

## Notes

### Greetings

Greetings to all our readers for the New Year! May its every day be to them a spiritual Christmas, and God's angels their Santa Claus!

To our loved young country, too, a greeting! To God's kind keeping we commend it in all the years that are to come.

'Our fathers' God! from out Whose hand  
The centuries fall like grains of sand. . .  
We thank Thee for the era done,  
And trust Thee for the opening one.

'Oh, make Thou us, through centuries long,  
In peace secure, in justice strong;  
Around our gifts of freedom draw  
The safeguards of Thy righteous law;  
And, cast in some diviner mould,  
Let the new cycle shame the old.'

### Penny Postage

The penny post has extended to Egypt and the Sudan. Soon it will circle the Empire round about, with the prospect of becoming in time an international institution. As far back as the last two years of Charles II. the first British penny post was established in London by an upholsterer named Robert Murray. In his 'Social Life in England from the Restoration to the Revolution,' Sydney says (pp. 227-8): 'The post which was inaugurated by Murray was quickly placed under the control of William Docwra, the regulations being that letters which did not exceed a pound in weight, and any sum of money which did not exceed ten pounds in value, should be conveyed at a cost of one penny within the city and suburbs, and of two pence to any distance within a circuit of ten miles.' The fate of this first British penny post is told on p. 229 of the same work: 'The system was loudly denounced by the Protestants as a contrivance, on the part of notorious Papists, to facilitate the communication of their plots of rebellion one to another. The infamous Titus Oates assured the public that he was convinced of the complicity of the Jesuits in the scheme.' The city porters murmured against the innovation, from motives of personal profit. The upshot of the agitation was the haling of Docwra before the Court of King's Bench, which mulcted him in damages and costs, and suppressed the penny post.

### How a Lie Gets Around

From yet another quarter in New Zealand we have received the insane story of the 'walling-in' of the Roubaud family by priests in distant Lourdes! In our last issue we let off some dynamite inside that tale which the anticlerical 'Matin' and 'Petite Republique' originally spun for the marines of Paris. It was, we think, Mark Twain or Max Adeler who, in the story of the petrified man, proved beyond his utmost expectations the splendid gullibility of newspaper men in regard to improbable tales, even when the elements of suspicion are obtrusively presented to their view—insinuated, so to speak, under their very noses. The Roubaud myth is another instructive case in point. It also serves as striking evidence of the truth of the following remarks made by a great American prelate, Dr. John England: 'A person needs no other qualification to write against the Catholic religion than to be so disposed; and the abundance of the spirit becomes manifest in the vehemence of the phraseology. Little attention need be paid to facts; circumstances need not be examined; nor is it always necessary to have regard even to probability itself.' That is just it! It hardly needed the brain of a half-grown chimpanzee to concoct the story of the 'walling-in' and 'isolation' of the Roubaud family by 'the priests' at Lourdes, in the French Pyrenees. And the publication and republication of the crazy invention involved about an equal expenditure of cerebral energy.

## Diocesan News

### ARCHDIOCESE OF WELLINGTON

(From our own correspondent.)

December 22.

I am pleased to report that Mr. B. Doherty, about whose condition grave fears were entertained, is now making rapid progress towards recovery.

The Rev. Father McCarthy, who was recently ordained, is at present assisting the Rev. Father Ainsworth at South Wellington.

The members of St. Patrick's branch of the H.A.C.B. Society have donated £2 2s to Mother Mary Aubert, £1 1s to St. Joseph's Orphanage, and £1 1s to the Mount Magdala Home, to provide Christmas cheer for the inmates.

Messrs. Condon, Sullivan and Reichel have been the recipients each of a gold medal from the members of the city branch of the H.A.C.B. Society—the former for his zeal in promoting the membership of the branch, the two latter for their services in connection with the social side of the society.

The concerts given by the pupils of St. Mary's Convent are always among the treats afforded to lovers of song and music in Wellington, and the one given at the Alexandra Hall on Wednesday evening was certainly no exception. His Grace the Archbishop was present. Misses Evans and Jones commenced the programme with a duet on two pianos, 'Pas des Cymbales,' in which they acquitted themselves admirably. Miss Lilian Irvine sang with exquisite taste Gounod's 'Valse de Romeo et Juliette,' and was compelled to add Scarlatti's charming 'Canzonetta.' Miss Irvine's vocal qualities were heard with good effect in Tosti's 'Good-bye,' and as an encore number 'Summer is here' was given in such a pleasing manner as to earn a further recall. Mrs. Oscar Kember contributed 'Melisande in the wood,' most artistically. Miss Segrief was awarded an encore for 'Happy song,' and responded with 'Day and night.' Miss Van Staveren was similarly greeted for her rendition of 'To the angels.' 'The lark now leaves his watery nest' was capably interpreted by Miss D. Isaacs, and Miss Blow was successful with 'A dream.' Miss Butler's recitations were meritorious efforts. In addition to a pianoforte solo, Miss Evans also played the accompaniments. The choruses and part songs were given by Misses Irvine, Isaacs (2), M. Segrief, McDonald, Sidey, A. Blow, Hannah Stevens, M. Seddon, Van Staveren, McSherry, Kember, H. Von Dadelzen, Mesdames Kember, Dwan, Messrs. Searle, Sinclair, Ward, McMannaway, and Lillcrap.

A prominent feature of Catholic school life is the great respect that the pupils have for their teachers, a feeling that develops in after years into a warm interest and regard for the old school and its associations. This feeling is very characteristic of the relations that exist between the 'old boys' of the Marist Brothers' School and the Brothers who have in hand the direction of that institution. Every year, just before the Brothers leave on their annual retreat, they are entertained by the members of the Catholic Young Men's Club, originally founded by, and now largely composed of, ex-pupils of the school. Thursday evening's gathering was a very pleasant one indeed. The large room of the old school was for the time being transformed and filled with faces young and old assembled to do honor to an Order that is doing so much to place our schools in the forefront. The chair was taken by Mr. A. H. Casey, who had on his right Brother Paul and Mr. J. J. Devine, on his left Mr. Martin Kennedy and Mr. J. McGowan. The first toast honored was that of the 'Pope and King.' 'Our Alma Mater' was proposed by Mr. H. McKeown, who made reference to the great regard that old boys had for the school and its teachers. He wished the Brothers a happy Christmastide and a prosperous and bright New Year. Brother Paul, in a speech delightfully reminiscent of the very first days of Catholic schools in Wellington, suitably acknowledged the kindly sentiments expressed by the proposer. He sincerely thanked his young friends for the warm interest they took in the doings of the school. The toast of the 'Catholic Young Men's Club' was proposed by Mr. J. J. Devine, who founded the first club of this kind in Wellington. He paid a tribute to the good work being done by such an institution, and trusted that the fortunes of the club would increase, and that its members taking the place of the older ones, would help in holding aloft the banner of Catholicism which had been borne so well in the past by those which he might now aptly term 'the old guard.' The toast was acknowledged by Mr. McGowan, who spoke of the remarkable progress made by the club during the year. Mr. Martin Kennedy, in proposing the toast of

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