

there are seldom four Roman Catholic officers at one and the same time on active service in the town, and thus available, Protestant officers are now and then called upon to perform this duty. It is needless to add, since most of your readers are probably aware of the fact, that in that essentially Protestant country—indeed, the very cradle of Protestantism—the reigning family has long been Roman Catholic. In Turkey the priests of every recognised religion are permitted to celebrate their respective high festivals in public. In Constantinople, for instance, the authorities provide Mussulman officers and soldiers to act as an escort of honor for the occasion. Both in their London correspondence and in their editorial columns, some of the foremost New Zealand newspapers have voiced the demand for complete equality of treatment for Catholics in Great Britain and Ireland. And the action of the Protestant Alliance has, no doubt, done much to hasten the arrival of the day when Catholic Emancipation shall be a full and complete reality to our co-religionists in the United Kingdom. Not for the first time, out of the eater came forth meat, and out of the lion's mouth, honey.

Notes

A.O.H.

We have received from a Southland correspondent, for comment, statements regarding an ecclesiastical condemnation of a benefit society known as the Ancient Order of Hibernians. There is no such society in Australia or New Zealand; but the Protestant friend who supplies the statements, and the Catholic correspondent who requests a comment thereon, seem to confound that organisation with the Hibernian-Australasian Catholic Benefit Society, which is doing such admirable work throughout the Commonwealth and the Dominion. Lack of space precludes treatment of the matter in this issue, but we propose to return to it next week.

The 'Chain' Lunacy Again

It has come to our knowledge that the 'chain-prayer' lunatic is again at large. This time she (it is always a more or less demented female of some or other religious persuasion) has started operations in Dunedin—sending out (anonymously, of course) written copies of the 'prayer' of the bogus 'Bishop Lawrence,' and threatening dark penalties to the person (Catholic or non-Catholic) who 'breaks the chain.' It is said that some venomous microbes are so tenacious of life that you have to boil them for six hours before you are sure that they are killed 'fatally dead.' Protestant and Catholic ecclesiastical authorities have denounced the 'chain-prayer' superstition in terms hot enough to shrivel up any normal folly not founded on an elemental human passion. But still it lives. Its survival illustrates the old saw, that against stupidity even the gods strive in vain. People with sound religious instincts and common-sense will promptly consign 'chain-prayer' communications to the fire. As regards the silly women who send these missives around—we recommend their friends to see to them and do what lies in their power to prevent them pestering people with this contagious form of superstitious mania.

The Soothing Weed

The man who knows how many sticks go to a crow's nest might be able to say how many ingredients go to tobacco. Some time ago we gave our readers a list of the fearful and wonderful combustibles that some of the cigarettes of commerce are compounded from; and a paragraph that is now going the rounds of the press gives some idea of the variety of ingredients that are used in the manufacture of the 'divine weed.' In reply to Senator Pulsford, the Vice-President of the Executive Council in the Australian Senate mentioned the following as the list of dutiable commodities which were delivered duty-free (presumably as 'raw material') to manufacturers of tobacco in the Commonwealth: Essences, spirits, alcohol, starch, liquorice, cornflour, spices, sugar, saccharine, glucose, orange-peel, glycerine, manufactures of cork, manufactures of paper, and vaseline. And these in quantities sufficient to pay, at present tariff rates, an aggregate of £15,950. But (we are told) 'as, however, these articles meant added weight to the product, and excise was charged on the added weight, the amount of excise collectable would be in excess of the sum stated.'

'Catholic Marriages.' The book of the hour. Single copies, 1s posted; 12 copies and over, 8d each, purchaser to pay carriage. Apply Manager, 'Tablet,' Dunedin.

