

cow and wood for his fire. There were, of course, great and petty tyrannies, manifold hardships and discontents, in England, France, Germany, Denmark, etc., in the middle ages. Professor Thorold Rogers, the great authority on labor questions in this period, says:

'But, on the whole, there were none of those extremes of poverty and wealth which have excited the astonishment of philanthropists, and are now exciting the indignation of workmen. The (middle) age, it is true, had its discontents, and these discontents were expressed forcibly and in a startling manner. But of poverty which perished unheeded, of a willingness to do honest work, and a lack of opportunity, there was little or none.'

In France the guilds lasted till 1789, when, like many other ancient Catholic institutions, they were swept away by the Revolution. The golden age of the British laborer and artisan extended from the close of the peasants' revolt in 1381 to the evil days of Henry VIII. Writing of an Act passed in the second year of Henry VII., Professor Thorold Rogers says:—

'A schedule of wages is given which, considering the cheapness of the times, is exceedingly liberal. At no time in English history have the earnings of laborers, interpreted by their purchasing power, been so considerable as those which this Act acknowledges.'

We have more than once dealt with the degradation of labor, the re-introduction of slavery into England and Scotland, and the deep and bitter curse of pauperism, which followed the Reformation in Great Britain. The worker is even now only winning back many of the privileges which he enjoyed under the old Catholic guilds. Now, as in the past, the Popes are the friends of the worker. In these later days no document has gone out from any Church organisation comparable in substance and importance with the Encyclical of Pope Leo XIII. 'On the Condition of Labor'. In 1905, 'Reynolds's Newspaper' summed up as follows in an editorial article the attitude of the worker towards the Church and the Churches:—

'The working classes look with the greatest suspicion upon all Churches. We except the Roman Catholics, the priests having so thoroughly identified themselves with the lives and interests of the individual members of their particular faith. But in all other of the great organized Churches the working classes believe they see instruments for tightening the bonds of economic subjection upon the common people.'

Perhaps, after all, the history of the past and the conditions of the present may sufficiently account for the dilettante toying of non-Catholic clergymen with 'the Church and Labor' question in Auckland last week.

Notes

Young People's Day

Many of our non-Catholic friends throughout the Dominion held, on last Sunday, their Young People's Day. Catholics in New Zealand try as best they may to have 365 Young People's Days in the year—in a leap-year 366.

The Peace Conference

The Hague Peace Conference has terminated its sittings. Why it was called a 'Peace' Conference, this deponent saith not. Its business has been, not to arrange how peace may be made, but how war is to be waged.

Catholic Memoirs

There probably exist in many parts of New Zealand unused stores of reminiscences of the early Catholic days in the Dominion. On every count it is desirable that these treasured memories of the pioneer times of the Church in this country should be gathered together and added to the materials of our history

before they vanish for ever. We shall gratefully receive, and hand over to our contributor who is writing on this subject, and facts and data that may be forwarded to us for this purpose.

A Hasty Cleric

There is a clergyman in the North just now whose feelings must be black and blue. Adopting the exparte and panic views of a precipitate orator beyond the water, the reverend gentleman, wrote to the Mayor of Wellington (the Hon. T. Hislop):—

'I heartily endorse the statements of Mr. Dobson, of the Federal Senate, when he declares that Keir Hardie deserves hanging.'

The 'Post' publishes the Mayor's reply. It runs as follows:—

'I hope you will pardon my delay in replying to your kind note of the 7th. I should like if you will supplement your kind attention to me by sending a photograph of yourself. I will then frame your note and photo in order that the note may exemplify to my friends the humanising influence which the profession of Christianity has had upon one of its votaries, and so that the photograph may render familiar the features of one who has studied to such advantage the Christian rules as to judging and extending charity to others so beautifully set forth in your letter.'

For all its serene placidity, Mayor Hislop's lay sermon was dynamite.

The Syllabus

It was a matter of pleased surprise to us that the pulpit and newspaper cyclone that whirled and eddied around the Syllabus of Pius IX. spared the list of modern errors condemned by Pius X. So far, indeed, has feeling mellowed under the kindly influence of time, that (as our columns have sufficiently shown) some of the most cordial expressions of approval of the recent Syllabus of Pius X. have come from the religious press of our separated brethren. One lone voice has piped in the wilderness of the New Zealand secular press in protest against the pronouncement of the great and pious old Pontiff who now sits in the place of Peter. It was in the Auckland 'Herald'. It was a screech from the cheap agnostic or Ingersollian view, roughly reviled the Pope for his plebeian blood, was couched in highly intemperate speech, was spotted over with errors in fact and inference, and, in a word, was

'A fine sample, on the whole, of rhetoric which the learn'd call rigmarole'.

The deplorable substance and temper of the production may, however, be deemed a 'felix culpa', or happy slip, since it evoked a prompt and pointed reply that was calculated to enlighten Auckland non-Catholics on many points of our faith and practice.

DIOCESE OF DUNEDIN

On Sunday last his Lordship the Bishop confirmed 30 children in Milton, and on the following day 18 in Owaka.

When the last mail left Home the Very Rev. Dean Burke was staying with friends in the South of Ireland.

Mr. John Boyle, a well known and popular resident of the Clinton district, has returned after an extended visit of five years to his native place in Scotland.

The Sacrament of Confirmation will be administered in St. Joseph's Cathedral on the second Sunday in November, and in St. Patrick's Basilica, South Dunedin, on the following Sunday.

During a passing visit to Riverton, our travelling representative was agreeably surprised by the excellent performance of high-class and difficult harmonised sacred music performed by the local Catholic choir, which now numbers seventeen mixed voices.

A neat new church is about to be erected at Te Tūa, in the Riverton parish. The dimensions are 21 feet by 52 (including a sanctuary 12 feet long). There will also be a sacristy 10 feet by 10 and a neat porch. The contract has been let for £316, exclusive of seat-

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