

church, but it was not granted. There is a great deal of room for progress in some of the German States. The Tolerance Bill will be reintroduced at a future time. Meanwhile the public will be enlightened as to the necessity for it.' But even in the German Fatherland the movement is a forward one—'nulla vestigia retrorsum' is the present motto—and complete religious toleration is getting in sight, although, like Bonnie Prince Charlie, it has been 'long a-comin'.' In democratic New Zealand, on the contrary, retrograde legislation is being urged by a coterie of clamorous clerics. They are endeavoring to inaugurate a State religion, based on 'an emasculated caricature' of a Protestant version of the Bible; and the good men want to compel Catholic, Jewish, Protestant, and other objectors, by Act of Parliament, to either contribute towards the endowment of the newly devised creed, or to go to gaol till they rot there. The platform volleys of certain clerical smooth-bores may intimidate—as they are clearly intended to intimidate—a few politicians of the lap-dog breed; but they will not, we ween, scare the liberty-loving public of New Zealand to assert a principle that lies at the root of all religious persecution.

RETURNING TO THE FOLD

Mrs. Coke, wife of Colonel Coke, Brookhill Hall, Pinxton, Alfreton, Derbyshire, has been received into the Church.

Mr. Herbert Wheeler Marsham, son of the Rev. the Hon. John Marsham, England, has been received into the Church.

The latest addition of titled people to the roll of English Catholics is Lady Holland, who has been received into the Church by the Very Rev. Father Bernard Vaughan, S.J.

One of the latest conversions to Catholicism is that of Mrs. G. P. Bradney, wife of an official of H.M. British East African Protectorate. She was recently received into the Church at Nairobi by the Bishop of that Dependency.

William E. Cramer, the venerable editor of the 'Evening Wisconsin,' of Milwaukee, was baptised the other day by Father Hayden, of the Church of the Gesù in that city. Mr. Cramer is in his 87th year, and had been seriously ill of pneumonia. His wife is a Catholic, and well known for her charities.

The Rev. Dr. Cronin, Vice-Rector of the English College, presented to the Pope a few days ago Mr. J. E. Tattersall, of Birmingham, and Miss Tattersall. Both the visitors are converts, and Miss Tattersall, who had been received into the Church only about a month previously, was in Rome on pilgrimage.

Lady Butt and her daughter, the Princess Margaret Ruspoli, have become Catholics. Lady Butt is the widow of the late Sir Charles Butt, President of the English Probate and Admiralty Division. Sir Charles was a Protestant, but his brother became a convert to Catholicism, and was the late Dr. Butt, the lamented Bishop of Southwark.

Mr. Wilfrid Shebbeare, organist and director of the music at the Cowley Fathers' church at Oxford, was received into the Church by Father Maturin recently. He is a very able musician, and his work at Cowley received exceptional praise from Padre di Santi, S.J. (member of the Papal Commission on Music), when he was in England last autumn. Two of the elder choir boys of the same church were also received into the Church a few weeks ago.

SOUTH AFRICAN AFFAIRS

WHO BENEFITS BY THE WAR

Mr. George Hutchison, who a few years ago was a powerful factor in New Zealand politics (writes the Wellington correspondent of the 'Otago Daily Times') has returned from South Africa to Wellington. In regard to English politics, he said it was quite clear that the general elections would result in a complete alteration of parties. Both Conservatives and Liberals were of that opinion. It was expected in Liberal circles that not only would the present Government majority be swept away, but that the Liberals would return to power with a majority over Conservatives and Home Rulers combined. Mr. Chamberlain's programme was impossible for some time to come. It was making no ground; on the contrary, it was losing ground. Had

there been a dissolution two years ago he would probably have carried the country with his scheme; but that was an opportunity that the Government did not take advantage of, and now their case was hopeless. Mr. Hutchison holds strong views on the Chinese-labor-in-South-Africa question. He said it was a step calculated to ruin altogether British prospects of colonising the place. He believed the Chinese did their work all right. The risk was that they would break out and get beyond control. The mine owners were at last getting afraid of the problem they had raised; but the importation went on, and as the numbers increased the risk increased. The early batches contained the most turbulent members. He believed there was stricter supervision exercised now. There was small prospect of remedy. Even if a Liberal Government got into power in Great Britain, it did not follow that there would be a revocation of the ordinance; and, in any case, the importations were going on, and the mine owners would soon have as many as they needed. It had been alleged that more work for white men would result from the employment of Chinese, but that was a misrepresentation of facts. A few more skilled workers were employed, but for the white artisans and laborers the outlook was bad. The sacrifices that England and the Empire made for South Africa had resulted in the Transvaal being given over to alien financiers and the Chinese. For himself, personally, he had no reason to regret having gone to Johannesburg. There were still fortunes to be made there by those who had capital and some knowledge of mines, but as a residence for British artisans the prospect was anything but favorable. There were hundreds of Australians and New Zealanders unemployed there in the richest city of the world. In this district which was now turning out nearly £2,000,000 in gold every month, there were hundreds literally destitute. The benefit of the whole of this enormous wealth was confined to a few. The Boers were as hostile as ever to the Chinese being kept in the country. The reason why they made no great outcry when the preliminaries were in progress was because their far-seeing leaders saw that the introduction of Chinese would discredit the Administration. Mr. Hutchison saw small prospect of representative Government being granted in the near future. The present nominee system suited 'the houses' admirably, and what they (the mining magnates of the six or seven large companies) were satisfied with had, perforce, to be satisfactory to other people. The new Constitution was a hollow affair altogether, and heads of departments would continue to rule as now.

We take the following interesting particulars regarding the progress of the Government Life Insurance Department from the report for the year ended December 31, 1904, presented to Parliament by the Commissioner:—The number of proposals received during the year was 4,010, for the sum of £851,298, and the number of policies actually completed was 3,227, assuring £694,556, on which the new annual premiums amounted to £23,487, in addition to single premiums for £1631. Twenty-three annuities were also granted during the year, the purchase-money for which amounted to £13,272. The result was a net increase for the year of 1,067 policies for £199,300, against £163,690 in 1903 and £154,470 in 1902, figures which indicate an increasing stability in the business obtained by the Department. The total amount of business now in force is 43,873 policies, assuring £10,259,562 (and £1,091,518 bonuses) at death or maturity, together with immediate and deferred annuities for £44,664; the whole bearing an annual premium income of £312,396. The income of the year was £480,716. The purchase-money received as consideration for annuities, £13,272, shows a large increase on the previous year, when the amount was £8,658. The increase of £10,345 in the renewal premiums is very satisfactory, being greater than for many years past. Claims by death amounted to £140,959, which, though representing a considerable increase on the previous year, is well within the amount provided for in the tables of mortality used by the Department. Claims by maturity amounted to £80,241. The total amount paid since 1870 in respect of death-claims and matured endowments has been £2,792,219. The total assurance, annuity, and endowment funds now stand at £3,665,583....

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