

The exercise of a similar sane precaution would often save some of our over-eager No-Popery friends from the 'lature' (as Artemus Ward calls it) which comes in when the light of exposure illumines the hoax and exposes the gobemouche of those who look upon Catholics as a collection of knaves or fools.

The 'lature' has come in over a hilarious hoax that has been played off on the Rev. Dill-Macky's *Watchman*, the organ of the P.D.A. and of the Orange lodges of New South Wales. With portentous solemnity, that interesting 'yellow' organ published a story to this effect: That 'Hilaire Maraud-Safran', one of the most gifted of France's polemical writers to-day, has written an article in the *Revue des Deux Mondes*, advocating the resumption and purchase of every inch of the city of Rome, with a view to its complete destruction—and, with it, the destruction of the Papacy. 'Reasonable compensation' is (according to Maraud-Safran) 'to be paid to the present owners—a matter to which the Protestants of the world would gladly subscribe. Even the name of the city would vanish and the Roman Catholic Church would then become a homeless creed cut away from the root.' In the next issue of the *Watchman*, its readers learned the following further particulars of the 'movement' for wiping Rome off the map, sowing its site with salt, and blotting the Papacy off the face of the earth:—

'The Papacy . . . as such has ranged against itself the whole of the Left in the Italian Chamber, and with this party on this question are the Socialist-Atheists returned by the Italian masses, who have relinquished Romanism, but have not been gathered into the Protestant fold. That—given publicity—the Protestants of the British Empire, Europe, America, Scandinavia, and the Continent of Europe would come forward with a sum sufficient to carry out Maraud-Safran's scheme, and that within less than a half decade, is obvious from the fact admitted by the rabid little Romanist rag, the *Era*, published from Oscott College, that in the last nine months four French papers and two Swiss ones have alone collected £400,000.'

We are also informed that '37,500 francs (£1500) were collected during the last two months in the little Canton of Bâle by the local Protestant organ and forwarded to the *Eclair* to add to its fund' for the destruction of Rome. French papers (we are assured) have thrown themselves into 'the cause' and are 'meeting with good success.' But—alack and well-a-day!—under the paltry excuse that they may not meddle in another country's affairs, the weak-kneed organs of the United Kingdom have avoided touching this vexed question.'

It seems almost incredible that even the *Watchman*, gullible as it is in all that relates to Catholics, should be so far taken in as to publish and take seriously the preposterously palpable fooling of the alleged Maraud-Safran and the *Revue des Deux Mondes*. But the hoax even went so far as the opening of a shilling fund for the obliteration of Rome! Here is a part of the *Bulletin's* breezy comment on the hoax:—

'The bland suggestion that the capital city of a great European Power be "obliterated" by total strangers on a point of religious prejudice may pass muster. The insectarian paper's schemes are mostly along grandiose lines of that sort. The things that take this paper's fancy are the authorities quoted. When did the *Revue des Deux Mondes* touch "on the possibility of a wholesale resumption policy in regard to Rome at the hands of the enlightened peoples of the world"? What issue of *La Croix* tried to show "Maraud-Safran's" Rome resumption proposal was an "impossible dream"? As a fact, there is no such person as "Maraud-Safran"! "Safran" signifies "yellow" in French; "Maraud" means "pup." A Gaul afflicted with a name like Mr. Yellow Pup would destroy himself. The *Revue des Deux Mondes* never considered the possibility of resuming Rome; nor did any newspaper oppose the astounding proposition. The paper has had its leg dragged badly by someone, and the solemn reference to Mr. Yellow Pup is a hilarious item.'

