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Current Topics

AT HOME AND ABROAD.

SEEKING
A
SCAPEGOAT.

THE treatment meted out by rampant journalists and a fool-headed public to General Sir William Butler recalls the accusations launched against the first Napoleon in the opening number of *Rejected*

Addresses:—

Who burnt (confound his soul) the houses twain
Of Covent Garden and of Drury Lane?
Who, while the British squadron lay off Cork
(God bless the Regent and the Duke of York!)
With a foul earthquake ravaged the Caraccas,
And raised the price of dry goods and tobaccos?
Who makes the quatern loaf and Luddites rise?
Who fills the butchers' shops with large blue flies?
Who thought in flames St. James's court to pinch?
Who burnt the wardrobe of poor Lady Finch?

And the answer is ever and ever: 'Boney,' of course! General Sir William Butler was in like fashion made by hysterical English journalists and by the easy-chair amateur strategists of the clubs the prime cause of every blunder and disaster that has taken place in the South African campaign. Among other things he was accused of pro-Boerism, of disloyalty, and—as the *Westminster Gazette* tells us—he was blamed 'for the inaccurate counting of the enemy's guns, for the underestimate which was formed of the forces which the enemy could put in the field, for the numerical weakness of our army in South Africa at the outbreak of hostilities, and a thousand other things besides.' The army regulations compelled the gallant Catholic General to bear this wild tongue-lashing in silence. The outraged officer closed his mouth and held it grimly shut. He has now at length realised the truth of Horace's lines:—

Est et fidei tuta silentio
Merces:

The reward of silence is a sure reward.

But there is a sane portion of the British Press that keeps its brain packed about with ice-bags even in periods of popular delirium. And it has taken up the cudgels right vigorously for General Butler. The *Westminster Gazette* has fairly cut the ground from beneath his critics and conclusively shown by an appeal to the plain facts of the case 'that Sir William Butler's sole offence lies in the fact that he failed to estimate rightly the pugnacity of the Cabinet, and, further, that he, more clearly than any other man, foresaw the magnitude of the struggle in which we were engaging with so light a heart, and the strain which would be put upon our national resources before we could hope to bring it to a successful issue.' That was the head and front of his offending. *Truth* of December 21 has the following note on the subject:—

Even worse than the veiled attack of the Jingo Press on our generals in the field is the campaign of calumny that has been started against Sir William Butler. It has already been indicated in *Truth* that Sir William, before he offered to resign his command, warned the Government of the probable difficulties of a campaign against the Boers. The *Westminster Gazette*, in the ample vindication of Sir William which it published on Monday, states expressly what the nature of the warning given was. It was to the effect (1) that in the event of war it would be impossible to hold Northern Natal; (2) that, to prevent the Boers overrunning the whole of that colony, a force of 20,000 men would be required to hold the line of the Tugela; (3) that to strike effectually at the Boers *via* Bloemfontein, an army of 100,000 would be required in Cape Colony. There is not an honest man who can deny that this opinion stands amply justified by the results of the campaign, or that if Sir William Butler's advice had been taken we should not be in the position in which we find ourselves to-day.

But in the meantime the senseless clamour of the Press against General Butler has, says the *Westminster Gazette*, rendered it 'practically impossible for a weak-kneed Depart-

ment to send him back to a place where the want of a really scientific general is making itself so woefully felt,' and 'is robbing the country of one of its best weapons.' Sir William, the same paper says, knows the tricks of the difficult game of war in South Africa better than either Sir Charles Warren or Sir Redvers Buller, and he is nevertheless left to eat out his heart at Devonport, 'scorned, abused, and slandered, because he foresaw more clearly than his fellows the horrors of the present, and strove valiantly to avert what he believed to be a national calamity.'

'HE CURSES
THE
POST LUST.'

'THE creature's at his dirty work again.' Slattery and the female impostor that accompanies him are creeping slowly southwards on their evil mission of stirring up strife and appealing to the low instincts of the purrient

at the rates that rule in the cheap monstrosity show—'front seats one shilling, back seats sixpence.' Thus far the pink pamphlets have done their work very satisfactorily. The unhappy pair have been cold-shouldered or denounced by the Protestant clergy, snubbed by the Press, avoided as the bubonic plague by decent-minded Protestants, and left to the purrient who wallow like unclean animals in a filthy tale and to the Orangemen who invited the roving lecturers to do for money the devil's work of arousing sectarian hate and racial passion in a young country where people of all creeds and parties have been for so long content to work together in harmony for the common good. The *fiasco* which marked Slattery's visit to Thames will, we trust, be repeated in many a centre of population in New Zealand. It was a tribute alike to the value of the pink pamphlets, the good sense of the non-Catholic clergy, and the honest disgust of the Thames public at the campaign of shameless and sensational vilification which Slattery and the fraudulent female partner in his 'venture' are carrying out with a view to raking in a supply of coins of the realm and then flitting to other shores, leaving behind them an evil legacy of distrust and hatred between the working classes of one creed and the working classes of another.

