

## DOMINICAN CONVENT, MILTON.

A Dominican Convent was opened at Milton, on Sunday by the Most Rev. Dr. Moran. Pontifical High Mass was celebrated by the Bishop in St. Mary's Church, the Rev. Father O'Neill, pastor of the district, acting as deacon, and the Rev. Father O'Donnell as sub-deacon. His lordship, as reported for the *Dunedin Star*, addressed the congregation, which was a crowded one as follows:—

He congratulated the people most heartily on the establishment in Milton of a branch of the Dunedin Convent of Saint Dominic. They had already provided a site and a small house. A beginning had thus been made, but as the house was not sufficient for all their purposes he hoped to see a better structure. The nuns had come to give their children a real education, not a half education—not mere instruction, but an education that would develop all their powers of mind and body, that would develop all their religious instincts and moral principles, and an education that would prepare them for their several avocations hereafter in life. They were aware that the education provided at the public expense was not sufficient for them. It was not an education at all. Education meant development of both powers of the body and mind; that was the meaning of the word education. When applied in any other sense it was illogical and unreal. Now, the Catholic Church was desirous of developing these powers. She would be satisfied with nothing less, because she was the Church of God, established by Him to teach men to develop all their moral and religious qualities. Now, the education at the public expense was useful only for some things here on earth. The Church had always been the mistress and abettor of education from first to last. Her primary object was first to prepare man for the eternal life hereafter, to be denizens of the city of God in the kingdom of Heaven. This was the primary and essential duty. But she cultivated all ends subsidiary to that duty. In all countries and ages she had laboured to provide a thorough education for her children. No matter how poor the district was, no matter how few the children the effort was always the same. She never ceased to exert herself to the utmost. He (Dr. Moran) knew that English literature abounded in misrepresentations of the objects and principles of the Catholic Church. Nothing was more common than to hear people in their ignorance saying that the Church was an enemy to education. For any man who had common sense and common observation it was plain that that was utterly false and contrary to all fact. When you compared what had been done by the children of the Church and those outside the Church the contrast was very great, indeed. Were the men who made such sacrifices as the Catholics the enemies of education? Was there to be found one who would make the sacrifices that even poor Catholics made? Those outside the Church left their children to be educated by others; they left that duty to the public at large and cast the stone at Catholics, who were performing their duties like men. From time to time ungodly men, immoral men, self-indulgent men, had worked for and obtained power, only to rob and plunder the Church, and these were the men that turned round and pointed the finger, saying: "These men are the opponents of education." It was calculated to rouse the indignation of any honest mind. Notwithstanding all the wrongdoing worked by these unjust and tyrannical men, these plunderers of the poor, these robbers of the patrimony of the Church—notwithstanding the wrongs they had inflicted upon them, Catholics never ceased, notwithstanding all this, to pursue their course, the even tenor of their way. Now for many years those belonging to the congregation, aided by their good priests, has done nobly according to their opportunities. They had paid for the education of their own children in the face of great opposition and sacrifices for many years. It had been the desire of their pastor to raise the school to a higher level, and it had been his greatest desire, as it had also been his (Dr. Moran's), to have in their midst a convent in which their children would obtain a true education. That desire had been, to a certain extent, realised. There were now amongst them four Sisters of St. Dominic's order for the purpose of giving to their children a real education. That they would receive them (the Sisters) well, he had no doubt, and hoped there would not be one Catholic child absent from the school in Milton. He was sure they would second the efforts of the good nuns and priests. Their parish priest would call upon them for some pecuniary assistance. He reasonably expected them to do what they could under the circumstances; it was for the benefit of themselves and their children. He believed that it was a good thing for them as a congregation, as well as for the community in which they lived, that this convent was established. It would be an example of true Christian life and piety. They (the Milton community) had aided other communities. In turn they would receive aid. Catholics in other districts were not unmindful of help received. This was a serious undertaking, but nothing was impossible with faith, and they had faith to rely on the blessing of Almighty God. He would not forget a cup of cold water given in His name. He would bless their efforts to promote His honour and glory for the good of His children. He (Dr. Moran) trusted, without the least hesitation, in God's divine blessing. Though things might now appear impossible, nothing was impossible with God, who could raise up from very stones children unto Abraham. The most unlikely things came to pass when God had been trusted in, for His mercy knew no bounds. He believed that before many years had lapsed that convent would be a great success and universal blessing to Milton.

At the conclusion of the Bishop's address a collection was made resulting in the very creditable sum of £140. A procession was then formed, consisting of some 300 people, including the school children—and the Bishop with the clergy present, proceeded to the convent where the ceremony of blessing the building was performed by him. Afterwards, Benediction of the Most Holy Sacrament took place in the church—a crowded congregation being again present. The number of the Dominican community at Milton is at present limited to four—that number of nuns being considered sufficient for the present need. The good nuns, however, will no doubt here, as elsewhere, be themselves the means of increasing the

calls on them, so that an addition to their number must before very long be made. We are happy in congratulating them on their new foundation—where, we trust, as we confidently believe, that the unflinching and marked success that has everywhere attended on their devoted labours for the good of religion and in the interests of education and culture awaits them. The people of Milton also are to be congratulated on the auspicious event.

