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## MARRIAGE

**CASEY-KELLY.**—On August 20, at the Catholic Church, Waverley, by Rev. Father Dwyer, of Hawera, assisted by Rev. Father Duffy, Patea, Joseph Casey, son of Mr. C. Casey, Puhiki, formerly of Patea, to Delia Kelly.

## DEATHS

**NEAGLE.**—On September 28, 1908, at Dannévirke, Winifred Violet Gwendoline, beloved wife of James Neagle, jun.; aged 27 years.—R.I.P.

**CORR.**—On September 26, at the Dunedin Hospital, Thomas, son of the late John Corr, of Westport, and M. A. Easton, of Wellington; aged 23 years. Deeply regretted.—R.I.P.

**LACY.**—Of your charity pray for the soul of Mrs Margaret Lacy, wife of the late Edmond Lacy, who died at her residence, Forforth House, Bansha, County Tipperary, Ireland, on January 29, 1908; aged 79 years.—R.I.P. We beseech thee, our Blessed Lady, and holy St. Patrick, to intercede for her before the throne of the Most High.

Inserted by her loving son, J. Sarsfield Lacy, Mangamahū, Wanganui.

American papers please copy.

## IN MEMORIAM

**BROSNAN.**—In ever loving memory of Annie Brosnan who died at Blue Spur, October 6, 1905.—R.I.P.

## EDITOR'S NOTICES.

Send news **WHILE IT IS FRESH.** Stale reports will not be inserted.

Communications should reach this Office **BY TUESDAY MORNING.** Only the briefest paragraphs have a chance of insertion if received by Tuesday night's mails.

**ADDRESS** matter intended for publication 'Editor, TABLET, Dunedin,' and not by name to any member of the Staff.

**ANONYMOUS COMMUNICATIONS.** are thrown into the waste paper basket.

Write legibly, **ESPECIALLY NAMES** of persons and places

Reports of **MARRIAGES** and **DEATHS** are not selected or compiled at this Office. To secure insertion they must be verified by our local agent or correspondent, or by the clergyman of the district, or by some subscriber whose handwriting is well known at this Office. Such reports must in every case be accompanied by the customary death or marriage announcement, for which a charge of 2s. 6d. is made.

## MESSAGE OF POPE LEO XIII. TO THE N.Z. TABLET.

*Pergant Directores et Scriptores New Zealand Tablet, Apostolica Benedictione confortati, Religionis et Justitiæ causam promovere per vias Veritatis et Pacis.*

*Die 4 Aprilis, 1900.*

*LEO XIII., P.M.*

*TRANSLATION.—Fortified by the Apostolic Blessing, let the Directors and Writers of the New Zealand Tablet continue to promote the cause of Religion and Justice by the ways of Truth and Peace.*

*April 4, 1900.*

*LEO XIII., Pope.*



THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8, 1908.

## THE BOOK PROSECUTIONS



IN an address at Chelsea (Massachusetts) in 1885, Russell Lowell said: 'There is a choice in books as in friends, and the mind sinks or rises to the level of its habitual society—is subdued, as Shakespeare says of the dyer's hand, to what it works in.' In this well-known truth of human experience lies, especially for the young, the peril of the more or less erotic books that are being imported in great numbers into these countries. 'Mr. Dooley' says that a considerable number of the books that come tumbling out of the world's presses are the work of 'thin, peevish men' that are 'always gettin' licked.' It is this class that seems to be largely responsible at the present time for the flood of suggestive and unwholesome literature that is such a menace to the morals of the rising generation.

The authors of this malodorous literary waste—mostly women, by the way—have none of the qualities that would gain them a hearing by legitimate methods. They are of the class that are 'always gettin' licked' in the struggle for literary survival. Some of the unfit drop out of competition; some continue the unequal struggle and starve more or less decently; others resort to unworthy devices to win a passing notoriety and the dishonored shekels that come of it. Among this class, some achieve their end by the method which enables a small man to step for a moment into the limelight by attacking a great man or a great organisation. Thus, the *soi-disant* 'Roman Catholic' McCarthy contrived to turn into chinking coins of the realm sundry agglomerates of slipshod and semi-illiterate printed stuff, the sole merit of which, to the class of readers to whom he appealed, was his rough and calumnious attacks upon the Catholic priesthood and the Catholic people of Ireland. A similar remark applies to the preposterous, 'penny-dreadful' sort of No-Popery romance with which the Rev. Joseph Hocking doses the same class of readers, as Mrs. Squeers dosed the boys of Dotheboy's Hall with measures of brimstone and treacle. Another class of the people that are 'always gettin' licked' strain to secure readers by appealing to still baser passions than those of religious or racial animosity. From all that we have been able to learn, the 'neurotic, erotic, tommyrotic' printed stuff which they inflict upon the world sufficiently reveals the inability of the authors to achieve success along honorable and legitimate lines of literary work. On October 6, at Christchurch, Mr. Bishop, S.M., in fining sundry booksellers and booksellers' assistants for vending such pernicious stuff, made a remark which may be aptly quoted in this connection: 'The books were of varying degrees of immorality, but immorality was present in each, and it could not be gainsaid that if the immorality were taken out nothing else was left to induce any reader to give the books a second thought.'

In giving his decision, Mr. Bishop quoted the following from a judgment by Chief Justice Cockburn: 'A great many publications of high repute as literary productions in this country have a tendency which is immodest and immoral, and might have been subject matter for indictment. But it is not to be said that