

over 3,000,000 men are constantly with the colours in the land armies of Continental Europe. Including Great Britain's forces, these could be raised to over 12,000,000 if a grave crisis arose. Including the navies, there are close on 4,000,000 men in Europe who, in the piping times of peace, are always under arms and ready for war, and—without counting the loss to industrial pursuits—they drain out of the pockets of the taxpayer some £300,000,000 a year. The heart of the Continental citizen is sore with the trials of compulsory personal service and his back is well-nigh broken with the burden of taxation. Whatever view Governments and War Departments may take as to the need or value of conscription, the average plain and peaceful citizen will welcome the day of its passing and the coming of the Tribunal of International Arbitration. French and Prussian military men have, indeed, left an evil legacy to Europe. The small armies of professional soldiers may have been an evil in their way. But the bloated armaments of our time are a public calamity—the apotheosis of brute force.

THE SLATTERY ANTIDOTE.

OUR PINK PAMPHLETS.

We have on hands a full stock of our two Pink Pamphlets on the Slattery pair, who are now engaged in an endeavour to arouse and profit financially by sectarian passion against the Catholic body in this Colony. The first is entitled *Joseph Slattery: The Romance of an Unfrocked Priest*. It consists of 28 pages, chiefly of reprint from the N.Z. TABLET, with additions, and is the most withering exposure of the man yet published. It is published at this office at the small charge of 2d per copy, and 8s 1d per 100, carriage extra. The other (now ready) is entitled *Mrs Slattery: The Romance of a Sham Nun*, and is published at the same price. We strongly urge the Very Rev. and Rev. clergy and the laity to purchase these pamphlets well in advance of the Slatterys' visits and, at the proper time, to scatter them broad-cast by the thousand. These pamphlets have everywhere proved themselves the best antidotes for the Slattery plague.

AT WELLINGTON.

From an esteemed Wellington correspondent we learn that Slattery and the sham nun have fallen on evil times in Wellington. As in other places where the Pink Pamphlets have circulated, not one Protestant clergyman had, at the date of our correspondent's letter (February 12), given the smallest countenance to the roving pair of professional slander-mongers. A new and useful departure has been locally inaugurated in the spreading of the light upon the Slatterys by the enterprise of Whitaker Brothers, the Catholic book-sellers. Right underneath the Slatterys' brief announcement of their lectures in the local papers, Messrs. Whitaker have a lengthy and well-displayed advertisement worded as follows:—The Truth about the Slatterys. *Joseph Slattery: The Romance of an Unfrocked Priest*, *Mrs. Slattery: The Romance of a Sham Nun*. By Rev. H. W. Cleary, Editor of the N.Z. TABLET. Price 2d. by post 2½d. Sole Agents: Whitaker Brothers, Book-sellers, Cuba street and Lambton Quay. This shot hit fair in the bull's-eye. We understand that Slattery a agent, an Orangemen named Williamson, waited upon Mr. Whitaker and endeavoured to coax or bully him into withdrawing the light-shedding advertisement. Mr. Whitaker, however, is not to be bullied. And the advertisement remains there as a reminder to all fair-minded citizens of the discreditable career of an unhappy creature who was dismissed from his high office for interference and imprisonment for the sale of indecent literature, and of that of his female companion who was probably never a Catholic and who is certainly a vulgar and proven impostor. We compliment Whitaker Brothers on their enterprise and pluck.

DIOCESE OF DUNEDIN.

LENTEN REGULATIONS.

The following Lenten Regulations have been issued by the Very Rev. Dean Mackay, Administrator of the Diocese of Dunedin:—

While the law of the Lenten Fast remains in full vigour the following regulations are made in virtue of powers received from the Holy See, and by Special Indult granted to the Bishops of New Zealand, on 15th March, 1898, for ten years:—

1. Flesh Meat is allowed at the principal meal on all days in Lent, except Wednesdays and Fridays, the Saturday in Ember Week (10th March), and the Monday in Holy Week.
2. Eggs, Cheese, Milk, and Butter may be used at the principal meal on all days except Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.
3. On Fasting Days a Collation is allowed in the Morning and in the Evening. Milk and Butter, in moderation, may be used at the Collations on all days except Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.
4. Lard and Dripping may be used at dinner on all days except Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.
5. Fish and Flesh Meat cannot be used at the same meal on any day in Lent.
6. There is no Fast or Abstinence on Sundays.

7. On St. Patrick's Day there is neither Fast nor Abstinence this year.
8. Persons under 21 years of age or over 60, and all those suffering from sickness or engaged in hard labour, etc., are exempted from the law of Fasting.
9. In virtue of faculties given us by the Apostolic See, we authorise all Priests having care of souls in this Diocese to grant to the faithful such further dispensations as may be deemed necessary according to the circumstances of each particular case.
10. Persons who are not bound to Fast may eat Flesh Meat at every meal on the days on which meat is allowed at the principal meal.