## WE CAN ONLY SAY THAT HIS INITIALS ARE "J. D."

WHEN a woman travels ten miles merely to ask a few questions we may assume that her curiosity is excited.

In the year 1883, a story went forth from Leverstock Green, Hemel Hempstead, Herts, which aroused great interest in all the region thereabout. People came from various directions to enquire into the matter; what was alleged to have occurred had to do mostly with one man. If the story turned out to be true some good was likely to come of it; if false, it would only put the community more on their guard against all sorts of wild rumours. Among the women who were bound to get at the foundation of it was one from St. Albans and a cook from Langley.

How strangely things work out in this queer world. Seven years have passed and the facts are now to become generally public for the first time. It appears that about the first of January, 1889, an old resident of the place above named was said, and commonly believed, to be in a dying condition.

For five months an able and clever physician had been attending him constantly, no medical man could have done more. His ailment was decided to be gout and rheumatism, which are now held to be practically the same in nearly differently located.

Well, this began back in July, 1882. As time ran along the patient grew worse. The doctor's ability and experience didn't seem to count. The sufferer's ankles, feet, and hands, became badly swollen. We all know this must have been a scary symptom because that the fluids of his body (and the body is nearly all fluid anyway)—instead of being carried off as they naturally should be, were flowing over their channels and inundating the parts around them, just as a stream does after heavy rains.

The doctor said, the danger of this state of things lay in the fact, that when the water reached the heart or lungs it might end in sudden death. The cause of dropsy is the refusal of the kidneys to carry off the water; so much is plain. But what makes the kidneys strike work? We now know the reason of that. It is because they are partially paralysed by a poison in the blood, arising from undigested food in the stomach. In plain English, a chronic state of indigestion and dyspepsia is responsible for results which now threatened our unknown friend's life. It was reported—and of its truth there isn't a doubt—that his abdomen was blown like a bladder on account of the water which soaked all through his flesh. In a conversation a few weeks ago he said "All my friends now looked on me as a dying man."

And reasonably enough too; for what chance is there for a man who is gradually drowning in this way?—For that is what it was—drowning and nothing else in the world. Medicine appeared to be of no use, and the physician suggested that possibly the poor man might be benefited if he could go away from home and try the baths, mineral waters, and change of scene and air.—But nobody believed in that plan, and in honest truth, it is hardly likely that the wise physician believed in it himself. At all events the idea wasn't put into practice.

About this time the patient's wife happened to be in the shop of a chemist at Hemel Hempstead, and he gave her a little book, a sort of small pamphlet, and said she might like to read it. She did read it, and found in it a full description of the very complaint that was fast sending her husband to the grave, and also the name of what was asserted to be a remedy for it. After some trouble she got him to consent to try it, and sent for a bottle. He began, and kept it up for four months, taking twenty-six bottles altogether. At the end of that time he was a well, sound man, and is so to-day. The whole neighbourhood was amazed.—His recovery, when he had been looked upon as no better than a dead man, set tongues wagging all around the country. He now says: "I should not have been here now, if it had not been for Mother Seigel's Curative Syrup."

Our friend requests us not to publish his full name, but says we may print his initials, which are "J. D." Address: Leverstock Green, Hemel Hempstead, Herts. He will answer letters.

Powderly is making efforts to have the Farmers' Alliance join issues with the Knights of Labour.

It is stated that the Earl of Egmont is disposing of his Irish property. He has recently sold Lohort Castle, his charming seat near Kanturk, County Cork, on which he not long ago spent £40,000, to Mr. T. O. O'Brien, the well-known cricketer, who is a nephew of the late Sir Patrick O'Brien.

Mrs. Bernard Beere, an actress, who in the course of the last ten years has fairly won for herself one of the highest positions in the dramatic profession, has been engaged to perform on the other side of the Atlantic at a minimum salary of £500 a week. Mrs. Bernard Beere is a Catholic.

A woman named Purslow is now awaiting trial at Winson-green gaol, accused of next-of-kin frauds. She is also said to have posed as an "escaped nun," and to have related scandalous stories to those who were silly enough to listen. It is hardly necessary to add that the statements were base falsehoods.

The Russian Government suddenly withdrew from Baring Brothers, the London bankers, £2,200,000 who became financially embarrassed. The Bank of England came to the rescue, followed by support from the Scotch banks. The entire British banking world has joined in the movement with the greatest alacrity, and the trouble is undoubtedly past.