

THE CHURCH IN NEW ZEALAND

MEMOIRS OF THE EARLY DAYS

(Contributed.)

(Continued from last week.)

CANTERBURY.

III.

Recollections of Mr P. Henley.

When those of whom I am writing first arrived in Canterbury there was no employment. Most of them had to live in barracks at Government expense until prospects brightened, working three days a week for rations. Some of the prices for necessaries even were almost prohibitive. Flour, for instance, cost 27s 6d per 100lb; merino mutton, 9d per lb; tea, 5s per lb; sugar (of a class not used in these days), 9d per lb; butter, 3s per lb. I will let Mr P. Henley, one of our pioneers, tell his own story:—"There arrived on Tuesday, August 22, 1860, in Lyttelton harbour, the ship "William Millar," from the United Kingdom, and amongst the passengers were forty-four Catholics, these being the first, in any considerable body, to reach the shores of Canterbury. Included in the number were names associated ever since with the settlement of the province, and identified with the Church's progress. Among the married portion of the emigrant passengers were Mr and Mrs P. Henley, P. Mahar, P. Martin, P. Gill, P. Gallagher, Andrew Stevens, Frank Hardy, Michael Doyle, Hugh Cassin, Luke Martin, John Whelan, with families of children ranging in age up to twelve years. The single women were Misses M. Byron, Annie Dillon, Nora Lawlor, and Cones (2), and the single men J. M'Connell, W. Hines, J. M'Guire, and J. and M. Lawlor.

The passengers disembarked on the day following arrival, and for a few days after were compelled, owing to bad weather, to remain at the port. On Saturday, August 26, the weather cleared sufficiently for some of the new arrivals to take a walk in the open air. One of the first sights met with was a funeral procession, consisting of the Rev. Father Chataigner and four men carrying a coffin to the burial ground. We subsequently met the pioneer-priest, and in the course of conversation I was asked by him if we belonged to the place. I gave him the particulars of our landing only four days previously. Further questioning on his part elicited the number of Catholics our vessel had brought, our destination, and other interesting details. With a hearty hand-shake he expressed great delight at the news, and informed us that we would be his future parishioners, adding that he had intended going to Christchurch that afternoon, but owing to so many Catholics being at port, and as the following day was Sunday, he would stay overnight at Lyttelton and in the morning celebrate Mass at the house of a Mr Carroll. So overjoyed were we at the prospect, and so cheered at the presence of a priest at our destination, that we forgot to assure ourselves of the whereabouts of Mr Carroll's residence.

I went out next morning rather earlier than my companions in quest of the much-desired information. After a time a man was seen to approach from the beach, and on arriving at the door of a certain house he removed his hat, his action showing that here was the place we were looking for. Soon there was seen approaching the entire party, numbering forty-three persons, the largest number of Catholics going in a body to Mass probably ever seen at Port Lyttelton.

The Resident Catholics at Lyttelton

prior to our arrival numbered only five—three women and two men. From this it will be seen that the first Mass celebrated in Canterbury in the presence of a Catholic congregation was that of Sunday, August 27, 1860, by Father Chataigner. He was immediately appointed parish priest of Lyttelton and Christchurch, and may indeed be said to be the first parish priest of Canterbury, although Father Seon had been labouring amongst the Maoris of this province and of Otago for a period of ten years prior to that.

On August 29 our immigrant party came on to Christchurch by the small steamer "Lyttelton," landing at the steam wharf at Heathcote, and later arrived at the barracks, then situated between where the Rink Stables now stand and the river Avon. The party were met by the Rev. Father Chataigner, who welcomed them warmly and gave kindly encouragement.