We have described Slattery as a bold but clumsy liar. The two fellow-Orangemen who composed the law case between him and his nephew in Melbourne were even less choice in their speech: they labelled him 'an unmitigated liar.' He still persists in describing the vulgar impostor that accompanies him as 'the escaped nun.' She still poses as such. Money is still charged for admission to her lectures. That money is, in plain terms, obtained under a false pretence. At Napier Slattery repeated the old gag about having been 'all his life an absolute total abstainer' and having been 'always in the favour of his bishop.' The original correspondence between him and Cardinal MacCabe, which proves him to have been dismissed from the priesthood by his bishop for drunkenness, is in our possession and open to inspection by the proper persons. Photographic copies of it have been posted by us to Auckland, Wellington, and Christchurch. Had Slattery posed as a reformed inebriate, people who know his history might have been prepared to take his word on the subject for what it was worth. But when, in the face of his own handwriting and the rest of the evidence against him, he announces himself a life-long total abstainer, he happily for the cause of truth, furnishes evidence which vitiates his purely personal testimony on any subject whatsoever. And this, as we have shown in our pamphlet, he has supplied in rank abundance. An original affidavit by his nephew, now in our possession, deposes that the ex-priest was not by any means a teetotaler up to July 25, 1899. Whether he is so now or not is little to the purpose. It can in no way mend his hopeless inveracity nor palliate his association in a discreditable business with a notorious and proven female impostor. It was only after his dismissal from the ranks of the clergy that he discovered those 'errors of Rome,' which landed him for a long term into a prison cell at Pittsburg. His 'conversion' recalls the words of Josh Billings: 'I notice that when a man runs hijz hed

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against a post, he cusses the post first, all Kreashun next, and sumthing else last, and never thinks of cussing himself.' That is Joseph Slattery. He knocked his bibulous head against that portion of the Church which is in the diocese of Dublin, and has been cursing it back to the forty-seventh generation. He has likewise wasted a good deal of useful energy in 'cussing' the Church at large, and, generally, every decent man and woman of every creed—the enlightened Protestant clergy especially—who do not see their way to aid him and the sham 'ex-nun' in turning their filthy lying into minted coins of the realm. Slattery doesn't 'cuss' himself. That, as Josh Billings points out, is not part of the game. On the contrary, he asks the guileless public to believe that he never—what, never?—looked at wine (or whisky) when it sparkled in the glass, and that in the midst of abounding wickedness and general chuckle-headedness he stood forth alone, a solitary paragon of all the virtues.

His evil trade, is a worse affliction to a country than the bubonic plague or the small-pox. But it has still a commercial value when—as in Slattery's case—the appeal is made at cheap rates to the *gobemouche* of bigots, to the levity of the curious, and the pruriency of the lewd. For the *gobemouches* this roving pair—in Butler's words,

Weave fine cobwebs, fit for skull
That's empty when the moon is full,
Such as take lodgings in a head
That's to be let unfurnished.

For all their shilling and sixpenny patrons alike their motto is that immortalised by James Russell Lowell:—

I firmly do believe
In Humbug generally,
For it's a thing that I perceive
To hev a solid vally;
This heth my faithful shepherd been,
In pastures sweet heth led me;
An' this'll keep the people green,
To feed ez they hev fed me.

Meantime, while the Orange party in the Colony seek to strengthen their ranks by the blackguardly vilification of the noble-minded Sisters who are setting what a non-Catholic paper calls 'a splendid example' of courage at Mafeking and elsewhere, we may supplement the brave words of the *Auckland Observer* by the following extract from an article written by the Protestant editor of the *San Francisco Star* in 1895. Commenting on a coarse lecturer of the Slattery type, he qualifies as 'blacker than hell' the heart of the man who could so traduce women who have become earth's angels by their unselfish devotion to humanity. 'On the battle-field,' he continues, 'tenderly ministering to the wounded, in the midst of pestilence, from which even the bravest fly; by the side of the leper, loathsome even to himself and shunned by all others, these gentle souls are to be found and fear not. To be by the bedside of the sick, giving comfort and hope; in the damp basement and cold garret relieving misery and want, to give light to the ignorant and joy to the despairing; to seek places where the merely "righteous" may not go, and be not ashamed to take the erring ones by the hand, and kneel with them in prayer; to visit the condemned wretch in the prison cell, and by kind words and deeds inspire him with the love of God, and give him the peace of mind which "passeth all understanding"; all these things and many more are the daily duties of these Sisters of Charity, who worship at the Catholic shrine—but whose creed—to do good—embraces all the world and is as broad as the universe itself.' This broad-minded Protestant editor had no personal interest in giving Catholic nuns their meed of praise. The Slatterys, on the other hand, have a pecuniary interest in vilifying them. 'front seats one shilling, back seats sixpence.'

