of the burdens of this country, and were the first to sacrifice their lives to the call of duty. Indeed, the history of the wars of the present century had proved that Irish Catholic soldiers were always in the front on the battlefield, and by their great courage had often gained the day. This was an answer to people who accused Irish Catholics of being disloyal to a country which had ill-treated their race. It has been proposed to hold a memorial service for the troops of the Dublin Fusiliers who fell at Glencoe, and it will probably take the form of a *Requiem Mass* in one of the large Catholic churches of London.

Reception Ceremony at Nottingham.—Miss Anna Doyle, eldest daughter of Mr. Thomas Doyle, Scullabogue, Carrigbyrne, County Wexford, was recently received into the Order of the Little Company of Mary, at Nottingham. The ceremony was performed by the Most Rev. Dr. Bagshawe, Bishop of Nottingham, assisted by his nephew, Rev. Stephen Vray.

The Duke of Norfolk and the Pope.—The Duke of Norfolk, in addition to his usual donation of £10,000 to Peter's Pence, will this year present the Pope with a magnificent amethyst.

The Bishop of Nottingham's Silver Jubilee.—His Lordship the Most Rev. Edward Gilpin Bagshawe, Bishop of Nottingham, has just celebrated his episcopal Silver Jubilee. Dr. Bagshawe is a native of London, and the son of a county court judge. His brother is also on the county bench. He is a Liberal in politics, warmly in favour of Home Rule for Ireland, on account of which he is dearly loved by the Irish people. Wherever a voice was needed in England on Ireland's behalf Dr. Bagshawe's was raised. He has been for years and still is a fearless advocate of Ireland's rights, and no one has so strongly brought home to English Catholics their obligations to Catholic Ireland and to the Irish Catholics who helped to rebuild the Church in England. When the Home Rule cause was unpopular this high-minded, courageous English prelate stood out as a fearless champion. Among those

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Just Landed a Large Stock of New Goods and Picture Frame Mouldings.

GERSTENKORN
ESK STREET, INVERCARGILL.

CRITERION HOTEL

PRINCES STREET, DUNEDIN.
JAMES LISTON ... Proprietor (Late of the Douglas Hotel).

Having purchased the lease and goodwill of the above popular and centrally-situated Hotel, J. L. hopes, by strict attention to the comfort of his boarders, travellers, and the public in general, and having made several necessary alterations, to meet with a fair share of the public patronage.

Suites of rooms for families. Terms strictly moderate.

A Special feature: Is LUNCHEON from 12 to 2 o'clock.

Hot, Cold, and Shower Baths.

The very best of Wines, Ales, and Spirits kept in stock.

Two of Alcock's best Billiard Tables.

A Night Porter in attendance.

JAMES LISTON.

"All who would achieve success should endeavour to merit it."

WE have during the past year spared no expense in endeavouring to make our Beer second to none in New Zealand, and can now confidently assert we have succeeded in doing so.

We invite all who enjoy A Good Glass of Beer to ask for **STAPLES' BEST**,

On Draught at almost all Hotels in the City and surrounding districts. And confidently anticipate their verdict will be that **STAPLES AND CO.** have successfully removed the reproach that Good Beer could not be brewed in Wellington.

J. STAPLES AND CO. (Limited),
MOLESWORTH AND MURPHY STREETS
WELLINGTON.



BUILT BY THE REMINGTON ARMS COMPANY.

Did it ever occur to you that this was a Good Recommendation? Particularly in these days, when the **SOLE OBJECT OF MOST OF THE BICYCLE MAKERS** seems to be to produce *Wheels almost without cost, regardless of Quality, Workmanship, or anything but outside show.* The specifications of most of the cheapest and shoddy Wheels are copied word for word from the catalogues of the better makers, and the printed cuts of such wheels compare with the best.

THE WISE COURSE by all odds is to **PURCHASE CYCLES** that are Built by **RELIABLE MAKERS**, and then you will take no chances.

OUR REMINGTON BICYCLES HAVE A REPUTATION THAT IS WORLD-WIDE, And never have we put REMINGTONS on the Market the quality of which could even be questioned. Write or call for fully Illustrated Catalogues.

M. O'BRIEN AND CO.,

REMINGTON CYCLE AGENCY,
ARMAGH STREET, CHRISTCHURCH.

who assisted at the Jubilee—a most imposing celebration—were Canon John Bagshawe (brother), his Honor Judge Bagshawe, Q.C., and Mrs. Bagshawe, Mr. Clement Bagshawe, J.P., of Dover (a brother of Dr. Bagshawe), Lord Howard, of Glossop, Lord Gainsborough, and nearly 100 priests.

