

did,' said the uncompromising old dame, 'but I think nae better o' 'em for that.'

Reckless Assertion

Uncle Eb, in Irving Bacheller's well-known story, reckoned that 'everybody's a right t' be reckless once in seventy-five year.' The President of the Bible-in-schools Conference enjoys this blessed privilege—so far as recklessness of assertion is concerned—as often as opportunity arises or can be conveniently created. It may be a case in which the lesser knowledge makes the bolder man; or, mayhap, the enthusiastic Doctor's crop of discretion in statement was planted in a year of drought and grew up sparse and stunted. However that may be, it is certain that some unconsidered affirmations of his—some jugglings with fact—have landed him in the throes of a triangular newspaper duel in Dunedin. In a too enthusiastic moment he described as 'Judge' the 'Evening Star's' assertion that, while opposing the Bible-in-schools scheme, it had nevertheless advocated a plebiscite to end the matter. The 'Star' has proved its assertion 'ad abundantiam,' and the local public are awaiting the fulfilment of the combative Doctor's promise that, in the event of such proof being advanced, he would withdraw and apologise. Both the 'Star' and Dr. Gibb have been saying to each other what they mean, and meaning it very hard, and the diplomatic courtesies which they exchange cleave the air with the whizz of a volley of boomerangs. In the Midshipman Easy contest, the Rev. W. Saunders monopolises the amenities of debate. In letters that are faultless in tone and temper, and in matter unanswered and unanswerable, he has successfully twitted the Bible-in-schools Conference with the vacillations and inconsistencies of its policy with regard to the matter of 'religious' instruction by State officials in the public schools. The Rev. Mr. Saunders rightly holds, with the bulk of his fellow-colonists, that it is not 'the duty of the State to meddle with the proper work of the Christian Church.' What with the heavy clubbing done upon him by one of his southern antagonists and the artistic 'pinking' executed by the other, the President of the Bible-in-schools League must feel as if he had been pole-axed and dissected. Silence is said to be golden. Talk is sometimes silver, often brazen. 'An allegory on the banks of the Nile' would probably be good company if he'd only keep his mouth shut.

DIOCESE OF DUNEDIN

The Rev. Father Foley, of the diocese of Maitland, who arrived in Dunedin last week, proceeded to Christchurch on Monday to visit his brother, Very Rev. Dean Foley, who is slowly recovering from his illness.

The Little Sisters of the Poor, who are to have charge of the home for the aged poor, at Anderson's Bay, and which is to be opened on December 8, are expected to arrive in Dunedin from the north on Sunday next.

The Rev. Father Brown, S.J., is at present conducting a mission in the outlying portions of the Palmerston parish. Rev. Father Claffey, S.J., is engaged in the Port Chalmers parish, and Rev. Father Roney, S.J., is in Naseby.

The Rev. Fathers Pidgeon, O'Brien, Shearman, Stack and O'Donnell, Redemptorists, who are to give a mission in the Christchurch diocese, arrived in Dunedin from Melbourne on Tuesday morning. Father Pidgeon proceeded north by the express on Tuesday, and Fathers O'Brien, Shearman, Stack, and O'Donnell left for Lyttelton by the 'Warrimoo' on Wednesday.

The following pupils of St. Dominic's College were successful in practical (vocal and instrumental) music at the examination held under the auspices of Dr. Creser, of Trinity College, London, on November 22.—Certificated pianists—E. Fitzgerald, M. Paton, M. O'Grady. Senior grade—V. Fraser (singing), honors, 92; M. Collins (pass), 77; W. M'Tigue (pass), 75; J. Millar (pass), 68; L. Leslie (pass), 67; M. O'Sullivan (singing), 66. Intermediate grade—M. Gawn (honors), 84; A. Jeffrey, 72; N. Angus, 71; G. Taylor, 70; E. Smyth, 68. Junior grade—M. Walls (honors), 91; L. Moloney (honors), 82; B. Laffey (pass), 70; E.

Smyth (pass), 64; M. Flannery (pass), 64; M. Waddell (singing), 68. Preparatory grade—M. Hopkins, 79; M. Leslie, 73; D. Hart, 67.

WAIMATE

(From our own correspondent.)

November 28.

The Rev. Father Regnault is at Fairlie relieving the Rev. Father Le Petit.

The pupils of St. Patrick's school are busy practising for their annual concert, in aid of the prize fund, which takes place on December 8.

A three days' mission, conducted by the Rev. Father Le Petit, of Fairlie, commenced in St. Joseph's Church, Wainao, on Sunday, November 20, and concluded on Wednesday, the services being all well attended. The Rev. Father also commenced a second mission in St. Patrick's Church, Waimate, on Thursday, November 24, the services being attended by large congregations. At the early Mass on Sunday almost every member of the crowded congregation approached the Holy Table. A Missa Cantata was celebrated by the Rev. Father O'Connor, the choir rendering the music in a finished manner, the soloists being Misses Kent and Sims, and Mr. C. J. Goldstone. After Mass there was Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament until the evening devotions, when the Rev. Father Le Petit preached on the Immaculate Conception.

Southland News Notes

(From our own correspondent.)

One by one our band of sturdy pioneers is being thinned, the last to join the majority has been Mr. John Ford, of Groopers Bush, Riverton, who passed away last week.—R.I.P.

The tender of a local tradesman has been accepted by the committee for the erection of the Catholic church at Lumsden. A start is to be made at once with the construction.

Another batch of sections has been taken up on the Edendale estate, and only a few now remain. At an early date, when the property was not yet open for selection, I strongly advised your readers who were of an agricultural turn of mind to have a look at Edendale. Several settlers inform me that they attribute their coming thither to those remarks, and all are thoroughly satisfied. Dairying is the chief occupation of the people at present, and good prices are obtainable for milk at the neighboring factories.

WEDDING BELLS

BOYLE—LAVERY.

Quite a large number of people assembled in St. Patrick's Church on Tuesday morning (says the 'Patea County Press'), the occasion being the marriage of Mr. John Boyle, second son of Mr. John Boyle, to Miss Margaret Lavery, daughter of the late Mr. John Lavery. The Rev. Father McGrath performed the ceremony, after which followed a Nuptial Mass. The bride, who was given away by her brother, Mr. John Lavery, was attired in a handsome bronze silk (her mother's wedding dress), made in old-fashioned, low-necked style, and trimmed with black lace, with the orthodox veil and orange blossoms, and carried a beautiful snowier bouquet. She was attended by her two sisters, the Misses Lizzie and Agnes, as bridesmaids. The bridegroom was attended by his brother, Mr. W. Boyle, as best man. As the bridal party were leaving the church the wedding march was played by Miss N. O'Brien. After the ceremony the relatives adjourned to the residence of the bride's sister, where breakfast was partaken of and the customary toasts duly honored. The bride's traveling dress was a neat tailor-made costume of brown cloth, and brown chiffon hat. Mr. and Mrs. Boyle left by the mail train for the north, where the honeymoon will be spent.

PHELAN—LYNCH.

A very pretty wedding took place in St. Joseph's Church, Queenstown, on October 25 (writes a correspondent), the contracting parties being Mr. P. Phelan, eldest son of the late Mr. Phelan, of Macraes, and Miss Julia Lynch, eldest daughter of the late Mr. P. Lynch, of Maori Point. A Nuptial Mass was celebrated by the Rev. Father O'Donnell, who also performed the marriage ceremony. The bride, who was given away by Mr. J. McChesney, was charmingly attired in a handsome gown of pale blue silk voilette over a slip of blue glace silk, elaborately trimmed with ecru lace. She wore a handsome gold chain with greenstone heart, the