

much as in this last season, and the money taken, be it borne in mind, goes in the bulk to religious and philanthropic works. The actors—if the term can properly be applied to these devoutly joining in a pious function—are satisfied with a modest reward.

Thanks to the sympathetic sanction of His Eminence Cardinal Goossens, Archbishop of Malines, a school is to be opened at Aerschot, in Belgium under the title of the Damien Institute, in memory of the Apostle of Lepers. The site is close to Komerloo, the native district of the heroic missionary. The children to be educated there are principally destined for the labours of the apostle in the missions confided to the Congregations of the Sacred Heart.

The village of Arg. near Roubaix, has been thrown into a state of consternation by the discovery that during Monday, November 10, night a determined attempt was made to murder the curé, who is eighty-five years of age, and is much beloved for his charity. Burglars broke into the house, and, having brutally murdered the housekeeper, made a fierce attack upon the priest, and left him for dead.

Mgr. Grunsha, the new Archbishop of Vienna, is a son of the people. His father is a working tailor, and his elevation to the Primacy of the Austrian Episcopate has been hailed with delight by the workers of Vienna. On the day of his solemn enthronisation, all the trade guilds of the capital marched to the Cardinal with bands and banners. The municipality was also present, having carried without one dissentient voice a motion that the councillors should assist at the enthronisation of "the son of a Vienna workman and the founder of the Catholic workmen's societies of Austria."

In the November number of *Harper's Magazine*, in the course of a very interesting paper on Southern California, which he calls "Our Italy," Mr. Charles Dudley Warner pays the following tribute to those devoted Franciscan friars who played such an important part in the earlier settlement of that region, and the story of whose Indian missions has been so often recited by Catholic writers. "A certain light of romance," says Mr. Warner, "is cast upon this coast by the Spanish voyagers of the sixteenth century, but its history begins with the establishment of the chain of Franciscan missions, the first of which was founded by the great Father Junipero Serra at San Diego in 1769. The Fathers brought with them the vine and the olive, reduced the savage Indians to industrious pursuits, and opened the way for that ranchero and adobe civilisation which, down to the coming of the Americans, in about 1840, made in this region the most picturesque life that our continent has ever seen."

A very handsome pulpit of Irish manufacture has been erected at Newark, New Jersey, U.S.A. It is composed of Sicilian, Carrara, and Irish marbles and woods, and is very richly moulded and carved with a continuous carving of Shamrocks. Three large panels contain groups representing Our Lord on the mountain and in the temple the centre one containing a representation of St. Patrick preaching, the remaining four panels contain boldly cut statues of the Four Evangelists. All the sculptured work is of Carrara marble, the general body being of white Sicilian. The hand rail is made of Shillelagh oak of a highly ornamental design, and it is supported by caps, bases, and plinths of bog oak polished, the shafts being of Irish walnut. The lining and floor of the pulpit are also of Irish oak. The work has been ordered by the Irish parishioners from Messrs. P. J. O'Neill, and Co., 182, Great Brunswick-street, Dublin, through their zealous and devoted pastor, the Very Rev. Walter M. A. Fleming, who has just returned to the United States, and it bears a brass plate having the following words engraved thereon:—"Erected to the glory of God, A.D. 1890. The Rev. Walter M.A. Fleming Rector."

Archdeacon Farrar, in a discourse on General Booth's scheme, delivered in Westminster Abbey, said the Anglican Church had lost the great mass of the working classes. Not more than ten per cent. attended the ordinary services.

The condition of Herr Windthorst, the leader of the Catholic party in the Reichstag, is the cause of some anxiety among his friends and supporters. He is suffering from an affection of the heart, and his physicians have enjoined him to withdraw from all active participation in political affairs for the present and to take an absolute rest.

Empress Frederick has bought Martin Luther's old castle Kronberg, and will convert it into a charitable institution in memory of her husband. Empress Frederick would better convert it into an industrial institution and give work to a few of her sons' hungry, idle subjects. Except in the case of asylums for children the world has too many charitable institutions now. The person who, wishing to help the poor, will invent some way of giving work to the unemployed will be in the better business than giving alms and building poor houses. In England to-day one person in every thirty-three is either wholly or in part a pauper.

Father Kneip, of Wareshofen, near Munich, has discovered a remedy for neurotic patients. He makes them go barefoot so as to prevent flows of blood to the head, and every morning they have to plunge into icy cold water. After the plunge comes a rubbing down with towels till the body glows, and then the cure is carried on by means of a vigorous dietary from which meat, condiments, and all intoxicating drinks are excluded. Baron Nathaniel Rothschild, of Vienna, has undergone the cure successfully.

General Manduit, of the French army, kept his hundredth birthday on the 7th November. He was a soldier of the First Empire, having entered the army in 1807. He received his sub-lieutenant's commission in 1808, and was raised to the rank of lieutenant in 1809, and captain in 1812. He was placed in the reserve, but with the rank of General of Brigade, 1852.

The clemency of Irish landlordism has again been shown in the eviction of fifty families on the Olphert estate in Donegal. Sir John Swinburn, a wealthy English land owner found an evicted widow, her son, daughter-in-law, and eight small children vainly seeking shelter from the rain near the house from which they were driven. He declared that if he had perpetrated one-tenth of such cruelty on his estates in England he would be shot down and the country would say it served him right.