DIocese OF DUNEDIN

The annual social evening of the St. Joseph's Harrier Club was held at the residence of Mrs. Jackson. The Rev. Father Corcoran was present, and there was a large attendance of members and others interested in amateur athletics. After a programme of songs and recitations was gone through an adjournment was made to the supper room. During the evening the prizes for the five-mile cross-country championship were presented by Mrs. Jackson, who congratulated the various recipients on their successful performances. The following was the prize list:—Championship, J. V. Quelch (Mr. M. Coughlan's trophy), Jas. Swanson (club's trophy), Sealed handicap, J. Cowan (Dr. O'Neill's trophy), P. Gorman (trophy). Cheers for the hostess brought a very enjoyable evening to a close.

It has been decided for various reasons not to hold the usual concert this year in aid of the St. Vincent de Paul Orphanage, South Dunedin. Instead, it has been arranged that the members of the St. Vincent de Paul Society will take up a collection in aid of the institution in the city and suburbs. The Rev. Father Coffey, Adm., speaking at St. Joseph's Cathedral on Sunday, brought before the congregation the claims of the Orphanage to the generous support of the people. There is in the institution a large number of children for whose support the self-sacrificing Sisters of Mercy receive no assistance from the Government, and have therefore to depend wholly on the generosity of the public. When entertainments were held in aid of the Orphanage a large percentage of the receipts went in expenses, but contributors to the collection now about to be made will have the satisfaction of knowing that every shilling given will go direct to the object for which it is intended. An appeal appears elsewhere in this issue.

The Rev. Father Lynch, of Palmerston (writes the London correspondent of the *Otago Daily Times*), who left Dunedin early in March and sailed from Auckland for Suva, Honolulu, and Vancouver, visited cities of Canada on his way here. He then entered the United States, visiting Niagara Falls, Buffalo, and was present at the New York Catholic Cathedral Centenary. He landed at Queenstown, Ireland, about the middle of May, and has since travelled through Ireland and England. Coming to London, he attended the great Eucharistic Congress. From London he is going to Rome, and will spend a month travelling on the Continent, visiting Amiens, Paris, Lyons, Turin, Genoa, Florence, Venice, Milan, Italian lakes, Switzerland, the Rhine, Germany, and Belgium. He will sail from Gibraltar for New Zealand about December 30.

Balfour

(From an Occasional Correspondent.)

The annual concert in aid of the funds of the Balfour Catholic Church was held on Friday, October 16. The weather conditions were all that could be desired, and the attendance was very good. Mr. Shea acted as chairman, and the following contributed items:—Part I.: Opening overture, Misses McLean and Mulqueen; song, 'The Skipper,' Mr. McCutcheon; duet, 'God defend New Zealand,' Misses McLean and Mulqueen; song, 'The black sheep,' Mr. W. Clark; song, 'The dear little shanrock,' Mrs. McCutcheon; recitation, 'The cabin's story,' Mr. Whytock. Part II.: Overture, Misses McLean and Mulqueen; song, 'The man behind the gun,' Mr. McCutcheon; song, 'The friends you spend your money with,' Mr. W. Clark; duet, 'Anchored,' Mr. and Mrs. McCutcheon; comic song, Mr. Whytock; song, 'Alone,' Mrs. Tulloch; recitation, 'Father Riley's Horse,' Mr. McPherson; song, 'The old apple tree,' Mr. Clark. The accompaniments were tastefully played by Mrs. McCutcheon and Miss Leffler. At the conclusion of the concert the Rev. Father Keenan thanked the audience for their presence; also the performers for their very valuable assistance, after which refreshments (kindly supplied by the ladies of the parish) were dispensed. The committee—Messrs. Shea, Mulqueen (2), Ginivan, Groves, and Condon—worked hard to make the function the success it was, and are to be complimented for their efforts, as the funds will benefit to the extent of fully £14.

We were very glad indeed (says the *Waikato Argus* of October 22) to see Right Rev. Mgr. O'Reilly looking so well after his severe illness, which has extended over some months. He informs us that he feels that his health is sufficiently rested to enable him to perform the duties appertaining to his office without undue strain. We sincerely hope that this will prove to be the case.