COSTLY
'CONVERTS.' THE REV. HENLEY HENSON, that pioneer Protestant missionary, Dr. Cusht (author of *Missionary Methods*), and many other earnest non-Catholics have condemned in language suited to the occasion the exaggerations of the average foreign missionary reports. But for cheerful and practised fact-slaying commend us to the annual reports of the Irish Church Missions Society. Their cool manipulation or outright creation of facts found long ago an absurd travesty in the story of *Mick McQuaid*. Their latest report is thus commented on in *Truth* of December 28, which by the way, seems to accept their figures without question: 'The conversion of Jews to Christianity, judged by the number of converts, is generally believed to be the most costly form of missionary enterprise; but from an article from the *Daily Nation* it would appear that the efforts of the Irish Church Missions Society to spread Protestantism in the Sister Isle are equally expensive. In a recently-issued booklet the society claims that "during the past ten years no fewer than 246 families, containing 610 souls, have been transferred from the Church of Rome to the Church of Ireland as the fruit of the Dublin Mission"; and on the bases of some figures in the same publication as to the annual expenditure, my contemporary estimates that these families

have cost £460 apiece to proselytise. It seems a stiff price to pay for the "transfer" of a family from Catholicism to Protestantism, and if the subscribers are satisfied they must be thankful for very small mercies.'

PRICKING
A
LITTLE BUBBLE. THE Rev. R. A. McFarlane, B.D., of Stranorlar (Scotland), is not exactly a George Washington. Some months ago he published a tract of the usual type which contained a pathetic, though highly improbable, story of a death-bed scene. It is soberly recorded as a personal experience of the author. A Catholic priest is represented as administering the last Sacraments to a dying woman. But his ministrations failed to give either hope or comfort to the departing soul. Then came upon the scene a Protestant neighbour. He spoke to the dying woman of 'the saving power of Christ.' Of course, being 'only' a Catholic, it was inevitable that she had never before heard that Christ had died to save sinners. She therefore listened eagerly. Her tears were at once miraculously dispelled. Hope and confidence returned with a rush—like the tide in the Bay of Fundy—and the dying woman passed swiftly and with a smile into a happy eternity. It is an old and mildewed story, and has been trimmed and pared and added to and told with blameable iteration in a thousand silly tracts, with as many local and personal applications as certain of the antiquated tales in *Foe Miller's Fest-Book*. In this instance, as usual, it was narrated at first hand. Pamphlet and story fell into the hands of Mr. M. Diamond, of 12 Rutherglen Road, Glasgow. Like Talleyrand's famous creditor, Mr. Diamond is *bien curieux*—inconveniently inquisitive. He wrote to the author of the pamphlet, asking him to mention 'the place where this happened, or the names of the parties—the priest, minister, or woman—and any other particulars you may have about the matter.' After some delay the answer came. It was not, after all, a personal experience of the writer of the pamphlet. He had 'found the narrative in an old copy of the *Christian Treasury*,' and 'the names of the parties were not given,' nor the date nor scene of the supposed death-bed conversion. The whole tale is thus left hanging in the air. The story is but a typical one of its class. The truth of the rest may be gauged from this. Saving the sickness and the skull and cross-bones, it is Slattery's story of his alleged 'conversion,' which, as editor Brann says, was equally sudden, like that of Saul of Tarsus—or of Judas Iscariot. But does it not, in one feature at least, bear a striking resemblance to the little fiction for the truth of which a prominent Dunedin clergyman vouched some time ago? When pressed upon the matter he could only state that he had it from another man that there was something about the matter in the *London Times* 'some fifteen years ago.'

NEEDS A
LONG
MEMORY. A LIAR needs a long memory. And ex-priest Slattery's memory is a short and treacherous one. In the *Hawke's Bay Herald* of February 7 and February 8, he admitted that he had been convicted but denied that he had been imprisoned in Pittsburg for the sale of indecent literature. He quite forgets that in an announcement of his book facing page 268 of Mrs. Slattery's *Convent Life* (American edition) he roundly declares 'For producing this work the Romanists imprisoned me at Pittsburg, Pa.' Facing page 199 of another book of lies, entitled *Secrets*, &c., (American edition) he has the following notification regarding the same pamphlet: 'For this work the Romanists imprisoned me at Pittsburg, Pa.' These books were both purchased at Slattery's meetings and are now in our possession. So, likewise, is the very pamphlet for the publication of which he was relegated for a period to the privacy of a prison cell. On the very second page of the copy before us are these words: 'For publishing this I was imprisoned in Pittsburg, Pa.' Verily Slattery's Orange friends in Melbourne had good reason for characterising him as 'an unmitigated liar.'