The priest's residence then was a two-roomed cottage, situated in Tuam street west, immediately at the rear of the Royal Hotel, a busy part of the town in after years, and the starting-place for the coaches to the West Coast. The cottage was owned by Mrs Thompson, a Catholic lady, who was also the proprietor of the hotel. Father Chataigner offered up the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass for the first time in Christchurch in a room of the Royal Hotel, kindly prepared for the occasion, on September 3, 1860, the congregation consisting of our party and a few resident Catholics. At Mass we were all invited to attend at the priest's house to hear some good news. All went, and the "good news" imparted to us was to the effect that the Provincial Government had given notice that unless the section in Barbadoes street, granted to the Catholics by the Government, was immediately occupied by having a building erected the penalty would be forfeiture. Adjoining this section two additional acres had been added by purchase by the Rev. Father O'Reilly and another priest from Nelson (whose name I do not remember). This is where the Marist Brothers' residence and boys' school now stand. Legal delays were the cause of the property not being utilised sooner.

An immediate arrangement was now, however, entered into with a Mr Coxhead, a builder, to at once erect the first part of a projected structure to be used as a church, the dimensions being 24ft x 18ft. It was to be erected within the Government limit of time, and at a cost of £75. The framework was cut out in the builder's yard, carted to the site by Mr John O'Neil, and on September 7, 1860, the foundation was well and truly laid in the presence of five persons—two Catholics, Father Chataigner and Mr P. Henley (who levelled the ground), and three non-Catholics (the builder and his two men). The building was completed on September 28, but much was still to be done in the vicinity in preparation for the opening on the Sunday following. The approaches were in a bad state, and again Mr Henley's good offices were enlisted. Procuring broken pipes, bricks, etc., from the pottery works near at hand, he eventually got a fairly dry and clean pathway laid. An altar was also improvised by Mr Henley. It might be here mentioned that Mr Henley stood by the infant church in Canterbury, and has ever since been one of its most generous benefactors.

Rosary Sunday,

October 18, 1860, was the date of opening the first Catholic church in Canterbury. The part completed and opened formed the centre of the building, according to the design. The wings were added towards the end of the year and beginning of the next, forming living rooms for the clergy.

(To be continued.)

A MAGNIFICENT MEDICINE FOR WOMEN.

Dr. ENSOR'S TAMER JUICE is a cure for most of women's painful ailments. Many women have been wonderfully helped by the use of this time-honoured vegetable preparation.

About 20 drops taken with a little water after each meal puts an end to the sickening pains, aches, and agonies that so frequently torment and torture women. Dr. Ensor's Tamer juice is loved, taken, and recommended by women everywhere, because of the immense amount of good it does in the ailments peculiar to women. If a few drops of Tamer Juice—from 20 to 30—be taken in a little water three times each day for several days each month, it will banish pain, induce restful sleep, and prolong life.

STOMACH COMPLAINTS.

Stomach complaints show themselves by feelings of pain, weight, distension, oppression, and general uneasiness after partaking of food.

Heartburn, drowsiness, flatulency, vomiting either after meals or in the early morning, nausea, flushing of the face, with particular redness about the nose, sick headache, furred, dry or white-coated tongue, foulness of breath, acidity, with a frequent rising of a watery, sour, acid, or tasteless fluid in the mouth, loss of appetite, giddiness, faintness, irritability, and mental depression are all symptoms which clearly indicate faulty digestion from debility of the stomach and defective gastric juice.

"For twenty years I suffered all the torments of chronic indigestion—pains in the head, heartburn, constipation, full, oppressive, painful feelings after each meal. I tried medicines again and again, but nothing did me any good whatever, until I was persuaded by a cured dyspeptic to try Dr. ENSOR'S TAMER JUICE. From the first dose I began to improve, and I improved so rapidly that even my closest friends could hardly believe I was the same person. I am now sixty years of age, and feel that I owe my life to really wonderful TAMER JUICE."

There is only one way to know the merits of a good medicine like Tamer Juice, and that is to try it. Get a bottle from your chemist or store, and take from 15 to 30 drops in water after each meal. You will soon begin to know what good health really is. 2s 6d per bottle.