

The Catholic Newspaper

In his Lenten Pastoral Letter, his Lordship, the Bishop of Goulburn (Dr. Gallagher), pays a tribute to the work of the Catholic newspaper. He says:—

'The Catholic press and the Catholic newspapers may also be regarded by a pastor as a helpful aid in the Catholic teaching of his people. Although widely divergent in the view they may take as to the best methods of promoting Catholic and religious interests, although perhaps profoundly at variance from time to time with one's own personal way of thinking, they are all sincerely Catholic, loyal to Catholic principles, anxious to defend and to illustrate, by methods which then and there seem best, our holy Catholic faith, to uphold the cause of Catholic education, to promote through religion all the best interests of the country. When the heart is sound, and intention good, and purpose earnest and sincere, great freedom—ample room for discussion inside the domain of faith and morals—should be allowed. The old Catholic axiom, 'In necessariis unitas, in dubiis libertas, in omnibus caritas,' as it has been, so may it long continue to be, the golden rule for both conductors and readers of the Catholic press in Australia. But in abundance and quality as well as in originality and variety of matter; in literary style; in respect for persons, no matter how severely opinions may be dealt with, our Catholic newspapers (not merely of our own State, but of the whole Commonwealth) compare favorably with similar papers in any part of the English-speaking world, and can be of great service to the clergy in advocating Catholic principles, in defending the rights of Catholics, in diffusing sound Catholic literature, and, indirectly at least, seconding their efforts in the most difficult of all their works—that of teaching Christian doctrine to their children. No Catholic family, even in the remotest corner of the bush, should be without some one or other of our well-written and well-conducted Catholic papers. Speaking for ourselves as we journey on our tours of visitation through the diocese, we feel that something is wanting, that there is a loneliness and void, that we are not altogether at home, no matter how kind and Catholic in every other respect the home may be, if we cannot have a read of the Catholic paper of a Saturday afternoon when the labors of the day are done. The Catholic press has an apostolate especially in Australia. Let us help it—by every means in our power, by encouragement, by patronage, by contributing original matter—to do well the duties of that Apostolate—to correct error, to spread truth, to illustrate the beneficent influence of learning, for lessening the ills that life is heir to, for the elevation of the masses, for the safeguarding of well-balanced freedom, for the instruction, enlightenment, and salvation of mankind.'

Messrs. Mollison, Ltd., George street, Dunedin, notify that a special show of new autumn millinery will be made in their millinery show room on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday of this week, and following days....

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The Phonograph as a Witness

The solemnity of law is enlivened occasionally by some unexpected demonstration in court.

Professionally, Dr. Digges and Dr. Dunton were rivals; personally, they were the best of friends, until Dr. Dunton acquired a large-voiced Newfoundland dog, which had the habit of singing to the moon. Dr. Dunton was fond of the dog, and Dr. Digges was not. Swiftly a chasm widened between them, into which fell the neighboring families—for the two doctors dwelt beside each other. At last the offended Digges hailed Dunton and his dog into court on a charge of maintaining and being a nuisance, and two legal brothers undertook to thresh the matter out before the court. The result is told by a Boston journal.

'How much noise does the dog make?' was the incessant question each asked of the witnesses.

'As much as a steam whistle,' said the witnesses for the complainant.

'No more than a singing canary,' asserted those for the defendant.

'He would wake the dead,' said one.

'He wouldn't disturb a sleeping baby,' said the other. The amount of noise seemed to depend upon one's nearness to the dog, ability to sleep through a Fourth of July celebration, and friendliness to one or the other of the doctors.

On the second day of the hearing, however, the lawyer for Dr. Digges came into court bearing a bulky burden, which he deposited upon a table, and, unwrapping, disclosed a phonograph and an enormous megaphone.

'May it please the court,' he said, 'I have here the voice of the dog in question. To settle the dispute as to the quality of his tone, I have caught and fixed it upon a cylinder which will now reproduce it for the pleasure of the court.'

'I object!' shouted the lawyer for the defence. 'May it please your honor, there is nothing to show that this machine is not adapted for magnifying many-fold the voice which it contains. In short, this may well be a trick to deceive the jury into rendering a verdict adverse to my client.'

Long and excitedly the two lawyers argued the point, and at last the judge ruled out the evidence. The lawyer who had brought it, and who had, during the argument, attached the big megaphone to the machine, called a porter and handed them to him. The porter started away with the burden, but as he did so the hand of the lawyer 'inadvertently' touched a spring. Instantly the cylinder began to whirr, and before the porter could get away or the bailiff could interfere the voice of the dog came forth—pleadingly, waxing louder, dying away, now legato, now staccato, now low and mournful, now coming in short, decisive yelps. The bailiff flew across the room to stop the turmoil, but just as the porter reached the door the voice of the defendant, Dr. Dunton himself, came out of the megaphone, vainly mingling with the howl of the dog:

'There, there, Rover; that's a good dog. Keep still now, Rover; there's a nice dog.'

'I submit my case without argument,' said the attorney for the complainant when the porter had gone and the jury found for him.

The attention of our readers is drawn to the great sale at the City Boot Palace, George street, Dunedin. A glance at the list of prices in our advertising columns will show that some extraordinary bargains are being offered....

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