

ing to this proposal, all persons who intend to adopt the teaching profession must be possessed of certificates before they can be permitted to teach; and such certificates will be granted only by the lycees and colleges recognised by the State. That is, he must have been trained in an institution organised and conducted with the one clear object of defeating the Free Schools in which Catholics hitherto have had their children taught. And after the first of January, 1907, no person will be allowed to teach, either publicly or privately, unless he has passed an examination and gained this certificate of proficiency from the State. Thus existing teachers, many of them advanced in years, come under the law, with what result it is easy to imagine. Evidently the French Government is resolved to destroy all religious education among the people, and as history proves how contagious is the example of France, the secularists of other countries will not fail to note what goes on across the Channel.

INDIA.—Appointment of a Bishop

The English Capuchins have received official notification of the appointment by Pope Pius X. of the Very Rev. Father Petronius, O.S.F.C., as Bishop of Allahabad, in India. Father Petronius was born sixty years ago at Bologna, in Italy, and entered the Order (Capuchin Franciscans) when about eighteen years of age. He went to the Indian Mission in 1871, and has labored in various parts of the North-Western Provinces ever since. Father Petronius speaks and writes English perfectly.

POLAND.—Russian Methods

A Polish priest, writing in a Detroit newspaper, publishes some unpleasant reminiscences of the late Minister von Plehve, who was recently assassinated in St. Petersburg. For example:—He was a dreadful man. As Governor of Wilna he was shockingly cruel. I knew Bishop Hryniewiecki, Catholic Bishop of Wilna, whom he exiled in 1885. The Bishop refused to change the ritual of the churches in the diocese from Latin to Slavonic. 'It is contrary to religion: I will not do it,' said the Bishop. 'Then you will be exiled,' said the Governor. 'Well,' replied the Bishop. 'I give you three days to prepare,' the Governor threatened. 'If you wait three days you will have a riot,' answered the old man. 'I beg of your Excellency take me away to-night.' So the Bishop went that night to the Governor's palace. He was taken away by dark, and saved the lives of his people and the Russians. He was eight years in exile in South Russia, guarded by soldiers night and day in a two-room hovel.

ROME.—The Holy Father and France

His Holiness Pope Pius X., addressing a body of French pilgrims, expressed his love for France, and said he was well aware of her real attachment and devotion to the Christian Faith. 'In the words of Joan of Arc,' said his Holiness, 'France is a kingdom of Christ. She is now passing through a crisis, and a time of great trial and suffering. There is still not only hope but certainty that she will remain worthy of her high mission, and that the present crisis will soon pass away.'

The Holy Father Protests

The 'Osservatore Romano' publishes a letter from the Pope to Cardinal Respighi, Vicar of Rome, in which his Holiness says he has learnt with infinite grief that some so-called Freethinkers have held a congress in Rome. The echo of their speeches had confirmed their intentions, which had already been made clear by the mere announcement of the congress.

SCOTLAND.—A Silver Jubilee

The Rector of Scots College, Valladolid, Very Rev. Canon Woods, has just celebrated his silver jubilee as a priest. From Scotland, and particularly the Galloway diocese, where, at Kilmarnock, he rendered, before going to Spain, yeoman service as a priest, the rev. gentleman was the happy recipient of a large number of congratulations, addresses, and most useful presents.

SOUTH AFRICA.—A New Diocese

The 'Catholic Herald' announces that the Rev. Father Miller, a former Rector of the Catholic church, Tower Hill, and lately on the mission in Paris, has been appointed Bishop of Johannesburg, which is a new Catholic Episcopal See in South Africa, and which was formerly under the jurisdiction of the Bishop of Kimberley. Father Miller is a native of Mountrath, Queen's County, Ireland. The other Catholic Bishops in South Africa are at Capetown, Kimberley, and Natal.

Three Irish priests who were ordained at All Hallows' College, last June, are expected to arrive in Sydney this week. They are Rev. Fathers McCormack, Meehan, and Nulty, and it is understood they will exercise their ministry in the archdiocese of Sydney.

HAWERA

(From an occasional correspondent.)

Having referred in my notes of last week to the good work done in the convent schools of Taranaki by the devoted nuns, I was anxious, did space allow me, to make a few remarks upon the benefits conferred upon the towns of the province by ex-pupils of the convent schools.

It is now fifteen years since I first assisted at a concert given in Wellington by the pupils of Miss McLean. A few items only of the evening's programme had been gone through when the audience understood that vocal music in the city had received a new life and that lovers of music could no longer be satisfied with the old conditions. I remember, too, the dismay a few years later in the Empire City when it was announced that the great teacher had 'left the world' and become a Sister of Mercy under the name of Sister Agnes in the local convent. Expressions of the deepest regret were heard on all sides: What a loss to the local world of music! who will now fill her place! what a shame that the Church should silence such a voice and make fruitless such talents in the cloister! But those in the city who knew the spirit of the music-breathing Church, and who had heard the echoes of the holy songs that had often stolen out upon the world from cloistral walls, felt that the city and the Colony would not be losers but gainers by the change. And the event has fully borne them out. There are scattered all over the North Island of New Zealand today scores of young ladies who were trained by Sister Agnes in the Wellington convent and who occupy the first places in the front rank of Colonial singers, and who are in their several localities a light and a leading to the lovers of what is highest and best in the sublime art of music. Their own training has been such that they in their turn have become efficient teachers, and the examiners from Trinity College and the Royal Academy have nought but praise for their methods and their success. So that when it is announced that there is to be a concert by the pupils of a teacher, who was herself a pupil of Sister Agnes, it is a foregone conclusion that a great treat is in store.

Being in Hawera on the evening of the annual concert of Miss Reilly's pupils, I became one of the audience, and needless to say I came away as edified as I was delighted. In addition to her own pupils, who, one would be inclined to think, were too numerous for one teacher, Miss Reilly was assisted by four other young ladies who were fellow-pupils with her at the Wellington convent. I do not intend to criticise the programme. This has been already done very ably and very favorably by the local paper, and not many readers of the 'Tablet' would be interested in the details of a concert local to Hawera. But I would like to say that I have rarely heard choruses with the voices so beautifully balanced and with the alternations of light and shade so natural and so perfect. And I do want to say that at this concert I heard for the first time in many years sweet airs accompanying sweet and edifying words. It is on this account I thought of contributing these few notes that by means of them I might emphasise for the benefit of your many young musical readers the need of good songs for good singers. Immortal music should be ever mated with immortal verse, and we are never really charmed except when thus linked in sweetness they come to us on the voices of sweet singers. This happy blending of sweet music, sweet songs, and sweet singers we noticed at the concert in question. Would that we experienced more of it on our platforms. And here it seems to me is a work ready waiting for our young convent-trained singers, a work which is nothing less than the salvation in this Colony of the musical art from the degradation that threatens to overwhelm it.

All high art is dragged down at the present day to be either the servant of sensuality or the occasion of money-making. What a hideous nightmare is the art we find in those works of fiction so popular among us, while the ambition of modern verse is to tickle the fancy at the expense of true poetry. The popular music writers, in blissful ignorance of the simplicity of genius, make it their study to keep our attention by perpetual novelties and sensational surprises, while the impressarios who cater for the public amusement bring in the comic element, with as many immoral innuendoes as can be crowded into it, to rule the stage with an iron hand. It seems to be an accepted fact in New Zealand that no one can compete with a comic singer, and when that comic singer is not immoral, he is sure to be burlesquing everything the most sacred. Even death itself is not free from his profanity. I have been witness of such a burlesque more than once, and I have heard both pit and circle explode in loud laughter and applause. And when the wretched fellow had left