

Catholicism is the foe of human progress. In an evil hour he wrote a book—"Ireland in the New Century." He incorporated this

Mossygrove Old Calumny

into it, and it runs through his pages like the trail of a serpent. The appearance of the book was received with indignation all over Ireland. Its mis-statements and false assumptions were mercilessly dissected. But the crowning work of exposure was that which was done in a series of remarkable articles by Dr. O'Riordan in the Dublin 'Leader.' These have been elaborated and enlarged, and they now form the brilliant volume that is the subject of this brief and too inadequate notice.

As a refutation of Sir Horace Plunkett's musty theory it is absolutely overwhelming—the most crushing thing that, so far as our own knowledge goes, has come from a Catholic pen since the time when Father Lambert 'chewed up' Ingersoll and 'spat him out.' In the course of a lengthy and laudatory review the noted author, Father Sheehan, says of it: 'The refutation is almost too labored and complete. It leaves absolutely no room for reply. Facts and figures, quotations from Protestant writers, admissions from bigoted and partisan historians, are marshalled with such unerring skill and accuracy that there is no room for question or appeal. "Out of thy own mouth I judge thee," says the apologist for his country and creed; and there can be no contesting the fact that the judgment is final. At least Sir Horace Plunkett declines to contravene the vast mass of testimony arrayed against him, although he issues his book again in popular form, and at a popular price.'

The Wide Scope

of Dr. Riordan's work will be best brought home to the reader by the following plan, which we take from the preface (pp. ix-x):

'After having in Chapter II. discussed the charge made against the Catholics in Ireland, of extravagance in church-building, I pass on to 'consider whether the social influence of the Catholic faith is responsible, to the large extent alleged, for their present economic condition, or whether that condition can be fully accounted for by other causes. With that view I first discuss the meaning of human progress; the relation of Catholic teaching to it; then the application of that teaching as illustrated in certain Catholic nations, and the application of other teachings in other countries. I next proceed to account for the exceptional case of Catholic Ireland; and in order to make my position clear I begin by discussing the meaning of what Sir Horace Plunkett calls "Character and Morale." Then through several chapters I discuss the legislative and economic factors which have left the Catholics of Ireland in the condition in which they find themselves to-day. I next pass on to inquire into the relation of the priests to the social, political, and industrial interests of the people, and their influence in each. Having done that, I thought I had established my right, and I think it was my duty, to turn back and ask what the Government, the Landlords, and the Protestant Church got from the country, and what has each done in return for its social and industrial good. In the next place I discuss the charges made against Convents, and their relation to the temporal concerns of the people. Finally, in one long chapter, I review the history of education in Ireland. The object of the chapter is to show how grievously Sir Horace Plunkett misrepresents facts in speaking of the priests' "almost undisputed influence on education." The plain conclusion to be drawn from the statement of facts which I make, is: that the difficulty has been to secure so much influence as would enable them to guard the faith of the people from persistent plans of perversion. The reader will be able to fasten the fault of our educational drawbacks on those who have framed our successive educational schemes and have controlled them.'

Dr. O'Riordan's authorities are, with the exception of a few, non-Catholics; and these he quotes as 'witnesses to matters of fact,' and not for opinions or inferences. His book is

An Armory

packed from cellar to garret with weapons of remorseless treachery for those who, in these countries, have the miserable slanders of soi-disant Catholics ('Irish Times' Catholics' is Dr. O'Riordan's term) like Michael McCarthy slung at them. Among the most enlivening chapters in the book are those in which the author deals with the building of Catholic churches in Ireland, social economics in England and Belgium, the

action of the landlords and governing classes on Irish industry, 'What the Protestant Church has got in Ireland and What it has done in Return,' tolerance and intolerance, nuns as teachers, and 'A Review of Education in Ireland.' I doubt,' says Father Sheehan in his review of the work, 'if in the pages of J. K. L. or Dr. McHale there is such a scathing exposure of landlord rapacity, sectarian partiality, and governmental incompetence than is to be found in this book.' But its true value lies in the fact that it is something more than a crushing and final conclusion to a passing Irish controversy; it deals with many lands and times besides, and it furnishes an enormous and well-digested mass of statistics and historical and other information that sets forth in its true light the beneficent action of the Catholic Church on the social, domestic, and personal life of her children.

Catholic Schools and the Christchurch Exhibition

To the Editor.

Sir,—It is, I submit, greatly to be desired that we Catholics of New Zealand should take steps to have our schools properly represented at the forthcoming Christchurch Exhibition. The Catholic schools' display was admittedly one of the most taking features of the old Dunedin Exhibition, and such a representation as I venture to suggest for the Christchurch Exhibition would, like virtue, be advantageous for many things. It would, for instance, afford us the chance of a lifetime to bring before our fellow-colonists of other creeds, in a tangible and attractive way, the high efficiency and wide scope of the work that is being done in our schools. The children and their teachers are abundantly able, and, I believe, willing, to do their part creditably. May I therefore, through your columns, respectfully bring the matter under the notice of the proper authorities? If the project commends itself to their seasoned judgment, I venture the further hope that such united steps as to them may seem good may be taken at as early a moment as possible to ensure a worthy and representative display.—I am, etc.,

N.Z.N.

DIOCESE OF DUNEDIN

In the Association Football Schools' Five-a-side competition at Montecillo on Saturday, the Christian Brothers' teams won both the senior and junior matches. In the senior match the Christian Brothers' team beat the College by 2 to nil, and in the junior they won by 1 to nil.

The comedies, 'A Slight Mistake,' and 'Ici on Parle Français,' which were staged with much success a fortnight ago by the dramatic class of St. Joseph's Ladies' Club, were reproduced at St. Joseph's Hall on Wednesday evening, when both plays were even more successful than on the previous occasion.

The quarterly meeting of the St. Joseph's branch of the H.A.C.B. Society was held on Tuesday evening, Bro. T. McDermott in the chair. The Rev. Father Coffey, Adm. (chaplain), and a large number of members were present. A considerable amount of routine business was transacted. One member was initiated and five candidates proposed. The receipts for the evening amounted to £118 3s 1d.

The bazaar at Port Chalmers in aid of the Convent school building fund was not brought to a close, as originally intended, on Saturday evening, but was kept open three days longer, terminating on Wednesday evening after a successful run of nine days. Each evening during its continuance an attractive programme of musical items, etc., was presented and much enjoyed by the patrons of the fair. The stallholders and committee worked most energetically to insure success, and we understand that the results on the whole are satisfactory.

The domestic drama, 'My Sweetheart,' is now in active rehearsal, and will be produced in the Princess Theatre on the 27th, 28th, and 29th inst., in aid of the funds of the St. Vincent de Paul Orphanage, South Dunedin. The play will be staged and mounted with great completeness, and as the principal characters will be impersonated by ladies and gentlemen of recognised dramatic ability, the production should be an excellent one, and well worthy of generous patronage, apart altogether from the very deserving nature of the object for which it is given.

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