

The fact that great numbers of these young women are in mind and heart and manners irreproachable, is no justification for exposing them to the unwholesome atmosphere of a public bar. It only goes to show that many persons—those of the gentler sex included—rise through the grace of God and early training, superior to their occupations and surroundings. The elimination of the barmaid, after a fixed and reasonable period, would work no injustice in a country where the field of employment for young women is so wide and varied; and it would remove one grave and well-grounded objection to the traffic in strong drinks. The abolition of one of the real and ingrained curses of the country—the treating habit—is a further consummation devoutly to be desired. It would round off a scheme of drink-reform which every lover of temperance would rejoice to see.

Notes

In the Fatherland

Germany is, of all others, the land of the Verein or association. In the matter of unions for social work, German Catholics furnish an example to their co-religionists all over the world. Among those enumerated recently by a Catholic contemporary there are '1700 confraternities of Our Lady for young people and adults, and they number over 300,000 members who take an active interest in practical charities. There are 1,320 Catholic workers' societies with 230,000 members; they are interested in questions of education and popular instruction, as well as in the formation of beneficial unions, of popular banks and similar institutions. They maintain three special papers, with 90,000 subscribers; they organize committees for the study of social questions which they discuss in frequent conferences and fortnightly meetings; they also train the directors of the Christian syndicates. Finally, there are 1123 "Gesellenvereine" with 182,795 members. The Pope has expressed his wish that the Italian Catholics should follow the example of their German brethren in organizing their social strength.'

Divorce

An American Judge (Judge Gaynor) in a recent charge to a jury (recorded in the New York 'Freeman' of November 18) 'said things' that may give pause to some of the misfit or evil-tempered couples that swarm in such hordes into the divorce mills. Said he:—

'I charge you, gentlemen, that so far as concerns any religious or sacramental or Church bond existing between these people we have nothing whatever to do with it. If these people are bound by any sacrament or any religious or Church bond you and I are not seeking to sever that obligation. When we are through with this case that obligation is left untouched. We do nothing whatever to it. If there is a bond of matrimony between these people which, according to Church law, cannot be severed until death severs it, we leave that bond scrupulously alone.

'They are just as much bound by it after we get through with them as they were before. We do not sever it, we do not break it, and that is something that it seems to me is very generally misunderstood.'

The speaker (says the New York 'Freeman') added that even great prelates who are supposed to know something about marriage and divorce often lead people to understand that they think that the law can dissolve the sacramental or Church tie of marriage. 'We never do,' says Justice Gaynor, 'We do not interfere with it at all. If such a bond exists, we leave it alone. Church and State in this country are absolutely separated. Whatever Church obligations exist the civil law leaves severely alone.' Our New York contemporary approves of this interpretation of the civil

law. It says that 'according to it, the effect of a civil divorce is equivalent to a declaration of the court that the divorced man and woman are immune from civil punishment, from prosecution for bigamy, in case either should consort with another man or woman, and that this consorting will be recognized by the State as a marriage valid enough for all legal purposes.'

ARCHDIOCESE OF WELLINGTON

(From our own correspondent.)

December 30.

Rev. Father T. McCarthy preached his first sermon last Sunday week at St. Anne's, Newtown.

His Grace Archbishop Redwood left here this morning to administer Confirmation at Hunterville.

Rev. Father Cleary, C.S.S.R., is preaching the annual retreat to the Sisters of Mercy at St. Mary's Convent.

Very Rev. Father Lane's picnic and sports at the church grounds, Lower Hutt, were also a most successful and enjoyable gathering.

On Sunday and Christmas Day Rev. Father James Tymons, of St. Patrick's College, celebrated Masses at Mangaweka and Ohingaiti. Father Le Croix celebrated Midnight Mass at Taihape on Christmas Eve.

The many friends of Mr. P. J. O'Regan will be pleased to learn that his sister, Miss O'Regan, who has been in a critical state of health for some weeks, has taken a turn for the better.

The December issue of the 'Catholic Federated Young Men's Societies' Magazine' is a very creditable production, and well up to the standard of previous numbers.

Rev. Father O'Hallohan, of Kumara, is lying dangerously ill. It is only a year ago since he returned from a trip to the Old Country. Rev. Father Walsh, of Lower Hutt, who was for a number of years assistant priest at Kumara, has left for the West Coast to visit him.

Wellington had an unusually large number of visitors for Christmas. Pontifical High Mass was celebrated in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart, his Grace Archbishop Redwood being celebrant, Very Rev. Father Lewis, V.G., assistant priest, Rev. Father Holley deacon, Rev. Father Bartley subdeacon, and Rev. A. McDonald master of ceremonies.

The annual Catholic picnic of the combined parishes of Wellington was held in the Bellvue Gardens, Lower Hutt, on Boxing Day. The weather was delightful, and a record number attended this popular gathering. Among those present were his Grace Archbishop Redwood, the Right Hon. R. J. Seddon, Sir J. G. Ward, and a number of the clergy of Wellington. The sports programme included wrestling, tug-of-war, and various games. Two brass bands added to the enjoyment of the proceedings.

Messrs. E. Fitzgibbon and T. Lawless left here for a holiday trip to the West Coast last Saturday. Both are practical and prominent members of the Catholic Young Men's Club, the former being president of the federal executive, and the latter one of the committee of the local executive. Mr. Fitzgibbon has thoroughly earned a respite as he has of late years applied himself closely to his studies, and hopes next year to pass the final section of his LL.B. examination. He is president of the Newtown Hibernian Society, and is quite an authority on all matters appertaining to the Catholic Club and the Hibernian Societies.

Lower Hutt.

(From an occasional correspondent.)

The picnic and sports held on Father Lane's grounds on Boxing Day were the most enjoyable and successful yet held on the old spot, notwithstanding the fact that there were many counter attractions. During the day a large programme of sports was gone through, the prizes for which were the best yet competed for, and gave every satisfaction. During the afternoon Sir Joseph Ward attended, and was accorded three cheers, and in return called for three cheers for Father Lane. Later in the afternoon the Premier arrived, and briefly addressed those present, after which he was given three hearty cheers. Mr. T. W. McDonald (Mayor of Lower Hutt) and Mr. Rix-Trott (engineer) were also present during the day, as well as an old and esteemed friend and former college companion of Father Lane, the Rev. J. O'Brien, of Warracknabeal, Victoria. In the evening an enjoyable social was held in the Oddfellows' Hall.

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