A Society of Lay Helpers.—A new society has been founded by Mrs. Nolan-Slaney in the Mission of the Sacred Heart, Birmingham. The society will devote its time to assisting the sick and reclaiming the negligent. It will succour the dying and console the unfortunate. The members will give lessons in cookery and other domestic subjects. In their charitable labours they will combine the temporal with the spiritual. Though the society is little more than a few months old it already numbers over 40 members.

FRANCE.—The Pope and Madame Loubet.—His Holiness Pope Leo XIII. has sent a splendid rosary chaplet to Madame Loubet, wife of the President of the Republic. The gift seems to be intended as a souvenir of a short stay once made by the Sovereign Pontiff when he was Nuncio in Bavaria, at Montélimar, where he met some of the President's family.

GERMANY.—A Prince Enters a Monastery.—Prince George of Liechtenstein, youngest son of Prince and Princess Alfred of Liechtenstein, has entered the Benedictine Order as a novice, at the age of 19. He is a nephew of Prince Aloisius Liechtenstein, who married Miss Mary Fox, the adopted daughter of the late Lord and Lady Holland.

SCOTLAND.—Clerical Appointment.—The Rev. C. Callanan, from the archdiocese of Cashel and Emly, Ireland, has been appointed to the vacant curacy at St. Joseph's, Kilmarnock.

Presentation of a Chalice.—Mrs. McLaughlin has presented St. Bride's, Cambuslang, with an embossed gold chalice, set with precious stones, in memory of her late husband, Mr. Edward McLaughlin.

Presentation to a Priest.—A gold watch, albert, pendant and purse of sovereigns are the 'outward signs' by which the parishioners of St. Andrew's Cathedral, Glasgow, have testified their affection for their late curate, Father Forbes, St. Peter's College, Bearsden.

Canon Donlevy on the South African War.—A number of the Catholic men of the Scots Greys and the Gordon Highlanders attended High Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral, Edinburgh, on Sunday, October 22. The preacher, the Very Rev. Canon Donlevy, addressed them as follows: Since Sunday last, war in all its horrors has broken out. The distant roar of artillery, the clang of arms, the roll of the drum, and the shrill note of the trumpet, sound in our ears. Those sounds have entered every home in England, Ireland and Scotland, and brave youths are saying a hurried farewell to those they love best of all on earth, and hastening to join their standards. Already we stand by the open grave of hundreds of brave men who have done their duty. To us, more than our fellow-countrymen, is that grave dear, for it contains very many who, like us, were Catholic. Their noble charge and heroic death deserve our admiration; and as we place the well-deserved wreath, we join the fervent prayer to make amends for them before the Almighty. Well have they proved the Catholic soldier knows and does his duty. Men of the Scots Greys and Gordon Highlanders, who have ever been foremost in danger, we know you will do your duty. We pray the God of Armies to be with you, and, as we bid you God-speed, bear in mind that the eyes of your countrymen follow you. Our prayers are with you, and God hasten the day when you return to place the garland of peace on the altar of the Prince of Peace.

SOUTH AFRICA.—A Priest's Silver Jubilee.—The Very Rev. Father Fanning, of King Williamstown, has celebrated his sacerdotal silver jubilee.

Irish Jesuits at the Cape.—The Irish Fathers of the Society of Jesus, who are engaged in a missionary circuit in the Cape, have crossed the border and begun work in the Eastern Province of South Africa. Their mission has been throughout most successful. The diocese of the Most Rev. Dr. McSherry is at present the scene of their labours, being the first station of their return journey. The end of the year will, it is expected, bring their apostolic work in Africa to a close.

Mr Rhodes and the Salesian Institute.—Mr. Rhodes has been showing his sympathy with the Salesian Institute in Cape

Town (whose object is the training of orphan boys to a good practical trade) by a donation of £25. Previous to this, the Superior of the Institute had a private interview with Mr. Rhodes, who was made acquainted with the various works of the Salesian Institution. He has expressed himself a strong believer in technical education.

UNITED STATES.—Monument to the Late Bishop of Columbus.—The monument to the late Right Rev. John A. Watterson, D.D., Bishop of Columbus, O., is a canopy sarcophagus of classic design, one of the finest ever erected in Central Ohio. The design was selected from nearly one hundred competitive plans, and will cost 2700dol. It will be placed over the grave on a suitable foundation and will be erected about April next.

