

issued in the same year (1897), which gives some idea of the interest the book excited in Australia; and we are glad to announce that it is now available for use among ourselves. . . It is a valuable historical study, beginning with the foundation of the Society in Ireland in 1795, and tracing its operations down to the present day. A valuable appendix treats of the position of Catholics in the North of Ireland, and contrasts it with that accorded to Protestants by the Catholic majority in the South, thus affording a striking example of that "toleration" on which Protestants pride themselves. Father Cleary must have expended an immense amount of time and labour upon this book, for on every page we find references and footnotes which, while they greatly enhance its value, must have added materially to the work of compilation. Moreover, there is an excellent index, by means of which the various points treated of can be readily consulted. The book is a storehouse of facts and a model of its class. In the course of a flattering and extended notice the *New Era* (the International Catholic organ) says: 'The book under review, in which the working of this nefarious system of religious boycotting and persecution is unveiled, introduces the reader into a veritable political chamber of horrors, blood-stained and blood-curdling.'

DIocese of CHRISTCHURCH.

(From our own correspondent.)

December 22.

The annual retreat for the Sisters of Mercy is being conducted at the Convent, Colombo street, by the Very Rev. Dr. Kennedy, S.M. His Lordship the Bishop was amongst those who occupied seats on the platform at the prize distribution of the Boys' High School held this week.

The Very Rev. Father Ginaty, S.M., of Mount Magdala, has gone on a visit to Melbourne, his place, meanwhile, being taken by the Very Rev. Dean Foley, S.M.

The following pupils of the Sisters of Mercy, Colombo street, passed most successfully at the drawing examination (second grade), in connection with the School of Art, Wellington, held on December 2:—Freehand, Lizzie Joyce, Monica Flood, and Ethel Main.

The general examination of the pupils of the Marist Brothers' School does not take place until mid-winter, but for the benefit of the boys of the Sixth Standard, many of whom are about to leave school, an examination of that class took place the other day. In his report the Inspector (Mr. J. Baldwin) says: 'The class has passed a very satisfactory examination, 11 boys out of 12 examined fully satisfying all the requirements of Standard VI. The behaviour of the boys during the examination was good.'

St. Mary's schoolroom was filled to overflowing on the evening of Friday last to witness the prize distribution and annual entertainment of the pupils. His Lordship the Bishop presided, there being also present all the local and several visiting clergy. The excellent manner in which the children acquitted themselves was very creditable to their painstaking teachers, the Sisters of Mercy. The following was the programme:—Chorus, singing class; violin solo Miss Agnes Nelson; song, Master Cronin; and a drama, 'Dolores,' in which the parts were taken by Misses J. Sweeney, K. Barnard, D. Smith, E. Dalton, N. Main, V. Davison, W. McAdams, C. Sweeney, M. Sweeney, M. Haughey, A. O'Connell, N. Murphy, N. O'Brien, N. Flannelley, and Master A. Foster.

The Inspector of Catholic schools has furnished the following report on St. Mary's School, Manchester street, conducted by the Sisters of Mary:—The results of the examination of the school, with the exception of Standards IV. and V., are very satisfactory. Standards IV. and V. are very uneven in their work, owing to the number of exceptions. The neatness of the work in the upper standards is highly commendable (omitting the exceptions, for which the school is not responsible), and the reading is very intelligent. The behaviour of the children during the examination was very good. The reading was very good, with expression; spelling and dictation, good; writing, very good; drawing, very good, several excellent copies in Standard VI.; arithmetic, fair, weak in Standard V.; composition, good; geography, fair; grammar, weak; history, fairly good; mental arithmetic, very good; poetry, good; singing and drill, very good.

An exceptionally well arranged and successful operatic and dramatic entertainment was given in St. Aloysius' Hall by the pupils of the Marist Brothers' School, in aid of their prize fund, on Thursday, the 21st inst. There was a very good attendance and the young performers excelled in their respective parts, showing to advantage the excellent training they receive at the hands of their devoted teachers. The first part of the programme consisted of the operetta 'Donald's Hamper,' in which the characters were sustained by B. Kelly, S. Poff, W. Barrett, E. Boland, W. Duichan, B. O'Connor, J. O'Connor, C. Collins, J. O'Malley, T. Power, J. McAleer, T. Cronin, and W. Lyons; and dumb-bell exercises by the junior pupils. For the second portion a farce, 'Cherry Bounce,' was staged, the parts being taken by W. Barrett, J. Commons, P. Augarde, R. Holehan, J. Close, and J. McAleer. The accompaniments were played during the evening by Master P. Augarde. Valuable assistance in the rehearsals and subsequent production of the play was rendered by the Rev. Father Richards, to whose energy much of the success of the entertainment was due. His Lordship the Bishop and several of the clergy were present.

In the midst of the joy and gladness of this festive season, permit me, on behalf of your many friends in Canterbury and more especially Christchurch, to tender all connected with the TABLET sincere and heartfelt wishes for a happy and prosperous New Year.

