

Prior to his departure from Kaikoura the Rev. Father Walsh was presented with an address and a purse of sovereigns. The presentation took place in the Sacred Heart Schoolroom, when there was a large attendance, Mr. W. Smith presiding. The address was signed on behalf of the Catholics of the district by Messrs. W. Smith, P. Keenan, and B. Mackle. Reference was made in the address to the many sterling qualities of the recipient, and his zeal and energy as a priest. The Rev. Father Walsh in replying said that the terms of the address were undeserved by him. However, he felt deeply and sincerely thankful to them for their kindness in the past and their generous gift on the present occasion. He concluded by introducing his successor, the Rev. Father Golden, whom, he said, he had known for a number of years, and the longer he knew him the higher he appreciated him.

OVER a year ago the Royal Oak Hotel, Wellington, was burned to the ground, and now out of the dust and ashes there has risen a magnificent building, which it is claimed is the premier hotel building in the Colony. Containing three floors, and presenting to three streets a solid front of masonry 500 feet long and 50 feet high, the new building (says the *New Zealand Times*) is at once a monument of the enterprise of its proprietor, Mr. Samuel Gilmer, and a lasting testimony to the skill of its architect, Mr. J. O'Dea, of this city. Immense though the proportions of the building are, there is nowhere an aggressive corner inside which seems to want filling up. Everywhere the best use has been made of all available space, and a feature which commends itself to all visitors is the admirable system of lighting and ventilation which has been provided for. In the daytime the daylight streams into every room and passage; in the night-time the whole building is ablaze with electricity. Thus, naturally, the admirable system of decoration, which is a leading characteristic of the Royal Oak, is thrown into perspective in the most effective and striking way, and the observant visitor gains at first glance some insight into the labour and skill which have been exacted from an army of expert workmen to achieve the architectural perfection which is everywhere apparent. The whole work has been carried out at a cost of about £25,000, and Mr. O'Dea, who has already made a name for himself as a painstaking and successful architect, is to be highly complimented on this latest evidence of his taste and architectural skill.

## INTERCOLONIAL.

A somewhat unique method of spreading the Catholic Truth Society's publications is now in full swing at the city and suburban churches (says the Melbourne correspondent of the *Sydney Freeman's Journal*). The idea originated with one of the Vincentian Fathers, Malvern. A book-case is placed in the porch, and at a glance one can choose the special publication desired. Provision is made for depositing the nominal cost of each pamphlet—1d. The system works admirably, thanks to the care bestowed on it by the members of the St. Vincent de Paul Society. Several thousands of these publications have, by this means, been spread broadcast, and, needless to remark, have effected an incalculable service to religion by enlightening the ignorant and scattering the prejudices against the Church and her doctrines.

The members of the New South Wales second contingent held a church parade in Sydney on the Sunday afternoon prior to their departure. The Catholic members went to St. Mary's Cathedral, where an immense crowd awaited them. The officers present were Major Boam, Major Lemhan, Major Murray, Captain Frechill, and Lieutenant Tower. M. Bard d'Aunet (Colonel-General for France), with the captain of the French warship *Eure*, occupied one of the pews. The Hon. E. W. O'Sullivan, Minister for Works, was also present. The Rev. Father Patrick, who accompanied the contingent as chaplain, occupied a seat in the body of the Cathedral with the men. When the soldiers were seated, the Cardinal-Archbishop, accompanied by a number of the clergy entered the Cathedral. After some special vocal and instrumental music had been given by the choir, his Eminence Cardinal Moran addressed the men. At the conclusion of the Cardinal's address there was Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, after which the Hallelujah Chorus from the "Messiah" was given by the choir.

The Guild Hall, Sydney, never held a more enthusiastic gathering than on Monday evening, January 15, when the officers and men of the Irish Rifles assembled in full force to do honour to Major Murray (their commanding officer), Lieutenants Woods and Garvan, and other members of the corps, on the eve of their departure for South Africa. The *Daily Telegraph* in its report of the proceedings describes the event as 'the biggest regimental send-off there has yet been in the city.' Captain Frechill (next in command to Major Murray) presided, and amongst the invited guests present were the Hon. John See, the Hon. E. W. O'Sullivan, Mr. Edmund Barton, M.P., Mr. J. J. Cohen, M.P., Dr. W. E. Warren, Major Robertson (Scottish Rifles), the Rev. Father Hayden (Manly), and Messrs. W. J. Merewether (Crown Prosecutor), P. J. O'Donnell ('Mingay'), B. McBride, J. F. Hennessy, Frank Coffee, L. Hopkins, J. Blakeney, and others. Speeches were delivered by Captain Frechill, Major Murray, Major Robertson (of the Scottish Rifles), and the Hon. J. See and E. W. O'Sullivan. From the first a large number of the Irish Rifles had offered themselves for service. Major Murray and Lieutenant Garvan had been given commissions. Lieutenant Woods, who was denied this privilege, enlisted as a trooper with the Australian Horse, but has been promoted, and went with the contingent as a corporal in that corps. The other members of the Irish Rifles whose offer was accepted, and who left for South Africa are Sergeant Watson, Corporal J. McSweeney, Corporal J. P. Gilhennan, Privates James Burns, James Carden, W. D. Henery, M. Naish, J. Fanton, P. O'Connor, L. Hopkins, Murphy, C. Church.

