

### 'God's Own Country'

'An Auckland firm', says a contemporary, 'received unique particulars from a farmer who desired to sell his property. After stating its dimensions, he went on to say: "It's God's own country, and it's bounded on three sides by good, pious neighbors."'

The vendor's desirable neighbors remind us, by an easy association of ideas, of the neighbors of a well-known and waggish farmer who lives near the town of Enniscorthy, in the Green Isle. He resides in a district where the surname Fortune is rather common, and where there also reside a few families with a patronymic as lugubrious as it is rare outside that region. 'How am I?' he remarks to inquiring friends. 'How would you expect a man to be with Death on one side of him and Miss Fortune on the other?'

### Devout Filipinos

'Bishop Hendricks, of Cebu (Philippine Islands)', says the 'S.H. Review', 'who is at present in this country on his way to Rome, as an illustration of the religious character of the Filipinos, gives the fact that one of the large tobacco factories in Manila has a chapel where Mass is said every morning for the employees'.

### Political Anarchy

'Mirabeau', says the 'New World' (Chicago), 'is credited with the authorship of the saying that the supremacy of political anarchy could only be brought about in France by the abolition of the Catholic religion. In the terrible cataclysm of 1792 his words found ample verification; nay, more, the Paris Commune, with its attendant horror, proved that the one was not merely the condition, but the effective cause of the other. Were Mirabeau alive to-day he could point, with even a greater measure of certainty than that with which he foretold the French Revolution, to a reign of moral anarchy as an outcome of the French Government's intolerant attitude toward Catholic education and Catholic worship.'

### Expert Knowledge

Along all lines but four, expert knowledge is respected as a matter of course, and sought, on occasion, as a matter of common human prudence. The exceptions are, politics, military science, Catholic theology, and the art and craft of running a newspaper. In these matters, experience would seem to be a handicap, the expert untrustworthy, and the amateur the know-all. So far has this superstition got a hold of the public mind, that the doctrine and discipline of the Anglican and Russian Churches are determined by courts of non-theologian laymen, and the men who really control the British army and are rulers of the King's navy are civilians who need not necessarily know a breech-block from a marlin-spike. 'The soldier', said Lord Roberts in a recent speech in the House of Lords, 'no matter how great his experience may be, seems to be distrusted when he ventures to give an opinion upon the subject which he has made his life's study. . . . When preparations are on foot for the conduct of a war for which he has to bear all the responsibility, the soldier is the last person to be consulted. In all other professions the opinion of the expert is sought for and acted upon when a crisis arises. Not so with regard to the army. This may be accounted for by the idea that the soldier is always wanting to go to war, whether war is justifiable or not, and is always imagining that someone else is wanting to do the same, against whom he must protect himself. This feeling is exemplified in a quotation given by my noble friend Lord Cromer in his most interesting book, "Modern Egypt", from a letter of the late Lord Salisbury, who wrote: "If they (the soldiers) were allowed full scope, they would insist upon the importance of garrisoning the moon in order to protect us from Mars."'

## DIOCESE OF DUNEDIN

The devotion of the Forty Hours' Adoration begins in Riverton on Friday and ends on Sunday morning.

A bazaar for the extinction of the debt on the local Catholic church was opened at Otautau (Riverton parish) on Wednesday evening of this week. A considerable sum has already been realised by the auction sale of a fine lot of stock presented by friends to the bazaar, the prices realised being well in advance of current rates.

Work has progressed at a good rate on the new Catholic presbytery, Omakau, since its inception four months ago. The stone-work is completed, the roofing is now nearly finished, and in about six weeks' time the substantial and commodious residence will be out of the contractor's hands. Other work in connection with the place is also being pushed forward.

The St. Patrick's Young Men's Social and Literary Club, South Dunedin, held its weekly meeting on Monday evening, when there was a good attendance. The programme consisted of a mock banquet, and various toasts were proposed and responded to by Rev. Father O'Neill, Messrs. J. J. Marlow, J. Atwill, P. Lawless, T. Mee, W. P. Nolan, H. McAuley, W. Atwill, W. Tonar, W. Ahern, A. Ahern, and F. Marlow.

The St. Joseph's Harriers held their run on Saturday from 'the Home of the Little Sisters of the Poor, Anderson's Bay. The attendance was good, but the ground being wet proved a trifle heavy. Dunne and Swanson laid a good trail in the direction of Tomahawk, and around the second lagoon. From here the up grade started, and after climbing a long and steep hill, which brought the pack well along the Peninsula, the main upper road was met and followed home.

The members of St. Joseph's Men's Club held a smoke concert on Friday evening, when there was a very large attendance. Songs were contributed during the evening by Messrs. Poppelwell, H. Hughes, Jos. Swanson, T. O'Connell, T. Hughes, O. Swanson, J. Quelch, J. Wilkinson, and Hellier. Mr. T. Deehan played a flute solo, and Mr. P. O'Gorman gave a recitation. Mr. F. Heley played the accompaniments. At the conclusion of the musical programme Rev. Father Coffey, who presided, expressed his pleasure at seeing such a large attendance, and hoped that it was the augury of a successful season. He exhorted the members to be constant in their attendance, and they would by this means make the coming year even more successful than the past.

## DIOCESE OF AUCKLAND

(From our own correspondent.)

May 8.

A most successful social, under the auspices of the Catholic Young Men's Club of Onehunga, was held a few evenings ago in the local club rooms.

It is very likely that on the Feast of Corpus Christi the Superior of the Redemptorist Order, Very Rev. Father Clune, will preach at the Cathedral. This year it is intended to have a procession around the grounds of the Cathedral.

At the Masses at the Cathedral last Sunday the clergy spoke earnestly in support of the 'New Zealand Tablet,' whose representative, Mr. Moriarty, was in Auckland. It was urged that all should subscribe, and thus have in the family circle a healthy, wholesome, and thoroughly Catholic newspaper.

His Eminence Cardinal Moran has notified his Lordship Dr. Lenihan of his intention to present to St. Patrick's Cathedral a beautiful monstrance to commemorate his memorable visit last February. The Bishop, priests, and people of the Cathedral parish will prize very highly this generous gift from his Eminence.

A controversy is going on in the morning paper as to whether New Zealanders are becoming pagan. It arose over some remarks made in London by Bishop Neelan. Sir Robert Stout, who chanced to be here, entered the controversy. As to the propriety of our Chief Justice doing so is a matter of opinion.

On Friday evening in the Royal Albert Hall a most successful social was given under the auspices of the Marist Brothers' Old Boys' Club. There were a great many present, and a very enjoyable time was spent. The net proceeds are to be devoted to defray-