

Julian the Apostate tried in vain to produce its counterfeit presentment among the pagan Romans of his time. Centuries ago a ruler of Japan took thought for the poor lepers of his land. It was a generous spasm, but it passed speedily, and to this hour—save where the Catholic missionary comes to his aid—the leper is an agonising outcast in Nippon, and 'the most ancient and most human of all diseases' is regarded as the worst social disgrace that can befall a home among the most cultivated pagan people of our day. Nor has charity any part in the neo-paganism that is invading some western lands. The French Revolution—the outcome of French philosophism—dragged through the streets and scourged at the cart's tail noble ladies who, as Edmund Burke said in the British House of Commons, were 'devoted to the most sublime duties of religion.' It closed orphanages and refuges for the aged and misappropriated legacies left for the poor. The bloodless French Revolution of our day is in great part a war against the poor and those whose lives are consecrated to their service. Statutory and personal philanthropy, arising, as it generally does, from natural human goodness and sympathy, may, even in pagan lands, effect a considerable range of good. This form of philanthropy is, perhaps, in Christian countries, seldom found in what we may term the crude state. Even where philanthropists of this class are not professed believers in Christ, they live in an atmosphere of thought, feeling, tradition, and sentiment which has been created by Christianity. Consciously or unconsciously they must, to some extent at least, be guided in their actions by motives or principles which are distinctively Christian. In this case philanthropy may be merely Christian charity in disguise, or adulterated. Mere philanthropy, in itself, proceeding on right lines, is good as far as it goes. But it does not go far. It has its own little sphere. But, judged by its roots or by its fruits, when compared with true Christian charity, it is as the gilded counterfeit compared with the mint-marked gold piece.

Notes

To the Clergy.

On page 31 we publish a calendar for January, which will, it is hoped, be of service to the secular clergy of New Zealand pending the arrival of the official 'Ordo.'

The Provincial Seminary.

'Let there be progress.' In the course of a speech at the distribution of prizes in Holy Cross College yesterday, an important announcement was made by the Right Rev. Dr. Verdon. 'In future,' said his Lordship, 'the course of studies in Holy Cross College will be so arranged that all students will have an opportunity of matriculating in connection with the local University and of subsequently taking out degrees.' This announcement will be received with much pleasure by our readers in every part of New Zealand.

DIOCESE OF DUNEDIN

The annual distribution of prizes took place at Holy Cross College, Mosgiel, yesterday (Wednesday). The Mosgiel and Dunedin clergy were present. His Lordship the Bishop presided and presented the prizes and, in the course of an interesting speech, made the important announcement that in future the course of studies will be so arranged that all students will have an opportunity of matriculating in connection with the local University and of subsequently taking out degrees. In the afternoon an adjournment was made to the fine new college gymnasium erected some time ago, and the students went through a lengthy series of exercises of various kinds, in which they displayed a degree of efficiency that was greatly appreciated by the visitors, and speaks well for the training imparted by their gymnastic instructor.

At St. Patrick's Basilica, South Dunedin, on Sunday last there was Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. The members of the Hibernian Society to the number of 82 attended the nine o'clock Mass at St. Joseph's Cathedral on Sunday, and approached the Holy Table in a body.

The Rev. Father Brown, S.J., left on Saturday morning for the purpose of opening a mission in Wairoa in the Lawrence parish. Later on missions will be given in Roxburgh, Miller's Flat, and other portions of the same parish.

Encouraged by the success which had attended the first sacred recital in St. Joseph's Cathedral some time ago, the committee engaged in liquidating the debt incurred in renovating the Christian Brothers' School arranged for another on Thursday evening of last week. The programme was a lengthy one, and the undertaking on the whole was more ambitious than that attempted on the first occasion. From a musical point of view the recital was a decided success, and was highly creditable to all who took part in it.

Opening of a New Catholic Church at Kaitangata.

The Milton correspondent of the 'Otago Daily Times' supplies the following particulars regarding the ceremonies at the blessing and opening of the new Catholic church at Kaitangata, in the Milton parish, which took place on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception: Up to the present members of the Catholic community at Kaitangata have labored under the disability of being without a building of their own wherein to hold service, and had recourse to the public hall. Now all this is at an end, thanks to the initiative of the Very Rev. Father O'Neill, to their own energy, and to the liberality of the community. Thursday saw the consummation of their efforts, and the opening of a handsome edifice occupying a prominent site overlooking the township. The ceremony was conducted by the Very Rev. Mr. O'Leary, the church being dedicated to St. Ita. Very Rev. Dean Burke (Invercargill) delivered an impressive sermon appropriate to the occasion. The Rev. Father O'Donnell (Gore) and Rev. Father Claffey, S.J., were also present, with the Very Rev. Father O'Neill, pastor of the district, while the combined Milton and Balclutha choirs rendered the musical portion of the service, Miss Scanlan (Milton) presiding at the organ. The church was well filled, a number of visitors from Milton, Balclutha, and intervening districts being present. The collection in aid of the building fund amounted to about £100, mostly contributed by friends outside Kaitangata, and Father O'Neill expressed his thanks to all who had so generously contributed. The building is built of brick in Gothic design, with roof of tiles, and is capable of seating 100—ample accommodation, it is anticipated, for worshippers for many years. The contractor was Mr. Middlemas, who is deserving of every credit for the satisfactory manner in which he carried out the work. The Kaitangata Company kindly gave free passes to the visitors on their line of railway to and from Stirling.

OBITUARY

MRS. MARY McTAGGART.

Another old Canterbury resident and fervent Catholic (writes our Christchurch correspondent) passed away on last Thursday morning, in the person of Mrs. Mary McTaggart, widow of the late Mr. Andrew McTaggart. The deceased was one of the family of Lee-Nunan, well known in the County Limerick, Ballingarry being their native town. With her husband, they being at the time a newly-married couple, the deceased came out to the colonies over 40 years ago, first residing at Rockhampton, Queensland, for a few months. Widowed with a young family, a strenuous life was the consequence, but with energy and indomitable perseverance, apparently insurmountable difficulties were overcome. The strain of many years, however, asserted itself in a break down of a particularly strong constitution. The deceased was attended during her last moments by the Rev. Father Mahony, who with unremitting attention imparted all the sacred rites of Holy Church. Extreme kindness and attention were also shown by the Sisters of Our Lady of Missions. On Saturday Requiem Mass for the repose of the soul of the deceased was celebrated in the Pro-Cathedral by the Rev. Father O'Connell, who also officiated at the interment in the Linwood Cemetery.—R.I.P.