NEW ZEALAND TABLET

CONVENT OF THE SACRED HEART,

THE ANNUAL SPIRITUAL RETREAT FOR LADIES,

THE REVEREND G. KELLY, S.J.,

Will begin on the EVENING of WEDNESDAY, January 17th, and end on Monday Morning, January 22nd.

Ludies who wish to attend should apply as soon as resible to THE REVEREND MOTHER.

A. M. 8S. CC. J. M. G.

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THANKS.

RATHER COFFEY and his Relatives desire to return their most sincere thanks to all those who showed such kindness and sympathy during the long illness and solemn obsequies of the late Very Rev. Dean Foley, S.M.



To promote the cause of Religion and Justice by the ways of Truth and Peace.

LEO. XIII, to the N.Z. TABLET

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28, 1905.

PASSING OF THE YELLOW SERF



VERY political quack has his panacea. And some of them profess a belief in the omnipotence of their nostrums as firm as did Waltho Van Clutterbank in his Balsam of Balsams, two drops of which were warranted to restore knocked-out brains and reseat decapitated heads. Lord Milner was one of the knot of political Van Clutter-

banks who invented and prescribed the Yellow Balsam of Balsams—to wit, Chinese serf-labor—as the Grand

Palladium of South Africa. The German-mine-owners on the Rand wanted to fob more millions. The cheaper the labor the bigger the profits. British workers-for whose comfort the war was once fabled to have been fought-were so fastidious as to wish to live like human beings, as they had lived in the days of Oom Paul. For this impertinence they were left, after the war, to starve like ownerless dogs in the streets of Johannesburg. Even black labor was too dear for the new project of the millionaires. And so 'Chinese cheap labor' was struck upon as a sure means of turning the Transvaal into a money-making paradise for the hard-fisted monopolists who had taken special care not to expose their precious skins within range of the Boer Mausers when the war was dragging its slow length along. And for these selfish capitalists New Zealand sacrificed so many useful lives, the British and Irish taxpayer spent £260,000,000 in good minted gold, without counting the Empire's loss in money, blood, and prestige.

The feeling has long been widespread throughout the Empire that this was too high a price to pay for the privilege of chasing great numbers of white Christian workers out of the Rand and replacing them with pagan bondmen from the slums of Canton and Shanghai—all in the interests of a knot of magnates of the Stock Exchange. This sordid ending of a squalid war has given rise to many a biting political lampoon. Hereunder is one which will bear reprinting at the present juncture. It was used with good effect some eighteen months ago to harrow up the soul and dash the hopes of a Tory candidate for an English constituency:

'There is a happy Rand,
Far, far away;
Where impoverished randlords pay
ONE "bob" a day.
There Chin-Chins toil all day,
And, toiling, sadly say;
"Chinee man likee be
Far, far away."

Once on that golden Rand—
He can't get away;
His not to question why,
But to obey.
Barbed wire surroundeth him,
And police, with faces grim,
Staves in hand, they slowly sing:
"Toil, toil all day."

'There was a happy land
NOT far away;
Britain we called that land,
Not far away.
But if Joey has his way,
And we allow his sway,
PIGTAILS will soon be seen
NOT far away.'

But the passing of the yellow serf is now at hand. Ex-Prime Minister Mr. Balfour saw the shadow cast by coming events when he issued his recent dramatic appeal to the Liberal woodman (Mr. Campbell-Bannerman), to 'spare that tree'-to leave the polyglot plutocrats of the Rand in peaceful possession of their present and prospective slant-eyed chattels. It would (he pleaded) be 'a great and criminal blunder' to stop the importation of indented yellow serfs from the Distant East. But its extinction has been happily decreed. If the Liberal party return to power, pigtails will in course be far, far away from the Rand-deported, and baggage, to the place from which they came. curtain will then be rung down on one of the most discreditable results of the late war. And then, perhaps, the white worker-for whom the millionaires shed such a wealth of mock-turtle tears when the war was brewing-may be afforded as good a chance of making a living in the Transvaal mines as they had under the patriarchal rule of Oom Paul Kruger,