While upon this unsavoury subject we must here express our emphatic conviction that the writing of letters to the Press—as at Napier—on this roving pair is a blunder which should be carefully avoided. Most editors will, on prudential grounds, decline to give a full statement of the facts of the creatures' careers, and unless this work is thoroughly done it is best left severely alone, as it serves only to furnish them with an opportunity for cheap and effective advertising. The extensive distribution of our Pink Pamphlets is the best specific for the Slattery plague, and the facts set forth therein have remained unanswered by Slattery at Napier simply because they are unanswerable.

Visitors to Dunedin are invited to call at Messrs A. and T. Inglis's and inspect the splendid stock of autumn goods in all departments. As Messrs Inglis are noted for keeping the best class of seasonable goods, at moderate prices, it will be to the advantage of our readers to accept the firm's invitation and inspect the goods, when they can judge as to quality and price.—*.*

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CATHOLICS AND THE WAR.

A NEWSPAPER OPINION AND OUR COMMENT THEREON.

A PROTESTANT gentleman residing in Wanganui has forwarded us the following extract from an obscure religious weekly that appears in Sydney. He requests us to publish it and to append thereto an editorial comment as to the attitude of Catholics towards the present war. As the extract from such a source would meet with no notice at our hands but for the fact that it represents a point of view that is not unknown in New Zealand, and that at the present moment a mischievous attempt is, to our knowledge, being made in certain quarters to secure for the opinions therein expressed a hold upon the public ear. The extract in question runs as follows:—

'Protestants differ among themselves as to the wisdom or righteousness of the British engaging in war against the Boers. Some doubt whether England was justified. But it is remarkable that while there is a minority among Protestants who have opposed the actions of England, the Roman Catholics, if we are to judge by their Press utterances, are practically unanimous in their condemnation of the British. As the *A. C. World* points out: "No Catholic priest has attended any of the patriotic gatherings or spoken a word of encouragement to the loyal supporters of the Empire. Roman Catholic Members of Parliament are silent as the grave. The Patriotic Fund has swollen rapidly through the generosity of the people, but we can scan the daily lists in vain for the names of well known and wealthy Catholic citizens. . . . Cardinal Moran maintains a discreet silence. Only once he has spoken, and then it was to say concerning the departing contingent. "If any of them should ask my opinion, I would advise them to stay at home. If, however, the public desire to know the real opinions of the Roman priests about the present campaign, it is only necessary to read their own paper, the *Catholic Press*," which is ever and always antagonistic to England. The truth is, England is Protestant, and that in itself is sufficient to excite the hatred of the priests of Rome. The colonial Catholic Press is in harmony with the R.C. Press elsewhere. The official Vatican organ, the *Osservatore Romano*, published in Rome, speaking of the Transvaal crisis said: "With the defeat of England Protestantism would be crushed for ever." It is evident that while a minority of Protestants question the righteousness of the war, the Catholic Church as a whole favours the Boers, simply because the defeat of England would be in their estimation a blow to Protestantism.'

A GENERAL COMMENT.

Thus far the extract. It is a veritable lawyer-vine tangle of confused views, false statements, and rampant fallacies. Its intent lies plain upon the surface. And it is simply this—to evoke the demon of sectarian passion against a section of the community during the period of strong political ferment through which we are now passing. We have a lively sense of the shortcomings as well as of the merits of the secular Press. But we venture to say that there is not in Australasia any editor of a secular paper who would admit such a display of sectarian sky-rocking into his leading columns. Such unchristian work has been reserved for a newspaper that unworthily bears upon its title-page the glorious name of 'Christian.' As far as one can unravel the tangled meaning of the extract given above, it charges the Catholic Church with anti-British partisanship regarding (1) the origin of the war in South Africa, and (2) regarding its ultimate issue. It is scarcely necessary to say that the writer of that slipshod piece made not the slightest effort to sustain his statement. We might dismiss him with a curt statement of his fatal omission, coupled with a reminder that the whole burden of proof falls upon him. But for the reasons stated in the opening paragraph of this article we prefer to adopt a different course and to lay before our courteous Protestant correspondent and our other readers some pertinent points in connection with this unworthy attempt to aggravate the present position by importing into it the snarling element of sectarian bitterness and hate. Here in New Zealand the attempt is being publicly made under the auspices of the Orange organisation. Unless we are mistaken, the obscure weekly from which the above-quoted extract is taken represents, or once did represent, the views of that body. If so, it, like them, should blush to the roots of its hair at the mere mention of the word 'loyalty' to the throne or Empire. Those who are acquainted with the facts of Orange history and ritual cannot easily forget the society's systematic, deliberate, and successful corruption of the loyalty of some 50 British regiments between 1829 and 1836; the famous Cumberland Plot which they carried out in order to prevent the accession of the Princess (now Queen) Victoria in favour of their Grand Master Ernest, Duke of Cumberland; their condemnation by King William IV., by the British Parliament, and by several Royal Commissions, and their suppression in 1825 and 1836 as a disloyal and dangerous association; the watch-cry of the Irish brethren 1868-1869: 'We'll kick the Queen's crown into the Boyne'; the illegal and criminal oaths taken to this day by the brethren at their initiation to the first and second degrees; their systematic interference with the course of justice and of public tranquility in Ireland; and the avowed object of the association, as declared in their rituals, tracts, and speeches—namely, to drive Catholics for ever out of public life, and to undo what their 'accredited organ,' the *Victorian Standard* of May, 1893, termed 'that fatal error, the Emancipation Act of 1829.' The yellow-scarved brethren have a weakness for obtaining a cheap reputation for loyalty by decrying that of others. But lectures on 'disloyalty' from such a source remind one forcibly of Satan reproving sin.