Death of a Great Irish Scholar.—The Rev. Eugene O'Growney died at the Sisters' Hospital, Los Angeles, on October 18. Father O'Growney went to the United States in 1894 for a change of climate, and for the past three years lived in Arizona. His death was due to an operation which was performed three weeks before with the hope of prolonging his life. Of all the leaders of the Gaelic movement there is hardly one who had done such valiant service in the cause as Father O'Growney, and none was more popular. The deceased was born at Ballyfallon, Athboy, County Meath, in 1863. Neither of his parents knew Irish, nor was any Irish spoken in the district; indeed it is related that he did not know anything of the language until he went to St. Finian's Seminary, Navan, in 1879. He got his first knowledge of it from a series of lessons which appeared in the *Young Ireland* magazine. In 1882 Father O'Growney entered Maynooth, where he studied for six years, and he had an opportunity of conversing with Irish-speaking students. He was ordained in 1889, and went as curate to Ballynacargy, near Mullingar. While here he became co-editor of the *Gaelic Journal*. In 1893 he, at the suggestion of Archbishop Walsh, commenced in the *Weekly Freeman* and *Gaelic Journal* the now famous 'Simple Lessons in Irish,' which have gone through several editions.

GENERAL.

Next Year's Pigrimages.—During Jubilee Year many of the Catholics of Great Britain will go in devout pilgrimage to the Eternal City to gain the indulgences offered by the Church. Besides a special pilgrimage of Catholics, there will be a working-men's pilgrimage, which is even now being prepared. It is the first of the kind which will go from England to Rome. Its organisers and promoters hope from what they see now to be able to bring to Rome no less than a thousand working-men—a very respectable number considering the feverish continuity of labour in England. The organising committee of this pilgrimage will only concern itself with English working-men, for other similar pilgrimages will go from Ireland and Scotland. If Scotch and Irish working-men, especially those who labour in English workshops, wish to take part in it, they will be admitted, and will thus increase very considerably the number of the working-men's pilgrimage.

Messrs. Hislop and Creagh, solicitors, Oamaru, have money to lend in large and small sums at lowest current rates.—*.*

The New Zealand Express Company, with offices in almost every important centre in this Colony, are prepared to forward parcels to all parts of the world. Persons having furniture to remove will do well to consult the Express Company, who are noted for the careful manner in which they do their work, and also for their moderate charges.—*.*

Holiday excursion tickets will be issued on the New Zealand Government Railways on the Hurunui-Bluff section from December 18 to January 2. These tickets will be available for return up to and including January 30. Special night trains will be despatched from Dunedin, Christchurch, and Invercargill on the nights of December 23rd and 30th. Particulars as to fares, etc., will be found elsewhere in this issue.—*.*

An important notice regarding the train service during the Christmas holidays appears elsewhere in this issue. From Wednesday, December 20, to Tuesday, January 9 (inclusive), fast passenger trains will run daily (Sundays excepted) between Dunedin and Oamaru and Oamaru and Christchurch. It is notified also by the Railway Department that several of the ordinary trains will have their time of departure and arrival altered during the above period. Further particulars regarding fares and other matters will be found in our advertising columns.—*.*

DUNEDIN WOOL SALES, 1899-1900.

DONALD REID AND CO.

WOOL & PRODUCE BROKERS,
FINANCIAL & STATION AGENTS.

TO THE WOOL GROWERS OF OTAGO.

GENTLEMEN,—Another Wool Season being upon us, some of the early Clips having already come to hand, we take the opportunity to again tender our best services to Wool Growers, for the disposal of their Wool here or for shipment of same to London or other markets.

CONGRATULATORY.

We are pleased on this occasion to be able to congratulate our numerous friends and Wool Growers generally on the cheering prospects for the season's sales. It is a long lane that has no turning, and after long and weary years of abnormally low prices we may reasonably hope for the continuance of better prices for some time to come.

SHOW ROOM.

We would remind Wool Growers that our Stores offer unequalled advantages for exhibiting and selling wool, and for expeditious handling of same.

Our Show Room being fully equipped with all the latest improvements, conveniently situated and specially lighted for the proper display of the wools, buyers are placed in a position to value to the best advantage and to operate with such confidence as must ensure a satisfactory sale, to which no end will be spared on our part.

VALUATIONS.

We make careful examination of every lot (large or small) prior to sale, and as every department of the business is conducted under our personal supervision, consignors may rest assured that no lot will be sold below its full market value and that their interests generally will be thoroughly protected.

