

*Morton in Great Britain.* Our own personal rainbow chase after the imaginary baronet-bishop has led us far enough afield into such literature. Among other authorities we have carefully perused the endless lists of baronets and bishops in Haydn's massive *Book of Dignities*.\* Not alone has there been no 'Right Reverend' (or any Reverend) Sir Robert J. Morton among the list of British baronets in the present century; but, as far as the information in the *Book of Dignities* goes, there never has been. Moreover, there is not, and there never has been, either in *Decembris* or in any other place in England, whether in pre-Reformation or post-Reformation times, any bishop named 'the Right Reverend Sir Robert J. Morton.' And the *Clergy List*, as Mr. Britten testifies—and as may be readily ascertained by reference to it—contains no such name as that of the 'Rev. Robert J. Morton.' Our readers can now understand why—despite her boast that she 'has nothing to conceal,' that she 'has no fear of investigation,' and will publish 'all names,' even of those who 'will bitterly resent it'—Mrs. Slattery found it prudent to suppress such names in a country where her romance of high life could be so speedily exposed.

The ready resort of the Slatterys to fictitious names explains why the Poor Clares of Cavan have been unable to prosecute this wretched impostor. The names of the nuns given in her autobiographical romance are, like those of the English baronet-bishop and his wife, more shadowy than the John Doe and Richard Roe and the John Styles and the Joan of Noakes of the old-time lawyers. But for this exercise of prudence—which she and the rest of her fraudulent kind have learned from the reprobate compiler of *Maria Monk*—Mrs. Slattery's career would long ago have been brought to a close by the operation of the law of libel.

There is another aspect to this woman's fraud which closely affects the character and *bona fides* of ex-priest Joseph Slattery. The facts which have been stated above regarding the career of his female companion have been repeatedly brought before him by articles and correspondence in the secular Press and in the religious weeklies (Protestant and Catholic): by registered letters; by displayed placards (one of which is in our possession); by public challenges which he as publicly refused to accept; by affidavits; and in other ways. Thus far neither he nor she has taken any steps to clear the female partner in the business of the serious and well-proven charges of fraud which have been levelled against her on three continents, as well as in New Zealand.† It is, therefore, folly to argue that Joseph Slattery has no knowledge of the woman's bad faith. In the face of all this, he advertises her on his handbills as 'the Escaped Nun,' 'Mrs. Slattery, otherwise Sister Mary Elisabeth,' and 'Mrs. Slattery, known in the convent as Sister Mary Elisabeth.' Her portrait in nun's clothing adorns the cover of two of her pamphlets, and on the title-page of her *Convent Life* she boldly announces herself as 'Mrs. Slattery, otherwise Sister Mary Elisabeth, Abbey of Poor Clares, Cavan, Ireland.'‡ In her lectures she poses as a former novice of that convent. Money was charged for admission to those lectures—in fact, the gospel of L. S. D. is written large over the whole venture. That money was in plain terms, obtained under a false pretence.

\* Edition of 1900. This ponderous volume embraces the substance of Beaton's *Political Index* of 1860 and the late Joseph Haydn's additions which brought it down to 1871. Mr. Ockley, in the edition before us, brought it down to 1890.

† Its lists of baronets extends far back into the eighteenth century, and its lists of bishops contain all available names back to the days of St. Augustine, A.D. 597.

‡ The Auckland *Observer* has published the substance of Mr. Britten's pamphlet, and literature exposing the careers of both Slattery and his wife has been extensively circulated from the office of the N.Z. TABLET.

§ American C. L. On p. 14 of Slattery's *Convent Revolution* she again vigorously asserts her residence in that convent, namely Miss Cusack having characterised her *Convent Life* as a tissue of falsehoods.

## Diocesan News.

### ARCHDIOCESE OF WELLINGTON.

(From our own correspondent.)

January 27.

The Retreat for the clergy was concluded on Monday. The priests remaining in Wellington on Wednesday, about twenty in number, journeyed in brakes to Waiapu Bay, where a very enjoyable day was spent.

The Rev. Father N. B. Moloney, S.M., for the past two years on the staff of St. Patrick's College, is about to take up the duties of a curate in the parish of Te Aro. It is not yet definitely decided who is to succeed him in the College.

The half-yearly meeting of the female branch of the local H.A.C.B. Society was held in St. Patrick's Hall on the 17th inst. The following were the officers elected for the current half-year—President, Sister A. Dwyer; secretary, Sister N. Dwyer; treasurer, Sister A. Grant; warden, Sister K. Fishenden; guardian, Sister E. Trainer; sick visitor, Sister M. Doyle. The newly elected were installed by Past-President Sister M. Robinson at the usual fortnightly meeting on Wednesday evening.

The St. Patrick's College scholarships, open to boys attending Catholic schools, have this year been won by Richard Madden, of Timaru, and Duncan McMurrich, of Wellington. Madden, who headed the list, was at one time a pupil at the Marist Brothers' School in this city, and McMurrich is at present attending that institution. There were 20 candidates, only one of whom failed to obtain a pass. The following are the highest six, the maximum marks being 900:—Richard Francis Madden (Timaru), 765; Duncan McMurrich (Wellington), 759; Michael Murphy (Kumara), 729; Ivan Foote (Greymouth), 714; James Fraher (Greymouth), 690; John Hannon (Greymouth), 689.

Rev. Father Gollen has been appointed to the parish of Kaikoura.

