

on the highest moral grounds. Without a raffle, none but a few rich people had the chance of obtaining the really valuable articles. By a raffle he accomplished the Christian duty of putting rich and poor on terms of perfect equality.'

Archbishop Magee (according to his biographer) said of the letter quoted above: 'Good and very Salmonian!' It is not, of course, quite the Catholic position, which gets back to the bed-rock principles underlying the subject. But it is interesting as the point of view of a prominent Protestant divine to whom the Rev. Dr. Gibb offered much incense once upon a time.

Catholic Boarded-out Children

In the days of old, long before artillery was dreamed of, the old Roman armies did some notable work in breaching city walls with nothing more formidable than the iron-shod nose of a weapon (a tree or mast) that was known to the armor-clad warriors as a battering ram. The process took time, but it was a case in which it was 'dogged as did it.' In the world of to-day there are abuses that are, perhaps, best battered down by the steady tip-tap of repeated expostulation and exposure. But there exists in North Canterbury at the present time an abuse of so grave a nature that it demands an urgent remedy, if the sky were to fall.

We refer to a system of boarding-out by which the faith of Catholic children, that are the wards of the State, is endangered or destroyed. The Christchurch Catholic clergy and the St. Vincent de Paul Society have been battering away steadily at the abuse to which we refer. Their efforts have, thus far, met with a promising measure of success. For a time, for instance, all information was refused them regarding the whereabouts of the Catholic children that passed from the courts through the Government Receiving Home in Christchurch. It was at last supplied through the intervention of the Education Department, and the missing children were traced and removed to a Catholic atmosphere and Catholic surroundings.

So far good. But a grievous wrong is still being perpetrated upon the hapless Catholic children that are under the control of the Charitable Aid Board. We are informed by those who claim to know, that a majority of the Catholic children boarded out by the Board are being brought up in Protestant homes, that some of these are not even baptised, and that this grave public scandal is crowned by the refusal of the Board's officials to furnish our clergy or charitable organisations with information which would enable them to attend to the spiritual interests of those neglected waifs and strays. We are aware that a difficulty was experienced by the Board in placing the boarded-out children, whether Catholic or non-Catholic, in suitable homes. But in the case of the little ones of our faith the boarding-out difficulty was met by an offer from our institutions that would have settled the matter in a manner satisfactory alike to the ratepayers and to the material and spiritual well-being of the children. The authorities of St. Mary's Orphanage (Stoke), the Sacred Heart Orphanage (Mount Magdala), and the Sisters of Nazareth (Christchurch), have all signified their willingness to receive the children at the same rate that is now paid by the Board, with such unsatisfactory results, to private individuals—or even less, if necessary.' This arrangement was intimated to the Board by the Very Rev. the Vicar-General in a letter dated June 20—long before the failure of the boarding-out system was debated by the Board.

The Vicar-General wrote requesting information on the following points:—

(a) The name, age, and present home of each Catholic child boarded-out by the Board; (b) as our various Catholic institutions are prepared to shelter, board, clothe, and educate all Catholic children under the care

of the Board, at the same rate now being paid private individuals—or will accept even less, if necessary—will the Board place all such children under our charge, or state why the course above suggested should not be adopted?'

The Vicar-General's letter from which we make this extract was (as stated) written on June 20. A meeting of the Board was held on July 5. On the following day (July 6) the Board's secretary wrote stating that the letter 'was held over until the Board met yesterday,' and that the information called for would not be forthcoming until the question 'has been further discussed.' Curiously enough, in the various newspaper reports of the proceedings of the Board on July 5, there appears no mention whatever of the Vicar-General's letter having been brought up for consideration. The omission may, of course, be possibly due to the reporters or subeditors. But the Catholics of North Canterbury are face to face with a grave public scandal in the matter of the treatment of the waifs and strays of our faith. And we trust that there—as was recently done by Act of Legislature in Massachusetts—steps will be promptly taken to effectually protect the faith of the Catholic children that are the wards of the State. We shall return to this subject at an early date.

DIOCESE OF DUNEDIN

The Right Rev. Mgr. Mackay, who had been on a visit to the Hot Springs, has returned to Oamaru greatly improved in health.

On Sunday last at St. Patrick's Basilica, South Dunedin, there was Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. Throughout the day large numbers of the congregation paid a visit to the church, and in the evening the members of the various confraternities took part in the procession.

Collections on behalf of the St. Vincent de Paul Society were made at the Masses at the city and South Dunedin churches on Sunday, with the following results: St. Joseph's Cathedral, £31; St. Patrick's Basilica (South Dunedin), £13; Sacred Heart Church (North East Valley), £3 6s 9d.

An entertainment is to be given by the members of the St. Patrick's Literary and Social Club in the Town Hall, South Dunedin, on the 25th inst. The object of the entertainment is a very laudable one, viz., in aid of St. Patrick's School fund; and it is to be hoped that the efforts of the members of the Club will be rewarded by a large attendance.

The St. Joseph's Harriers held their weekly run on Saturday, starting from St. Joseph's Hall. They took their course along the drive through the Reservoir and home by way of Bunting's. The run was much enjoyed, and all the members are looking forward to the combined run, which takes place on August 5 from St. Joseph's Hall. This should prove to be one of the largest gatherings of harriers held in Dunedin.

On Wednesday evening of last week St. Joseph's Ladies' Club entertained the members of St. Joseph's Men's Club and friends at a progressive euchre party and musical evening. Refreshments were handed round by the ladies and prizes presented to the winners. During the evening Messrs. Wilhelmsen and Miles, and Misses Hannigan, Davis, and Poppelwell contributed to the musical part of the programme. Great credit is due to Miss Staunton for the many pleasant evenings she provides for the members and their friends.

During the winter season there is nothing more comforting to those who suffer from cold feet than a hot water bag. It applied to any part of the body it is wonderfully effective in removing pain, besides being soothing, comforting, and stimulating. Messrs. Johnstone and Haslett, Chemists, Dunedin, have a large stock of indiarubber bags, at extremely moderate prices....

Mr. W. Langford, furnishing undertaker, and certificated embalmer, Cashel St., Christchurch, conducts funerals in town and country at the lowest possible rates. Mr. Langford has been established for about a quarter of a century in Christchurch, where his method of conducting business has met with general approval....

For Bronchial Coughs take
Woods' Great Peppermint Cure. 1s 6d.