

Admiral Dewey has finally turned his back on the Presidency, in the judgment of practical politicians, more completely than he could have done in any other way, by engaging to marry Mrs. Hazen, for she is a Roman Catholic, and, rightly or wrongly, all politicians believe that no man who has a Roman Catholic wife can be President. They point to General Sherman, General Sheridan, Richard P. Bland, and others mentioned for the Presidency, who could not be nominated because their wives were members of the Roman Catholic Church, under the prejudice, unreasonable as it may be, which they simply recognise as a practical fact to be dealt with in a practical manner.

'Carroll of Carrollton,' Father John Carroll, Daniel Carroll, Thomas Fitzsimons, Dominic Lynch, and twenty-seven members of the Irish Catholic Friendly Sons of St. Patrick, by the donation of enormous sums of money, saved Washington's army from disbandment or desertion in 1780 when it was on the verge of starvation and mutiny. Catholics thus saved the Republic in the darkest crisis of the War of Independence. Generals Moylan, Wayne, Fleury, De Gras, Kosciusko, and Pulaski, Commodore 'Saucy Jack Barry,' and other Catholic fighting men took a leading part in creating the Republic. Close on half the soldiers who fought and bled for independence were Irish Catholics. When in the sixties it became necessary to defend the Union, 'the height of the fighting,' as an Irish private expressed it, was done by Catholic arms. And who that is acquainted with later American history does not recall the achievements of the Catholic Generals, 'Fighting Phil Sheridan,' Shields, Meagher, Rosecrans, Newton, Mulligan, Ewing, Meade, Hunt, Stone, McMahon, Rucker, Vincent, and Colonel Jerome Buonaparte, Admirals Sands and Ammen, etc? The United States gratefully accepted the willing sacrifice of Catholic blood and Catholic gold in the day of her need. But, as far as we can gather, the statement of the Boston Herald correspondent is only too well grounded, and the loyalty of our co-religionists to the United States is being repaid by a form of proscription worthy of Pretoria or Belfast. And even when one of her most skilled admirals chooses to wed a woman of the hated creed the record of his services must be wiped out and forgotten as if he were a traitor to his country instead of being one of her most gallant defenders.

Dewey has been vilified by a section of the American Press. His picture has been hissed by an audience in Washington. But his services to his country will probably outlive this rabid outburst of unpopularity. In any event he will have the philosophical consolation of reflecting that he is in the same boat with the good old general, Alcibiades, whom the fickle Athenians of old, after crowning with gold, banished from their city; and with Demetrios Phalereos, to whom they erected 360 bronze statues—and destroyed them all in a single day, after condemning him to death without just cause. The inconstant Athenians have left issue, and most of them seem to have emigrated to the United States.

OF the inventing of new forms of religion—
THE LATEST founded, of course, on the 'open Bible'—there is
THING no end. The latest addition to the thousand or so
IN CREEDS. of conflicting creeds into which Protestantism
is divided, is, in all reason, a sufficiently ludicrous one. The members of the new denomination are known to themselves and their neighbours as the Sanford Workers. An American contemporary describes their tenets as follows: 'They are a healing sect, but differ from the Christian Scientists in that they believe that all disease is due to the direct action of the Devil on the body of the sick person. A cure is effected by beating the afflicted person with a Bible in order to chase away the devil. The Bible houses will profit by the practices of this latest phase of progressive Christianity.' The whole thing is a solemn travesty on religion. But once accept the principle of private judgment and the doctrines and practices of the Sanford Workers may be accepted and acted upon as in perfect accord with the Divine Mind. Private judgment binds the Almighty to approval of many a strange vagary of the human intellect.

Mr. E. W. Dunne, Catholic bookseller, George street, Dunedin, is sole agent in New Zealand for *Saint Joseph's Sheaf*, the organ of the Archconfraternity of St. Joseph. This magazine, which is issued quarterly and illustrated, has a very large circulation in Europe and Australia, and ought to be a welcome addition to the library of every Catholic home. It is highly recommended, and as the price is nominal—1s per annum, post free—it should become a general favourite in New Zealand.—*.*

MYERS AND CO., Dentists, Octagon, corner of George street. They guarantee highest class work at moderate fees. Their artificial teeth give general satisfaction, and the fact of them supplying a temporary denture while the gums are healing does away with the inconvenience of being months without teeth. They manufacture a single artificial tooth for Ten Shillings, and sets equally moderate. The administration of nitrous-oxide gas is also a great boon to those needing the extraction of a tooth. Read advertisement.—*.*

THE WAR IN SOUTH AFRICA.

ITEMS OF INTEREST FOR CATHOLIC READERS.

THE WAR NEWS.

