

millions. No doubt a great many of those germs are destroyed in cooking, but the danger is greater in regard to fruit and vegetables that are to be eaten without being cooked. One does not think of washing apples and pears, but we ought to do so. The washing that the salad vegetables get in the summer time is hardly sufficient to ensure them being free from the germs that are flying about. Then, again, take our milk supply,' the doctor continued. 'I think it is certainly better now than it has ever been before, but still if one went to the trouble of collecting the sediment at the bottom of every glass of milk the aggregate in the country would amount probably to some tons of manure in the course of a year. Many of the frequent cases of gastro-enteritis that occur are, I honestly believe, traceable to the milk, not to any impurities in the milk itself, but to outside germs deposited in it. The Health Department is hard at work, and we are advancing, but there is still much to be done before we can claim perfection in these matters.'

### A Dying Race

There are now only about two hundred and fifty left out of the great numbers of aboriginals that occupied Victoria (Australia) when (in 1804) the annalist of the passing convict settlement at Sorrento took down his harp and prophesied that the black man and 'the bounding kangaroo' would remain 'for ages' lords of that impossible land. The last Tasmanian black passed 'away in the ewigkeit' over thirty years ago. The Victorian aboriginal is following him fast to extinction. The New South Wales, Queensland, South Australian blacks, and even the sturdy Western Australian, are also fast melting away under the blighting contact of the pale-face and his vices. The Spaniard and the Portuguese knew how to christianise, civilise, and preserve in great measure the aboriginal peoples whom they conquered. Introduced vices and diseases, neglect of the uplifting influences of religion, and (at times) the operation of the principle that 'the only good Injun is the dead Injun'—these are the chief causes that have combined to make the track of non-Catholic colonisation so often a cemetery for aboriginal peoples.

### The Anticlerical Knife

The warfare of the dark-lantern organisations and of the forces of anarchy against religion on Continental Europe has of late been assuming a more acute form. To organised calumny (which the courts have rendered unsafe) has succeeded organised brute violence. During the past six or eight months this has assumed various shapes. Cardinal Merry del Val (Papal Secretary of State) has been made to feel it at the hands of the anarchist gang in Marino, and for some time past ecclesiastical students have been now and then made the object of apparently organised onslaughts by the armed ruffianism of the lodge and of the anarchist 'circle'. Some time ago a crowd of anti-clerical hoodlums committed the indiscretion of 'falling on' a group of Irish students returning through Tivoli from a day's tramp in the mountains. The sturdy youths from the Green shores of Erin stood on their defence, and plied clenched fist and walking-stick to such good effect that a number of the aggressors had to lie up in the hospital for repairs.

The latest achievement of the forces of disorder has been the cowardly 'knifing' of a little isolated group of three Scottish ecclesiastical students at Ariccia, in the mountains near Rome. We quote in part from the Rome correspondent of the London 'Times':—

'A small number of the students, who were mounted on donkeys, happened to meet on the Ariccia bridge a group of idle ruffians playing at morra. They were greeted with every kind of filthy and blasphemous insult, but rode quietly by paying no attention. Their assailants followed them, throwing stones, and when

one of the students dismounted to remonstrate with them they surrounded and assaulted him. The other students came to his rescue, and in the scuffle which ensued knives were at once drawn by the aggressors, who then fled, leaving two students on the ground severely wounded. The police acted promptly, and within a very short time succeeded in arresting four of the men most concerned. Three of these are Romans who were spending the day only at Ariccia; the fourth is a Roman anarchist now living in Ariccia. Some difficulty was experienced by the police in protecting their prisoners from the crowd in Albano, who wished to lynch them. The Scots College has owned its house between Albano and Marino almost as long as it has been established in Rome, some two and a half centuries, and the students, who always go there for the summer villeggiatura (holidays) are much loved and respected in the neighborhood.'

From the Rome correspondent of the London 'Tablet' we learn that the Marino anarchist was the ring-leader of both the verbal and the physical attack. 'He had', says the 'Tablet', 'in his possession, when arrested, an anarchist manifesto reeking from the first line to the last with advocacy of violence as the only means of effecting anything.' One of the wounded students lay, for long, near unto death in the hospital at Albano. The affair has created a first-class sensation, and the pressure put upon the Italian Government—which is so generally weak and often even complaisant towards the forces of disorder—may result in some drastic action against the practice of carrying lethal weapons. If so, the cowardly attack on the Scottish students will prove a benefit to Italy—out of the eater will come forth meat, and out of the lion's mouth honey.

## 'CATHOLIC MARRIAGES'

### FURTHER APPRECIATIONS

We have been favored with the following appreciative communication from the Right Rev. Dr. Grimes, Bishop of Christchurch:—

Bishop's House,  
Christchurch,  
June 2, 1908.

'My dear Father Cleary,

'When the Anglican Master of Christ's College rushed into print to warn the world against the awful consequences flowing from the recent Papal decree on Espousals and Matrimony, he little thought that his rash action would soon win for him the gratitude of so many thousands, both among Catholics, Protestants, and Jews.'

'However, I dare say that long before this his Reverence heartily repents of his rashness and wishes that he could have known and mastered our little penny catechism before presuming, even with the aid of misquotations, to dogmatise about the teachings of our holy faith. His ill-advised action was truly a "felix culpa" since it has brought about your admirable pamphlet on "Catholic Marriages."

'With your well known lucidity and incisive logic, you have set out a splendid array of scriptural, theological, and legal arguments, with a host of historical facts which, even without the least comment, should carry conviction to every unbiassed reader. In showing the wisdom of the Church in dealing with the great question of Marriage, you have most ably and exhaustively treated of the mission and authority of that divinely appointed and infallible organ of truth.

'Allow me to congratulate and thank you for your masterly defence of Marriage, which we, with every true Catholic, have always been taught to revere as "a great Sacrament in Christ and in His Church." Altogether, your pamphlet should prove a welcome addition to the ecclesiastical literature of Jew and gentile. Above all it should have an honored place in the homes of every Catholic family.

'I hope that in a future edition you will see your way to add a chapter on Banns and the Nuptial Mass, with the immediate preparation necessary for the worthy reception of this great Sacrament.

'Believe me,

'My dear Father Cleary,

'Yours faithfully in Christ,

✠ JOHN JOSEPH GRIMES, S.M.,

'Bishop of Christchurch.'