

Pro-Cathedral there. Sir John Leng, in the presence of a large and distinguished company, declared the proceedings open on the first day. The second day's proprietor, now of the archdiocese of St. Andrews and Edinburgh, the Most Rev. Dr. Smith, the former Bishop of the Dunkeld diocese. On the third day the Very Rev. Canon James McGinnes, a former Dundee priest, now of the archdiocese of St. Andrews and Edinburgh, declared the bazaar open. The total amount realised was the handsome figure of £2253 13s 10d.

Death of a Priest.

Venerable in age, with the noble record of 56 years' arduous and incessant work as a Scottish priest in Lanarkshire, and surrounded by a number of his devoted clerical brethren, the Rev. John Black passed peacefully away on October 18 at St. Joseph's Chapel house, Cardowan. By his death the Glasgow archdiocese has lost one of its oldest and most notable priests. Ordained in Rome in 1848, Father Black served first in Lanark; then at Carluke; next at Wishaw; after this at St. Vincent's, Glasgow; subsequently at St. Andrew's Cathedral; and latterly at Cardowan, where he had been stationed for the past twelve years.

Catholic Truth Society.

The initial function in connection with the general meeting of the Scottish Catholic Truth Society took place in the North British Railway Hotel, Edinburgh, where Archbishop Smith received upwards of 500 of the Catholic residents in various parts of Scotland. His Grace was immediately attended by Bishops MacFarlane, Dunkeld; Chisholm, Aberdeen; Turner, Galloway; Gaughran, Kimberley; and Casartelli, Salford. Among the laity were—Lord Ralph, Lady Anne, and the Misses Kerr Lady Bute, and Lady Lovat. The proceedings were characterised with the utmost possible sociability, and great interest was evinced at the programme.

UNITED STATES—Presentation.

The congregation of St. Francis Xavier's Church, Brooklyn, has presented the Rev. Dr. W. F. McGinnis, for some time its assistant pastor and who was recently appointed rector of St. Bridget's Church, Westbury, Long Island, with a purse of £300 and a typewriter. Dr. McGinnis is the president of the International Catholic Truth Society.

ANOTHER SLANDER NAILED.

OUR AMERICAN LETTER.

(From the International Catholic Truth Society.)

We have made arrangements with the International Catholic Truth Society, whose headquarters are in Brooklyn, New York, for the publication of foreign letters dealing with matters of Australian interest. We print therewith the first of the series, which deals with a coarse slander on the Catholic priesthood, and which was published in several newspapers in America, and eventually found its way into the echoes of the same both in Australia and New Zealand.

Brooklyn, N.Y., October 28.

On Sunday, July 3, of the present year, a remarkable article appeared in leading newspapers of all the big cities of the United States. It was headed in the 'Springfield Republican' 'Superstition in Switzerland', in the St. Louis 'Pioneer Press', 'Tortured for Superstition's Sake' and 'Priests Torture Swiss Girl,' 'Barbarous Treatment of Henriette Gay by the Catholic Church,' etc., in reputable journals of New York, Boston, Chicago, Cincinnati, St. Louis, Detroit, etc.

At the time of its publication the International Catholic Truth Society, through its members in various places, questioned its truth, pointing out one or two apparent inaccuracies. However, unless authoritative information is at hand denials are unavailing against positive statements.

The International Catholic Truth Society is now in possession of such information, and although considerable time has elapsed the wide publicity given by the newspapers of standing all over the land to this correspondence, copyrighted by Curtis Brown, demands the publication of the real facts. When these are known, let us hope that the daily press of the United States will hesitate in future to print without verification a 'correspondence' so filled with statements derogatory to the Catholic Church.

The Lie.

Many of our readers will recall the article in question, for those who do not let us quote it in part, again reminding them that the article appeared in newspapers of the highest standing. We will quote from the 'Springfield Republican' :—

SUPERSTITION IN SWITZERLAND.

