

E. G. GRESHAM,

(Pupil of the late Mr Alfred Boot).

SURGEON AND MECHANICAL DENTIST,

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**CONVENT OF THE SACRED HEART,
TIMARU.**

THE ANNUAL SPIRITUAL RETREAT FOR LADIES

Preached by the Rev. J. RONEY, S.J.,

Will begin on the Evening of MONDAY, January 9th, and end on
SATURDAY, 14th.

Ladies who wish to attend should apply as soon as possible to
the REVEREND MOTHER SUPERIOR.

DEATH.

FENNESSY.—On the 26th December, at Naseby Hospital,
Michael, the beloved son of M. Fennessy; aged 27 years.—R.I.P.



*To promote the cause of Religion and Justice by the
ways of Truth and Peace.*

LEO. XIII. to the N.Z. TABLET

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1904.

THE FRENCH SCANDAL.



SOME years ago some Grand or Upright-Grand or Semi-Grand of an Auckland lodge hacked at the Church because she cannot bring herself to bestow her benison on Freemasonry any more than she did or does on the Carbonari, the Mafia, the Mala Vita, the International, the Invincibles, or any other of the secret, oath-bound associations that are burrowing like rats in cellars or sitting like

bats in gloomy caves beneath the surface of social and political life throughout the world. The Church's opposition to dark-lantern associations is well known. Freemasonry in particular has been repeatedly condemned by Popes. This condemnation is based partly on general Christian principles, partly upon a long and intimate knowledge of the practices of the brotherhood such as is comparatively inaccessible to the great body of the rank and file of its members. Briefly, the Church condemns the Society (1) because of its secrecy; (2) because of the unlawful oaths taken by its members; (3) because of its peculiar religious tenets; and (4) because of the atrocious war which the great body of the fraternity have waged and are waging against religion over widely separated portions of the earth.

The Grand Orient in France, for instance, boasts—and it is no idle or empty boast—that it is at the head of the fierce persecution that has so long been raging in that unhappy and grievously misgoverned land. A few

weeks ago the French Chamber of Deputies rang with the revelations of lodge espionage and tyranny which were made before it by a prominent Nationalist member, M. Guyot de Villeneuve. The revelations prove what a menace Freemasonry is to the State as well as to the Church, and they shook the Chamber to such purpose that the Government was saved from disaster only by the narrow majority of four votes. Stated in summary terms, the facts, which we glean from Home and foreign papers, run as follow: A number of leading Freemasons decided to secure for the Craft the control of appointments in the army, and they have done this in a way so thorough-going as to threaten the very organisation of France's last resort—her military forces. 'The idea,' says the 'Glasgow Observer' of November 5, 'originated with Commandant Pasquier, Governor of the Cherche-Midi Military Prison, who has great influence at the War Office, and who took into his confidence the leaders of the French Masonic organisation, the "Grand Orient de France." A confidential circular was issued by the Grand Orient to all the Freemason officers and non-commissioned officers requesting them to obtain and send to the Masonic headquarters confidential information upon the colleagues which the chance of garrison life brought into contact with them; the information wanted was set forth in the following questions:—

- '1. Families of the father and of the mother of the officer.
- '2. Families of the father and of the mother of the officer's wife.
- '3. The schools and colleges in which the officer and his wife have been educated.
- '4. The clubs or associations or societies of which they are or have been members.
- '5. Their religious views and practices.
- '6. The schools to which they send the children.
- '7. Their social standing and relations.
- '8. The shooting or hunting parties to which they are generally invited.
- '9. Are they anti-semites?'

To their credit, the souls of a few officers who are leading members of the fraternity revolted against this organised system of espionage. The remainder swallowed their scruples, if they had any, and entered with zeal upon a task that is so degrading to the character of anyone who claims to be 'an officer and a gentleman.' Before last New Year's Day secret reports were sent in affecting 12,000 officers. These were sorted and pigeon-holed by M. Vadeкард, General Secretary of the Grand Orient, and by him communicated to the War Office, with the knowledge and approval of the Masonic General Andre, the Minister of War. This pliant tool of the dark-lanternists appointed three officers—Colonel Jacquot, Commandant Bernard, and Captain Mollin—to deal with the steady stream of reports reaching the War Office through the Masonic organisation. Mollin was the official spokesman of the wretched triumvirate and, says our Glasgow contemporary, he 'never failed to take the opinion of "dear brother Vadeкард" whenever any promotions were to be made or honors given, or to write informing him that all the names to which the Grand Orient objected were struck off, although the officers in question were otherwise qualified for promotion, and that those whom they recommended were promoted or decorated, although their time had not yet quite arrived.' Relentless tyranny was exercised in persecuting and barring the promotion of officers who dared to practise their religion, or to send their children to Catholic schools, or who were suspected of being well disposed towards Catholic institutions, or whose relatives or wives' relatives, manifested any love for the Old Faith that was the pride of France in the days when she was truly great. Here are two average samples of the manner in which this underground Masonic spying is made to operate against officers suspected of a leaning towards the Catholic faith:—

'Remy, commander of artillery at headquarters staff of the 20th corps, has two daughters in a religious institution. His wife takes part in all the parish