POINTS TO REMEMBER.

1. In the first place, it is quite true that the serious religious disabilities of Catholics and Jews formed a genuine portion—the

most genuine, in fact—of the Uitlander grievances in the Transvaal. But it is equally true that these grievances were not even the occasion, much less the chief or sole cause of the war. The war, in fact, is not even remotely a religious question. It was a question of politics and political expediency. And such it should be permitted to remain. The man who seeks to make it the occasion of an appeal to sectarian passion and endeavours through it to set citizens of one creed against citizens of another creed, is a worse, because more cowardly and hypocritical enemy to his country than if he straightforwardly shouldered a Mauser rifle and marched and fought under Joubert.

2. The Catholic Church has her known and definite voice to speak her views. She has not pronounced, either officially or unofficially, directly or indirectly, upon the merits of the present war. She is not the Church of one race or nation. Her subjects are everywhere, in Holland and Germany and the Transvaal, as well as in Great Britain. The Pope did what lay in his power, in a friendly way, to avert war. He has proved himself long ago a man of rare enlightenment and a past-master in the knowledge of diplomatic usage. And to take sides on the lines suggested by the screaming little weekly from Sydney would be—to put it on merely political grounds—a blunder of the first magnitude. For the rest, the Pope is entitled to be judged by the repeated public writings and utterances in which he has expressed his admiration of the British people and their sovereign. As to the *Osservatore Romano*, it is not the organ, whether official, semi-official, or unofficial of Vatican opinion. And, moreover, it never gave editorial expression to the opinion quoted in the extract with which we are dealing. The little Sydney 'religious' sheet is simply retailing at tenth hand a clumsy calumny that was exposed months ago in the London Press. Its editor evidently needs a tonic.

3. It is not true that there is among Catholics or their Press-organs any special unanimity of opinion as to the war more than among Protestants. Catholics are as free as people of other creeds or of no creed to hold, and in due moderation to express, their opinions on the war, just as they do on other questions of imperial or national politics. And in the exercise of that freedom they have ranged themselves freely and, we are glad to say, without intolerant bitterness or recrimination, on the side of the various political parties to which they owe allegiance. For, as we have said, the question is a purely political one, and in Great Britain the various opinions upon the justifiability of the war follow closely, though not absolutely, along the lines of party cleavage. Thus, practically the whole Liberal Press and party, together with a section of the Liberal Unionists, held, as we did, that the war with the Transvaal was unnecessary, impolitic, and honourably avoidable. This view was forcibly urged in Parliament, in the Press, and on the public platform by prominent Englishmen of such diverse creeds and no-creeds as Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, Mr John Morley, Sir William Harcourt, Lord Spencer, Lord Kimberley, Mr Herbert Spencer, Mr. Labouchere, Mr. Philip Stanhope, Mr. Stead, Mr. H. W. Massingham, and by Liberal Unionists like Mr. Leonard Courtney and Sir Edward Clarke. A like view was taken by at least two prominent British Generals, Sir William Butler and Sir Redvers Buller. The English pulpit generally was opposed to the war on the same grounds. So was at least a large and healthy section of the Protestant religious newspapers of these colonies, conspicuous among which is the temperate and scholarly *Outlook*, the organ of the Presbyterian body of New Zealand. The same view is held generally, though by no means universally, by the Catholic Press in the Empire. Thus, two of our Australian exchanges hold themselves neutral on the question. And the *London Tablet* and some other English Catholic papers adopt fully the attitude of the Conservative party and stoutly maintain the original necessity of the war. But whatever various views as to the need or otherwise of the present war have been adopted by the Catholic Press and public, they have been adopted quite irrespective of the mere religious beliefs of the contending parties. The fact remains that there has never been a war in English history on the original justifiability of which British opinion, irrespective of creed, has been so profoundly divided. As to the Continental and American newspapers, whether Protestant, secular, Jewish, Agnostic, Freemason, or other, the voice of the vast majority of them has been against the war. It is the merest nonsense for any newspaper to hint or state that 'a minority of Protestants' stood for the unwisdom of the present struggle. A great majority did. We are not over-squeamish, and we are no supporters of the principle that 'there never was a bad peace or a good war.' But war is, even at its best, a fearful calamity. And it ill becomes a religious paper to stand forth as its advocate unless on the clearest and most cogent grounds of public necessity.