During the Holy Season of Lent the Faithful should bestow some alms according to their means, and contribute towards the support of the Charitable Institutions of the Diocese.

The collection for the Seminary Fund will be made on the first Sunday in Lent where a Priest officiates, and in other Churches and Stations as soon after as possible.

The collection for the Pope will be made in each Church on some Sunday before the end of September, and for the Holy Places and Aborigine on some convenient Sunday.

N.B.—The Paschal Time begins on Ash Wednesday (28th February) and ends on the Octave Day of the Feast of St. Peter and St. Paul (6th July).

JOHN MACKAY, V.F.,
Diocesan Administrator.

Oamaru, February 6, 1900.

On Tuesday evening a meeting of the Bishop Verdon Testimonial Committee was held in St. Joseph's Hall. Father Murphy, Adm., was in the chair. Good progress was reported, and it was decided to publish the list of subscribers in the columns of the N.Z. TABLET.

The Rev. Father Ganly and the Rev. Father McEnroe, C.M., who had been on a visit to this Colony, left Dunedin by the Wai-kare on Monday on the return journey to Melbourne. The Rev. Father O'Reilly, C.M., of Melbourne, also left Dunedin on the same day for a short tour in the North Island.

Plans for the new Catholic church to be erected at Garston are being prepared by Mr. Petre, architect, of Dunedin. The building, which is to be of wood, will be 32ft by 16ft, with an open timber roof and porch. The building is so planned that should it be decided at any time to enlarge it the portion now to be erected will do as a nave, and transepts can be added later on.

The picnic in connection with the Gore Catholic schools (says the *Standard*) was held at Croydon Bush on Wednesday. The children, who carried bannerettes of various colours, marched from East Gore to Main street, from whence they were conveyed to the rendezvous. About 1 o'clock rain fell heavily, and the picknickers were more or less drenched before they reached home. To compensate for the disappointment a dance was held last evening in the Gore Town Hall.

The Rev. Father O'Donnell and the Catholics of Queenstown have decided to hold a bazaar and art union in aid of the building fund of St. Joseph's Church. Preparations have been going on for some time for the bazaar, and the committee of ladies who have the matter in hand expect to have the finest collection of articles for the opening (which takes place on May 21) ever got together in the district. A magnificent lot of prizes consisting of oil paintings—Irish and New Zealand scenes—studies in black and white, plaques, etc., have been collected. There are twenty-one prizes for the art union ranging in value from three to one hundred guineas, the latter being a magnificent oil painting of Irish scenery, measuring 6ft by 4ft, superbly mounted in a massive gilt frame, in which are embedded six nuggets of Wakatipu gold. This is a gift of the Sisters of Mercy, South Dunedin. The whole of the art union prizes are valued at close on £250. The tickets for the art union are now out, and can be had on application to the Rev. Father O'Donnell, or the hon. secretary, Mr. M. O'Meara, Queenstown.

The Catholic schools picnic, which was held at the Seminary grounds, Mosgiel, on Wednesday of last week, was a most successful affair. The weather was fine until about 4 o'clock, when heavy rain set in, which was a disagreeable ending to an otherwise pleasant outing. Fully 1300 adults and children left Dunedin by special train, and it was computed that 500 more from Mosgiel and the surrounding districts were on the grounds. An attractive programme of sports had been prepared by the committee having charge of the arrangements, and very soon after the arrival of the special train from Dunedin proceedings commenced. No time was lost in getting off the various events, and fortunately enough the programme was just finished when the rain set in. A move was then made for the Seminary, which provided adequate shelter for the very large crowd, and here the different prizes were handed over to the successful competitors. A return to town was made at 6 p.m., the gathering, despite the sharp downpour, being voted most successful, so much so that the generally expressed wish that it should be an annual event will undoubtedly be carried out. Besides a large number of the Catholic laity, there were present during the day the Catholic clergy of Dunedin. Among those who took an active part in carrying the picnic to a successful conclusion were the Very Rev. Father O'Neill, Rev. Fathers Murphy, Coffey, O'Donnell, Rev. Brother Fogarty (treasurer), Messrs. J. Dunne and Pavlitch (secretaries), T. Collins, M. Coghlan, Clancy, M. Rodgers, J. Millar, J. McKenna, S. Conway, F. McCormack, Hungerford, etc. Special praise was due to the Industrial School Band, which was present and contributed in no small degree to the pleasure of the day. At the final meeting of the committee on Friday night special votes of thanks were passed to the ladies who had assisted in procuring prizes, to the Railway Department for the satisfactory manner in which the train arrangements had been carried out, and also to Mr. Knott, of Mosgiel, for assistance rendered in connection with the carrying out of the sports.

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