

With regard to the assertion that though Slattery is an aggressive speaker, he is not so much so as to be insulting to Catholics, the *Observer* remarks that 'the reports of Slattery's lectures have preceded him, and they are very insulting and aggressive and also wholly opposed to the broad spirit of tolerance and religious harmony that is so desirable and usually prevails in a colonial community. Is there any section of the people so bigoted and vindictive as to derive pleasure or imagine they can get profit from this sort of thing? Surely not. . . . And yet there are probably a good many people narrow-minded and bigoted enough to pay their shilling to hear this ex-priest Slattery, and gullible enough to believe what he tells them. This, too, in the face of the fact that the lives of the priests and nuns who lived amongst us all their days give the lie direct to his stories.' The *Observer* then gives the correspondence which passed between the Rev. J. V. McDonnell, of Hamilton, New York, and his Grace Archbishop Walsh, of Dublin, as to the reason why Slattery had his faculties as a priest withdrawn, and then concludes thus:—'And yet this man Slattery has the audacity to say that he left the Roman Catholic Church from conscientious motives. What are his attacks on the Roman Catholic priesthood worth in view of the disclosures made in these letters? What about his conscientious motives now?'

'After all (writes "Zamuel" in the Auckland *Star* on the subject of the Slattery visit) I do not even yet see much to be gained by outsiders coming to these colonies and trying to set one creed against another by making alarmist statements. . . . It is quite possible the life knowledge of men like good old Father Walter who has just been laid to rest, followed to his grave by men of all creeds and no creed for that matter, will have more influence than any statements made by outsiders. The proposal of the Sisters of Mercy to found a home for incurables and convalescents, open to all creeds, is a kind of argument also that can be understood by all. Then, too, the world has not yet forgotten Father Damien's self-sacrificing labour at Lepers' Island. The real danger of the Colony is not that any one Church will predominate and crush others, but that no Church will retain its hold upon the rising generation.'

The Dunedin correspondent of the *Trupka Times* says:—The TABLET is sounding a note of warning as to an expected anti-Roman Catholic lecturer and lecturers who are, on the invitation, I believe, of some idiots in Dunedin, about to honour us with a visit. The warning for some is necessary. For others it is not. Cleanly, decent, liberty-loving, tolerant, and true spiritually-minded people have no need to be warned to keep away from any and all stirrers up of sectarian strife. A man can hold firm views upon his own faith and be satisfied with the foundation upon which they rest and yet respect the faith of another. That is if his faith be worthy of the name. He may even have a certain amount of respect for the sturdy bigot to whom toleration of another's faith is as foreign to him as his honesty of purpose is unquestioned. But we can have no sympathy for the man or woman who parades around the country slandering that faith in which he or she professes to have been reared, and that not for the love of truth, but for the love of money. The aims of such campaigns as that of the Slatterys are two—1. Breeding strife of the worst kind, and 2. collecting money from their dupes. People such as these cannot tell an educated or fairly well-read person anything of any moment, but the latter can tell them that they are unmitigated pretensions whose published and known career until then to be teaching in anything that makes life worth living. I hope the Press will ignore them.

DIOCESE OF AUCKLAND.

(From our own correspondent.)

Thursday, January 25.

The Rev. Father Gillan, preached last Sunday evening at St Patrick's.

The Rev. Father Herbert, S.M., of Wellington, arrived here on Sunday from Sydney. He is staying for a while at St. Patrick's presbytery.

A splendid concert, at which the best available local musical talent will assist, is to take place in St. Benedict's Hall on Friday, February 21. The proceeds are to be devoted to the improvement of the Catholic cemetery in Symond street.

His Lordship Dr. Lendham, in several letters written from London, and which were received by the last inward Trisco mail, makes it known that he fully expects to leave for New Zealand some time in March. An enthusiastic and whole-hearted welcome awaits our good Bishop from his devoted and admiring people.

A memorial Mass for the repose of the soul of our late beloved Bishop was celebrated at St. Patrick's on Tuesday, the anniversary of his death, by the Very Rev. Dean O'Reilly, assisted by the Rev. Fathers Buckley and Kamp. The choir, consisting entirely of the clergy, under the Very Rev. Dr. Egan, who presided at the organ, rendered the solemn music in a most devotional manner.

The committee of the St. Patrick's Day Commemoration met on last Friday evening, and did a large amount of important and practical business. A communication was read to the meeting from Mr. Clary, hon. sec. of the Bendigo St. Patrick's Day Celebration Committee, from which the local committee gained some good and practical hints, which are to be put into operation in Auckland.

