

—but leaves them with flabby muscles and folded arms, incapable of action. Phelps will have it that Don't Care came to a good end—at any rate,' says he, 'it came to some end.' The movement to capture the public schools for sectarian purposes came to the end that it deserved. And few there be that shed a tear or placed a wreath upon its grave. For, the normally constituted man would rather sit idly watching the rye-grass grow than be a party to an agitation that for a generation limited itself to words, words, words, and never allowed its energy to follow the normal path of discharge. Catholics are 'not in this matter stricken with a moral calamity, and the year that is passing 'afay in the ewigkeit' has been singularly fruitful in effort and sacrifice for the little ones of Christ's flock on this far-out rim of the world.

The American Continent has supplied us with the chief sensations of the year—earthquakes that take rank among the great ones of history, and the crying scandals that focussed the eyes of the world for a brief and shuddering period upon the methods of the meat-packing trusts of Chicago. For Catholics, the most noted and melancholy feature of the year's brief history in Australia has been the injection of a spirit of vehement no-Popery fanaticism into the political life of some of the States of the Commonwealth. The effort to drive Catholics and tolerant Protestants out of public life has, however, happily failed, and the dream of anti-Catholic ascendancy remains—and, we trust, will ever remain—the dream of the babbling child that wanted the moon to play with and the stars to run away with. In Great Britain the long and bitter onslaught on Christian education has, for the time at least, failed; and a measure of self-government promises an early ending of the long misrule that sends the population fleeing from Ireland to this hour as from a blighted and pestilence-stricken land. In France the Lodge has, in this closing month of the year, placed the Church with her back to the wall to fight for her corporate existence in that unhappy country. The war against Christianity is being conducted there by a ring of aggressive atheists. As coarse and fierce and intolerant as the Tudors, they have as little knowledge of the 'liberty' and 'equality' of which they mouth in the tribune and on the platform, as they have of the fourth dimension. The poet says that

'The man of abject soul in vain
Shall walk the Marathonian plain;
Or thrid the shadowy gloom
That still invests the guardian pass
Where stood, sublime, Leonidas,
Devoted to the tomb.'

To the small-souled rulers of the Third Republic the noble devotion and self-sacrifice of tens of thousands of 'unsalaried religious to the children and the sick and suffering poor made no more appeal than would the plain of Marathon to the pimple-headed globe-trotter. On the contrary, such devotion was made a form of high treason to a Republic that it is now proposed to make, like its intolerant rulers, atheistic root and branch. 'We must,' said Minister Bland at Amiens, 'get rid of Christianity.' But

'God fulfils Himself in many ways.'

One of these is the Way of the Cross. The Church in France is treading it with bleeding feet to-day. If all things ended

'Here upon this bank and shoal of time,'

she might compromise on faith or principle with her crucifiers. But she has chosen the only possible course, open to her and faced the sacrifice. We await the issue with confidence that with her, as with her Master and Exemplar, the Way of the Cross will be the way to the victor's crown.

Notes

Mr. Devlin, M.P.

Human feelings, like the electric current, commonly give, but a poor response to movements at the other end of the earth. But the orator's voice is a mighty power. And the soft magic of Mr. Devlin's eloquence has, all along the track of his triumphal progress through New Zealand, captured for Home Rule the sympathy even of the indifferent or the critical or the hostile that have come within the sound of his voice. The newspaper press has treated him with conspicuous generosity in the matter of space, and among them sympathy is general, and frequently very pronounced, in favor of the cause which he advocates with such compelling eloquence and argument. The 'Southland Times' (Invercargill), though not definitely committing itself to Mr. Devlin's Home Rule proposals, wrote very sympathetically on the misgovernment of the Isle of the West. And editorial articles in favor of Home Rule have appeared, among other papers, in the Dunedin 'Evening Star' and the 'Lyttelton Times' (both of which were very pronounced), the 'Otago Daily Times,' the 'Witness,' the 'Temuka Leader,' and the Timaru 'Herald.' The moral force of such pronouncements is not easily over-estimated. It may safely be taken as an indication that the great bulk of the population of New Zealand are desirous of extending to the one distressed, discontented, and decaying part of the Empire those principles of self-rule which have produced such beneficial results in these young and prosperous lands.

DIOCESE OF DUNEDIN

Masses were celebrated on Christmas Day at St. Joseph's Cathedral at 6, 7, 8, and 9 o'clock, and Pontifical High Mass, at 11 o'clock.

A large number of members of the H.A.C.B. Society in reg. approached the Holy Table at the nine o'clock Mass at St. Joseph's Cathedral on Sunday. The Rev. Father Coffey, Adm., congratulated the members of the Society on the practical exhibition of their faith, and spoke in very complimentary terms regarding the good work which the Society was doing.

Mr. Devlin in Wellington

Mr. Joseph Devlin, M.P., addressed a crowded and enthusiastic meeting in the Town Hall, Wellington, on Friday evening. The Hon. T. W. Hislop, Mayor of Wellington, presided. Resolutions in support of the cause of self-government for Ireland were carried by acclamation. A feature of the proceedings was the eloquent speech of the Premier, Sir Joseph Ward, who expressed his appreciation of the splendid work done by Mr. Devlin. We had made arrangements with our Wellington correspondent to wire a full report of the meeting, but owing to departmental regulations regarding the sending of press messages on evenings of Saturday and Sunday to weekly papers, he was unable to comply with our request. We shall publish a full report of the meeting in our next issue.

As we were going to press we received a letter from our Wellington correspondent in which he states that Mr. Devlin arrived there on Thursday morning, and was received by Mr. Martin Kennedy and other members of the reception committee. While in Wellington he was to be the guest of Mr. Kennedy. After his meeting on Friday night he is not to speak again until January 8, when he will address a meeting at New Plymouth, visiting Hawera on January 9, Wanganui January 10, and Palmerston January 11.

A notice with reference to the train arrangements for the New Year's holidays appears in this issue....

The Commissioner of Crown Lands notifies that fourteen homes at Windle, Borough of Mornington, will be open for lease with right to acquire the freehold on Monday, January 21, and following day at the District Lands Office, Dunedin....

J. TAIT, Monumental Sculptor,

273 Cashel Street West, CHRISTCHURCH.

Just over Bridge
and opposite
Drill Shed.

Manufacturer and Importer of Every Description
of Headstones, Cross Monuments, etc., in Granite,
Marble, and other stones.