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CATHOLIC MARRIAGES:

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FRANCIS McHUGH, Sanr, Drimna Cloone Post Office, County Leitrim, Ireland, wishes information respecting his brother Pat, McHugh, who came to New Zealand in 1861; last heard from about 18 years ago, he then held a farm; he had shares in railways and mining companies.

ENGLISH Farmer's daughter, R.C., desires situation as House-keeper or Lady-help in Catholic family; good cook and manager. Good home in preference to high wages, country preferred. Miss Oakley, c/o Mrs Hill, Fernhill, Napier.

MARRIAGE

ROUGHAN-KEENAN.—On June 3, at the residence of Mr. D. Keenan, Tuapeka Mouth, by the Rev. Father Morkane, William, fourth son of Thomas Roughan, Lawrence, to Cecily, youngest daughter of Daniel Keenan, Tuapeka Mouth.

DEATHS

FOY.—On May 17, at the Thames Hospital, William Joseph, eldest son of J. M. and Maria Foy; aged 24 years.—R.I.P.

FITZGERALD.—On May 27, 1908, at Tuapeka Hospital, Anne, relict of the late John Fitzgerald, farmer, Tuapeka Flat; aged 73. Deeply regretted.—R.I.P.

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

Pergant Directores et Scriptores New Zealand Tablet, Apostolica Benedictione confortati, Religionis et Justitiae 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, JUNE 11, 1908.

A DANGER IN BOOKS

SOMEbody once asked good old Hobbes why he did not read more. 'Read more!' he exclaimed. 'If I had read as many books as other men, I should have been as ignorant as other men'. The saying may seem a paradox; but it is in reality true of the readers of the largest classes of works of fiction in our day—especially of the namby-pamby and the sensational. These pass through the mind, leaving no impression, or no useful impression, behind. 'If they are namby-pamby', says Dr. Pryde, 'reading them is like sipping jelly-water; if they are sensational, they are like Mrs. Squeers' posset of brimstone and treacle. In both cases they destroy the mental appetite and make it loathe all solid food'. It is safe to say that a vast percentage of the novels that issue from the floodgates of the press belongs to the jelly-water or to the brimstone-and-treacle category.

In connection with the recent placing of the foppish Zola upon a lofty pedestal of official honor in Paris, the 'Hawke's Bay Herald' points uneasily to the growth and spread of the worst class of sensational fiction, the sex or 'problem' novel. It says in part:—

'It is not so long ago when there was a very-tight hand kept on the publications of the press. Fiction