God deceiveth thee not. He is deceived that trusteth too much in himself.

The Catholic World.

BELGIUM.—Death of a Well-known Priest.—The death is reported of the Very Rev. Canon de Splenter, which took place at the institute of St. Charles Borromeo, Courtrai. The deceased was a well-known figure in the Salford diocese, where he was professor in the Salford Grammar School, and later rector of St. Edmund's, Miles Platting, Manchester.

ENGLAND.—Clerical Appointment.—The Rev. Father Howlett, of Dublin, the brother of Mgr. Howlett, of the diocese of Westminster, has been appointed successor to the Rev. Father Pennington, parish priest of St. Aloysius, Somers-town, who has been compelled to resign in consequence of advanced age and broken health.

Prayers for those Engaged in War.—Masses were said on November 1 and 2 at St. Mary's, Maryvale, Birmingham, for the soldiers now engaged in the war in South Africa, and on Sunday the charitable prayers of the congregation were asked for them by the priest of the mission.

The Poor of London.—On the last Sunday in October Cardinal Vaughan made an appeal at the Carmelite Church, Kensington, on behalf of the 600 poor kept by the Sisters of Nazareth at Hammersmith. In the course of a powerful discourse his Eminence said that society was becoming disorganised. There is division between one class and the other, a chasm which has been established between the rich and the poor. These facts are apparent to every man, and the social question has become one of the burning questions of the day. After referring to the fact that for 300 years the Catholic Church has been shorn of her influence, his Eminence referred to the condition of the poorer classes in the East and South of London. Men had come forward to ameliorate the condition of mankind by legislation or by science, but either was insufficient. There are thousands of men, women, and children living in certain parts of London who know not from whence the next meal will come or how they can pay for the miserable hovels in which they live. The question for consideration was, how can this condition of the poorer classes be changed? In London the Catholic Church had in some way endeavoured to deal with the social problem by means of a Union, and this Union had to an extent been successful, but a great deal more was necessary, and, above all, personal service. In appealing on behalf of the Sisters of Nazareth the Cardinal pointed out that the Sisters possessed institutions in almost every part of the world. They had large establishments in Johanneburg and Kimberley intended for the aged poor and for little children, and when recently notice was given to the Sisters that they might withdraw to a place of safety, they one and all elected to remain in the midst of the dangers of the war in order that they might nurse the sick and wounded, whether Boer or English.

GERMANY.—The New Archbishop of Cologne.—Bishop Simar, of Paderborn, who is to take the place of Cardinal Kremetz, the late Archbishop of Cologne, is a prelate of vigorous mind and energetic habits. Aged sixty-four years, he has already as professor, author, and Bishop rendered most important services to the Church. When Extraordinary Professor of Theology at the University of Bonn he published a work on moral theology, of which three editions have appeared, and later when he was appointed a regular Professor of Dogmatic Theology and Apologetics he had given to the world a treatise on Dogmatic Theology which has run into four editions. His experience goes back to the beginning of the Old Catholic movement, and his strength of character may be judged from the fact that though he had both friendship and encouragement from Dr. Dollinger when a student at Munich, he resisted the influence of the eminent Professor when he showed the first symptoms of revolt against the teaching of the Church. Dr. Simar has given his sympathy to every forward Catholic movement during his episcopate at Paderborn, and he will, no doubt, continue the same wise policy at Cologne. His relations with the State have always been friendly, and in 1884 the Emperor conferred on him the Order of the Red Eagle.

FRANCE.—The Clergy and the Press.—The well-known writer and non-Catholic, Mr. J. E. C. Bodley, in the course of a letter in the London *Times* with regard to the anti-Semitic movement in France, says:—As for the anti-Semitic Press, far from being in the hands of the episcopate, it attacks a Bishop if it disapproves of his conduct as scurrilously as it would a Jewish banker. The present Archbishop of Bourges, when Bishop of Digne, interdicted the *Libre Parole* in his diocese, but his action only unhappily proved that Press-censorship is a vain thing, and the episcopal ban gave a new impetus to the movement. The Bishop of Meaux more recently went to stay with a Jewish family in his diocese. Mgr. de Briey, who is not a Republican, and is the brother of a general, was thereupon vilified, with appalling insinuations, in the *Libre Parole* as a warning to other prelates who dared to be conciliatory to the Jews. The *Croix*, with its provincial editions, is said to be patronised by certain Bishops and one of its editors is admitted to the Pope's presence, but if a Bishop fell foul of it he would not be spared by its reverend directors, who are first violent French journalists and then Churchmen.

ROME.—The Health of the Holy Father.—Those who have recently been admitted into the presence of the Pope (says the *New Era*, November 4) have been struck by his apparently robust health. A French priest, who was recently received in audience by his Holiness after having been absent from Rome for some years, states that he was struck by the improvement in the Pontiff's physical condition. Leo XIII. is now, said the priest, less emaciated than he was some years ago, his eye is more brilliant and fiery, and his mind seems to