

she lives at no address. Well, this bashful 'witness' wrote over the signature 'Ellen Brady' to the *Sheffield and Rotherham Independent* of December 2, 1897.* Her letter briefly tells us that she was an orphan in the Convent of Poor Clares, Cavan, that Mrs. Slattery was there at the time, was called Sister Mary Elizabeth, and was 'mother of the orphans.' This is clumsy lying. Nobody acquainted with the working of orphan asylums conducted by religious needs to be told that no *novice* in any Order (whether of Poor Clares or of Sisters of Mercy or of Sisters of Nazareth, or of any other whatsoever) is entrusted with the responsible position of 'mother of the orphans.' And Slattery's wife claims to have left the Cavan Convent as a novice and never to have made her profession as a nun. Now, if 'Ellen Brady' is to be taken as a reliable witness, Mrs. Slattery has lied. If Mrs. Slattery's story of her novitiate be accepted as true, then 'Ellen Brady' has told a falsehood. There is a third supposition open to us: that both 'Ellen' Brady and Mrs. Slattery have lied; and a fourth: that they are one and the same person. At any rate, 'Ellen Brady' lay *perdue*. Nothing could induce her to reveal her whereabouts or her identity. Those who have assumed the identity of 'John Stinson Wright' with Joseph Slattery will probably hold that 'Ellen Brady' is but one of the *aliases* of Mrs. Slattery.

Such is Mrs. Slattery's sole 'defence.' The Duke of Norfolk, her Majesty's Postmaster-General, has truly said that 'no decent man would listen to, no generous man believe, this woman's vile accusations.' 'Decent women,' said Mr. Labouchere, M.P., in *Truth*, 'really ought to know better than to attend lectures to "ladies only" by "escaped nuns," whose appeals to the bigotry of their hearers are as notorious for their nastiness as for their mendacity.' Mrs. Slattery would do a more Christ-like work if, instead of calumniating, she tried to imitate, those devoted Catholic sisterhoods who freely devote themselves to the service of the orphan, the aged poor, the leper, the incurable; who nobly gave their lives for the sick and wounded in the Crimea, the American Civil War, the Franco-German War, and the Spanish American War; and who, as the *Times* correspondent tells us, are setting 'a splendid example of bravery' even to the fighting men in Kimberley and Mafeking. They do their good work for Christ's dear sake, without fee or reward. And this roving impostor calumniates them at 'front seats one shilling, back seats sixpence.'

* This letter and—stranger still—the invisible and undiscoverable 'John Stinson Wright's' are, despite their manifest *malæ fides*, published in Slattery's *Complete Refutation of Popish Lies*, pp. 11, 12.

† Letter addressed to Canon Gordon, December 11, 1897, published in the Manchester papers, *London Tablet*, etc.

Diocesan News.

ARCHDIOCESE OF WELLINGTON.

(From our own correspondent.)

February 3.

The Home for Incurables, established by Mother Mary Joseph Aubert, Superior of the Sisters of Our Lady of Compassion, was blessed and opened by his Grace the Archbishop on Sunday. The home is situated next to St. Joseph's Church on the eastern side, and is intended for destitute people suffering from incurable diseases. Solemn High Mass was celebrated in St. Joseph's Church, Rev. Father George Mahoney (Nelson) being the celebrant, and Rev. Fathers Clancy and O'Reilly deacon and sub-deacon respectively. Rev. Fathers Soulas (Wanganui) and Hickson (Napier) were present in the sanctuary. Weber's Mass in G was sung, the choir being ably assisted by Misses Rose Blaney (Dunedin) and Hickling, the former also singing the offertory piece, Mercadante's 'Salve Maria.' At the conclusion of the Mass his Grace preached a particularly stirring sermon on charity, showing the motive which actuates the Catholic Church in her practice of it, and explaining Christian charity as distinguished from mere philanthropy. Christ, he said, had shown how great was His charity and love of the poor at all times by going about among the most lowly, soothing them in sorrow and healing them in sickness. Even Christ Himself, who had He chosen would have been born in riches and luxury, was pleased to come into the world amidst the lowliest surroundings, and all to teach fortitude to the suffering and charity to those blessed with riches. His Grace, in conclusion, made special mention of the very excellent work which Mother Mary Joseph Aubert had already done. She was, he said, esteemed not only in New Zealand but throughout the Australian colonies. For half a century she had persistently exemplified her Christian charity and her devotedness to the poor of all denominations. She was born in Lyons, and from her parents, who were in comfortable circumstances, had received a very high education, but at God's call had left her home and friends to carry on with Bishop Pompallier the mission to the Maoris. Since her arrival in New Zealand she had devoted her acquirements and accomplishments to the benefit of her fellow-beings, and was now about to extend her beneficence in another direction by providing this Home for Incurables. The noble work done by her and the nuns could not be over estimated. There was no charitable work from which they shrunk, the more humiliating the more they gloried in it; for they saw in the poor the person of Jesus Christ. Should we not, therefore, feel proud of these noble and devoted beings, and by every means in our power aid and assist them. Alms giving paved the way to salvation, and he hoped that the congregation would, at the opening of the home, subscribe generously and willingly, resting assured that what was given to the poor was but lent to the Lord. A procession, in which the congregation took part, was formed at the conclusion of the sermon, and the home blessed and declared open by his Grace. The collection taken during the inspection of the building amounted to about £80, for which the good Sisters are extremely grateful.