The Rev. Father Herbert, S.M., returned to Wellington to-day. He has been spending his holidays with relatives in Australia.

St. Patrick's College re-opens on Thursday. It is expected that the number of students will be somewhat in excess of last year's.

The annual picnic of St. Mary of the Angels' choir was held during last week at the Waiwetu, Lower Hutt.

At a meeting of the priests of the Archdiocese, held at the close of the Retreat, a sum of £2000 was raised in aid of the Cathedral Fund. The Ven. Archdeacon Devoy presided at the meeting.

I hear that during the absence of the parish priests of Hokitika and Greymouth at the annual Retreat in Christchurch, their places were filled by the Rev. Fathers O'Shea and Ainsworth, of Wellington, both of whom are enjoying a holiday on the West Coast.

The Wellington branch of the H.A.C.B. Society has published the programme for its sports meeting on March 17. A sum of £150 is to be given in prize money, the principal event of the day—the St. Patrick's Day Wheel Race—accounting for £25 for the first, £10 for the second, £5 for the third, and £3 for the fourth. Altogether a first-class programme, including bicycle and running events, has been arranged.

To defray the cost of extensive alterations and repairs in the Pahautanui church a very successful concert was given in the township on Monday evening. Songs were contributed by Mrs. Taylor (of Mosgiel), Misses Jessie Huett (Wellington), Blackey, George, Mulhern (2), and Miss Conny Gibbs (of Wellington), danced an Irish jig, all being encored. At the conclusion of the concert dancing was carried on for a couple of hours. The dance music was supplied by the Brady family, Messrs. C. Blackey and F. Brady acted as M.C.'s, and Mr. J. Smith was secretary.

Rev. Father W. D. Goggan's many friends in Wellington rejoice in the knowledge that he is to be again with them. Some few years ago he was appointed to the Blenheim parish, and is now exchanging places with the Rev. Father Servajean, who has been attached to the Te Aro parish for the past twelve months. The Catholics here very much regret Father Servajean's departure, and his new parishioners are to be congratulated on their having secured so zealous and energetic a successor to Father Goggan.

### DIOCESE OF CHRISTCHURCH.

(From our own correspondent.)

January 29.

By the Talane for Melbourne, on Friday, seven Sisters of Our Lady of Missions left en route for Perth, Western Australia, to found a house of the Order, the second in that colony.

The high schools of the Sisters of the Missions, Barbadoes street, and of the Sisters of Mercy, Colombo street, re-open to-day (Monday) after the Christmas vacation, and the parochial schools in the several centres re-open to-morrow.

At the Convent of the Sacred Heart, Barbadoes street, seven aspirants received the holy habit of the Religious of Our Lady of Missions on Saturday, the 20th, at the termination of the retreat: and on Monday, the 22nd, eleven candidates made their profession. The ceremonies were presided over by the Very Rev. Father Le Menant des Chénais, V.G., there being present also the Rev. Fathers Aubry, Marnane, Crotty, and Richards.

Prefacing his sermon at High Mass in the Pro-Cathedral on Sunday, his Lordship the Bishop referred to the advent of the notorious Slatterys to this Colony, and of their possible visit to this city. He gave some very wholesome advice to Catholics as to the attitude they should observe towards the unhappy pair, and paid a most generous tribute to the N.Z. TABLET authorities for the timely and scathing exposure of the wretched adventurers and their nefarious practices. He urged his hearers to possess themselves of copies of the TABLET and other literature which would inform them on the matter, and to make good use of it.

There was a large attendance at the ordinary meeting of the St. Patrick's Branch (No. 82) H.A.C.B. Society held on last Monday evening, the chair being occupied by Bro. J. McCormick (president). The proposal to employ a paid organiser created a considerable amount of discussion, it being ultimately decided to hold a special meeting on Friday evening to further consider the matter, and also the business sheet of the District annual meeting, to be held in Auckland at the end of next month. An adjournment was made during the evening to present a P.P. collar to Bro. G. E. Dobbs. The presentation was made by the president, supported by several of the members, all of whom spoke in the highest terms of the recipient.

On Sunday, at all the Masses and Vespers in the Pro-Cathedral, a collection was made in aid of the Patriotic Fund. His Lordship the Bishop celebrated the seven o'clock Mass, and briefly alluded to the object of the day's collections. At the 9.30 o'clock Mass the celebrant, the Very Rev. Vicar-General, urged a generous response on the part of the congregation, remarking that whatever individual opinions may be held about this, or in fact, any war, which entailed a vast sacrifice of human life, with a consequent increasing number of widows and orphans, everyone must admire the self-imposed hardship, courage, and devotion of those, from amongst us, who, in the bloom of their manhood, had risked their lives in defence of the interests of their Motherland. At the High Mass, celebrated by the Rev. Father Galerne, S.M., his Lordship the Bishop preached. In the evening there were Pontifical Vespers at which his Lordship the Bishop officiated, being assisted by the Very Rev. Dean Foley, S.M., as deacon, the Very Rev. Dean Carow, S.M., sub-deacon, Very Rev. Father Le Menant des Chénais, assistant-priest, Rev. Fathers Bowers and Richards, masters of ceremonies, and the Rev. Father Galerne, S.M., who sang the responses. An impressive discourse, on a text selected from the Epistle of the day, was delivered by the Very Rev. Father M'Enroe, C.M., to a crowded congregation. After the sermon the Bishop imparted the Episcopal blessing, and gave Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

(Diocesan News continued on page 19.)