SELLING DAYS

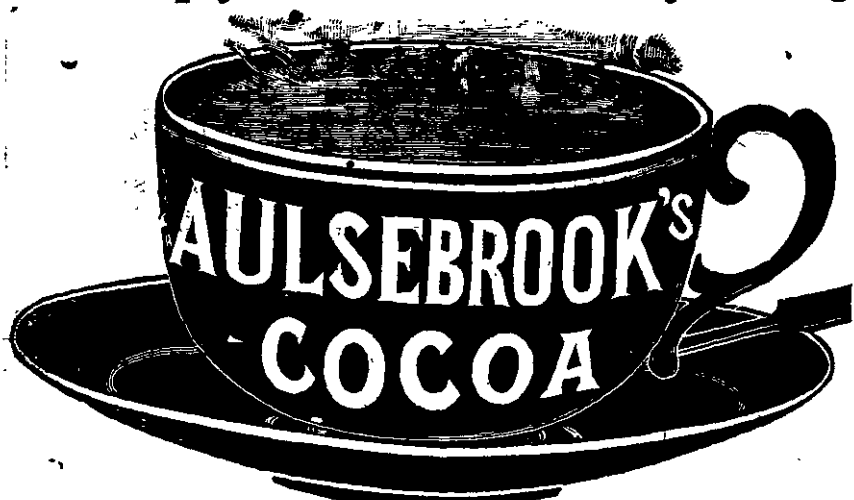
Our First Sale will be held on THURSDAY, 21st December, 1899
Second Sale will be held on FRIDAY, 12th January, 1900
Third Sale will be held on FRIDAY, 2nd February, 1900
Fourth Sale will be held on THURSDAY, 22nd February, 1900
CHARGES AND ACCOUNT SALES.

All Charges throughout will be made on the very lowest scale. Accounts will be rendered and proceeds paid over promptly within six days of sale as heretofore.

We remain, yours faithfully,

DONALD REID & CO.

Build up your Constitution by taking



Full of NOURISHING and SUSTAINING QUALITIES.

A HIGH AUTHORITY ON
WAI-RONGOA MINERAL WATER.

Bottled only at Springs, Wai-Rongoa.

The New Zealand Medical Journal says
"In regard to the Water itself, as a table beverage it can be confidently recommended. Beautifully cool, clear and effervescing, the taste clean, with just sufficient chalybeate astringency to remind one that there are healing virtues as well as simple refreshment in the liquid, this Mineral Water ought soon to become popular amongst all who can afford the very slight cost entailed."

We supply the Dunedin and Wellington Hospitals, the Union Company's entire fleet, and Bellamy's with our Pure Mineral Water. Specially-made Soda Water for Invalids. For Permit to visit Sprng apply Dunedin Office
THOMSON AND CO.,
Office: Dunedin.

Established 1861.
W. GREGG AND CO (LIMITED)

Manufacturers of the Celebrated
"CLUB" COFFEE, "ARABIAN" COFFEE
AND "FRENCH" COFFEE.

(Net weight tins.)

Also Exhibition Brand Coffee

Eagle Brand Coffee

Crown Brand Coffee

Elephant Brand Coffee

(Gross weight tins.)

The Best Value to the Consumer known in
New Zealand.

—EAGLE STARCH—

Favourably spoken of by all who use it as the
Best Made in New Zealand.

SODA CRYSTALS, FLAVOURING ES-
SENCES, CURRY POWDER, AND
PURE PEPPER AND SPICES.

GUARANTEED.

Ask your grocer for the above brands and
you will not be disappointed in quality
W GREGG & CO., DUNEDIN



DIXON'S CORDIAL FACTORY,
BENNETT & READY,

3 DIXON STREET, WELLINGTON.

By special appointment Aerated Water and
Cordial Manufacturers to his Excellency the
Governor, Earl Ranfurly, K.C.M.G. Noted
for the Superior Excellence of their manu-
factures.

AMBER ALE—Non-Alcoholic, a specialty.
SODA WATER specially prepared for Invalids
Ask for DIXON'S GINGER ALE.

Auckland Agent—Mr. Arthur H. Nathan.
Telephone 378.

SUGAR COATED.

HAYDOCK'S

NEW LIVER PILLS

A wonderful and extraordinary combina-
tion of concentrated medicine. The Vic-
tories of Science—Electric Telegraphs,
Steam and Printing—revolutionised the
whole system of the globe, and made
mankind wiser and better. So, although
there are countless Pills used for the disease,
and claiming much as to their merit, the
remarkable discovery of Dr. Haydock has
eclipsed them all, and has founded a

New Medical System.

