

[A. CARD]

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DUNEDIN.

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A PRIEST in a Country Parish (Canterbury) has Light Employment for an ELDERLY MAN; used to gardening and general outdoor work. A comfortable home and moderate wages to a suitable person; must be in good health, and recommended. Apply

SUPERIORESS, Convent of Mercy, Lyttelton.

CONVENT OF THE SACRED HEART TIMARU.

THE ANNUAL SPIRITUAL RETREAT FOR LADIES

Will begin at 7 p.m. on WEDNESDAY, the 9th day of JANUARY 1907, and will end on the morning of MONDAY, the 14th JANUARY.

The Retreat will be preached by the Rev. Father O'Dwyer, S.J.

CONVENT OF THE SACRED HEART Island Bay, Wellington.

THE ANNUAL SPIRITUAL RETREAT FOR LADIES

Will begin at 7.30 p.m. on MONDAY, the 7th day of JANUARY, 1907, and end on the morning of SATURDAY, 12th of JANUARY.

The Retreat will be preached by the Very Rev. J. Ryan, S.J.

Ladies who wish to attend should apply to the

REVEREND MOTHER SUPERIOR.

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

Pergant Directores et Scriptorum New Zealand Tablet, Apostolica Benedictione confortati, Religionis et Justitiae 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, DECEMBER 13, 1906.

THE CHRIST-HUNTERS



N yesterday, December 12, the Lodge in excelsis entered upon the latest and bitterest phase of its war to the death against Christianity in France. There is, fortunately, no mistaking the object of the aggressive Freemason official atheism that at present rules the French Republic. The Premier, M. Clemenceau, though brought up a Protestant, carries his atheism upon his sleeve. He is (says an English contemporary) 'a militant atheist, and loves to talk of having scaled heaven and dethroned God.' And M. Briand, Minister of Justice and Education, spoke for his colleagues as well as for himself

when, with a collective 'we', he made the following brutally frank declaration of ministerial policy at the recent Congress of Teachers at Amiens:—

'We must get rid of Christianity. . . We have hunted Jesus Christ out of the schools, out of the university, out of the hospitals, the refuges, nay, even out of the gaols and the lunatic asylums. We must now hunt Him out of the Government of France.'

The closing and confiscation of Catholic institutions all over France, of 27,000 schools, the proscription or banishment of 160,000 persons devoted to Christian education and Christian charity is now succeeded by the new campaign of the so-called Law of Separation. It is an effort to substitute a lay for an ecclesiastical government of the Church, and failing this—to confiscate to secular uses every church, seminary, and presbytery in the land. And in addition to this, the Christ-hunters forbid all public worship unless carried out with the knowledge and sanction of the Government and under such restrictions as it may impose. All persons daring without leave to worship God in the temples of their fathers are to be treated as if they were thieves or forgers. The old worship of the Most High God is now a high crime against the Freemason-Radical-Socialist 'machine' that now Tammanian lodge-ridden France. Even so strong a socialist as M. Paul Meunier (deputy for Aube) recently published a protest against the so-called Law of Separation. He said in part:—

'The law of December 11, 1905, is not a law of separation between the churches and the State. It is a law that has the outrageous pretension to reorganise the churches in France. It is a civil constitution of the clergy. It is a bad law.'

'The Pope is justified. He will not have the associations for public worship. That is his business. He is the absolute Head of the Catholic Church. He organises his Church as he thinks fit. That is none of our business, and I do not approve of the French legislator substituting himself for the Pope and the Bishops for the organisation and government of the Catholic Church in France.'

And even so strongly anticlerical an organ as the Paris 'Temps' recently pleaded for 'liberty of conscience'; it condemned as 'anti-republican' the attempt to 'impose upon the Catholic religion a mode of government that is foreign to its principles'; and it pleaded for Christians in France the same consideration that is extended to Mahomedans in Algeria—even though the Mussulman's 'Mecca' is in Arabia, and the Khalif, Mahomet's successor, reigns in Constantinople. Events will move at a pretty rapid pace in France during the next few months; and the proceedings of the Christ-hunters will be watched with interest by the civilised world. As to the ultimate result of this atheistic persecution, we have no fear.

Notes

The Irish Delegates

The greatest enthusiasm has been aroused by Mr. Devlin at all the meetings addressed by him thus far in New Zealand. His magnificent oratorical gifts have captured and captivated his audiences everywhere, and the success of the delegates' mission to New Zealand is already assured. We learn from Mr. Devlin that he and his colleague, Mr. Donovan (who is to arrive about Christmas) will remain in New Zealand till the second of February. This extension of time from the previously fixed date of departure—January 11—will enable them to speak in many centres in the Colony that, under the previous arrangements, they could not have visited.

Is this a Record?

Our readers have long been familiar with the success generally achieved by Catholic schools in the world of inter-school athletics in New Zealand. But (subject to correction) we fancy that the pupils of the Christian

HENRY HUGHES

Information & Pamphlet free on application.

INTERNATIONAL PATENT AGENT. (Estab. 1882)
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