A correspondent of the *Catholic Press* who 'knows every yard of the Duché country' declares, in its issue of August 6, that '(1) there is no paper named *L'Eclair* published in or near Dijon; (2) that Dijon would not support an anti-Catholic publication for a moment.' He also adds that Oscott 'has been closed as a college for many years.' The name of the editor of *L'Eclair* is, by the way, another gem of nomenclature. He is called M. Henri Singemoiné—which, being interpreted, meaneth (in English) Mr. Henry Monkey-Monk! We think we have now at last struck upon the authors of the preposterous No-Popery romance which bears the imprint of a knight of the ink-roller in Palmerston North; which is being industriously

circulated as a religious tract for the 'conversion' of Catholics; and in which a Mother Abbess—whose name, translated into English, means 'Pious Fiction'—is made to talk a lot of preposterous nonsense to 'an illustrious painter' (and glazier), and to wind up by renouncing the 'errors of Rome' in order to embrace errors 'made in Germany.' (See our issue of August 6.) The intellectual (?) leaders of what calls itself 'The Sturdy Protestant Party' in New South Wales have added to the gaiety of life by their inability to read a French pocket-dictionary, and by their unwillingness to adopt Josh Billings' saving precaution to 'smell ov' stories' about 'Rome' before swallowing them.

## 'CATHOLIC MARRIAGES'

The third edition of the N.Z. *Tablet* publication, *Catholic Marriages*, is now on sale at the office of this paper, and may be had through all Catholic booksellers in Australasia. The demand for copies continues to be very active, and judging by the hundreds of orders already filled and to hand, there is every prospect of a fourth edition being called for in the near future. (Post free, 1s; cloth, gold letters, 2s.)

In the course of a lengthy notice of *Catholic Marriages* in its latest issue, the *Australasian Catholic Record* says in part:— 'Those who have the advantage of seeing Father Cleary's able paper, the N.Z. *Tablet*, are familiar with the force with which he bludgeons anyone rash enough to venture into controversy with him; they have evidence, too, of his solid and varied learning in political, legal, historical, and social subjects, as well as in those that are directly theological. In reading over the "controversy" in the present pamphlet we were reminded of another famous controversy—viz., that between Father Lambert and the infidel, Ingersoll. Father Cleary has many points in common with the American controversialist; there is the same merciless exposure of fallacies, the same insistence on sticking to the point at issue, and the same wide knowledge. If we were to express any qualification of our admiration for Father Cleary's methods, we would be inclined to say that he too often uses the battle-axe instead of the rapier. . . . But, even when these deductions are allowed, Father Cleary's methods are at least very effective; and effectiveness, after all, is what is looked for in controversy, as in sword-craft. He is especially strong where he shows that the Church, in dealing with impediments to the matrimonial contract, only does what the State does in civil contracts—nay, even what it does in regard to marriage itself. He is overwhelming when he points out that the claims of the Church in this matter are moderate compared with what "the Church as by law established" has done in declaring valid marriages to-day what yesterday it declared to be "incestuous concubinages." Father Cleary is to be thanked and congratulated on his splendid achievement, and we hope every priest will show practical gratitude by purchasing and reading *Catholic Marriages*.'

## DIOCESE OF DUNEDIN

The programme at the meeting of the St. Joseph Men's Club on Friday evening consisted of a smoke concert. Mr. T. Deehan (vice-president) occupied the chair, and there was a good attendance. Songs were contributed by Messrs. Swanson (2), Hannigan, J. Quelch, and Wilkie; Mr. Deehan gave a flute solo, and recitations were given by Messrs. J. Wilkinson and Fennessy. Mr. F. Heley acted as accompanist.

Writing of the arrival in the English metropolis of Mrs. and Miss Dall, of Dunedin, the London correspondent of the *Otago Daily Times* says:—Miss Dall has become a pupil of Madame Minna Fischer, who is always such a favorite with New Zealand vocal students, and I hear that Madame Fischer thinks very highly of her latest pupil, and is very much pleased with the course of tuition Miss Dall received while at the Convent in Dunedin.

A concert and dramatic entertainment in aid of the parish schools, South Dunedin, took place in the South Dunedin Town Hall on Wednesday evening of last week, when there was a very large attendance. The first part of the programme consisted of vocal items by Misses Newcombe-Hall and V. Fraser, and Mr. T. Hussey, an overture by the orchestra, and a humorous sketch in which Messrs. W. Keys, J. Keys, and W. Mulrooney took part. The second part was devoted to a farce, 'The Late Mr. Costello,' in which the characters were sustained by Mrs.