INVERCARGILL.

January 12, 1891.

A PLEASING ceremony took place on New Year's Eve, when a number of the gentlemen of the Catholic congregation assembled at St. Mary's Presbytery to present the Very Rev. Father Walsh with a new buggy, harness, and outfit as a New Year's gift, in token of their esteem and regard. The buggy, which is strongly built and well-furnished, was made by Messrs. Haffolm and Son, Des street, while the harness was specially made for the New Zealand and South Seas Exhibition by Messrs. W. Guthrie and Co. The gift was a very suitable one, seeing that the parish is wide and scattered, and the clergymen often suffer an inconvenience in not having a mode of conveyance at hand to perform their duties and attend to urgent calls in the country places. Mr. W. J. McKeown read the following address—"Very Rev. Sir,—In recognition of your untiring zeal and energy in promoting the spiritual welfare of this parish during your brief sojourn amongst us, and as a token of the harmony that exists between pastor and people, the members of your congregation have resolved not to allow the present festive season to pass by without giving expression in some tangible form to their feelings of gratitude, respect, and reverence. In selecting a suitable souvenir for the occasion our object has been to procure one which shall be useful to you in carrying on the good works and discharging the important duties belonging to your office. We, therefore, beg you to accept as a New Year's gift from the Catholic community this buggy, with harness and outfit, and we trust God will long spare you to labour amongst us and minister to our spiritual wants.—Signed on behalf of the Catholic congregation. (Here follow the signatures.)—Father Walsh said: My Dear Friends,—I thank you most sincerely for your very kind address and for the highly useful and valuable present which accompanies it. Although comparatively a stranger in your midst, you love to entertain towards me, your pastor, those charitable and generous sentiments, which tend to form men's happiness. This indeed, is all the more creditable to you, especially as I feel and know that, during my short residence in Invercargill, I have done nothing that would merit such a spontaneous manifestation of your affectionate regard. I should be indeed ungrateful if I did not prize the existence of the feeling which your presentation of to-day evinces, and I can assure you it shall ever be one of my greatest pleasures, as long as I am amongst you, to look upon this day's gift as a memorial of the friendly relations which now exist, and I hope will ever continue to exist between pastor and people. A certain consolation, too, arises from the fact that the present forbids even an effort at forgetfulness, for as often as it shall be brought into use, which will be at least several times a week in going into the country to impart instruction in Christian doctrine to over one hundred Catholic children, even fleeting days and weeks and months cannot obliterate the depth of gratitude which I owe the donors. Your appreciation of a suitable occasion, such as the present is, no doubt—must, I know—be the source of no small drain on your resources. When I call to mind your unselfish, unflagging, persevering efforts and lavish expenditure in the cause of the Dominican Convent in the course of the year; when I remember your generous Christmas offerings made a few days ago, your handsome present to-day is all the more to be appreciated as I assure you it is. Again, I have to request you to accept my warmest thanks conjointly with the very best wishes for the New Year and a fervent prayer for your future welfare both in time and Eternity."

The annual picnic in connection with the Catholic schools took place at the Ocean Beach, on Wednesday, January 7. Notwithstanding the fact that a strong westerly wind was blowing, a large number of children and parents made their way to the tripping place, where after the inner man had been attended to, a programme of sports consisting of some eighteen items was gone through. Some of the contests proved close and interesting, especially the tug-of-war between the married women and the unmarried. The married ladies eventually won the prize but not satisfied with the result, their opponents demanded another contest and succeeded in pulling their elders over the score amidst great applause. Tea was again passed round in the evening after which all returned home seeming well satisfied with their day's outing.

In the evening a concert was held in St. Joseph's school, and passed off very successfully. The building was crowded and a number were unable to secure even standing room. The Catholic boys' school reopens on Monday, January 19.

A new sect called the "Army of the Lord" has appeared in Philadelphia. Its specialty in evangelical work is healing by faith.

A Presbyterian pastor at Brockton, Cal., who took occasion to confess his sins from the pulpit, involving the reputation of several prominent women of his church, married and single, is suspected of being insane.

The Messiah craze among the Indians of the northwest is extending and U.S. troops have been called out to prevent the murder of the whites and to keep them from killing themselves. Short Bull, the so-called prophet of the Messiah has promised his followers that after the ghost dance they would see their dead relatives and the tribes will be restored to their pristine glory. The ghost dance is described as follows: In preparing for the dance they cut the tallest tree that they can find and drag it to a level place where it is planted in the ground. Under this tree the four wise men of the tribe stand. Others form in a circle and begin to go around and around the tree. They begin the dance on Friday afternoon. It is kept up Saturday and Sunday until sundown. During all this time they do not eat or drink. They keep going round in one direction until they become so dizzy that they can scarcely stand, then turn and go in the other direction and keep it up till they swoon from exhaustion. This is what they strive to do, for while they are in the swoon they think they see and talk with Christ. When they regain consciousness they tell their experiences to the four wise men under the tree.