

TO PRINTERS.

FOR SALE.—Job Printing Works in Hawke's Bay; new plant; splendid reason for selling. Price £275 cash. Apply "E.W.C." Box 98, Dunedin.

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.

Convent of Our Lady of Mercy

TE AROHA, AUCKLAND.

Under the Special Patronage of Right Rev. Dr. Lenihan, Bishop of Auckland.

First-class Boarding and High School conducted by the Sisters of Mercy. Unrivalled situation close to the famous Mineral Springs and Sanatorium. Especially built and equipped with every modern convenience, offering every advantage to delicate growing girls.

Thorough Modern and Practical Education under Government Inspection. Special classes for Music, Art, and Languages. Exceptional facilities for musical study, as the school is a Centre for the Trinity College, London, and Auckland University Examinations.

Religious training and formation of character are objects of special care. Most careful supervision. Accommodation for a limited number of boys under ten years of age. Terms strictly moderate.

Apply to the

SISTER SUPERIOR.

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.

DEATH

FOLEY.—On November 30, 1908, at his residence, 'Glanworth,' Ohutu, William Foley, after a severe illness; in his fifty-second year. 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 Justitie 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 10, 1908.

A CHRISTCHURCH CONTROVERSY

IN common with many Canterbury readers, we have perused with much regret a controversy that was brought to a close last week in the columns of the *Lyttelton Times*. Sundry masked correspondents hosed with vitriolic abuse the able and temperate pronouncement of the Bishop of Christchurch on the No-license question, which appeared in the local secular press, and which was subsequently reprinted in our columns. As our readers are aware, the Bishop's pronouncement was elicited by the unworthy electioneering manoeuvre of some individuals who, in the face of the objections of the local ecclesiastical authority, persisted in the distribution of political appeals in the No-license interest at the Christchurch Catholic Cathedral on the Sunday preceding the elections. It is unnecessary to state that political matter, no matter of what hue, would have been equally debarred at such a time and in such a place. The correspondence in question has been marked on the part of the Bishop's critics by a deplorable bitterness and by a spirit of hectoring and bullying, and of all intolerance. Some of the correspondents were, for the purposes of the controversy, 'Roman Catholics.' On reading their communications and those of the other masked assailants of the Bishop of Christchurch, one fully realises the truth of Cardinal Manning's saying, 'that few persons can resist the temptation of saying anonymously what they would not dream of saying with open face.' One sympathises, furthermore, with the wholesome contempt which filled the soul of the Earl of Beaconsfield when he referred to anonymous writers as 'varlets who pelt honest folk with mud as they walk along, and then hide behind a dustbin.' In a controversy on such a subject, marked with such bitterness on the side of the dustbin folk, it was inevitable that we should hear again that mouldy old 'fallacy of figures,' which has again and again been exposed in our columns. We refer to the oft-dynamited tale of the exceptional drunkenness and general criminality and all-round chuckleheadedness of Catholics. Our readers will recall the piece of fiction that in this connection was published to the world in a No-license organ by a *soi-disant* 'Roman Catholic' in 1903. A variant of this fairy tale of figures formed the staple of some abusive correspondence in the *Lyttelton Times*. Briefly, the public were told this time again by anonymous and alleged 'Roman Catholics' that our co-religionists are the most drunken and besotted generation in New Zealand, and the 'proof' of this wide and wild assertion is just this: that a greater proportion of