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New Publications

The A.C.T.S.—The latest batch of the publications of the Australian Catholic Truth Society (nos. 37 and 38) easily maintain the high standard of their predecessors. 'The Lost Child' is a touching and beautiful story, which has been well translated from the German. The Society and the Catholic reading public have been alike fortunate in the publication of the able and at times highly eloquent lectures of the Rev. Father O'Dwyer, S.J. The first of these is entitled, 'Religion and Human Liberty; Or, The Bible the Charter of Men's Rights'. It traces with a masterly touch the great moral revolution wrought in old paganism by Christianity, and disposes of the pretensions of rival claimants to the credit of the transformation. (Pp. 32, 1d each. A.C.T.S., St. Francis' Lodge, Melbourne, and of all Catholic booksellers).

We have before us two recent publications of the Rev. Father Hull, S.J., the brilliant and scholarly editor of the 'Examiner', Bombay. One of these is on Freemasonry. It deals with principles chiefly in the concise and luminous way that makes Father Hull's articles and pamphlets a joy for ever, and, for its compass, is easily the best thing on Freemasonry that we have yet come across. ('Examiner' Office, Bombay, India).—Another important brochure, of 100 pages, by the same author figures among the latest publications of the Catholic Truth Society (69 Southwark Bridge Road, London, S.E., 6d net). It is entitled 'Fortifying the Layman'. The able little work went with a rush into its second edition. It is an eminently thoughtful and practical effort to find a means for fortifying the layman against the influences that tend to undermine his faith in our day. We can do no better service to priest and layman than to recommend them warmly to 'take and read Father Hull's book.'

A pleasing tribute to the memory of a great Catholic statesman, Sir John S. D. Thompson, late Prime Minister of Canada, has appeared in the shape of a reprint of the noble funeral oration that was preached over his remains by the late Archbishop O'Brien in St. Mary's Cathedral, Halifax, on January 3, 1895. The neat little brochure is published by E. P. Meagher, Halifax, Canada. It is prefaced by Sir Lewis Morris's fine elegy to the memory of the deceased statesman, and an appendix contains the tributes paid to his memory by Sir Wilfrid Laurier and others 'in the Dominion Parliament in 1895. We join in the hope of the eloquent panegyrist that Canada may be the fruitful mother of many such sons as the late Right Honorable Sir John Thompson'.

Seumas MacManus gives us in 'Nabby Harren's Matchmaking', the latest of his series of sevenpenny Plays, a merry match-making comedy, in three acts, brought out by his usual publisher, D. O'Molloy, Mt. Charles, County Donegal. This play is a good sequel to the same author's 'Diunny O'Dowd' and 'Lad from Largymore'. While perhaps it is as droll as these last mentioned, it has more 'body' to it. It, naturally, does not aim at the pathos and the realism of his anti-emigration play, 'The Hard-hearted Man', nor of his newer and very successful 'Orange and Green', but it has a highly dramatic and laughter-moving climax.

From Louis Gille and Co. (73-75 Liverpool Street, Sydney) we have received a copy of a work that has met with a very cordial reception from the press in the Home countries. We refer to 'The Church and Kindness to Animals' (cloth, 200 pp. 8vo.; illustrated with full-page reproductions of famous paintings. 3s 6d). The book is faultless in type, paper, binding, etc., and is an interesting and timely treatment of an interesting theme. The attitude of the Church in regard to bull-fighting is set forth in a translation of the legisla-

tion of Pope St. Pius V. against 'the baiting of bulls and other beasts'. This is followed by the pastorals, etc., of the Bishops of Nîmes, Uzès, and Alais against bull-fights. Then follows a lengthy anthology of quaint animal stories and legends from the lives of the saints. The volume concludes with the testimony of 'a cloud of modern witnesses' (chiefly members of Zoophilic Societies) in regard to the work of the Church in discouraging cruelty to animals. We cordially recommend this work to Catholic households and parochial, school, convent, and college libraries.

In 'A Holiday Canter Round the Globe', Mr. R. Chisholm (Dunedin) gives us a chatty and interesting book of travel embracing Australia, Ceylon, Suez, Italy, France, England, Scotland, Canada, the United States, and the Hawaiian Islands. The book is packed with interesting travel-facts and with the views and comments of a keen, observant, and successful man of business. It is well printed and illustrated. (New Zealand Bible and Tract Society, Princes Street, Dunedin, 190 pp.).

Marie Narelle

Miss Marie Narelle opens her Dunedin season of three nights at His Majesty's Theatre on January 14, and a reception is to be tendered to her by our leading citizens and musicians.

An excerpt from 'The Bulletin' re her singing of the songs of Erin:—'Miss Narelle, in Irish ballads of pathos, has so piercing a sweetness and so deep-seated an appreciation of the sentiments she enunciates in song, that in the really sympathetic listener she causes mental disturbance. Many of her audience were in tears, and tears are sometimes more subtle flattery than praises. Whether warbling with expressive fidelity to the mood, a humorous love song of an Irish Boreen, or summoning with fiery ardor the forces of Tryconnet to the fury of the fray as in "O'Donnell Aboue," Miss Narelle expresses the soul and spirit of her song. Her four years' absence has ripened, so to speak, the rich vocal qualities of her soprano voice, which she uses with all the art and effectiveness of the experienced artiste. As a singer of the ballads beloved of the Celt, she has no compeer, and in this respect she received from her own folk in Sydney a splendid endorsement of the verdict already accorded her in other lands. Her reception by the large audience that filled the spacious hall was a triumph. It was for this time of triumph she had left home and country to face the trials of strange environment in search of recognition. For some time she was kept hovering her acknowledgments as the waves of applause surged through the hall. It was a reception well worth the journey round the world to experience. Miss Narelle could not fail to realise that Sydney's heart held a warm corner for her.'

A grass fire in the riverbed set fire to the long traffic bridge over the Rangitara River, seven miles above the railway bridge, and the superstructure is to a great extent destroyed. The Geraldine Fire Brigade put out the fire at the south end, but could not get to the north end, and Ashburton was requested to send its brigade. The damage is estimated at £7000.

We ('Thames Star') are always pleased to chronicle the success of a Thames pupil, and the splendid work of Miss Nellie Montague (eldest daughter of Mr. P. Montague, Pollen street) at St. Mary's Convent High School, Ponsby, not only reflects the highest credit upon her application to study, but is a tribute to the efficiency of the instruction of the Sisters. In the musical examination Miss Montague secured honors under the Trinity College of London examinations, and received the handsome gold medal and chain presented by Mr. A. Myers, Mayor of Auckland. Miss Montague passed with conspicuous credit and her record is one of which she might well be proud. In painting and wood-carving also splendid work was done; in the latter especially Miss Montague has proved herself to be an apt and clever pupil.

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