VIEWS ON THE ISSUE OF THE WAR.

So much as regards the views of Catholics and others on the original justice or injustice of the campaign. The question has long since passed beyond that stage. We merely refer to it here because, by a contemptible piece of journalistic trickery, the views which many Catholics and Catholic newspapers share with non-Catholics upon the subject have been, as in the case of the extract with which we are dealing, tortured for a purpose into an accusation of rank traitorism, just as Cobden and Bright were dubbed traitors and burned in effigy for their honest and manly opposition to the declaration of the Crimean War—a war which has long since ceased to find a sane defender. As to the present campaign in South Africa: fresh issues have, since its inception, arisen which have made the original cause of quarrel pale into comparative insignificance. Chamberlain, in forcing on this war, has undoubtedly committed not merely a political blunder, but a political crime of the first magnitude which, we trust and believe, will in due course relegate him for the remainder of his days to the dishonoured obscurity which his overvaulting ambition so well fits him to adorn. The triumphal march to Pretoria which he anticipated or professed to anticipate over the bodies of a few strong Boer

outposts has—as General Sir William Butler long ago fairly warned him—reached the proportions of a fearful and deadly struggle which has taxed the utmost military resources of the Empire, threatened the existence of British rule in South Africa, and created a crisis in its history comparable only to that of the Indian Mutiny. In the circumstances the English Liberal Party, and many of those who, like them, strongly opposed the forcing on of this miserable war for the sake of a handful of capitalists mostly with German names, hold that a policy of 'scuttle' or surrender in South Africa now might prove the beginning of the break-down of the Empire, and that it therefore behoves the Government to 'see it through.' This opinion has found frank expression in many leading Catholic papers, as, for instance in the *Sydney Freeman's Journal* and, we believe, in all but two of the Catholic weeklies published in Australia. Of the possible alternatives before the British in South Africa, we may regard the following as the chief practical or working ones:—

1. A British conquest coupled with the 'wiping out' of the two Boer Republics from the map of South Africa. This was the purpose of the disgraceful Jameson raid. It has long been the open and undisguised object of the capitalist party in South Africa and of their organs in the Jingo Press in Great Britain. We are glad to feel that the general voice of the civilised world and of a sane and healthy section of the British public would be raised against the utter spoliation of the independence of a free people. We are aware that one or two Catholic papers favour such a course. But as for us, we are opposed to it with all our strength.

2. Another alternative is such an ending of the campaign—and may it be a speedy ending!—as will bring an honourable peace and preserve a safe measure of independence to the two Republics, with due guarantees as to armaments, etc., a full measure of civil and religious liberty for all citizens, and such provisions for future good understanding as the racial hate engendered by the present ill-starred campaign may still leave possible. Such is our personal wish with regard to the final issue of the campaign, and we believe it coincides with the views of vast numbers of our fellow-Catholics throughout the Empire.

3. There is another possible, though highly improbable, issue to the war: it is the final defeat of the British forces and the complete or almost complete subjugation of South Africa to the rule of the Boer. This we should regard as a great calamity for Catholic interests in South Africa. The matter has been recently dealt with by Cardinal Moran in an interview with a representative of the *Sydney Freeman's Journal*. His words will be all the more appropriate as they were spoken with direct reference to the calumnious attacks of the insignificant 'Christian' weekly which has furnished us with a text for this war-discourse. Cardinal Moran said: 'I have heard it said that I am such a deadly enemy of the Empire that I could rejoice in the defeat of her arms in South Africa. I can only say that so far from rejoicing in the overthrow of the Empire at the present day, especially in her colonial Governments, I would regard the decay of the Empire as one of the greatest blows that could befall the civilised world at the close of this nineteenth century. Viewing matters in a religious light, no one can rejoice in the triumph of the Boers, for they are the greatest enemies that the Catholic Church has at the present time. They retain all the bigotry and the fierce opposition to the Church that were shown by the old Huguenots of France and by the first Dutch followers of Calvinism. That is the reason why there is scarcely a single convert to Catholicism among them. A few distinguished South African Dutchmen have joined the Church, but comparatively few. From the time the Transvaal and Orange Free State were settled, the converts have been almost all from the Basutos and other natives; but among the Boers themselves the religion of the Catholic Church has scarcely made any progress, and no Catholic has been allowed to hold any office in the State higher than that of a policeman, and even that privilege was only accorded a year or two ago. They have no right to vote for the members of the Raad or Parliament. Am I likely to sympathise with men who, when the first priests landed in South Africa, refused to allow them to purchase their daily bread, and obliged them to go back to their ships—would not even allow them to land on Boer territory? Well, no matter who wins, that sort of tyranny must come to an end. If we have another United States in Africa corresponding to the United States of America, asserting their freedom, those restrictive laws against religion cannot possibly continue to exist at the present day; whilst, on the other hand, if the British arms are victorious, we will have a United South Africa, with all the freedom and the same institutions that we have in Canada at the present day and here in our Australia—that is to say, the Church will have perfect freedom to pursue her mission of enlightenment and beneficence. The opinion, indeed, of many of the best friends of religion in South Africa is that the triumph of the Boers in the present war would be a deadly blow to the progress of civilisation in South Africa.'