The Doctor, whose vast doses of four or
five pills, enfeeble the stomach and paralyse
the bowels, must give way to the man who
restores health and appetite with one or two
of his extraordinary Vegetable Pills. One
or two of DR. HAYDOCK'S NEW LIVER
PILLS suffice to place the stomach in per-
fect order, creates an appetite, and renders
the spirit light and buoyant. If the Liver
is affected, its functions are restored, and if
the Nervous System is enfeebled, it is in-
vigorated and sustained.

Symptoms of Biliousness.

1. The patient complains of a fullness of
the stomach.
2. Distension of the bowels by wind.
3. Heartburn.
4. A feeling of weariness, sleepiness after
meals.
5. A bad taste in the mouth, and furred
tongue.
6. Constipation, with an occasional diar-
rhea.
7. Headache in front of head.
8. Depression of spirits and great lassi-
tude.

All of the above symptoms go to show
functional derangement of the Liver; and
now comes the great importance of any
error made as to the condition of the patient.
He should immediately provide himself with
a LIVER STIMULANT, the most common
form of which is a Pill. Daily experience
shows that this, when the Pill is compounded
properly, is the readiest mode of inoiting
and promoting the action of the Liver, and
can be always relied on. I have devoted
many years of my life in compounding a
Pill that will act readily and systematically
as a Bilious Remedy. I do not believe in
great purgatives, and therefore have made a
Pill, one of which is an active and thorough
dose. I have called it

Haydock's New Liver Pill.

They are the true grains and essence of
health, and the greatest blessing that Science
has given to the world.

For Nervous Prostration, Weakness, Gen-
eral Lassitude, Want of Appetite and Sick
Headache, Dr. Haydock's New Liver Pills
will be found an Effectual Remedy.

Each vial contains Twenty Pills. Price
Twenty-five Cents. For sale by all Drug-
gists.

Any sceptic can have a vial of Pills SENT
HIM FREE on receipt of his name and
address, for a trial.

Send a postal card for copy of pamphlet—
'THE LIVER AND ITS MYSTERY.' It
furnishes valuable information to all.

HAYDOCK & CO.,

NEW YORK, U.S.A.

CAUTION!—Druggists are desired to
notice that the name of J. H. Francois, sole
agent, is written across each dozen packages
of Haydock's Liver Pills. All without this
are counterfeits.

KEMPTHORNE, PROSSER & CO.,
CHRISTCHURCH.

[T. H. UNDRILL]

[E. A. UNDRILL]

FURNISHING UNDERTAKERS.

We beg to announce that at the request
of numerous client we have purchased a
(First-Class) Undertaking Outfit, and that
we are prepared to furnish FUNERALS IN
the BEST POSSIBLE STYLE AT MODERATE
CHARGES.

T. H. UNDRILL AND CO.
FURNISHING UNDERTAKERS,
TANCRED STREET,
ASHBURTON.
(Opposite Arcade and next Building
Society's Office.)



ST. JOSEPH'S PRAYER BOOK.

Can be had from all who Sell Catholic books or direct from the Publisher,

J. MURRAY, TABLET OFFICE, DUNEDIN.

Prayer Book only, One Shilling. By post, 1s. 2d.

Prayer Book and Catechism bound in one, 1s. 2d. By post, 1s. 5d.

MONEY TO LEND,

IN LARGE AND SMALL SUMS,

At Lowest Current Rates.

HISLOP AND CREAGH,

SOLICITORS, Oamaru.

AUSTRALIAN GENERAL CATHOLIC DEPOT.

LOUIS GILLE AND CO.,
73 AND 75 LIVERPOOL STREET, SYDNEY.

To arrive in December. Orders now booked.

The Old Favourite. Better than ever.

CATHOLIC HOME ANNUAL FOR 1900.

64 full page and other illustrations. Stories by the best writers.

Price, 1s; post free, 1s 3d.

A FULL MEASURE OF GOOD READING.

Maurice F. Egan: "Joan Triumphant." Illustrated. A very pretty story; a blending of romance and religion.

Sara Trainer Smith: "The Hour of Peace." Illustrated.

M. E. Francis (Mrs Francis Blundell): "In St. Patrick's Ward."

A pathetic story of a poor old Irish woman.

Mme. Blanc: "The Nursling of the Countess." Illustrated.