## THE WAR IN SOUTH AFRICA.

### THE DUBLIN FUSILIERS AT COLENSO.

The special correspondent of the *Otago Daily Times* in Natal writing of the battle of Colenso says that the official casualty list contained about 1100 names. The killed numbered five officers and about 160 men. The wounded numbered 36 officers and 634 men. The prisoners number 21 officers and 311 men. The Dublin Fusiliers suffered severely from shell fire. They were ordered to hold the river banks and cover the advance of the main column. A withering fire was sent among them, but they held on until ordered to retire, after dearly winning the position. During the retreating movement many acts of heroism were performed. Private Dowling was discovered wounded by Sergeant Sheridan, who carried him half a mile out of danger. Lance-corporal Farrall went back under the murderous fire and made two trips, and brought two wounded men, and that not before dressing their wounds. Major Butterworth was here, there, and everywhere among his wounded comrades, the Dublins. The hottest shell fire did not deter him from being where duty called. The men speak in the highest terms of his untiring efforts to the wounded.

### LOOTING THE BOERS' HOUSES.

The following extract from a letter received from a member of the New Zealand contingent shows that Lord Roberts's order that looting should cease came not a moment too soon:—'Any houses we have looted have been splendidly furnished. I got a silver watch and gold chain, and a large bundle of love-letters in a house last Sunday, and a 10gal jar of fig jam on Monday. The letters are most interesting. The girl appears to have been engaged to no less than three men.'

### THE CATHOLIC CHAPLAIN.

A letter from one of the workers with the ambulance corps at Elandslaagte, at Rietfontein, and at Lombard's Kop, gives details of wounds and deaths that are too harrowing to print; but one passage, which tells in an allusion of the presence of Catholic chaplains where they are most wanted, we permit ourselves to make:

There was one officer, with his head half blown off, and his right leg just hanging with about an inch of skin to his hip, brought in on a gun-carriage, and he died while they lifted him to our ambulance waggon. Then a gunner came in; he had lost his leg, and his inside was hanging out, but he was just as sensible as you or I, and the pain he could not bear any longer. He called on the doctor to poison him, but the doctor could offer him no bodily respite. The priest, however, approached; and whispered in his ear words which gave him comfort, so that he lay down for a while.

### SERGEANT MURPHY'S PRESENCE OF MIND.

An officer who was wounded at Elandslaagte describes his experiences in a letter published by the *Times*. Colonel Ian Hamilton had, he says, seen a white flag hoisted on the Boer camp, and had ordered the 'cease fire' to be sounded. Just then the officer took a rifle from a Boer who had been shooting from behind a rock. But as he turned round he was badly wounded on the back of the left shoulder. A tremendous fire was poured into the British line, and the men not understanding why the 'cease fire' had been sounded, wavered for a moment and retired 40 yards. The wounded officer was left lying on the ground between the two forces, when a Sergeant Murphy, of his company, pluckily ran back, held him up, and shouted to the men not to retire. The whole line then rallied, the panic being only momentary.

### MAX O'RELL'S DESCRIPTION OF THE BOER.

In his new book Max O'Rell thus describes the Boer: 'Take all that is dirtiest, bravest, most old-fashioned, and most obstinate in a Breton; all that is most suspicious, sly, and mean in a Norman; all that is shrewdest, most hospitable, and most Puritan and bigoted in a Scot; mix well, stir, and serve, and you have a Boer, or if you will—a boor.'

### SPLENDID EXAMPLE OF THE NUNS.

The Sisters, who opened their part in the campaign in South Africa so well, are still metaphorically sticking to their guns. 'Splendid Example of the Nuns' is a heading in a London paper over an announcement from Mafeking that 'the convent has received eight shells, but the nuns still refused to leave.' They are pretty well protected, we (*Tablet*) are glad to know, apart from the fact that so many of the shells used in the bombardment seemed made warranted not to explode; but at any rate their conduct is such as to impress the correspondent with the fact that, in the midst of people easily panic-stricken, they 'are setting a splendid example.' From the Sisters of Nazareth in Johannesburg a cable dated the first Sunday in December has come, through the courtesy of the Portuguese Legation, to the anxious Mother-General at Hammersmith. It gives none but good news: 'Sisters and charges in excellent health; sufficient provisions.' This last statement means a good deal; for the Sisters—thirteen in number—have some hundreds of old people and children in their keeping. On the score of food, however, they have not had need for any anxiety; for, at the outbreak of war, the Government of the South African Republic gave them the welcome announcement that it would afford them supplies if their own failed.

### A GOOD RESOLUTION.

Mr. Louis H. Austin now serving with the Fifth Lancers in Natal, an 'old boy' of St. Vincent's school, Asted row, Birmingham, has written home (says the *Catholic Times*) stating that he has been several times under fire, but he has so far escaped injury. He mentions that Mass was said in the open air by Father Mathews, chaplain, and that at the rev. gentleman's suggestion the Catholic soldiers, who are present in such large numbers, made a resolution to spend a certain time night and morning in prayer.