

physician lasted the usual seven days. Then it was found that the Sister had been absent at a branch house for the purpose of making the prescribed annual retreat.

"At Castellamare a Socialist journal published details of 'a horrible scandal' it had 'discovered' relative to the superiress of the local hospital and its chaplain. When brought into court for trial, the precious paper was condemned for calumny.

"At Pitigliano, Canon Capitani was arrested on a charge of immorality. His case was tried in court, and he was acquitted of the least stain on his honest character and blameless life. I may add that Canon Capitani issued from the prison a broken and sorrowful man.

"At Pistola, the Socialist 'Avvenire' accused a Father Sella of gross crimes. An action taken by the defamed priest is at present occupying the courts.

"At Faenza a rumor was circulated that Father G. da Ferrara was kept imprisoned in the Monastery del Paradiso under cruel circumstances. The police authorities searched the place diligently, but fruitlessly. The good priest had been several months previously transferred to Massalombarda, a more active mission."

The 'Glasgow Observer' of December 14 gives, on the authority of an Italian paper, a number of cases in which the innocence of the slandered has been established by courts holding regular inquiry.

From these extracts it would appear that the gaols of Italy are more likely to be filled with criminal libellers than with criminal clerics.

Thus far 'W.H.M.' We ('N.Z. Tablet') dealt with these slanders as they arose, and we supplement the writer's exposure of the calumnies of the atheistic newspapers of Italy by the following, which appeared in our issue of May 28, under the heading, 'Another Romance':—

Even the worm will turn. From time to time we have shown how the slandered religious in Italy have successfully brought to book sundry lewd fellows of the baser sort—almost invariably the editors of anti-Catholic and anti-Christian newspapers—who were banded together in what was clearly an organised campaign of defamation. The latest case in point is recorded in the Rome correspondence of the Philadelphia 'Catholic Standard' of April 4. It referred to alleged horrifying 'disclosures' published against the religious of S. Francesco della Vigna in Venice. 'These priests,' says the 'Standard' correspondent, 'were accused in the "Secolo Nuovo," edited by Guiseppe Abele, a well-known Socialist of that city, and they lost no time in giving that worthy an excellent opportunity of proving in a public court of justice the abominable charges. You can guess the result. The editor was sentenced by the tribunal to suffer imprisonment for two years and to pay, in addition, a fine of two thousand francs. Perhaps the most interesting part of the story is that Abele did not await the conclusion of the trial. Seeing himself about to be unmasked, he fled the city secretly, and has not since been heard of. And thus ends another chapter of the "clerical scandals of Italy" which had been described in certain journals in all the false details that impure imaginations and foul minds could string together.'

It is from the envenomed stories of gentry like the fugitive Giuseppe Abele that a certain notorious purveyor of 'missionary tales' periodically 'exposes' the 'Romish' Church in Italy, to credulous English and Scottish audiences at so much per 'expose'—a silver coin collection or 'front seats one shilling, back seats sixpence.'

Diocesan News

ARCHDIOCESE OF WELLINGTON

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

June 20.

The Triduum or three days' devotion in honor of the Most Blessed Sacrament began in the several churches yesterday, and will be concluded to-morrow evening.

His Grace the Archbishop, who has not been enjoying the best of health recently, left on Friday for Sydney en route to Queensland, where he hopes to have the benefit of the warmer climate there.

The social gathering that was to have been held at Day's Bay on Wednesday last in aid of the Muritai parish, was, owing to the inclement weather, postponed until Monday next.

It is intended to celebrate the silver jubilee of the Very Rev. Father Keogh, S.M., B.A., Rector of St. Patrick's College, in a becoming manner. The Old Boys of the College and the laity intend to combine to show their appreciation of the Rector's efforts in the cause of Catholic education. The Rector's silver jubilee will be celebrated next month. The recent successes achieved by the pupils of St. Patrick's should move the laity and all concerned to make the occasion a memorable gathering.

It is my sad duty to record the death of Miss Kathleen Cronin, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Cronin, of Hobson Crescent. The deceased, who was in her 21st year, died a most edifying death. The funeral took place on Friday. The Rev. Father Bowden, S.M., celebrated Mass at the Sacred Heart Basilica for the repose of the soul of the deceased on Friday morning. The Rev. Father Hickson, S.M., who attended deceased during her illness, officiated at the graveside. The deepest sympathy is felt with the bereaved parents in the severe loss they have sustained through the death of a loving daughter.—R.I.P.

(From an Occasional Correspondent.)

June 21.

A Triduum in honour of the Blessed Sacrament was held in St. Joseph's Church, Buckle street, commencing on Friday last. On Sunday large numbers approached the Holy Table in both Churches in the Te Aro Parish.

There passed away last Thursday at the Home of Compassion an old settler, Mrs. Elizabeth Downey. She arrived in New Zealand with her parents (who died in 1893 at the advanced ages of nearly a hundred years), and shared with them the hardships of the early colonists. Her recollections were most interesting, and she was able to tell of many stirring and exciting events that happened in those days of danger and hardships. Her remains were interred in the Catholic Cemetery, Petone.—R.I.P.

On Thursday night a very instructive and interesting lecture was delivered by Rev. Father Goggan, S.M., Vice-Rector of St. Patrick's College, in the Catholic Club rooms. Mr A. H. Casey (Vice-President) occupied the chair. The lecturer divided his subject into two parts—"Longfellow the Man," and Longfellow the Poet." At the conclusion, Mr. Moran moved a hearty vote of thanks to the rev. lecturer, which was carried by acclamation. In thanking the members for their kindness Rev. Father Goggan said it pleased him to present the record of such a pure-minded man as Longfellow, and trusted that his lecture would prove beneficial to his hearers.

Newtown

(From Our Travelling Correspondent.)

Definite steps are now being taken to bring the proposed St. Anne's Young Men's Club to a successful issue. A strong committee has been appointed to carry out the arrangements, and when the formal opening takes place it is estimated that there will be a membership of ninety at least.

Nearly 250 people assembled at the school here on last Friday evening, for the purpose of assisting at the first euchre party and social held under the auspices of the newly-formed St. Anne's Christian Doctrine Society. An energetic committee, consisting of the Misses Webb (2), Evenson, Casey, O'Farrell, McCarthy, Segrief (2), Delaney, Marshall, with Miss Rose Segrief as secretary, worked hard to ensure the success of the gathering. Miss Von Maher won the lady's prize, Mr. Inkersill gentlemen's. Amongst those present during the evening were Revs. Father Herring, Finnerty, and Hurley. The result of the evening's entertainment financially will leave the society with a good sum to purchase books and requisites for their proposed teachers' reference library.

DIOCESE OF CHRISTCHURCH

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

June 22.

At the ordinary meeting of the St. Patrick's branch of the H.A.C.B. Society, on last Monday evening, all the officers were present. The sick visitors' report was received, and sick pay to the amount of £7 16s. 8d. was passed for

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