Anna T. Sadlier: "Marie de l'Incarnation." Illustrated.

Eleanor C. Donnelly: "Not Dead, but Sleeping."

Very Rev. F. Girardey, C.S.S.R.: "Thoughts on the Fifth, Sixth, and Ninth Commandments." Illustrated

Rev. Edmund Hill, C.P.: "Per Mariam."

The Children's Delight—**LITTLE FOLKS' ANNUAL for 1900.**
Contains Stories, Games, Tricks, Interesting Items, etc., with a large number of Pretty Pictures. Price, 3d; post free, 4d.

CRITERION STABLES

MORAY PLACE, DUNEDIN.

JAMES JEFFS (Successor to W. H. Taggart) PROPRIETOR.

Drags, Landaus, Waggonettes, Dog-Carts, and Vehicles of every description. Saddle Horses always on Hire. Carriages for Wedding Parties. Horses Broken to Single and Double Harness, also to Saddle

TELEPHONE No. 124; also EMPIRE STABLES, PALMERSTON SOUTH.

GRIDIRON HOTEL,

PRINCES STREET SOUTH,
DUNEDIN.

JOHN LAFFEY - (Late of Railway Hotel, Lawrence) - Proprietor
Having purchased the freehold of the above popular and centrally-situated Hotel, and having considerably added to and improved the accommodation, the Proprietor hopes, by strict attention to the requirements of his customers, to obtain a fair share of support. Tourists, Travellers, and Boarders will find all the comforts of a home. Suites of Rooms for Families. Charges strictly Moderate.

A Special Feature: 1s LUNCHEON from 12 to 2 o'clock.

Hot, Cold, and Shower Baths. The very best of Wines, Ales, and Spirits supplied. A Night Porter in attendance.

JOHN LAFFEY

Proprietor.

Accommodation for over 100 guests.

JAS. SPEIGHT AND CO

MALTSTERS AND BREWERS.

CITY BREWERY, DUNEDIN.



THAT MOST TEAS LACK THAT RICHNESS, STRENGTH, AND FLAVOUR THAT CHARACTERISES THE HIGH CLASS ARTICLE?

Try "**KUKOS**" Tea, which POSSESSES all these qualities

Your Grocer keeps it, or will procure it for you.

WRIGGLESWORTH AND BINNS,

PHOTOGRAPHERS

To His EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR,

CHRISTCHURCH, WELLINGTON, AND DUNEDIN.

LOFT AND CO.,

BOOT MANUFACTURERS AND IMPORTERS,

No. 9, CENTRE ROYAL ARCADE, DUNEDIN.

SWEET MARIE.

I've a secret in my heart

You must hear—

A tale I would impart—

Please draw near.

Every foot that's warmly clad

Makes the wearer's heart feel glad,

And that footwear may be had

AT LOFT & CO'S.

Chorus:

To Loft and Co.'s you must go—

Royal Arcade, don't you know—

Where the busy throng is passing

to and fro.

At all seasons of the year,

Splendid Bargains there appear—

You'll be suited, never fear,

AT LOFT & CO'S.

If you are anxious 'bout the War, TRY A "WELLINGTON."

If you don't turn up till night, TRY A "BLUCHER."

When the winter draweth nigh

unto thee,

And the rain clouds cross the

sky, gloo-mi-ly,

Then the Boot that's *Watertight*

Makes its owner feel all right!

We keep them strong and light—

LOFT & CO.

Loft and Co.'s Boot Emporium is

situated in

The Centre of Trade,

The Centre of the Royal Arcade—

The Centre of the City of Dun-

edin.

The Largest Equerry in New Zealand.

RINK STABLES,

GLOUCESTER AND ARMAGH STREETS,

CHRISTCHURCH.

We can supply every reasonable enquiry.

CYCLERY.—The latest convenience of the age. Bicycles Stored
Patent stall, 3 per day.

ST. MARY'S CONVENT, WELLINGTON.

(From our own correspondent.)

