

## In France

'The prospects of war between Church and State in France are,' says the 'Catholic Times,' 'enlarged by the consciousness among Catholics that the aim of the Government is the gradual extirpation of all ecclesiastical power and influence. They remember that Jules Ferry in 1879 told them to found as many free schools as they liked; the Government would not interfere. They relied upon this understanding, as Catholics here did on the understanding of 1870. But they have lived to see M. Combes close 15,000 of these free schools and turn their religious teachers adrift. They have just seen M. Clemenceau close nearly 1000 more, and send word to prefects to root out such of the religious teachers as may be hidden here and there throughout France. They expect to find the rural clergy forbidden to teach children, and, worse than all, they are daily faced with the fact that the lay teachers are busily engaged in teaching their little children a contempt for religious beliefs and practices. With all these things in their mind they may well wonder whether the time has not come for staking life and limb in defence of their rights and their children's to worship God according to their conscience.'

## DIOCESE OF DUNEDIN

We are informed that the Rev. Father Lynch, C.S.S.R. (formerly of Dunedin), who left Ireland recently, is to be stationed at the Redemptorist Monastery, Wellington.

On Sunday afternoon—the Feast of the Holy Rosary—the children of the parish schools, the pupils of St. Dominic's College, Children of Mary, and members of other confraternities, assembled in St. Joseph's school grounds, and marched in procession with banners, by way of Dowling street, to St. Joseph's Cathedral, where the Rosary was recited.

A solemn Requiem Mass for the repose of the soul of the late Father John Ryan was celebrated in St. Joseph's Cathedral on Tuesday. His Lordship the Bishop presided. The celebrant was Father O'Reilly; deacon, Rev. H. W. Cleary; subdeacon, Rev. W. Corcoran; master of ceremonies, Rev. J. Coffey. There were also present the Rev. Fathers Howard, Hearn, and Geary. The absolutions were given by his Lordship the Bishop, and the music of the Mass, etc., was rendered by the Dominican nuns.

As we were going to press we learned that a large congregation assembled at Milton on Monday, at a Requiem Mass celebrated by Father O'Neill for the repose of the soul of the late Rev. John Ryan, young and old approaching Holy Communion.—The report of the annual examinations of St. Joseph's School, Milton, records not a single failure, whilst in class subjects 'very good' or 'excellent' was the note invariably appended.—Dean Burke, is shortly to lecture to St. Mary's Literary Club, Milton.—A bazaar is to be held early in December in aid of the local convent.

The devotion of the Forty Hours' Adoration commenced at St. Joseph's Cathedral on Friday morning, when Solemn High Mass, at which his Lordship the Bishop presided, was celebrated by the Rev. Father O'Reilly, Rev. Father Coffey, being deacon, and Rev. Father Corcoran subdeacon. His Lordship also presided on Sunday at High Mass, which was celebrated by Rev. Father O'Reilly, Rev. Father Cleary being deacon, and Rev. Father Coffey, subdeacon. The devotion was brought to a close in the evening with a procession of the Blessed Sacrament, in which the school children and confraternities took part, followed by Benediction. During the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament the Cathedral was continuously visited by large numbers, and in addition to the many communicants at the Masses on Friday, large numbers approached the Holy Table at the early Masses on Sunday.

At the last weekly meeting of the members of St. Joseph's Ladies' Club, occasion was taken to present Miss Staunton, president of the club, with a small souvenir of the appreciation in which she is held by the members. The Rev. Father Coffey, in handing Miss Staunton a dagger brooch set in pearls, referred to the interest taken in the club and the members by the recipient, and trusted that Miss Staunton would continue in the future to do such good work for the club as she had in the past. The Rev. Father also handed a set of carvers to Miss Linda Johnston on the occasion of her approaching

marriage, as a small memento of the very pleasant times spent as a member of St. Joseph's Ladies' Club, and carrying with it the members' best wishes to Miss Johnson and her future husband for a happy and prosperous career. Misses Staunton and Johnston replied in suitable terms, thanking the members for their generosity, and wishing the club continued prosperity.