PRIESTS MALTREAT A GIRL.

To Exorcise a Devil, She Was Imprisoned, Starved, Forced to Walk Barefoot With a Cross on Her Shoulders and a Crown of Thorns on Her Head.

The Roman Catholic Archbishop Punishes the Priests.

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Correspondence of the "Republican."

Geneva, Switz., June 20, 1904.—Henriette Gay's case has provided striking proof of the almost incredible ignorance and superstition still existing in those countries in Europe which are commonly supposed to possess the highest civilisation. Henriette Gay is 18 years old. Until recently she lived in the tiny Swiss village of Fims-Haut, not far from Geneva. She is the daughter of a peasant possessing a few acres of land in the village, but at an early age Henriette showed signs of having been born for a higher station in life. Her father, however, was a coarse, rough agriculturist, who had no education and understood nothing but the tilling of his fields and the care of his cattle. The brothers were heavy, clumsy fellows, with huge, ugly hands and ungainly figures. The sisters worked in the fields and were devoid of every touch of refinement. . . . Though her sisters began to work in the fields at the age of 12, Henriette never soiled her long, thin, aristocratic fingers with instruments of out-door labor. . . . Nevertheless, not only the neighbors, but also her own brothers and sisters, and even her father and mother, hated her because they had themselves the unmistakable feeling that she belonged to a different sphere. . . . when she ventured to leave her father's hut to walk in the public roads the little boys and girls of the village ran after her and pelted her with stones. The girls of her own age shrieked abusive names when they caught sight of her, and the older women crossed themselves and muttered prayers when she approached them. Once when she trespassed on a small plot of land belonging to another peasant of the village the owner and his two sons drove her off with the help of their long, thin cattle-whips and many vigorous oaths. On another occasion when she went to church the other women of the village mobilized their forces to repel the invasion of the evil spirit and drove her away from the house of God with violence. . . . Henriette was placed in a prison improvised for her reception, and then the priests began their system of cure. First they subjected the girl to periods of starvation, keeping her without food for forty to sixty hours at a time. She was incarcerated in a lonely hut, and from this she was made to crawl on her hands and knees over rough, stony ground to the village church, where she had to kneel for hours at a time in front of the images of the saints. And when she fainted from the effects of this unique cure, the two priests, who personally superintended the tormented, brought her back to consciousness by slapping her face harshly and beating her back. After a time she was led barefooted on a pilgrimage to the convent of St. Maurice, a distance of sixty miles from the village. This journey of humiliation she was forced to undertake with a crown of thorns on her head and a heavy cross resting on her shoulders. All along the road she was the object of the mockery of the ignorant rustic population, and on arrival at St. Maurice her bare feet were covered with deep cuts and sores. At 2 o'clock the church was packed with an astonished, wondering crowd, and the senior priest, one Jean Paillet, ascended the altar steps and announced that he had summoned them all to assist in exorcising the evil spirit with which Henriette Gay was possessed. The doors of the church were locked, and punctually at 2 o'clock the priest began the process of exorcising the spirit. The process of exorcism lasted all Saturday evening, all through the long hours of Saturday night and all Sunday morning. For twenty-four hours Henriette Gay, the martyr, was subjected to every conceivable form of indignity and cruelty in the presence of a grinning mob of rustic barbarians. The girl was dragged by her hair round and round the church, while the priest stopped every few yards to beat her on the face and body, proclaiming all the while to the credulous congregation that it was not the girl but the evil spirit which he was thrashing. She was beaten with whips, with sticks, and with rods. The priests belabored her face with their fists and members of the congregation showered blows on her body. Her limbs were twisted in their sockets till they threatened to break, and burning candles were held close to her fair skin.

The Truth.

After much labor and delay the International Truth Society is able to present to your readers the following statement :—

We are informed by Professor Swindmann, of the Priests' Seminary in Lucerne, that he has received word from the Right Rev. Abbot of St. Maurice, Bishop