THE annual distribution of prizes at St. Mary's Convent High School, Wellington, took place on Tuesday evening in the presence of a very large gathering. The prizes were presented to the successful pupils by the Ven. Archdeacon Devoy, in the unavoidable absence of his Grace Archbishop Redwood. An excellent programme of vocal and instrumental music was rendered during the evening by the pupils, among the contributors being Misses Reilly, Doris Haywood (recitation), Flanagan, M. Waldegrave, E. Waddy, Odile Ritleng, Hilda Nathan (recitation), Kate Connell, Waldegrave, Gracie McArdle. A couple of choruses were also sung by a choir of senior girls. The Hon. Dr. Grace, who assisted the Ven. Archdeacon Devoy in the distribution of the prizes, gave an address, in the course of which he reviewed the development and culture of music in the Home countries, which he described as having a very high civilising influence. He referred to the important parts played by the Royal Academy of Music and Trinity College (London) in promoting the culture of the art, and determining the efficiency of music pupils throughout the British Empire. Dr. Grace incidentally mentioned that at the recent examinations in connection with the Royal Academy of Music Miss Kate Connell had obtained 141 marks out of a possible 150 for senior singing.

The following is the prize list:—

Good conduct.—Silver medals (gift of Mr White); boarders—Teresa Rowe and Marion Goulter. Gift of Very Rev. Father Lewis; day pupils—Mabel Bourke.

Christian doctrine.—First division (gold medal, gift of Mrs O'Connor)—Ethel Crombie; second division, Marion Goulter.

Dux (gold medal, gift of Mr G. H. Fisher)—Girvan Runcie.

Painting.—Marion Brady.

Freehand drawing.—Edith Waddy and Hortense Runcie, equal in merit.

Model drawing.—Wynn Pearce.

Needlework.—First division—First prize (gift of Miss O'Connor), Constance Knowles; second prize, Lita Truman. Second division—Emily Whitaker. Lace work—Kathleen Bourke.

Music.—Medal (gift of Mrs McCarthy)—Mamie Waldegrave; prize, senior division (gift of Mr Brookes)—Bessie Flynn. Intermediate division (gift of Mr Brookes)—Muriel Waldegrave. Junior division—Constance McCloskey. Primary—Odile Ritleng, 1; Mary McDonald, 2. Diligence and improvement in music—Marion Goulter, Bertha Clifford, Mollie Laing.

Singing (medal, gift of Hon. Dr. Grace)—Kate Connell; prize, Higher School division, Bessie Flynn; junior division, Catherine Clifford; accompaniment playing, Bessie Flynn.

Excellence in essay writing (gold medal, gift of his Grace Archbishop Redwood)—Ethel Crombie.

Matriculation class.—Diligence (medal, gift of Mr. Palmer)—Ethel Crombie. Mathematics (medal, gift of 'Old Girls')—Ethel Crombie. Languages and composition (gift of Mr. Corrigan)—Girvan Runcie. Geography—Girvan Runcie. Writing—Rosie Sheridan. Mapping—Mary Monaghan.

Class II.—English—Constance Reilly. Arithmetic—Constance Reilly. Euclid—Constance Reilly. Geography—Kathleen Bourke. Penmanship—Kathleen Bourke. Composition—Margaret Hunter. Recitation—Margaret Hunter. Latin—Daisy Reilly. French—Muriel Waldegrave.

Class III.—Good conduct—Margaret Kenny. French—First division—Edith Waddy. Latin—Ethel Crombie. Arithmetic and algebra—Olive Blake. Geography—Olive Blake. French, second division—Olive Blake. Reading and recitation—Edith Richardson. Composition—Hessie Whitaker. Drawing—Emily Whitaker. English—Annie Twohill. Penmanship—Ethel Poll.

Class IV.—Good Conduct—Geraldine McAlister. English—Geraldine McAlister. Arithmetic—Gladys Philp. Penmanship—Gladys Philp. Geography—Eveline Collins. Reading and recitation—Nora Harnett. Drawing—Therese Sheridan. Diligence—Eileen Truman.

Class V.—Arithmetic—Charles Gasquoine. Geography—Charles Gasquoine. Reading and recitation—Christine Henry. Writing—Annie Laing. Composition—Jessie Broadbent. English—Nellie Twohill. Mapping—Catherine Clifford. Composition—Marion Goulter.

Preparatory school.—Good conduct—Boarders, Gracie McArdle. First division—Rita Martin. Second division—Violet Costell.

Class I.—Christian doctrine—Odile Ritleng. History—Odile Ritleng. Needlework—Odile Ritleng and Doris Haywood, equal. Reading and recitation—Doris Haywood. Arithmetic—Doris Haywood. Geography—Doris Haywood. Mental arithmetic—Bernard Gasquoine. Writing—Agnes Whitaker. Spelling—Agnes Whitaker. French—Agnes Whitaker. Grammar and composition—Monica Blake. Drawing—Mary McDonald.

