

Notes

Maria Monk

Grand Master Snowball (Melbourne) has had his glorious, pious, and immortal feelings beaten black and blue by a recent announcement in the *Commonwealth Gazette*. That publication had instructed the Customs authorities to forbid the importation of two abominable books, one of them a lucubration of the unfortunate Chiniquy, the other the foetid romance attributed to the poor, half-witted non-Catholic gaol-bird and 'soiled dove,' Maria Monk, but written by her paramour, a reprobate ex-preacher named Hoyt. 'Because Roman Catholics,' said Mr. Snowball at an Orange gathering, 'did not wish the people to read such books they influenced the Federal authorities to have the books excluded.'

As soon as the report of the Grand Master's threnody appeared in the Melbourne daily press of February 2, the Very Rev. Dean Phelan, V.G., delivered this neat 'back-hander' in regard to the statement that the importation of that class of printed filth was forbidden through what the brethren commonly call 'the machinations of Rome': 'Turning from fable to fact, we find the case stands thus:—Our Customs Act of 1901, section 52, forbids the circulation of "blasphemous, indecent, or obscene" literature, and prohibits the importation of the same (section 50) under a penalty of £100.

'But do the works of Maria Monk come within the meaning of this Act? Well, the Customs authorities, if they required information on the point, need not come to "Rome" for instructions, but could turn to the pages of *Chambers' Encyclopedia*, edition 1906, and under the heading "Maria Monk" they will find the good lady's character summed up: "A woman of bad character, who pretended in 1835 to have escaped from the nunnery at Montreuil, and who, coming to New York, found a good many credulous adherents."

'If Maria Monk had "credulous adherents" in America, I have too much respect for the good sense of our Australians to have any fear that they will allow the purity of their homes to be stained and the minds of their children to be poisoned by a literature reeking with moral filth, even though the advocate of such literature is the Grand Master of the Orange lodges, and the champion of the Bible in the State schools.'

DIOCESE OF DUNEDIN

An operatic entertainment in aid of the school furnishing fund will be given in the Sacred Heart School, North-east Valley, on Monday evening, February 22.

A week's retreat for members of the confraternity of Perpetual Succor was begun in St. Joseph's Cathedral on Sunday evening. It is conducted by the Rev. Father Gilmartin, C.S.S.R.

The many friends of Mr. J. B. Ford, Heddon Bush, who is at present in a private hospital in Dunedin, will be pleased to hear that he has received much benefit from his treatment, and that his health has improved.

Our Wellington correspondent was in error last week when he stated that Messrs. Conolly, Monaghan, and Skinner were about to proceed to Meanee to study for the priesthood. They are continuing their theological studies at Holy Cross College, Mosgiel.

Rev. Father O'Riordan, inspector of Catholic schools in the Diocese of Goulburn, who had been on a visit to his cousin, Rev. J. F. O'Donnell, Queenstown, passed through Dunedin during the week, on his return to Australia.

The new Church of the Irish Martyrs, Cromwell, will be solemnly blessed and opened on Sunday, April 18, the Sunday after Easter. The ceremony will be performed by his Lordship the Bishop, who will preach in the morning. The sermon in the evening will be preached by the Rev. Father Murphy, Riverton.

His Lordship the Bishop announces the following clerical changes in the diocese of Dunedin:—The Rev. Father Howard, of South Dunedin, takes pastoral charge of Milton, his place being taken by the Rev. J. O'Malley, of Invercargill; the Rev. Fathers Delany and Farthing go to Oamaru; the Rev. P. O'Neill has been transferred from Oamaru to Wrey's Bush; and the Rev. John Lynch, of Palmerston, takes Rev. Father O'Malley's place at Invercargill. The Rev. James Lynch, who has been on a trip to Europe, arrived in Melbourne last week, and will shortly take up his duties in Palmerston.

The Christian Brothers' School re-opened on February 1, and the many friends of the school will be pleased to learn that there was a record attendance for the opening week—over 300 names having been entered on the roll. In the recent Junior Civil Service examinations Master E. Walmsley, whose age is 15 years and 4 months, obtained twelfth place in the Dominion, second place in Otago, and first place among the Catholic schools and colleges of the Dominion. We hope that this year will see results equally satisfactory both in the scholastic and other departments of school life. Parents in the country who are anxious to send their boys to the Christian Brothers' School can get full information as regards board, etc., by applying to the Superior of the Schools, Rattray street, Dunedin.

His Lordship the Bishop, accompanied by Rev. Father Coffey, Adm., and Rev. Father Gilmartin, C.S.S.R., visited the Christian Brothers' School on Monday, when his Lordship was entertained by the pupils and presented with an address of welcome, on the occasion of his first visit to the schools since his return from Europe. After Master Frank Marlow had read the address, his Lordship thanked the boys for their whole-hearted welcome, gave them a most interesting account of his travels while in Europe, and made the day of his visit one to be long remembered. His Lordship said that as the boys had been so successful in all departments of school life while he was away, they deserved a whole holiday on Tuesday. Needless to say, this announcement was received with loud applause.

LENTEN REGULATIONS

DIOCESE OF DUNEDIN

Whilst the law of the Lenten Fast remains in full vigor, the following regulations are made in virtue of powers received from the Apostolic See and by special indulgent granted to all the Bishops of New Zealand, on December 1, 1908, for ten years.

1. Flesh meat is allowed at dinner on all days in Lent except Wednesdays and Fridays, the Saturday in Ember Week, and the Monday in Holy Week.

2. On fasting days a little refectio is allowed in the morning and a collation in the evening, at which (except on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday) butter, cheese, and milk, in moderation, may be used.

3. Eggs may be used at dinner on all days except Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.

4. Lard and dripping may be used as a condiment instead of butter on all days except Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.

5. Fish and flesh meat cannot be used at the same meal during Lent.

6. Persons who are not bound to fast, may take at all meals the kinds of food that are allowed at the chief meal.

7. There is neither fast nor abstinence on Sundays in Lent.

8. St. Patrick's Day (Wednesday, March 17), being a privileged day, does not come under the law of fasting and abstinence.

9. We hereby authorise priests having care of souls, and confessors, to grant to the faithful such further dispensations as may be deemed necessary according to the circumstances of each case.

10. Persons not twenty-one years old, as well as those advanced in old age, and all persons who are unable to fast on account of sickness or hard labor, etc., are exempted from the general obligation of fasting.

All persons who have arrived at the years of discretion are bound to receive Holy Communion within Easter time, which in this diocese commences on Ash Wednesday and ends on the octave of the Feast of SS. Peter and Paul.

A collection for the Seminary Fund shall be made on the second Sunday in Lent in every church where a priest officiates, and in all other churches on some Sunday during Lent. The faithful are earnestly solicited to contribute generously to this fund.

The collection for the Pope shall be made in each church on some Sunday before the end of September next, and for the Aborigines and Holy Places on some Sunday before the end of November.

* MICHAEL VERDON,
Bishop of Dunedin.

February 1, 1909:

At a recent meeting of the Thames Hospital Trustees the Right Rev. Mgr. O'Reilly was elected chairman for the next twelve months.