At the adjourned meeting to consider the most appropriate means of celebrating the golden jubilee of the arrival in this Colony of the Sisters of Mercy, the Very Rev. Dean O'Reilly presided. There were also present the Very Rev. Dr. Egan, O.S.B. and the Rev. Fathers Buckley, O'Hara, and Hennessey. After a lengthened discussion it was unanimously resolved, on the motion of Dr. Bakewell, seconded by Mr. J. J. O'Brien, 'that a meeting be

called, to be held in St. James's Hall, in order to arouse public interest, in the establishment of a Convalescent Home, and to place before the people of Auckland the proposals of the Sisters of Mercy for the celebration of their golden jubilee.' It was also decided to hold a public meeting, and that several prominent citizens be invited to address it, and it take place on the evening of Friday, February 23. The programme is to be part musical, and this portion was left in the hands of the Very Rev. Dr. Egan. The institution is to be non-sectarian. The prospectus, showing where it is proposed to erect the building and all particulars in connection therewith, will be presented to the public meeting. It is to be hoped that this noble and highly-philanthropic effort of the good Sisters of Mercy will be crowned with that success which it deserves.

Slattery and his bogus-nun have finished their 'shows' in Auckland. The Catholic priests and people maintained towards them a policy of silent contempt. In this the local Press followed suit, with the exception of the *Observer*, which, in its editorial column, slashed the precious pair in true sledge-hammer style. The pamphlets of the Catholic Truth Society (England), forwarded very timely by the N. Z. TABLET, were distributed throughout the city. One of them was handed to the scurrilous orator while he was holding forth upon the stage of the Forester's Hall. 'Oh!' he interjected, 'I am charged here with being a drunkard.' As if this charge were new to him. 'I defy anyone now,' he said, 'to say I drink.' At his last lecture he appeared in vestments, and beforehand made his intention to do so known by posters. It fell flat, however, his audience was small, and in the height of his chagrin, he petulantly said, 'the Roman Church in Auckland subsidized the local Press to ignore him, and the *Observer* to attack him.' His 'show' here was a lamentable and ignoble failure. The exposure of him in the N. Z. TABLET, of the 18th inst., completed it.

DIOCESE OF DUNEDIN.

Father Ganly, parish priest of Melbourne, arrived in Dunedin yesterday.

The Rev. Father O'Malley proceeded on yesterday to Oamaru, where he has been temporarily appointed as assistant to the Very Rev. Dean Mackay. Father Howard goes to Naseby.

The *Gazette* notifies that the following priests have been appointed officiating ministers within the meaning of the Marriage Act, 1880:—Revs Pierce Hearne, J. O'Malley, and M. M. Ryan, all of the diocese of Dunedin.

We understand that a movement is on foot to give a cordial 'welcome home' to the Very Rev. Dean O'Leary, and that part of the proceedings will take the shape of a presentation to the *soggarth aroon* of Lawrence.

Seven Sisters of the Mission left Dunedin by the Talune on Monday for Melbourne en route for Perth, Western Australia, for the purpose of founding a house of their Order. Six of the Sisters were from the Christchurch house and one from Napier. During their stay in Dunedin they were the guests of the Dominican Nuns.

A meeting of the School's Picnic Committee was held in St. Joseph's Hall on Tuesday evening. Father Murphy presided. Good progress was reported. The sports programme embraces no fewer than 34 items, many of them of a very novel kind, and, given fine weather, the outing—which will be to the Seminary grounds, Mosgiel—should prove a great success.

A meeting of the Bishop's Reception Committee took place in St. Joseph's Hall on Tuesday evening. Matters in connection with the testimonial are progressing with a fine swing. The collectors appointed for the various wards have met with gratifying success in their work, great enthusiasm prevails, and it is confidently expected that the practical recognition of his Lordship's successful efforts for the benefit of the diocese will be a very substantial one.

The Christian Brothers' School, Dunedin, re-opened on Monday last with a good attendance. Parents and guardians should now see that their boys attend the school regularly and punctually. No matter how excellent a school may be unless the pupils are regular in their attendance they cannot progress, and the irregular attendant is in a measure wasting his own time as well as that of the teacher, and to a certain extent disorganising the class to which he belongs. It is unnecessary to say anything regarding the excellence of the education imparted by the Christian Brothers, whose reputation has been fully established for many years, both at Home and in these colonies. Not only are the pupils taught all that is to be found in the curriculum of the State schools, but special attention is given to such subjects as shorthand, typewriting, and bookkeeping. Candidates are prepared for the Civil Service and University entrance examinations. Suitable boarding house accommodation can be procured for pupils from the country.

It is not given to every one (writes a correspondent of the *Liverpool Catholic Times*) to assist at a celebration of the Holy Sacrifice held on the broad waters of the sea immortalized in Biblical history by the miraculous passage of the Israelites and the drowning of their pursuers. A temporary altar was erected in the music saloon of the Orient Austral, which on this November Sunday was speedily pursuing its course towards Ceylon and Australasia, and here a Low Mass was celebrated by Father P. Hearne, assisted by Fathers John Geary and Anthony Walsh. These young priests, who were all trained at Waterford College and ordained there last June, are journeying to the Antipodes, the two first-named to Dunedin, New Zealand, to assist Bishop Verdon, and the last-named to the Diocese of Perth, Western Australia, over which Dr. Gibney presides. In their new sphere of labour these three missionaries may have much larger and perhaps some smaller congregations than that of twenty-three present on the occasion recorded, but certain it is they will have none more appreciative than those who gladly availed themselves of the privilege of hearing Mass in the Red Sea.