

into increasing prominence; and in the third place, this completeness is being emphasised yet farther by the ignominious failure of Protestantism to provide any equivalent. Who can conceive of four Catholic theologians, all claiming to speak in the name of the Church of Rome, but holding opposite views, and expressing them with equal vehemence, as to the nature of the priesthood, and of the sacraments, the authority of General Councils, and even as to the question whether Christ rose from the dead? The idea is absurd. There are many doctrinal questions as to which even Rome has as yet defined nothing; but the doctrines which she has defined she has defined clearly and for ever; and she will for ever stand by these definitions, or will fall by them.

'In this way it is then, that modern historical criticism is working to establish, so far as intellectual consistency is concerned, the Roman theory of Christianity, and to destroy the theory of Protestantism, for it shows that Christian doctrine can neither be defined nor verified except by an authority which, as both logic and experience prove, Rome alone can with any plausibility claim.

It is a good saying and true that 'science is the hand-maid of religion.' There can be no discord between them. What DRAPER and others call the 'conflict' between science and religion is, says Dr. ZAHM, merely 'a conflict between private individuals—scientists and philosophers with their hypotheses, on the one hand, commentators and theologians, with their provisional interpretations, on the other.' In other words, it is a conflict of opinions and theories, and not of defined dogmas and demonstrated scientific facts. In the quoted words of Mr. MALLOCK we have evidence from no over-friendly source that the Catholic Church, and she alone of all the creeds, has nothing to fear and much to gain from the progress of science. So far from impeding it, her true mission is, and has ever been, to stimulate it. In the words of the Vatican Council, 'the Church, far from being opposed to the progress of the human arts and sciences, encourages them in many ways.' For 'she recognises that, coming from God, the Author of sciences, their proper use should, with the assistance of His grace, lead to God.'

DIOCESE OF DUNEDIN.

Mr John Cleary, brother of the editor of the N.Z. TABLET, has arrived in Dunedin on a holiday tour of the Colony.

The Very Rev. John Ryan, S.J., left Dunedin towards the end of last week for Melbourne.

The Rev. Father Moloney, S.M., of St. Patrick's College, leaves Dunedin to-day (Thursday) on his return journey to the Empire City.

The Very Rev. Canon Franklin was a passenger by the Waikare on the trip to the West Coast sounds. During the stay of the steamer at Port Chalmers Canon Franklin called on the clergy at the Bishop's Palace, Dunedin.

Mr A. Vallis, organist of St. Joseph's Cathedral, who left for Europe on a holiday tour some months ago, has returned to Dunedin and resumed his duties.

The Rev. Fathers Ryan and O'Malley, who had been secured for the Diocese of Dunedin by his Lordship Bishop Verdon when in Ireland some months ago, arrived in Dunedin on Wednesday morning by the Talune from Melbourne.

A meeting of the Catholics of Dunedin and suburbs will be held in St. Joseph's Hall, on Friday evening, for the purpose of making arrangements for the due reception of his Lordship the Right Rev. Dr. Verdon on his return from Europe. His Lordship is expected to arrive here on April 8.

The bazaar, which was held at Middlemarch in aid of the building fund of the Catholic Church, has been a great success for so small a centre of population, the net proceeds amounting to £105. This result was due principally to the zeal of the stallholders and their assistants, and to the work of the energetic secretary, Mr. Michael Moynihan. The Rev. Father Lynch and the Catholic body desire to express their cordial acknowledgment of the generous and friendly aid given, and the kindness shown by their non-Catholic neighbours. The plans for the new church are being now prepared, and it is expected that the work will be started shortly.

The Sisters of Mercy, South Dunedin, gratefully acknowledge receipt of the sum of £3 3s from his Lordship Bishop Grimes, £1 1s from the Ven. Archpriest Walsh, Westport, and £1 from 'A Friend,' Lawrence.

NEW ZEALAND: GENERAL.

WE have to thank Messrs. Charles Begg and Co., Dunedin, for a neat pocket calendar.

THE *Triad* for the current month contains a quantity of very good reading matter of a varied character. The illustrations, which include a coloured supplement, are above the average.

A FEATURE of the Christmas issue of the *Sydney Catholic Press* is a number of full-page illustrations of valuable paintings of religious subjects, the property of his Eminence Cardinal Moran.

FARMERS and horse-owners in South Canterbury report the troublesome bot fly to be not nearly so bad this year as has been the case for the past two or three years.

WE have received from the publishers, Messrs McKee and Co., of Wellington, *Andrew Wiseman's Parity*, a humorous Scotch reading, by Mr. John McGlashan, well-known in musical circles, in the Empire City.

IN commemoration of the opening of the Waiau River bridge, Mrs. J. G. Ward was recently the recipient of a handsome gold fob, suitably inscribed, and presented by the contractor, Mr. W. Baird.

