

Abbot Nullius—in all, a hierarchy consisting of twenty-nine Prelates exercising episcopal jurisdiction. This year's Sydney Council may well exclaim, with that of 1885: 'Such a contrast between the beginning and the close of a century is unexampled in history. Such a blessing of fruitfulness is unparalleled since the early ages of the Apostles.'

Notes

Catholic Young Men

A gratifying proof of the educational value of our Young Men's Literary and Debating Clubs is furnished by the striking success achieved by two of their members against all comers in last week's oratorical contests in Wellington for the Plunket medal. We tender our cordial congratulations to Mr. Fitzgibbon and Mr. Kelly, and commend their example of persevering application, for imitation, to young Catholic manhood all over New Zealand. We commend it in particular to those young men who are inclined to treat their intellect like a boarded-out child, or to feed it upon the mere husks of cheap and nasty romance. We can understand a young man occasionally—as on a journey—swallowing a dose of novel-trash for want of something better—just as the Laplander in a time of scarcity will eat blue clay, or a South Australian aboriginal turns to Nardoo when opossum is scarce and kangaroo at a premium. In a famine even grass is not a bad standby. But there is something amiss with the intellectual appetite when it devours earth and husks for choice, and loathes honest and wholesome food. And there's something amiss with the young man who prefers the bar of a public-house and the street-corner to the opportunities for self-improvement which are offered to him, generally under pleasant conditions, in our Young Men's Literary and Debating Clubs.

A Star of Hope

The later history of the Catholic Church in Brazil holds out a bright ray of hope for the future of the Faith in lodge-ridden and persecuted France. Up to 1889 the Church in Brazil had been chained and fettered to the State. In that year there broke out a short but emphatic revolution. It lasted just two days (November 15 and 16), but things moved so rapidly that the Empire was abolished, and the scholarly Dom Pedro II. and his family were deported to Europe. A Republic was proclaimed. One of its first acts was to rob the Church and deprive it of State support. But it had at least the saving grace (not yet accorded in France) to leave the Church free of State control. The sequel is told in a recent issue of an English contemporary: 'The Catholics met the perils of poverty with courage. Parochial associations were founded, money for every good cause continued to flow in, and now the Church is stronger, religiously and financially, than at any time in the past. She has excellent schools and colleges for higher education; the clergy are better trained and instructed; the religious Orders from Europe have given new life to the Faith; a good Catholic newspaper press is growing; and the public spirit is active and zealous among the Faithful. Only recently, the Parliament tried to introduce divorce into Brazilian legislation, but the Catholics and their deputies raised such an outcry that the Bill was rejected. The Church in Brazil has begun a fresh career, and presents one more proof of the advantage of keeping religion free from the golden chains of servitude to the interests and schemes of tricky politicians. The Faith finds its best support on the Sacraments; they will keep it alive.'

Peace-Compellers

Russia and Japan seem to have pretty nearly bled each other white. Both put a bold face upon their increasing exhaustion and valiantly bluffed to the very last. A sum of £200,000,000 is, for instance, a serious

item for a country like Japan, where the lowness of daily wages gives a high value to the pound sterling. Cultivation, too, was seriously restricted by the death of so many workers and the absence of so many others at the front. And the feeding of the families of the fighting men was becoming a serious charge to the exchequer. The main causes—apart from its long succession of defeats and disasters—which made Russia keen for peace were foretold with remarkable accuracy by M. Bloch, a subject of the Tsar, in his 'Modern Weapons and Modern War,' published some years ago. Among the first he instances the low rates of wages in Russia, the smallness of the savings of the people; 'the disorganisation caused by the destruction of ordinary relation and by the fall of values,' and the increased price of the necessities of life. 'All this,' he adds, 'leads to the conclusion that, nolens volens, Governments will be forced to take on themselves the care of feeding the families of those serving with the army. The result of such an undertaking cannot be foreseen. If we suppose that Governments will be forced to interfere in the regulation of prices, and to support the population, we must ask: Will it be easy after the war to abandon this practice and re-establish the old order? And will not this moment of transition to the normal order of things be characterised by events similar to those which took place in France after the war of 1870-71? The destitute position of the population in time of war may be extremely dangerous to social order if war be prolonged, and, in the opinion of every authoritative military writer, this is more than probable.' Most of these forecasts were verified in the case of Russia.

DIOCESE OF DUNEDIN

The devotion of the Forty Hours' Adoration begins in St. Joseph's Cathedral on Friday morning, September 29, and ends on the following Sunday.

We understand that after paying all expenses there will be a sum of £200 on hand as a result of the recent bazaar held at Port Chalmers in aid of the convent building fund.

The following is the result of the examination in musical knowledge, in connection with Trinity College, London, held at Rosary Convent, Oamaru, on June 10.—Intermediate division, May Simpson, 89 (honors). Junior division, Kathleen O'Donnell 100 (honors), Margaret McAnulty 97 (honors), Cecily Rowland 91 (honors), Pricilla Falconer 81 (honors), Amy Gilligan 75, Imelda Sweeney 75. Preparatory division, Dore O'Leary 96 (honors), Mollie Dore 90 (honors), Annie Lynch 85 (honors), Eily Cartwright 82 (honors), Ahs Molloy 75, Eily Kelly 69, Myrtle Garrard 61.

The following pupils of the Sisters of Mercy, South Dunedin and Mosgiel, were successful at the musical examinations (Trinity College, London) held in June last.—Junior honours, Winifred M. Marlow (97), Margaret Cunningham (81). Junior pass, Irene Carmody (76). Preparatory grade: Agnes Brown (96), Violet Leary (95), (Mosgiel), Katie Walsh (93), (Mosgiel), Katie Robertson (87), Gertrude Carmody (86), Rubina Heward (85) (Mosgiel), Winifred Choque (85) (Mosgiel), Dora Heward (81) (Mosgiel).

We regret to record the death of Mr. Thomas Fox, who had been for many years a resident of Central Otago, and latterly of this city, who passed away on September 17, at the age of 76 years. The remains were taken to St. Joseph's Cathedral on Tuesday morning, when a solemn Requiem Mass for the repose of the soul of the deceased was celebrated by the Rev. Father Cleary, Rev. Father Coffey, Adm. being deacon, and Rev. Father O'Malley sub-deacon. The interment took place in the afternoon in the Southern Cemetery, when the Rev. Father Coffey officiated.—R.I.P.

In Aid of South Dunedin Orphanage

The fourth annual entertainment in aid of St. Vincent de Paul's Orphanage, South Dunedin, promises to be one of the best dramatic performances given in Dunedin for a long time. The musical comedy, 'My Sweetheart,' is a piece which appeals to our better natures,

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