

ments in this matter. At the close of his Majesty's great tour through Ireland a little while back, when he was accompanied at a respectful distance by as many newspaper correspondents as would be sent out to a big war, the King took the exceptional course of sending a message out to the delighted journalists, saying that he had read most of their special accounts, or at least as many of them as he could, and was greatly pleased with the way in which the work had been done.

There appears also to be in modern times only one occasion on which the Sovereign has publicly used the press for his personal convenience, and this was by King Edward in September of last year, when he thus showed his realisation of the value of the press as the surest and speediest vehicle for the transmission of a message to his people. His Majesty had just been to Doncaster races, where he had been accorded a specially enthusiastic reception, and when he came back to London again he sent the following message to the newspapers: 'The King desires that it should be made known through the press how grateful he was for the splendid reception he received at Doncaster.' This was a small thing in its way, but it marked an epoch.

His Majesty is a Great Newspaper Reader, and even an up-to-date journalist would have difficulty in exhibiting greater knowledge of the salient features not only of the English papers, but of those of the Continent also. He can tell you the names of the daily papers published in all the big towns and cities of the Continent, and in most cases the details of their policy and the names of the editors. When in England he goes through at least one daily paper every morning, often through several, and frequently a Continental journal is submitted to a short scrutiny. He is usually attracted by special articles concerning himself and his doings, and he rarely fails to read the report of any really big political speech which has been delivered the night before.

The King always tries to make certain of never missing seeing anything in the papers which he thinks he ought to see, either about himself or about any of the numerous objects and movements in which he is interested, such as different charities, the visits to him of his foreign friends, and so forth.

It would, however, be plainly difficult for either him or his secretaries to make a sufficiently close examination of the whole of the press every day to ensure this being done with any degree of thoroughness and therefore his Majesty many years ago resorted to the great Press-cutting agencies for assistance. He subscribes to two of them, and they send him in the usual way each day every line of printed matter that has appeared in any paper concerning him, each paragraph or article being pasted upon a separate sheet of paper with the name of the journal from which it was taken and the date of publication.

All these cuttings are glanced through by his secretaries, the less important weeded out, and those which it is considered his Majesty ought to see are duly shown to him. The King keeps many large cutting albums, and whenever he desires to preserve any of these extracts orders are given for them to be pasted up in one of them.

WEDDING BELLS

NOLAN-BLACK.

A very pretty wedding took place in the Church of the Sacred Heart, Allanton, on August 19, when Miss Jennie Black, third daughter of Mr. J. Black, Allanton, was united in the bonds of Matrimony to Mr. Michael Nolan. The Rev. Father Liston celebrated a Nuptial Mass at which a large number of the congregation attended. The bride, who was given away by her father, was attired in a handsome gown of soft cream silk. She wore the customary wreath and veil, and a gold watch and chain, the gift of the bridegroom. The bride's present to the bridegroom was a set of gold studs. The bride was attended by her two sisters, Misses Rosie and Mary Black. The bridegroom's gift to the former was a gold brooch and to the latter a greenstone brooch. Messrs. J. and F. Schumann acted as groomsmen. After the ceremony the wedding party drove to the residence of the bride's father, where the wedding breakfast was laid. The Rev. Father Liston presided, and several toasts were proposed. In the evening a large number of guests were entertained in the Allanton Hall. Mr. and Mrs. Nolan, who were the recipients of a large number of handsome presents, left the following morning for Queenstown, where the honeymoon was to be spent, after which they proceeded to Oamaru, their future home.

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