

Jersey. There is no record of any college, hospital, academy, or asylum. 'What', asked Cardinal Gibbons in his centenary sermon, 'is the situation to-day? In the same territory there are one archbishop and nine bishops (including a coadjutor and an auxiliary bishop), 2536 priests, upward of 1400 churches, and a Catholic population of about 3,000,000. The whole region is now adorned with colleges, academies, and schools, protectories, asylums, and hospitals, and with all the appliances that religion and benevolence can devise for the alleviation of suffering humanity. New York is to-day the most important See in the United States, and is second to few, if, indeed, to any, in the whole Catholic world.'

The Catholic faith has achieved great triumphs under the Stars and Stripes. In numerical strength and in religious activity, it has no peer in 'the land of the free and the home of the brave'. And it seems destined to perform even greater achievements in the future. Floreat!

Broken Promises

One of Shakespeare's gentlest characters was (says the great dramatist) 'ever precise in promise-keeping'. But there are those a-many who look upon promises as Hudibras's coarse-grained squire looked upon the even more sacred obligations of an oath. Said the varlet Ralpho:—

'Oaths are but words and words but wind,
Too feeble implements to bind,
And hold with deeds proportion, so,
As shadows to a substance do'.

Just so much of regard has been, apparently, paid by their authors to the fine promises made by the leaders of the French Radical-Socialist 'bloc' or 'machine' when they were about to enter upon their policy of expulsion of religious and the laicisation—in other words, the atheising—of the national institutes of education and charity throughout the country. The promise of the fabled 'milliard' for old-age pensions was, of course, never seriously meant—it simply made to one class the sort of appeal that the Eighth Henry made to another when he set out to confiscate the monastic property throughout the length and breadth of England.

'All sorts of improvements', says the 'Catholic Times', 'were promised by the 'bloc'. 'Frenchmen are now discovering how much the promises meant. Within the last few days there has been posted on the walls of Paris a large placard in which the effects of laicising public charity or the Public Assistance, as it is called, are described. Of the hundred million francs allotted to the Public Assistance, sixty-seven per cent., or two-thirds, are swallowed up in paying officials; only thirty-three per cent., or one-third, has a chance of reaching the poor, who do not, in fact, receive even the whole of this sum. During the last twelve years the number of sick persons in the hospitals has increased by two per cent., but the number of those who are well paid to attend them has increased one hundred and forty-four per cent. Last year five hundred and seventy-four new positions were created, at the expense of the poor, for the benefit of the well-to-do. It is for this that the self-sacrificing religious who received little more than their bare support were expelled. The same thing can be said of nearly all the State institutions; expenditure has gone up and efficiency gone down. Pages could be filled with accounts of the atrocious scandals caused by the new lay attendants in the French hospitals.'

Persons suffering from ordinary colds, tickling coughs, bronchial and nasal catarrh, sore and relaxed throat, huskiness, loss of voice, asthma, bronchitis, tightness of the chest, pleurisy, or influenza cough will find prompt and efficient relief and strength by taking one or two tablespoonfuls of Tussicura several times a day.

'CATHOLIC MARRIAGES'

FURTHER APPRECIATIONS

'The Catholics of Australia and New Zealand owe a debt of gratitude to the Rev. Mr. Carrington. . . The "Tablet" never leaves things half-done. But in this controversy, and in the book which, as a result of it, has been published by the "Tablet" Printing and Publishing Company, it has excelled itself. . . This is high praise, we know, but it is praise richly deserved'.—The 'Monitor' (Launceston, Tasmania).

'The work reflects the highest credit on the "Tablet". It is replete with practical and solid information throughout, and is an able and accurate exposition of the important matter it so deftly expounds. The work is both timely and exhaustive. It should have an extensive sale. Both Catholics and non-Catholics will find it most instructive. It fully and clearly justifies the Sovereign Pontiff in his decree on legislating on Catholic Marriages'.—Rev. J. Golden, Kalkoura.

DIOCESE OF DUNEDIN

The devotion of the Forty Hours' Adoration begins at the Sacred Heart Church, North-East Valley, on to-morrow (Friday) morning.

The Rev. Father Lowham, C.S.S.R., is at present conducting a retreat for the Children of Mary of the Cathedral parish.

The Hibernian Society held their annual social gathering in the Victoria Hall on Friday evening, when there was a large attendance. Bros. D. J. Corcoran, J. Swecney, J. McCurdy, and J. Rattigan took an active part in the direction of the proceedings. The gathering was the most successful and enjoyable yet held by the Society.

With a good muster the St. Joseph's Harriers enjoyed a splendid run from the residence of Mrs. E. A. Bryant, Mornington, on Saturday afternoon. The pack set off across the hills in the direction of Burnside. The water-race was then met and followed for a few miles, when it was decided, in preference to climbing the hills, to return by this course, passing the reservoir by the way. After the run the members of the club were entertained in a generous and considerate manner by Mrs. Bryant.

St. Patrick's Young Men's Social and Literary Club, South Dunedin, held its usual weekly meeting on Monday evening, when there was a fair attendance. The programme consisted of a debate, 'Whether prohibition as advocated in New Zealand is desirable for the welfare of the community?'. After an interesting debate the upholders of the negative side were declared the winners. Mr. Marlow attended and at the conclusion of the proceedings gave some instructive advice to members on the art of debating. A vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Marlow for his attendance.

'Should capital punishment be abolished?' formed the subject of a debate at the weekly meeting of St. Joseph's Men's Club on Friday evening. Dr. Hastings led in the affirmative, and was supported by Messrs. E. W. Spain, M. Rosbotham, and J. V. Quelch, while Mr. R. Rosbotham, as leader of the negative side, had the assistance of Messrs. T. J. Hussey, J. Wilkinson, D. Hartstonge, and D. O'Connell. On a vote being taken, those who upheld the negative side were declared winners by a small majority. At the conclusion of the debate Mr. Deehan, who presided, congratulated the speakers on their efforts, and urged them to maintain their enthusiasm for debating, and they would at the end of the season find they had benefited considerably.

A meeting was held in St. Joseph's Hall on Monday evening for the purpose of taking steps to pay off the debt on the Cathedral parish. The Rev. Father Coffey, Adm., presided, and Mr. W. P. Rodgers was appointed secretary. There was a large and representative attendance, and the greatest enthusiasm was displayed. The Rev. Father Coffey explained the object for which the meeting was called, and then gave details of the parish debt, which at present amounted to about £1430. The rev. chairman said that until the parish debt was removed it was not possible to undertake other necessary works. He trusted that within the next twelve months the existing debt would be a thing of the past. Two motions—one to take steps to carry out the objects of the meeting and the other the appointment of an executive committee—