REV. Mother Mary Joseph Aubert writes acknowledging with grateful thanks the receipt of the sum of £6 2s from the Sisters of Mercy, Hokitika, in aid of the funds of the Sisters of Our Lady of Compassion, Wellington.

THE Irish Athletic Society, of Southland, intend to hold their annual sports meeting on March 14, when among other events there will be a £60 St. Patrick's Handicap. Further particulars can be obtained from the hon. secretary, Mr. D. Hinchey, Criterion Hotel, Invercargill.

SPEAKING in the Otaki electorate last week the Premier said that Old Age pensions for nine months of the financial year had been paid and still the Treasury had £218,000 to the good. As another instance of the prosperity of the Colony, he pointed out, that when the Income Tax was first struck they received £68,000, while this year it would reach £125,000, an increase of 85 per cent.

STEPS are being taken in Auckland (writes the correspondent of the *Otago Daily Times*) to establish a home for incurables and convalescents to commemorate the approaching jubilee of the arrival in Auckland of the Order of the Sisters of Mercy on April 9, 1850. The Rev. Mother Cecilia Maker, at the instance of Bishop Pompallier, then undertook the education of the children of the Church, both Maori and European.

A COUNTRY resident, who had evidently chopped up with a tomahawk in his backyard a stick or two of indifferent prose into suitable lengths, sent the result of his labours, which he designated poetry, to a Southland contemporary. In a note which accompanied his handiwork he modestly remarked: 'Colonial poets cannot hope to be appreciated like Kipling, though their work may be as good, or even better, than his.'

THE *Dominican Star* for 1900 is now ready, and copies can be obtained at the N.Z. TABLET office, or at St. Dominic's Priory, Dunedin. This is one of the best and most interesting annuals published, and a copy should find a place in every Catholic household. This year's volume is larger than that issued a year ago, and the subject matter is of a very high order of merit. The volume has been very favourably reviewed by many of the secular papers in the Colony. It is beautifully bound in cloth, blocked in gold, and profusely illustrated. The price is 3s 6d, or post free 3s 10d.

IT is the custom of the Marist Brothers stationed in New Zealand (says the *Nelson Colonist*, January 4) to meet each year for a religious retreat, a season of spiritual exercises which last for a week. By reason of the central position and the accommodation provided, the Stoke Orphanage is the usual meeting place, and the Brothers from all parts of New Zealand are now assembling, the retreat commencing on the 6th inst. It is anticipated that about fifty will attend, and the Rev. Father Ginisty, S.M., of Sydney, will be present to conduct the proceedings and give addresses.

THE prospectus of St. Patrick's College appears elsewhere in this issue. It is needless to draw the attention of parents and guardians to the excellence of the education imparted at St. Patrick's College, as its record since its establishment bears ample testimony to its success. The College is intended to afford the youth of New Zealand a sound liberal education, whilst furnishing all those safeguards of religion, without which education ceases to be an advantage. The course of education is classical, scientific, and mercantile, special attention being devoted to the last-named branch. Students are prepared for the Civil Service, Law, University, and Musical examinations. Full particulars can be obtained from the College authorities.

THE traffic on the Government railways during the Christmas and New Year's holidays was very heavy, the number of passengers from Dunedin on Boxing Day being close on 6000. It is very creditable to the staff, with the appliances at their command, that this large number of excursionists was dealt with successfully, and that not a single accident or mishap of any kind marred the day's record. It is admitted that the accommodation was not sufficient to meet such an abnormal increase in passenger traffic, but this is the business of the authorities in Wellington, and under the circumstances all the more credit is due to the Dunedin office for having, with the plant at its disposal, coped so successfully with the crowds that travelled both North and South during the principal holidays.

THE St. Mary's Orphanage girls (says the *Nelson Colonist*), to the number of about 130, were taken on Wednesday for their annual picnic. The children, accompanied by the Sisters in charge, his Grace Archbishop Redwood, the Very Rev. Dean Mahoney, Father George Mahony, and a few friends, were conveyed to the 'Glen' in vehicles provided from Mr. R. Thomas' stables. The day was spent in the usual way with games, sports, and rambles in the bush and on the sea-shore, and needless to say the children enjoyed their outing to the full. Before leaving the picnic ground, Dean Mahoney addressed the assemblage, and reminded the children of an old friend whom they had lost (the late Mr. M. J. Hunt), but congratulated them on obtaining a worthy successor to perform the work of gathering funds in Mr. B. Crisp, junior, and he thanked that gentleman for his labour, and also all those who had contributed to give the children the great treat which they had so much enjoyed. Cheers were given for those who had helped, including Father George Mahony, who was very active in getting off the sports.