Class II.—Christian doctrine—Rita Martin. Arithmetic—Gracie McArdle. Mental arithmetic—Gracie McArdle. Geography—Hilda Nathan. Composition and dictation—Hilda Nathan. Reading and recitation—Hilda Nathan. Writing—Mollie Laing. Drawing—Iris Moore.

Class III.—Arithmetic—Mabel Ward. Writing—Mabel Ward. Reading and recitation—Edward Nathan. Spelling—Eveline Guilford. Object lessons—Eveline Guilford.

Kindergarten Class.—First division—Reading and spelling—Edward Duggan. Arithmetic—Kathleen Moore. Needlework—Kathleen Moore. Writing—Doris Costell. Second division.—Reading and spelling—Violet Costell. Arithmetic—Eva Gasquoine. Weaving—Cecil Gasquoine. Writing—Clare Henry.

Shorthand.—Special prize, reporting class—Isabella O'Galligan. Senior division—First prize, Nora Duggan; second prize, Cecilia Guise. Intermediate division—Ellen Meagher and Annie Russell, equal.

The medals for the practical examinations in music were then distributed as follows:—Solo singing.—Senior division (gold medal, gift of Mr. Brookes)—Daisy Marshall. Pianoforte playing.—Senior division (gold medal, gift of Dresden Company)—Theo. Shapter. Gold medal (gift of Chas. Begg and Co)—Daisy Reilly. Junior division ('Martha Myers memorial' medal)—Winifred Richardson.

CATHOLICISM IN SCOTLAND AT THE BEGINNING OF THE CENTURY.

IN the course of a series of articles in the *New Era* on 'Catholicity in Scotland since the Reformation,' Mr. Austin Oates, K.S.G. says:—

And here a word may be written about the humble little seminary at Scaln. Here for many years priests had been trained and ordained and bishops consecrated. It had, indeed, more than realised the hopes of its founder, Bishop Gordon. But the time had come when more accommodation than it could afford was required. The French Revolution was the cause of serious losses to the Catholic Church in Scotland. Their colleges were confiscated and their students were forced to return home. Bishop Hay, ever equal to any emergency, raised funds sufficient to acquire a property at Aquhorthies, in Aberdeenshire, and thither in 1779 the students from Scaln were transferred.

About this time a similar institution was opened at Lismore, in the Highlands. Poverty and penury were the lot both of priests and people. The yearly allowance made by the Vicars-Apostolic to their clergy was £10 to priests in country missions, and £12 to those in towns. The number of Catholic churches in Scotland in 1800 has been estimated at 12. There were two in Edinburgh, one in Aberdeen, one in Glasgow, one in Banff, Preshome, Achinhaling, Strathglass, Fort William, Glengairns, Dornie, and Dee Castle. There were two bishops and some 40 priests, and the population is believed to have been about 35,000. Penal laws were things of the past. But there were, notwithstanding, many obstacles in the way of religious progress and extension. Bigotry and intolerance were rife and pronounced, and Catholics were still suffering from a system of social ostracism. Poverty was their dominant and ubiquitous characteristic, and bitter indeed was the struggle of priests and people for existence.

The death of Bishop Hay in 1811 was a great blow to the Catholics of Scotland. His long episcopacy of forty-three years was one of incalculable value and worth to the Faith. A brilliant controversialist and writer, an earnest and indefatigable missionary, ever full of buoyant courage and confidence he inspired and imparted both to all those with whom he came into contact. He had come into office and authority at a time when Catholicity in Scotland was in a position of a cruel and most critical crisis, and he faced and weathered a storm which threatened the very existence of the Church and her people, and brought them safely, aye, triumphantly, through it. In his declining days, spent at Aquhorthies in the Seminary he had founded, he had the dying consolation of seeing and knowing that happier days had dawned or were in store for the flock he had so deeply loved and so strenuously served.

Bishop Cameron succeeded, and for twenty-nine years ruled over the Lowland District, while Bishops John and Eneas Chisholm and Ronald Macdonald were successively Vicars-Apostolic of the Highlands. During this period the number of Catholics was steadily increasing, and particularly so in Glasgow. Here the Rev. Andrew Scott was working with great success in spite of considerable local prejudice and bigotry. The erection of St. Andrew's Church in Great Clyde street roused the fanatics to fury. One of their number, a certain McGavin, so gave way to his wrath and indignation as to incur heavy damages in an action brought by Father Scott against him for libel. This lawsuit, certainly the sensation of the year, cleared and cooled the air, and was in every way a great triumph for the Catholics.

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