

# Convent of the Sacred Heart

TIMARU

## The Annual Spiritual Retreat for Ladies

Will begin at 7 p.m. on Monday, the 4th day of January, 1909, and will end on the morning of Saturday, the 9th day of January.

The Retreat will be Preached by a Jesuit Father.

Ladies desirous of making the Retreat are invited to lodge at the Convent, where they will find every accommodation.

Application should be made as soon as possible to the Reverend Mother Superior.

# Convent of the Sacred Heart

ISLAND BAY, WELLINGTON.

## The Annual Spiritual Retreat for Ladies

Will Begin at 7 p.m. on SATURDAY, the 9th day of January, 1909, and will End on the Morning of THURSDAY, the 14th day of January.

The Retreat will be preached by the Rev. Father Forster, S.J.

By applying in time to the Reverend Mother Superior, Ladies wishing to make the Retreat can remain at the Convent, where they will find every accommodation.

## ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS

**INQUIRER.**—Previous answers to inquiries were perfectly clear and definite to any person who, like your friend, employs (and inferentially claims to know the meaning of) Catholic terms in common use. We may, however, restate them in other terms. (1) No Papal Bulls are issued by the Pope in Council *ex-cathedra*. Your friend is confounding Papal Bulls with dogmatic decrees issued by a General Council presided over by the Pope. The term *ex-cathedra* is a technical term of Catholic theology. It means, literally, 'from the chair.' It is used of the Pope when speaking (as it were) 'from the chair'—he is said to speak *ex-cathedra* 'when, in the exercise of his office of pastor and teacher of all Christians, he, in virtue of his supreme apostolic authority, defines that a doctrine on faith and morals is to be held by the whole Church.' Such definitions are held by the Church to be, in accordance with the 'assistance' promised to him, in the person of his predecessor St. Peter, infallible. These definitions are, however, not given, as your friend imagines, in the form of Bulls, but of dogmatic decrees. (2) It is not true that Papal Bulls are all, in the eyes of Catholics, infallible utterances. The overwhelmingly greater part of such documents deal exclusively with personal matters (such as the appointment of bishops, etc.), or disciplinary matters. These do not fall within the Catholic doctrine of the Papal Infallibility. Papal Bulls sometimes deal with 'dogmatic facts,' and these, according to the general agreement of Catholic theologians, fall (so far as such facts are concerned) within the category of infallible utterances. (3) No Papal Bull—and no dogmatic decree, and no such document signed by any Pope—was ever issued asserting either that the sun moves around the earth, or the earth around the sun. (4) Always pleased to be of service to you or to your friend, or to any other non-Catholic inquirers.

**CATHOLIC SCHOOLS.**—(1) The number of pupils in N.Z. Catholic schools is about 12,000. (2) No figures available. (3) The cost of educating a pupil in the public school is over £5 per annum, and, taking this as the basis of calculation, the Catholics of the Dominion, by maintaining their own schools, save the Government at least £60,000 a year. We have no means of ascertaining the approximate yearly cost of conducting Catholic schools. (4) The number of children at State primary schools at the end of last year was 141,071, and the receipts by Education Boards for the maintenance of primary schools was over £740,000. (5) We have no means of finding out.

**T.H.**—We have no means of finding out the information you ask for.

## DEATH

**HIGGINS.**—On November 23, 1908 (suddenly), Michael, dearly beloved and eldest son of John and Catherine Higgins, Seddon, Marlborough; aged 28 years.—R.I.P.

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

*Pergant Directores et Scriptores New Zealand Tablet, Apostolica Benedictione confortati, Religionis et Justitiae 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, DECEMBER 3, 1908.

## CATHOLIC DISABILITIES



ANY and various are the modes of blocking reform and checking the advance of progress. One of these is the policy of 'masterly inactivity'—sitting doggedly still and arming one's self against the point of the goad that invites to motion. This is the method adopted by the British Prime Minister to delay for yet a time the repeal of the last of the penal laws against Catholics. So much may be sufficiently gathered from the reply made by him, a few weeks ago, to the interrogations of Lord Edmond Talbot and Mr. W. Redmond in regard to the Government's intentions in connection with the removal of the penal enactments against Catholics that still smudge the British statute-book. He had no present intention (he declared) of introducing such legislation, or of affording facilities for the introduction of any measure that is not of 'a wholly non-controversial character'; but he is graciously willing to give 'full consideration to any proposals to relieve Roman Catholics, or any other religious denomination, from legal disabilities which give rise to practical grievance.' Apparently, in the view of the Prime Minister, it is no 'practical grievance' that the faith of Catholics should be stigmatised as 'superstitious and idolatrous' by the Sovereign at the beginning of his or her reign; that religious Orders in the United Kingdom may not inherit property, and that all the members thereof are liable to be sent at any time to penal servitude; that Catholics (as in the case of the recent Eucharistic Congress) have not the same freedom of public worship as the adherents of other creeds; that they are denied the full right of public procession that is accorded as a matter of course to every other Christian faith—that would even be extended to Mahomedans, Shintoists, Fiji Islanders, or African fetish-worshippers, if they chose to march in religious procession through the streets of London. It is manifestly, in the Prime Minister's eyes, no 'practical grievance' that Catholics are treated as an inferior and suspect brood—that they must be rigidly excluded by Act of Parliament from the office of Lord Lieutenant in that overwhelmingly Catholic country, Ireland; that their religion bars them from the positions of Lord Chancellor and of Chancellors of the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge.

True, the sentences of penal servitude against unlicensed members of religious Orders are not nowadays enforced. But, as Mr. Justice Kennedy declared (in his judgment in the suit promoted by the Protestant Alliance against the Jesuit Fathers) no law can be treated as obsolete until actually repealed. And (as the case of the Eucharistic procession amply demonstrated) it apparently requires only the vociferations of a little band of intolerants—even though these be devoid of ability, and despised