A FEW MORE REMINDERS.

We have just a few more brief reminders for the critics of the Catholic body. (1) No troops have fought more gallantly or suffered more severely in the present campaign than the Irish regiments, which are Catholic almost to a man. Mulhall's *Dictionary of Statistics* for 1899 is the authority for the statement—taken from the military returns—that Catholic Ireland, in proportion to her population, contributes 20 per cent more troops to the defence of the Empire than England, and 50 per cent more than Scotland. We have already published a very lengthy, though very incomplete, list of the Catholic officers now at the front. A further and still more lengthy instalment will appear shortly in our columns. (2) A large number of Catholic volunteers went to South Africa with the contingents from the various colonies of Australasia. From New South Wales so many left that Cardinal Moran sent a chaplain to accompany them. (3) In New Zealand the fund for the innocent victims of the war—the orphans and

widows of the dead British soldiers—was considerably swelled by the contributions of the Catholic clergy and laity. (4) At a time when men, women, and children were scurrying off by train-loads to places of safety farther south, the Catholic Sisters of Nazareth, the Sisters of the Holy Family, the Dominican nuns, etc., of their own free will remained behind to tend and nurse the sick and wounded defenders of Mafeking, Kimberley, and Ladysmith, and to face the terrible risks of war, famine, and worse, in the midst of an uncivilised black population, in order to feed and tend the 700 to 800 orphans and old people—mostly British subjects—who are at this moment in Johannesburg. And the Mafeking correspondent of a London daily is responsible for the statement that the local nuns are perfectly reckless of shot or shell and are setting 'a splendid example' of bravery even to the fighting men. And these noble Sisters are doing their good work without fee or reward, but solely for Christ's dear sake. When our critics have gone to the front and done as much of the bleeding and the nursing as Catholics have done, then let them come back and fling the first stone at us—if they can. Till then, the golden silence and the modesty that become demerit would sit gracefully upon them. There is a commandment in the decalogue with which some of the so-called 'religious' papers have scarcely a nodding acquaintance. It runneth thus: 'Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.' Our Protestant friend in Wanganui would do well to get it framed and send it to the editor of the *Sydney weekly* to be suspended in his office. But, from the number of falsehoods contained in the article quoted by us, our Wanganui friend will probably have realised by this time that the eighth (Protestant ninth) commandment has been long ago *suspended* in that office.

THE SLATTERYS AT THAMES.

A DISMAL FAILURE.

THE PINK PAMPHLETS DO THEIR WORK,

(From a correspondent.)

THE Slatterys arrived here towards the end of last month, and the ex-priest was billed to lecture on Tuesday night, January 30. The lecture was announced by posters all over the town, handbills *galore*, and advertisements in the local papers. The Catholics of the Thames were prepared for the ex-priest and his companion, the sham ex-nun. On the Sunday previous they distributed at the church door 200 pamphlets exposing the Slatterys, and a reprint of the *Observer's* article on the adventurers was distributed at the door of the hall where the lecture was delivered on Tuesday evening. The Rev Dr. O'Callaghan, I understand, spoke strongly against them in the Anglican pulpit, and it is said that ministers of other denominations cautioned their people against patronising the lectures.

