

Rev. Dill-Macky's gutter-journal was invited to substantiate its shocking charges. The invitation was not accepted. The matter was, however, pushed by the Commissioners. After a lengthy game of hide-and-seek they came face to face with a mysterious creature of the female sex who had invented the charges. They brought her to bay after she had failed to keep no fewer than six appointments. There was not so much as a scrap of evidence to support the wretched woman's foul slanders. The inquiry was a triumph for the Sisters and a deadly exposure of the cowardly methods of the Orange association. In reference to the Aix convent affair, it must be borne in mind that the Paris 'Matin' is the organ of a clique whose hatred of the Catholic Church and its institutions is even more fanatical and aggressive than that of the oath-bound Knights of the Saffron Sash. The rest of the tale is told by Thackeray in his 'Vanity Fair': 'One of the great conditions of anger and hatred is, that you must tell and believe lies against the hated object, in order to be consistent.'

'The Newest Journalist'

Our brilliant friend and brother-editor, Mr. James Jeffrey Roche, of the Boston 'Pilot' records in one of his published works the dream of a journalist of the kind we have been describing under the last two headings. The dream was a dream of death and the hereafter. The disembodied soul of the maker of newspaper 'fakes' went straight aloft and gave his name at the heavenly gate. But the porter told him he "need not wait." So 'the Newest Journalist took his cue' and—went elsewhere.

'Heaven, he reckoned, was slow and dull,
Where all was decent and beautiful,
With never a fake, or scoop, or pull.
The Newest Journalist went below
As deep as the elevators go.
He boldly strode to the door and rang;
A brazen wicket oped with a clang.
Old Satan looked at the stranger's card;
His face grew dark and his voice grew hard;
He ordered the gates to be doubly barred.
"Go back," he said, "to your proper sphere;
You serve me better on earth than here.
Moreover—perhaps we cut it fine—
But since the days of the Gadarene swine,
We devils have had to draw the line."

The story is not all a dream. Neither is it all a parable. We commend it to those whom it concerns.

Secular Education in New Zealand.

New Zealand's secular system of education (writes the London correspondent of the Dunedin 'Evening Star') finds an out-and-out opponent in the Rev. C. Coleridge Harper, Vicar of Palmerston North, who condemns it unsparringly in a letter to the 'Church Times' this week. Mr. Harper, who claims that his long experience of Sunday schools and day schools in the Colony gives him grounds for believing that he knew his subject well, writes as follows:—

'I say plainly and positively that a purely secular system of education is nothing less than a national disaster. Nearly all Christian workers, clerical and lay, Church and Nonconformist, in New Zealand are agreed on this. In support of this opinion I will refer to the effect of such a system in detail and generally.

'My own experience is this: The children are, as a rule, deplorably ignorant of Biblical facts, whether of Old or New Testament. There is in most an absolute ignorance of that on which we base our religion, moral or doctrinal teaching. Did space allow, I could give you startling proof of this ignorance.

'The general effect is, if anything, worse. There is no basis for moral training; there is no appeal; the school training has for its object (so far as the children can see) material advantage only; duty, moral principle, etc., depend for their enforcement on the personal power of the teacher, and nothing else. But beyond all this is the influence on the character of the young of the belief that those who are responsible for their training in all that is requisite to equip them for life see no need for religion, and, in fact, studiously and purposely keep it out of that training as a thing positively harmful. You can imagine the effect, which we in

New Zealand are only too certain of. Religion is looked upon as quite an extra; a fad, more or less, of some, a means by which the parson lives and "the churches" flourish, an appendage to life of no vital importance, and depending for its claim on the personality of individual clergy. Of course there are many and notable exceptions, but this is, speaking generally, true to the young who have been trained in our primary schools, and if it is so now, after one generation has been so trained (the system has been in force for twenty-seven years), what will be its effect on the children of this generation?

'Theorists in England deny that this will be the result. I do not theorise, but state positively that where it has been tried it is the result. It is merely a question of fact. It is said that Sunday schools will do all that is necessary. Here again our experience is that the Sunday school is quite inadequate. In England you don't realise what a help to the teaching of the Sunday school the knowledge, small it may be, but still something, of the leading facts of our Faith really is. In our case, the time we ought to give to doctrinal and moral teaching is mainly devoted to laying the foundation, which in England is done in the day school.'

Diocesan News

ARCHDIOCESE OF WELLINGTON

(From our own correspondent.)

January 7.
Tenders are now being called for the erection in brick near Island Bay of the new convent of the Sisters of the Sacred Heart.

Among the members of the West Coast cricket team that recently visited Wellington were three 'old boys' of St. Patrick's College—Messrs. Crombie, McCarthy, and Ongley. Mr. Crombie spent the holidays with his people here.

The excursionists to Picton by the 'Mararoa' on Monday had a very trying experience. Many were completely prostrated and others met with accidents of a more or less painful nature owing to the violent tossing of the vessel. Some of the passengers were unable to return until late in the week. The trip will be long remembered by those who made it.

The foundering of the yacht 'Te Aroha' by which three promising lives were lost caused widespread sorrow. As a result of this unfortunate occurrence various suggestions have been made through the Press for the more stringent inspection of yachts. Some correspondents have also urged the procuring of a life boat for service on the coast.

On Thursday last at St. Mary's Convent, Hill street, Miss Anastasia Quiley, in religion Sister Mary Peter, made her profession as a Sister of Mercy. Three other young ladies were received. They were Miss Kate Greaney (Sister Mary Michael), Miss Agnes Bourke (Sister Mary Vincent), and Miss Ellen Byrne (Sister Gerard). Very Rev. Father Lewis, V.G., officiated, and was assisted by the Rev. Father Holley. A sermon suitable to the occasion was preached by the Rev. Father Ainsworth. The Ven. Archdeacon Devoy and Rev. Father McNamara were also present.

Otaki

(From an occasional correspondent.)

The jubilee of the Immaculate Conception was celebrated with befitting solemnity at the Pukekaraka Catholic church. The interest taken in the celebration by the Maoris may be judged from the fact that they were present from all parts of the district, and also from the Wairarapa, Rangitikei, and Hawke's Bay. In order to accommodate the large influx of visitors a number of tents were erected near the church. Among the clergy present were the Ven. Archdeacon Devoy, Very Rev. Father Keogh, Rev. Fathers Ainsworth, Cognet, Tymons, Lacroix, Schaeffer, Vibaud, Delach, and Melu. Solemn High Mass was celebrated by the Ven. Archdeacon Devoy, Rev. Father Schaeffer being deacon, and Rev. Father Vibaud subdeacon, and Mr. D. Hurley, of Meanees Seminary, master of ceremonies. In the afternoon there was a procession to the top of the Pukekaraka hill, where stood the first Catholic church sixty years ago. Father Ainsworth addressed the large assemblage of Europeans and Natives, Father Cognet interpreting his remarks for the benefit of the latter. In the evening the devotions took place in the open air in front of the Grotto of Lourdes, after which a display of fireworks, etc., was given from the summit of the hill. The