There was a crowded attendance at the Balfour Hall on the evening of September 28 (says the 'Gore Standard'), the occasion being a concert in aid of the funds of the Riversdale Catholic parish. Mr. Martin Shea occupied the chair. A number of Gore visitors were in attendance, amongst whom were a band of minstrels, who added variety to a programme which was bright, lengthy, and entertaining. The 'Star Minstrels,' with music, song, and patter, occupied the first portion of the programme, the following contributing items:—Messrs. J. Walders, J. Neilson, E. Clancey, T. Preece, W. Dawkins, and T. Holland. Miss Holland played the various accompaniments. Each of the gentlemen already mentioned supplied other acceptable items. During the second part of the programme Mrs. Tulloch sang 'When the harvest moon is shining' most acceptably. Miss Dunn was enthusiastically encored for her item, 'Eileen Alannah.' Miss Macpherson's item, 'The valley by the sea,' was also much appreciated. Mr. P. Eadie gave several recitations. Overtures for each part were tastefully rendered by Miss Carmody (piano) and Mr. Carmody (violin). The Rev. Father Keenan, at the termination of the concert, stated that the anticipations of the promoters of the concert had been fully realised. He himself was deeply grateful to those who had assisted in making the entertainment a success. Entertainments of a harmonious nature such as had been given that evening were productive of good fellowship and neighborly feeling. The proceeds of the entertainment amounted to over £20.

The last meeting of the session of St. Joseph's Men's Club was held on Friday evening, the programme being a smoke concert. Rev. Father Coffey, Adm., occupied the chair, and there was a large attendance. Songs were contributed by Messrs. T. J. Hussey, H. and T. Hughes, O. Swanson, A. Queloh, J. Haydon and H. Miles. Mr. J. B. Callan delighted the audience with a humorous recitation, and Mr. Deehan gave a very excellent reading. Mr. F. Heley acted as accompanist. The session just concluded has been extremely successful and the average attendance very high, despite the fact that nine extra meetings had been held. During the year seven debates, two musical evenings, seven meetings set apart for the reading of essays, impromptu speeches, etc., were held, in addition to six lectures, delivered before the club. In matters of a competitive nature the club had been eminently successful, its representatives having defeated their old opponents, St. Patrick's Club, South Dunedin, in the annual debate for the first time for a number of years, and also in the football match. In the Port Chalmers Road Race, which is the most important harrier event of the province, the club's representatives showed up conspicuously, winning two out of the five prizes, by supplying the winner of the event, and the fastest novice. The enthusiasm displayed by the members in every department of the club could not but result in success, especially in the literary branch, the management in a few of the debates finding it necessary, in order that a number of speakers might be heard, to extend the meetings over two nights. The Rev. Father Coffey has taken a keen and active interest in the club, and in Mr. W. Rodgers the club has been fortunate in securing the services of an excellent secretary.

## Invercargill

(From our own correspondent.)

October 5.

On Tuesday evening of last week, the Invercargill Catholic Club held a mock trial by jury. The members of the St. Mary's (Ladies' Club) were present as well as a number of the congregation. The court busied itself in a breach of promise case, which was productive of much amusement. Mr. Scott, of Dunedin, kindly acted as judge, and contributed generously to the evening's amusement. Messrs. M. Gilfedder and Jas. Robertson were counsel for plaintiff and defendant respectively. Others who took part were, Miss Burns, plaintiff; Mr. Morion, defendant; Mr. Ryan, clerk; Mr. McGoldrick, crier; Messrs. Maher, Woods, Matheson, Mulvey, Gallagher, and Miss Hishon, witnesses; Mr. J. Butler, foreman of jury. Preparations are being made by the St. Mary's Club for a social, to be held shortly.