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EDITOR'S NOTICES.

Send news **WHILE IT IS FRESH.** Stale reports will not be inserted.

Communications should reach this Office **BY TUESDAY MORNING.** Only the briefest paragraphs have a chance of insertion if received by Tuesday night's mails.

ADDRESS matter intended for publication 'Editor, TABLET, Dunedin,' and not by name to any member of the Staff.

ANONYMOUS COMMUNICATIONS are thrown into the waste-paper basket.

Write legibly, **ESPECIALLY NAMES** of persons and place. Reports of **MARRIAGES** and **DEATHS** are not selected or compiled at this Office. To secure insertion they must be verified by our local agent or correspondent, or by the clergyman of the district, or by some subscriber whose handwriting is well known at this office. Such reports must in every case be accompanied by the customary death or marriage announcement, for which a charge of 2s. 6d. is made.

DEATHS

DEVANE.—Lately deceased at Milehigh, near Tralee. Recommended to the charitable prayers of the faithful.

—Inserted by her son Denis.

WILLIAMS.—At Cromwell, on February 16, 1907, fortified by the rites of the Holy Church, Sarah, relict of the late William Williams, in her 74th year. Native of County Clare, Ireland.

O, Immaculate Heart of Mary, thy prayers we extol,
O, Sacred Heart of Jesus, have mercy on her soul.
'Tis a long, 'tis a last, 'tis a beautiful rest,
When all sorrow has passed from the brow and the breast;

And the lone spirit truly and wisely may crave
The sleep that is dreamless—the sleep of the grave.

—Inserted by her sorrowing children.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS

P.M.T.—Crowded out of this issue.

J.J.C.—Letter unsuitable. Would have to be rewritten before being printed.

'The publication of an advertisement in a Catholic paper shows that the advertiser not only desires the patronage of Catholics; but pays them the compliment of seeking it through the medium of their own religious journal.' So says an esteemed and wide-awake American contemporary. A word to the wise is sufficient....

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

Pergant Directores et Scriptores New Zealand Tablet, Apostolica Benedictione confortati, Religionis et Justitiæ 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, MARCH 7, 1907.

THE FRENCH PERSECUTION



A ROCHEFOUCAULD was not the only gilded pagan who found something not entirely disagreeable in the adversities of his neighbors. There are those who would set a house afire to roast their apples, and who would fiddle like Nero on seeing their neighbor's roof-tree vanishing in flame and smoke. But they are the abnormalities, we ween—the elements that remind us how hard-frozen and unfeeling our social life would be were it not for that sweetest virtue of 'the blessed three', the Christian charity that is patient, is kind, envieth not, dealeth not—perversely, beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. One naturally expects something better than a palpable misrepresentation or a cheap sneer from a minister of the Gospel of truth and brotherly love in dealing with so grave a theme as the struggle that is now proceeding between atheism and Christianity in France. Yet at last week's Methodist Conference in Christchurch the retiring president—in a speech that roamed from China to Peru, from last year's earthquakes to this year's 'new theology'—permitted himself to rejoice with a great joy over the trials of the Faith in France. In a few sentences he separated the gentle atheist sheep from the wicked 'Romanist' goats. On the former he bestowed his puissant benison; on the latter his heavy anathema maranatha. His judgment was sweeping and summary. It was also superbly independent of a vast mass of facts vital to the situation; and the horizon of his vision was limited to a formula equivalent to that which is set forth as follows by our gifted contemporary, the New York 'Freeman':—

'The French Government is fighting the Catholic Church; therefore, it is in the right. The Church opposes certain recently enacted laws; therefore the Church is wrong. The question whether the laws are just or unjust, right or wrong, does not seem, from what he says, to have entered his head at all. It is enough for him that they are State laws, and that they are antagonistic to the Church.'

The ex-president's judgment was not endorsed by the Conference. His jubilation over the feats of the little tin gods of the Radical-Socialist 'bloc' or 'machine' was passed over in stony silence; and so it remains the mere expression of the personal opinion of one whose ideas of 'Romanism' are gathered in the well-tyled lodge from wearers of the saffron sash.

This latest apologist of French atheism in excelsis pleads textually or in effect that his friends of the 'bloc' are actuated by no hostility to religion; that

HENRY HUGHES

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