

was brought from the mines of Derbyshire, and tin from Cornwall. . . All these wares were, as at Winchester, exposed in stalls and tents in long streets, some named after the various nations that congregated there, and others after the kind of goods on sale. We have here, in those old-time fairs, all the essentials of the international exhibition, together with the rude beginnings of the 'sections' and 'international bays' that form such attractive features of the great exposition that opens in Christchurch to-day.

The old-style international fair, with its tents and booths and regiments of packhorses, is as dead as the tourney and the morris-dance. But its passing was merely the transformation of the ugly caterpillar and the unattractive pupa into the glorious butterfly. The local show and the national exhibition were the two stages by which the great medieval fair was metamorphosed into the splendors of the modern international exhibition. England led the way with the world-exposition; France and the United States have surpassed all others in the extent and magnificence of its setting. The first of the long series was opened in London on May-day, 1851. Fifteen thousand exhibitors exposed their wares; over six million visitors came to see; and this first international exhibition was one of the rare instances in which these colossal undertakings resulted in a direct financial profit. Thereafter, the modern international fair 'cresebat eundo'—it gathered volume and interest as the years went on. Here is a brief table which gives a conspectus of a few principal exhibitions from the point of view of a mere count of heads:—

Year.	Place.	Exhibitors.	Visitors.
1862 ...	South Kensington	28,653	6,211,103
1867 ...	Paris	50,226	10,200,000
1876 ...	Philadelphia	40,000	9,910,966
1878 ...	Paris	80,000	16,032,725
1893 ...	Chicago		27,529,401
1900 ...	Paris	75,531	48,130,301
1904 ...	St. Louis		14,000,000

Our New Zealand International Exhibition pales before the vastness of those crowning triumphs of the world-fair. But bigness and smallness are relative terms. Our Exhibition was originated to suit the means, the number, and the commercial requirements of the people whom it is intended to serve. For a population of under a million souls, tens of thousands of miles away from the world's great throbbing life-centres, it represents a vast and creditable effort. And we have no doubt that the services it will render to our country will be commensurate with the hopes and intentions of its promoters.

Notes

The 'Eagle's' Eye

Some people achieve fame; some just 'happen' into fame; and some have fame thrust upon them. The editor of the Skibbereen 'Eagle' (whose death is recorded in another column) partly achieved fame, partly 'happened' into it, and partly had it thrust upon him. His threat to 'keep our eye upon the Czar of Russia' gave a phrase to the language, added to the gaiety of the nations, and made the Skibbereen 'Eagle' known wherever the English tongue is spoken. The lucky (or unlucky) phrase brought him fame 'enough to fill the ambition of a private man.' But the non-Catholic 'Eagle' editor's best epitaph is, perhaps, this: that he kept fighting the cause of his country when it was neither safe nor profitable to do so.

Dry Rot

'The sin of the century' is emptying the public schools in New South Wales as well as in parts of New Zealand. Says the Sydney 'Freeman':—The report of the Public Instruction Department for last

year, just laid before Parliament, discloses some noticeable features. It shows a falling off of 3526 children in the enrolment, the number of small schools was less by 67 than in 1904, and the cost of the High Schools rose from £4 4s 11d per head in 1904 to £4 11s 8d in 1905. The decline in the attendance is attributed to the diminished birthrate of past years. On the other hand, both the number of the Catholic schools in the Mother State, and the attendance at them, have been steadily advancing. 'Gideon Wurdz, Master of Pholly,' was by no means so 'phoolish' as he pretended, when he gave this definition of 'Family': 'Once a wife and several children, a matter of pride to the possessor. Now obsolete among the careful, or confined to the wife, a bull-pup, and a canary-bird.' Well—ill fares the land; and so on.

A Slanderer Nailed

Even a clerical notoriety-seeker may get more notoriety than he bargains for. We rather think that this is the case with the reverend enthusiast who so grossly outraged sacred truth and public decency in his attacks upon the South Melbourne Catholic Orphanage. His declaration that he was throwing his whole soul into the work reminds us of what Theodore Hook said to a gushing crackbrain who told him that she threw her soul into her singing. 'Madam,' said the candid Hook, 'for my part, I think there is more of the flounder than of the sole about it.' As already sufficiently detailed in our news columns, the calumniator floundered badly in his charges—even going so far as to flatly contradict himself; and one by one and in every detail his envenomed stories have been proved to be without the shadow of justification in fact. It was indeed a deadly exposure, such as should wring the withers of even a notoriety-seeker. The final kick has been given to the calumniator by the report of the Government State School inspector, Assistant Chief Inspector Mr. W. Hamilton (a non-Catholic). At the Archbishop's request, the Government sent their inspector to the Orphanage. 'My visit,' says he in his published report, 'was made without notice.' He found the school well furnished, 'exceedingly well lighted and ventilated,' up-to-date, 'adequately staffed,' and 'the staff judiciously distributed.' 'Although,' said he, 'the pupils have been but five months in their classes, they were examined on the full programme in composition, grammar, and arithmetic.' 'They have,' says the report, 'made good progress during their school life.' And in the matter of proficiency, he does not compare them with other similar institutes for orphaned or neglected children, nor even with State schools in general, but places them on a level with 'a good State school.' Would any State orphanage, either in Australia or New Zealand, we wonder, come with equal credit out of such a test? And thus another piece of Orange-clerical mendacity is reduced to smithereens.

DIOCESE OF DUNEDIN

The Month's Mind for the late Rev. John Ryan takes place in St. Joseph's Cathedral, Dunedin, at nine o'clock on next Tuesday morning.

The large new wing of Holy Cross College, Mosgiel, is fast approaching completion. The plastering is nearly finished, and the fine Wunderlich ceilings well under way, and the whole building already presents a massive and handsome appearance.

The committee entrusted with the arrangements for the Spanish-Colombian Festival, in aid of the Convent of Mercy, South Dunedin, are working very energetically to make the undertaking one of the most successful and attractive ever held in Dunedin. Signor Borzoni, whose reputation as an organiser of spectacular displays is so well known throughout the Australasian Colonies, is now engaged in instructing over 200 performers in various marches, dances, and tableaux, which will be given during the course of the festival. The programme arranged by Signor Borzoni

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