Letters from Australia to hand recently (says the *South African News*) indicate that more war news is cabled from South Africa to the colonies than appears in the Cape papers. The battle of Dundee was the first fight which was reported in the London evening papers while the action was going on. In the afternoon the London papers, 7000 miles from the scene of the battle of Dundee, were telling a description of the fight. In Natal our telegrams (says the *Mercury*) were not allowed to come through.

KHARKI OR KHAKI.

It is a pity (says the *Tablet*) that Mr. Rudyard Kipling, in his famous 'Absent-minded Beggar,' which is just now having such an unprecedented vogue, should have perpetuated the vulgar solecism of writing 'khark'i,' which represents exactly the same mispronunciation as that of the Cockney who talks of the 'drawing' room. The word itself is the common Persian adjective 'khaki' (with long Italian a), meaning 'dusty, dust-coloured,' from the ordinary 'khak,' signifying dust, or earth, as used, for instance, in the third chapter of Genesis.

ANOTHER CATHOLIC OFFICER DEAD.

The list of Catholic officers who have fallen in the South African war has been further extended by the death of Captain Knapp, a Catholic officer, who was recently killed. A *Requiem* Mass for the repose of his soul was said at the Carmelite Church, Kensington, by Father Simon, one of the community there, and a brother of the deceased officer.

A CATHOLIC LADY FOR THE TRANSVAAL.

From a Home exchange we learn that Lady Jessica Sykes, wife of Sir Tatton Sykes, has left for the Transvaal with a party of friends, including some medical men, to nurse the sick and wounded. Lady Sykes is the daughter of the late Right Honourable George Cavendish Bentinck, and was married to Sir Tatton when eighteen years of age, the baronet being many years her senior. She was received into the Church by Cardinal Manning.

THE LATE MR. HUBERT WOLSELEY.

In addition to several Masses offered recently for the repose of the souls of the soldiers killed in battle (says the *London Tablet*), a Solemn *Requiem* Mass was celebrated in the Abbey Church, Fort Augustus, for the same intention. Mr. Hubert Wolseley, who was killed in the battle of Elandslaagte, was formerly a student in the Abbey school. The high altar was draped in black for the occasion, and in the centre of the church was erected a catafalque covered with the Union Jack, and surrounded with lighted tapers. The service terminated with the chanting of the Absolution by the monastic community standing round the catafalque. A considerable number of the congregation manifested their sympathy by assisting at the solemn office.

THE DOMINICAN NUNS IN THE TRANSVAAL.

The Cape *Mercury* says:—We have been permitted to see a private letter from the Rev. Father de Lacy, dated Pretoria, November 6. He writes in the most cheerful tone, and says that the Dominican Sisters are carrying on their schools at Klersdorp and Potchefstroom as usual and are not in the least interfered with. He went to Pretoria to hold service for the military prisoners, of whom there are between 600 and 700 Catholics. In all, he says, there must be about 50 officers and 1200 or 1300 men military prisoners. There is no need for anxiety, he says, about anyone who has been allowed to remain in the Transvaal. The only thing they have to be anxious about is the food supply in case the war is prolonged. All the priests and nuns, as well as the convents, have been placed at the disposal of the authorities to attend the sick and wounded in case of necessity.

PRESIDENT KRUGER AND THE SISTERS OF NAZARETH.

The Rev. Mother-General of the Sisters of Nazareth, Hamersmith, England, wrote to President Kruger appealing for his protection for the Sisters at Johannesburg, and it appears (says the *London Tablet*) the letter went home to his heart. The President took steps at once to assure the Sisters of their safety. Moreover, President Kruger instructed the Secretary of State, Dr. Reitz, to write a letter of reassurance to the Mother-General. Nor was he a man of words merely. Every Boer man is wanted for the Boer War. But a party of men was specially told off for the protection of Nazareth House, Johannesburg, from—'Outlanders.' Not all Outlanders are millionaires; not all are able to be of the company, described lately in a daily paper, as filling the expensive hotels in Capetown and mingling maudlin tears with their champagne. Some fallen angels of Outlanders, it seems, there are, who stayed in Johannesburg because they had no money to carry them thence, and, also, perhaps, because, under the circumstances of a town emptied of its fighting folk, something might turn up for the advantage of a class of ne'er-do-wells that needed daily and nightly control. Against all such possible intruders strict watch is kept by these guardian Boers, of whom the English and Irish Sisters they defend speak in tones of kindness that may, through this paragraph, find echoes here that will not be drowned by the clamour of the streets.

CAPTAIN MOLYNEUX, OF STONYHURST.

Captain Molyneux, his old schoolfellows at Stonyhurst will remark with pride (says a Home exchange), may be said to have had the honours of the week in the war, for he has still managed to hold out at Fort Molyneux, close to captive Colenso—a fort that will henceforth bear his name upon the revised map of South Africa.