

of facts and a capacity for right inference, a preacher needs a chastened imagination and a saving sense of humor.

A Sham 'Ex-Monk'

Taylor, the water poet, wrote 'way back in the seventeenth century—but 'wrote sarcastic:—

'I want the knowledge of the thriving art,
A holy outside and a hollow heart.'

No Chadband or Stiggins ever more thoroughly acquired the knowledge of that thriving art than the gaol-bird Nobbs (*alias* Widdows), who, despite his unsavory history, is still permitted to serve as a minister of the Lord to a small congregation at Hackney (London) and to draw fraudulent small coins from their purses by pretending to have been a Catholic monk and to 'expose' the 'abominations of Rome' at so much per 'expose.' Ex-convict Nobbs has served several long terms of penal servitude for crimes which could not even be hinted at in the columns of a journal intended for general perusal. Like John Gipin, Nobbs (or Widdows) is 'a citizen of famous London town'; but unlike that rider bold,

'He has no credit in his own
Or any other town.'

He has lately been figuring once more in a police court, where he was fined £1 and costs for assault. *London Truth*—that scourge of impostors—comments as follows on the case in its issue of July 1:—'No doubt the ex-monk will have his explanation of the occurrence ready for the deluded congregation of his chapel at Hackney. It will probably be—as in the case of the more serious convictions that he has previously incurred for abominable offences—that he was the victim of a Popish plot, and that the prosecutor—a potman in a public-house—was a spy put up by the Roman Church to get his head broken and commit perjury.'

Catholics in the United States

'It is,' says the *Missionary*, 'generally conceded by judicious men who know conditions and who at the same time have an outlook over the country at large, that there are at least 15,000,000 Catholics within the borders of the United States.' They say that this figure is a conservative statement. The *Directory* puts the figure at 13,887,426, but we know that this figure is obtained by compilation from reports that minimize the actual numbers and it includes some estimates that have been repeated for many years. However, this figure shows an increase of 788,073 over the figures of last year. Including the Catholic population of the Philippines, which amounts to 7,106,452, and adding the 1,000,000 Catholic population of Porto Rico and 35,000 Catholics of the Sandwich Islands, the entire Catholic population under the United States flag amounts to 22,018,898. As the Christian communicants of the United States are estimated to be about 33,000,000 it is seen that we Catholics are more than one-third of the Church-connected people of the country. The largest of the Protestant denominations in this country is the Methodist Episcopal Church, whose members number 3,036,667.

At the last meeting of the Maynooth Union, the Very Rev. Father Doyle (Rector of the Apostolic Mission House at Washington, and head of the missionary movement for non-Catholics in the United States), said in part: 'Last year 25,054 converts were received into the Church in the United States and made the profession of faith, and that was only the beginning of their work; and within the last month or two nearly a score of Episcopalian ministers were received into the Church.' We may add that six of the Protestant Episcopal clergy here referred to are to enter the Seminary of St. Charles, Borromeo, Overbrook, in September, to study for the priesthood. Three recent Episcopalian clerical converts have already preceded them at Overbrook. One Protestant Episcopalian nun (from Peekskill, N.Y.) has been received into the Church, and two others of her community are under instruction at the Cornwells Convent.

MISSING FRIENDS

REIDY, Martin, native of Listowel, County Kerry; left home many years ago; last heard of in Australia; heard of recently as being in South Island, New Zealand; most anxiously sought for by his father.

'CATHOLIC MARRIAGES'

The third edition of the *N.Z. Tablet* publication, *Catholic Marriages*, is now ready, and an active demand for it still continues. It may be procured through any Catholic bookseller or direct from the Manager, *Tablet* Office, Dunedin. (Wrapper is, post free; handsomely bound in cloth, 2s).

'You have profited well, by an occasion of resisting a gainsayer, to set out an admirable exposition of most important religious and social doctrine.'—The Right Rev. Dr. Dwyer, Coadjutor-Bishop of Maitland.

DIOCESE OF DUNEDIN

During the absence, through illness, of the Very Rev. Father Walsh, the Rev. Father O'Neill (Winton) will celebrate Mass periodically at Wrey's Bush. Father O'Neill will celebrate Mass at Wrey's Bush on next Sunday, and thereafter at intervals of a fortnight until the return of the Very Rev. Father Walsh.

The Rev. Father Delany is at present assisting the Rev. Father O'Donnell, who is temporarily incapacitated from work, but who (as his numerous friends will be glad to know) is now progressing satisfactorily towards recovery. The Rev. Father O'Dea (Omakau) takes temporary charge of the Ranfurly mission during the absence of the Rev. Father Delany.

The St. Patrick's Young Men's Social and Literary Club, South Dunedin, held its usual weekly meeting on Monday last, when there was a large attendance. The programme consisted of an invitation euchre to the Young Ladies' Club. A very pleasant evening was passed. Misses L. Tonar and A. Hefferman, Messrs. Keys (2), Henderson, W. Atwill, and W. Mulrooney contributed musical items during the evening.

At the meeting of St. Joseph's Men's Club on Friday evening the programme consisted of a mock parliamentary election. The candidates were Messrs. M. and R. Rossbotham and E. W. Spain, all of whom delivered excellent speeches. The proceedings were productive of much amusement, owing to the humorous questions that were put to the candidates. At the close of the addresses Rev. Father Coffey, Adm., who presided, congratulated the speakers on the intelligent and able manner in which they had discussed the leading political and social questions of the day.

Lawrence

At a very representative meeting of between 60 and 70 gentlemen held in St. Patrick's Schoolroom, Lawrence, on Sunday, August 16, and presided over by Mr. H. Hart, it was resolved after hearing the reports from the committees appointed at a previous meeting to gather necessary particulars to proceed with the erection of a new convent, it having been found that the present building is altogether inadequate for the work carried on by the good Sisters. The Very Rev. Monsignor O'Leary explained what was necessary, and submitted the plans and estimated cost of the proposed new building, and about £100 was promised towards its construction in the room, and the following committee were appointed to carry on the work:—Building—Monsignor O'Leary, Messrs. A. Hart, A. Moody, A. Kennedy, and J. Keppel; finance—Monsignor O'Leary, Messrs. H. Hart, T. Crowley, jun., E. Fahey, T. Hunt, J. Kelleher, James Airey, M. Hunt, P. McInerney, J. Roughan, J. Brosnan, and M. Fahey; Mr. J. J. Woods was appointed secretary and treasurer. A sale of work for the purpose of augmenting the building fund is being organised by the ladies of the congregation and they are meeting with generous support from all sections of the community. The project, we (*Tuapeka Times*), are told, is meeting with the enthusiastic support of the Catholics throughout the Tuapeka district, and its consummation may be looked for at an early date.

Invercargill

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

August 24

A large audience greeted the first public appearance of the Hibernian Brass Band at the Municipal Theatre on last Monday evening. The conductor (Mr. A. R. Mills) is to be complimented on the fine performance of the band. The playing of the band called forth general praise from the audience. The band, which