

ish this new departure and all that it may logically lead to? If the Board proposes to cover one bit of wall of the public schools with a Protestant version of one part of the Bible during school time, why not adorn another wall with a standing Catholic version of another part of the Bible—say selected portions of the sixth chapter of St. John, or of the seventh chapter of the first epistle to the Corinthians? And if these things are done for one creed or set of creeds, why may not agnostic or atheist parents demand equal treatment for their views of religion, since they are called upon to contribute to the support of the State school system? Is the Wellington Board prepared for this? And if not, why not? 'Fair play all around,' their agnostic or atheist memorialists could plead: 'if the system is to be professedly neutral, then let it be so; if it is to be ever so little sectarian in favor of one set of tax-payers then let it be equally so for all the rest—no more, but yet no less.'

St. Paul stood by 'the sound form of words.' Forms of words—prayers, hymns, articles of religion, particular turns given to translations of doctrinal or devotional Scripture texts—are intimately associated with forms of faith. Thus, a particular wording of the Ten Commandments and of the Lord's Prayer has come to be, in effect, as much a profession (or rather manifestation) of Protestant faith as the trite formula which expresses belief in the Real Absence or rejects the jurisdiction of the Bishop of Rome. And if the forms—whether biblical or non-biblical—of one faith are to be placed large during school hours upon the walls of the public schools, why not the forms of another? Why not, for instance, the Crucifix, or pictures of the sweet Maid whom Wordsworth styles 'our tainted nature's solitary boast'? We know that the introduction of such things would raise little hurricanes of feeling. As a matter of fact, the gift of a beautiful copy of a famous painting of the Mother and Child was a few years ago rejected by the management of a Board school in England on the plea that it was a sectarian emblem. But if one set of forms having a sectarian association is in place during working hours in the public schools, how can the others be out of place? It is a poor principle that will not work both ways. We have said this a few times before. We should rejoice exceedingly to see every non-Catholic child in New Zealand brought up during school-time in the knowledge and love of God's holy law. But—until some satisfactory settlement of the question is affected—we do not care to see sectarianism introduced into the public schools during working hours, whether in large doses or in small, whether brought in openly by the front door or smuggled down the chimney. If our school system is to remain secular, during school hours, let it be so in fact; if not, let it be frankly altered. And nobody will welcome a fair and equitable change more than Catholics, who have made such great and long-sustained sacrifices because of their keen sense of the evils of intellectual without religious training of youth.

DIocese of DUNEDIN

In addition to the usual Masses on Sunday at St. Joseph's Cathedral there will, for the future, be one at 6.30 o'clock.

His Lordship the Bishop administered the Sacrament of Confirmation on Sunday afternoon at St. Patrick's Basilica, South Dunedin, to close on one hundred candidates, a number of whom were adults. Prior to the ceremony a sermon was preached by the Rev. Father Lowham, C.S.S.R. After Confirmation his Lordship administered the temperance pledge to the children. Confirmation will be administered in Ranfurly on next Sunday, in Ophir on December 8, and at St. Joseph's Cathedral on December 15. His Lordship will make a visitation of Ophir and Ranfurly during next week.

On Tuesday evening the members of St. Joseph's Harrier Club were entertained by Mr. and Mrs. Jackson

at their residence. A pleasant evening was spent, and, after justice had been done to the good things provided, Mr. W. Rodgers tendered the thanks of the members of the club to Mr. and Mrs. Jackson for the evening's entertainment, and referred in eulogistic terms to the unflinching interest Mrs. Jackson had taken in the welfare of the club since its inception. The members looked on Mrs. Jackson as their best friend, and her assistance, often given at great personal inconvenience, had contributed in no small degree to the success of the many invitation runs that had been given to the other clubs in Dunedin. Mr. Jos. Swanson, replying on behalf of Mrs. Jackson, said she was only too pleased to help on the club as far as lay in her power, and promised in the future the services of which they had made such kindly mention.

The charming musical comedy, 'Hans the Boatman,' is to be produced at His Majesty's Theatre on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday in aid of the funds of the St. Vincent de Paul Orphanage, South Dunedin. As this is the only appeal made on behalf of the institution during the year, it is sure to be generously supported by all admirers of the noble work the Sisters of Mercy are doing in the cause of humanity by tending and caring for these waifs and strays. This will be the fifth annual appeal, the net results of the previous four being £104, £111, £140, and £180 17s. 6d. The committee, anxious to keep pace with this progress, is putting on the comedy in a manner to surpass all previous efforts. Mr. Percy James having charge of the cast and Mr. J. J. Marlow the business arrangements is a guarantee that both departments will be well looked after.

Mr. and Mrs. Richard East, who have been residents of Dunedin for the past 31 years, celebrated their golden wedding at their residence, Frederick street, on Saturday afternoon. A large number of friends and relatives were present on the occasion, and were hospitably entertained by the aged couple. Children, grandchildren, and a great-grandchild were included among the relatives. Telegrams of congratulation were received from England, the Commonwealth, and several parts of New Zealand, and a large number of golden presents were received. During the afternoon Mr. J. A. X. Reidie toasted the health of the host and hostess. Dr. G. M. East, of Great Barrier, a son of Mr. and Mrs. East, replied on behalf of his parents. Mr. and Mrs. East were married in Geelong, Victoria, on November 23, 1857. Mr. East was for 21 years an Imperial soldier, and served through the Maori war, and was a member of the 40th Regiment.

The three weeks' mission, conducted by the Redemptorist Fathers in St. Joseph's Cathedral, was brought to a close on Sunday. The closing services for the women were in the afternoon, when there was a very large congregation. The sermon was preached by the Rev. Father Creagh. In the evening the Cathedral was filled with men, when the Very Rev. Father Clune preached. The Very Rev. preacher at the conclusion expressed his pleasure at the success of the mission, congratulated the congregation on their regular attendance, thanked his Lordship the Bishop for giving the Redemptorist Fathers an opportunity of conducting the mission, the Rev. Father Coffey, Adm., and the other clergy for their aid, and all who had in any way assisted. The ceremonies concluded with the Papal Blessing and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. On Sunday morning a mission was opened in the Sacred Heart Church, North-East Valley, by the Very Rev. Father Clune. The mission is being conducted by the Rev. Fathers McDermott and Lowham. The Very Rev. Father Clune and Rev. Father Creagh left for the north on Monday. Very Rev. Father Clune proceeded to Wellington, and the Rev. Father Creagh to Reefton, where he opened a mission on Wednesday. The missions in the Winton and Riverton parishes are conducted by the Rev. Fathers Hunt and Campbell.

Invercargill

The following is a list of the candidates presented by St. Catherine's Dominican College at the practical music examinations held in Invercargill by Mr. C. Edwards, L.T.C.L., (all the pupils presented passed):—Senior grade—Honors (pianoforte)—Kathleen Collins, 82, recommended for higher exams.; Millie Hamilton, 68 (pass). Intermediate grade (honors)—Colleen Evans, 90, silver medallist in local centre; May Hannan, 85; May Ford, 83; Ruby Smyth, 78 (pass). Junior grade—Pass, Vera Bews, 75; Maggie Rodgers, 67. Preparatory grade—May O'Byrne, 94; Dorothy Hamilton, 94; Irene Bews, 92; Mardie Stretell, 73; May Moloney, 68.