The Catholic schools of the city were re-opened on Monday, when the attendance of pupils was very satisfactory.

St. Mary's Convent ex-Pupils' Association's picnic is being held at Titahi Bay to-day.

Miss Girvan Runcie, a pupil of St. Mary's Convent, was successful at this year's Matriculation examination.

On account of Brother George's removal to Timaru, Brother Borgia has been transferred from Auckland to Wellington.

In the list of the successful candidates for the Medical Preliminary examination, I notice the name of Mr P. J. Garvey. He has been studying at St. Patrick's College.

The Rev. Father Servajan took up his new duties as parish priest in Blenheim during the week. Rev. Father Fay, his curate, also left for Blenheim on Wednesday.

The Rev. Father Patterson, until recently parish priest at Palmerston North, has been appointed to the vacancy caused by the death of Monsignor McDonald at Panmure, Auckland.

St. Patrick's College re-opened on Thursday. Rev. — McGrath, from the Measey Seminary, replaces Rev. Father Moloney on the staff.

The Rev. Father Bowden's friends will be glad to know that he is rapidly recovering from the effects of an operation to which it was found necessary to subject him a few weeks ago.

The Very Rev. Dr. Kennedy passed through Wellington on his way to Measey this week. His holiday, if such it might be called, was pretty well taken up in preaching retreats in various parts of the Colony.

The children of St. Joseph's Orphanage were treated to a picnic by Mr and Mrs Martin Kennedy last Saturday. Before leaving Gladstone Terrace the children gave hearty cheers for their host and hostess, who spared no pains to make the day enjoyable.

Another old and well-known resident, Mr A. S. Allan, passed away at his residence, Featherston Terrace, on last Saturday. Mr Allan, who was for some years Deputy-Registrar of the Supreme Court here and later on the Registrar, retired from the public service on pension some twelve years ago. The Rev. Father Holley conducted the funeral service at Karori on Monday.—*R.I.P.*

The *Romance of an Unfrothed Priest*, of which the Rev. Father Cleary (editor of the *TABLET*) is the author, is attracting wide attention here from people of all classes and creeds. I append the reference made to it in the *New Zealand Times* of the 31st ult.:—*Joseph Slattery: The Romance of an Unfrothed Priest*, is the title of a spirited pamphlet just issued in Dunedin—the author being the Rev. H. W. Cleary, editor of the *New Zealand TABLET*. The word 'romance' is strangely misapplied, it will seem to most readers, in the case of an unfortunate victim of intemperance who now makes a living as an itinerant lecturer, and has been imprisoned in America for selling indecent literature. Slattery, in company with an alleged 'ex-nun,' is said to be on a visit to New Zealand, delivering lectures antagonistic to the Roman Catholic religion and its institutions—lectures in which, as Mr. Labouchere of *Truth* has said, 'pruriency and indecency are appealed to under the guise of religion.' It must have been a wholly distasteful task for Father Cleary to expose the pretensions of such people; but having deemed it necessary to do so, he has performed the task in the most thorough manner. Both in this pamphlet and in another, published in London, and entitled *The Slatterys*, by Mr. James Britten, K.S.G., ample and satisfactory documentary evidence is reproduced of the falseness of the statements of Joseph Slattery and the so-called ex-nun who travels with him. Protestants as well as Catholics in the community should be grateful that the truth regarding these people has been published.

W A N G A N U I.

(From our own correspondent.)

February 1.

Mr. Herbert Stedman, one of the five men selected from Mr. Studholme's station, Ruauui, for the Wanganui contingent for South African service, is an ex-pupil of old St. Mary's school.

The many friends of Mr. Michael Gordon, Tay street, Wanganui, will be grieved to hear of his death, which occurred at his residence on Monday last. The deceased, who was 64 years of age, was a native of County Cork, Ireland. Some years ago he was in the railway service, but, owing to failing health, was obliged to retire. There is a large family to mourn their loss, and to these and his sorrowing widow heartfelt sympathy is extended.—*R.I.P.*

Of late the members of the choir have been exceptionally diligent in their practices, and the result is a great improvement in the music and singing. This was evident last Sunday, when the choir, accompanied by a small orchestra, rendered Mozart's Seventh Mass in a highly-finished manner. At Vespers, too, special music was sung; Zingarelli's 'Laudate,' given at Christmas, was repeated, and also Denby's 'Magnificat.' In the former, Mr. Gellately again took the solo parts, his sweet tenor voice being heard to distinct advantage. Rev. Father Ginsty, of Sydney, celebrated the Mass and preached in the evening. Before commencing his sermon the Rev. Father paid a high compliment to the choir in the following words: 'While celebrating Mass this morning, I fancied myself back in my own church, St. Patrick's, Sydney, and the illusion was heightened when the strains of the beautiful Mozart music came from the choir gallery. It was an exact reproduction of what I so often hear at home, when the organ is presided over by the city organist. I never expected anything like it in a comparatively small town like Wanganui. I give you the palm for Vespers; I have never heard them sung with such devotional spirit in my own parish church.' The rev. preacher, after referring to the untiring efforts of the Very Rev. Dean Kirk to make the teaching staff of our schools as efficient as possible, gave an interesting review of the education question, concluding with an earnest exhortation to Catholic parents not to send their children, on any account, to the State schools. This homily was most appropriate, as the parish schools re-opened on January 30, after a vacation of six weeks.