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Previously acknowledged ...	567	3	3
Cromwell Altar Society ...	3	10	0
Mr Michael Moran, Malaghan's, Wakatipu ...	2	2	0
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Mr Bellamy, Alexandra South ...	1	0	0
Mr James Watterson, Oamaru ...	1	0	0
Miss Johanna Carroll, Bald Hill Flat ...	0	5	0
Mr Ted Callaghan, Arthur's Point 10s (previously included) ...			
Total ...	£577	1	3

(To be Continued).

All contributions to be addressed to the Rev. Father Hunt, Cromwell.

EDITOR'S NOTICES.

Send news **WHILE IT IS FRESH**. Stale reports will not be inserted.

Communications should reach this Office **BY TUESDAY MORNING**. Only the briefest paragraphs have a chance of insertion if received by Tuesday night's mails.

ADDRESS matter intended for publication 'Editor, TABLET, Dunedin,' and not by name to any member of the Staff.

ANONYMOUS COMMUNICATIONS are thrown into the waste-paper basket.

Write legibly, **ESPECIALLY NAMES** of persons and places. Reports of **MARRIAGES** and **DEATHS** are not selected or compiled at this Office. To secure insertion they must be verified by our local agent or correspondent, or by the clergyman of the district, or by some subscriber whose handwriting is well known at this office. Such reports must in every case be accompanied by the customary death or marriage announcement, for which a charge of 2s. 6d. is made.

MARRIAGES

UMVERRICHT—LEVEY.—At the Church of the Sacred Heart, Petone, on September 25, by the Rev. Father Maples, Charles Hermann Umverricht, of Palmerston North, to Mary Ann, second daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Levey, of Richmond street, Petone.

BYRNE—JOHNSON.—At St. Joseph's Cathedral on Tuesday, October 9, by the Rev. Father Coffey, assisted by the Rev. Father Hearn, Patrick James Byrne, of Waikouaiti, to Linda, third daughter of Mrs. A. Johnson, 93 Stafford street, Dunedin.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS

WAIRIO.—Your letter and enclosure will be sent to the proper quarter. When reply is forthcoming (as we hope it will be in due course) its substance, and the substance of your correspondent's disclaimer, will appear in the 'Tablet.'

CAVERSHAM.—We have frequently pointed out that volunteers are under no obligation whatever to attend church parades. The regulations expressly state this. Catholic volunteers should on no account attend parades, to any churches but their own.

MESSAGE OF POPE LEO XIII. TO THE N.Z. TABLET.

Pergant Directores et Scriptores New Zealand Tablet, Apostolica Benedictione confortati, Religionis et Justitiæ causam promovere per vias Veritatis et Pacis.
Die 4 Aprilis, 1900.

LEO XIII., P.M.

TRANSLATION.—Fortified by the Apostolic Blessing, let the Directors and Writers of the New Zealand Tablet continue to promote the cause of Religion and Justice by the ways of Truth and Peace.

April 4, 1900.

LEO XIII., Pope.



THURSDAY, OCTOBER 18, 1906.

THOSE TEN THOUSAND 'CONVERTS'



TILDA, in Whiting's slum-story, 'No 5 John St.' 'could stand a falsehood as well as anybody', 'but she didn't like the feller as told it to pretend it was the truth'. That is just what was the matter with some statistics of wholesale 'conversions' from Romanism that were contributed in the merry month of July to the Nelson 'Evening Mail'. They were falsehoods masquerading as truth. They give a point to the three familiar degrees of comparison: 'Lies, thumping lies, and statistics.' They were taken at second-hand from a book by a simple-minded clergyman, the Rev. John A. Bain, who has been the victim of more statistical hallucinations or hoaxes than any man whose work has ever come within our ken—that is, assuming that his book was not itself in a minor way a sample of the grotesque and conscious humor into which the brilliant but erratic Dean Swift used to break out at intervals.

A London paper, in a review of the Rev. Mr. Bain's production, wound up with this sarcastic comment: 'We find it impossible to take either Mr. Bain, or his book, or his facts, or his figures very seriously'. The field of 'book' statistics has, however, been hitherto generally deemed to be more or less sacrosanct and inviolate as regards the quips and pranks of the festive humorist or the simple-minded victim of hallucination or hoax. Hence, sundry good people in Nelson—and, indeed, in many places as well on both sides of the Tasman Sea, found remote and depressing comfort for the triumphal progress of the Catholic Church in Australasia, in the thought that 'Romanism' is declining in lands that are far, far away. In our issue of July 19 we dealt with the Bain 'statistics' in so far as they regarded Austria, Belgium, and the United States. 'The fairy tale from a far-off land' declared that 'whole parishes' in Belgium had passed over during the past few years from 'Romanism' to 'the Gospel', and that 'one Protestant body' in that prosperous Catholic land had received no fewer than ten thousand converts through the great parochial exodus from 'Popery'. It seemed to us passing strange that the Rev. Mr. Bain and his Australian and New Zealand echoes did not take the trouble to explain how it is that (according to the very latest issue of the 'Statesman's Year-Book' the ten thousand 'converts' captured by 'one Protestant body' alone in Belgium still left the total Protestant population of the country, at the close of last year, at only about ten thousand. Where did the old-standing (and almost standstill) ten thousand Pro-

HENRY HUGHES

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INTERNATIONAL PATENT AGENT. (Etab. 1882)
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