

Lalor lived to be knighted and was long the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly. He passed away to his rest in 1899, and a life-size bronze statue of him now adorns the chief thoroughfare of Ballarat. This is, in brief, the story of the Eureka Stockade.

Notes

M. Combes.

Two cable messages in Tuesday's daily papers run as follows:

'The Committee of the Chamber of Deputies has adopted the Disestablishment Bill.'

'The "Times" Paris correspondent says that altogether apart from the Disestablishment question, there are signs of a coming Ministerial crisis.'

It would seem as if the lodge-propelled Combes is approaching the close of his career as the little Nero of France. In the October 'Fortnightly' the Baron de Coubertin thus describes the podgy little man of mediocre ability who, dressed in a little brief authority, has been playing such pranks before high heaven in western Europe. 'M. Combes is not in any sense a statesman: he is merely a politician of middling intelligence and of still more dubious scrupulosity—a man devoid of conscience and of will. His every act is based either on an order received from his party or from some Masonic lodge, or on some interest which he cannot avow, but which he awkwardly dissimulates. Added to this, the quarter-deck airs which he adopts by way of creating the illusion of commanding authority give a touch of absurdity to a figure which would otherwise be odious.'

THE CATHOLIC CONGRESS.

THE MEMORIAL VOLUME.

We have received the following circular from the General Secretary of the Second Australasian Catholic Congress:—

'The executive committee of the Second Australasian Catholic Congress anticipate that the volume of Transactions will be ready for distribution in the early part of 1905. Up to the date of publication persons will be enrolled as members at 10s 6d each, entitling them to one copy of the Transactions. Members may purchase extra copies at that price. After publication, the cost of the volume to all, whether members or non-members, will be 12s 6d. The attention of convents and religious houses is specially directed to the fact they may enrol themselves. It is in contemplation to publish the papers of the medical section in pamphlet form, not in the Transactions. A copy of the pamphlet will be sent to all the clergy with the volume of the Transactions, but will only be sent to the adult lay members of the Congress upon their written request, addressed to the honorary secretary. The volume will include all the papers sent to the Congress which gained the approval of the censors, whether read at the sessions or not. In addition, there will be about a dozen pages of illustrations, and a full list of the members' names and addresses.'

We may add that the Congress Memorial Volume will be enriched with an index of subjects, an index of authors, and a general index which will enormously enhance its value as a work of reference. Persons desiring to secure this valuable publication should forward enrolment fee (10s 6d) without delay to the respective secretaries of their various dioceses: Right Rev Mgr. O'Reilly, Thames; Very Rev. P. Power, Hawera; Very Rev. Dean Foley, Temuka; Rev. H. W. Cleary, Dunedin. It is hoped that the volume will be issued early in January.

DIOCESE OF DUNEDIN

This (Thursday) morning, being the Feast and also the Jubilee of the definition of the dogma of the Immaculate Conception, Masses were celebrated in St. Joseph's Cathedral at 7 and 8 and Pontifical High Mass at 10 o'clock. The music was rendered by a choir consisting of the students of Holy Cross College and the pupils of the Christian Brothers.

The new Catholic church at Kaitangata, in the Milton parish, is to be solemnly blessed and opened to-day (Thursday).

A sacred recital, in aid of the debt incurred in the renovation of the Christian Brothers' School, will be given in St. Joseph's Cathedral this (Thursday) evening.

A Triduum in preparation for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception was begun in St. Joseph's Cathedral on Monday evening.

Miss Josephine Sweeney—the only candidate entered by the Dominican Convent, Oamaru—passed the examination in elementary singing (74 marks) in connection with the Associated Board.

On Sunday there was Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at St. Joseph's Cathedral from the last Mass until Vespers. In the evening there was the usual procession in which the members of the Sacred Heart Society and the children of the parish schools took part.

All the pupils presented by the Dominican Convents at Invercargill, Bluff, and Queenstown, at the recent Trinity College practical music examinations, were successful, several securing honors. The following is the list:—Queenstown Convent—Junior grade, Pearl Evans, 93 (honors); Christine Bonner, 91 (honors); Annie O'Connell, 90 (honors). Preparatory grade, Mary McCarthy, 93; Jack Aldridge, 74. Bluff Convent—Preparatory grade, Dorothy Waddell, 87; Katie Roderigue, 86; Chrissie Metzger, 82; Daisy Anderson, 70; Askeine Metzger, 70; Milly Hamilton, 67. Convent, Invercargill—Junior grade, Rebe Marshall, 84 (honors); Ruby Smythe, 71. Preparatory grade, Aileen Tympany, 75; Theresa McClaren, 73; Isa Marshall (violin), 73.

On Saturday there arrived by the 'Westralia' from Sydney nine Little Sisters of the Poor, including the Provincial of the Order. Seven of these will remain in charge of the home for the aged poor, at Anderson's Bay, which is to be opened this (Thursday) afternoon by His Lordship the Bishop. The Sisters were met at the wharf by Bishop Verdon, the local clergy, and a number of the Catholic laity, and warmly welcomed to New Zealand. The nationalities of the Sisters are six French, one Australian, two Irish, and one Italian. The Mother Provincial and the Sisters were highly pleased with the home, and were full of admiration of the beautiful view which it commands of the city, harbor, and oceanwards. Altogether the founding of the home takes place under the most favorable and promising auspices. A wing of the building has already been fitted up for the accommodation of old women, and it is expected that the dormitories for the men will be ready very soon.

On Thursday of last week (writes an Oamaru correspondent) St. Joseph's Schoolroom was simply packed on the occasion of the concert. The smaller pupils were mainly responsible for the first part of the programme, opening with a scarf drill. Then followed a series of tableaux, of which the prettiest was the 'Sleeping Beauty,' 'Darby and Joan' and 'Dolly's Doctor' being very amusing. During the representation of 'Belshazzar's Feast' the Misses Sweeney recited in good style. Then followed a drama of the sixteenth century, called 'The King of the Alps.' The play runs through a quite engrossing plot, and held the interest of the audience throughout. No trouble had been spared, and the stage was fitted up with scenery which had been painted for the purpose. The title role was filled by Miss P. Falconer as the King of the Alps. Miss D. O'Leary as Rappelkoff was particularly good, as were also Miss C. Brett, Bertha, Miss Molloy, Mrs. Rapp, and Miss M. Treahy, Godfrey Siberken, whilst Miss Aileen O'Donnell had only a small part but did it well. Of the other characters all were domestics. Of these Miss A. Geaney and Miss Perry were the pick. During the evening the various acts were interspersed by songs and pianoforte solos, Miss Delargy singing the 'Kerry dance' and other songs, and Miss Ongley 'The Swallows.' Misses Potter and King were responsible for the pianoforte solos, while the Misses Cartwright and Herlihy played a pianoforte duet. Miss K. Cartwright acted as accompanist throughout.

The entertainment given by the pupils of the Port Chalmers Convent School on Friday evening, November 25, in the Foresters' Hall, was in every way a pronounced success, and reflected the greatest credit on the good Sisters and gave evidence of their untiring zeal in the training of their pupils. The first part of the programme consisted of nine musical items—vocal and instrumental—and a drama, entitled 'Adele's trial.' The vocal and instrumental items were much above the ordinary, all the performers doing credit to themselves and their teachers. The drama was well staged, the dresses were appropriate, the performers speaking their lines with considerable elocutionary ability and good enunciation. An excellent item was a bass solo by Mr. A. Salter, the winner of a gold medal at the late band contest in Gore.