Preaching on January 28 at the second Mass at St. Francis's Church, Thames, upon the epistle of the day, 'Thou shalt not bear false witness,' etc., the Rev. Father Mahoney amongst other remarks said: 'One of the greatest crimes in the code of divine or human law is that of perjury, or bearing false witness. It is punished most severely by the law of the land because it is so hurtful and detestable in the sight of God and man. You are aware that quite a scare has been caused in the colonies lately on account of the possible outbreak of that most dreaded scourge, the bubonic plague. In Auckland the authorities are taking preventive measures by cleansing and purifying the city, so that if the plague should break out there the people being on their guard will prevent its spread. There is a remote possibility even that it might come here to the Thames, where I think that we could successfully cope with it by taking the same precautionary measures to avoid contagion. You are aware also that on next Tuesday we are to be visited with a veritable plague, a moral, or as I should rather say an immoral, plague, for as you have seen by the advertisements, that most pitiable of all God's creatures, a fallen priest, is coming to our peaceful community to spread among the citizens a plague of foul speech and obscene literature, to bear false witness against the Church of his birth and the faith of his fathers. And I feel most strongly on this matter, more strongly indeed than I can give expression to, for it is almost twenty years now, nearly a generation ago, in the happy days of youth I was a fellow student at St. Patrick's College of Thurles, in Ireland, with Joseph Slattery, and I little thought on that fateful day when he received the great grace of the Priesthood from our former Bishop, Dr. Croke, and I knelt before him, and his hand and voice were raised to give me his first blessing as a priest, that the next time I should come in contact with him would be at the other side of the world, in my native land, and that then his hand and voice should be raised to curse me and to vilify me and my brother priests all over the world, and to blaspheme all that we hold sacred and dear. But now, as this plague is coming among us, you have some means at hand of purifying the public opinion of the Thames, for the editor of the N.Z. TABLET has sent to Auckland and here a large number of pamphlets for distribution, giving a history of this man and his companion, and it is by circulating these pamphlets among your Protestant friends that the evil this unfortunate priest has come to spread will be rendered harmless.'

The result was that Slattery could not get any clergyman in the Thames to preside at his meeting, and notwithstanding that there was no counter-attraction on the night of his first lecture the audience numbered only 44, although the hall was capable of holding 500. The following afternoon Mrs. Slattery lectured before 30 females, and on the same evening Slattery's audience was less than 30. The local papers on the day after his first appearance gave him a couple of lines of notice, merely saying that he spoke before a very small audience, and after that ignored him altogether. The Slattery 'mission' to the Thames has been a dismal failure, due, no doubt, to the complete exposure of the unhappy couple's antecedents made by the TABLET, and also the high respect in which the priests and nuns of the district are held by all classes here.

N A P I E R.

(From our own correspondent.)

February 8.

The Napier Catholics have just undergone the ordeal of having in their midst a man who, having fallen through his intemperate habits from the dignity of the priesthood, now strives to atone himself by vilifying the religion of his forefathers, and calumniating the good name of those who have devoted their lives to the service of their Master. The Very Rev. Dean Grogan, S.M., addressed the congregations at the various services on this matter, and exhorted every Catholic to keep away from the Slattey's lectures. As the people left the church, leaflets were distributed amongst them containing extracts from the N Z TABLET exposing the career of the man and woman. To the credit of the Catholics of Napier be it said that not one attended these lectures, much to the lecturer's chagrin. His meetings were very scantily attended, the respectable portion of the Protestant community being conspicuous by their absence. The local clergy did not attend, and Slattey was reduced to the expedient of appointing his own agent as chairman at the meeting. From beginning to end his lectures consisted of venomous utterances against the Catholic Church, intermingled with occasional prurient references, and strong appeals to his Orange brethren to support him in his mission to wipe out (as he put it) the Church of Rome. The pamphlet entitled *The Romance of an Unfreed Priest*, by the editor of the N. Z. TABLET, was distributed by the Dean amongst all the respectable portion of the Napier public during the Slattey's stay here, and materially assisted in severely handicapping them, and thinning the attendance at their meetings. It may be safely said that Slattey's visit to Napier was by no means a financial success. He left with his female companion by the boat going south on this date. The Theatre Royal here was refused him, and so would the Gaiety Theatre, had the proprietor known the purposes for which it was wanted at the time of engagement.

Diocesan News.

ARCHDIOCESE OF WELLINGTON.

(From our own correspondent.)

February 10.

Rev. Father Ryan, from Dunedin, resumed his journey to Rotorua in the Flora, leaving here last Monday.

The Rev. Father O'Shea is due to-day from the West Coast. His health is reported to have benefited greatly by his holiday there.

The Empire City Athletic and Cycling Club is to give its co-operation to the St. Patrick's Celebration Committee at the sports on the 17th prox.

The Rev. Father Grogan arrived from Blenheim on Wednesday. He is to resume control of the Sacred Heart Society and the Sunday school.

After their annual holidays Mr. Rowe, conductor of St. Joseph's Choir, and Mr. Kenny, organist at St. Mary of the Angels, have resumed duty.

St. Patrick's College re-opened last week. The number of students already on the roll compares very favourably with that of previous years at the same period.

Sunday being Exposition Day at St. Mary of the Angels the attendance at all the services was very large. At Vespers the Rev. Father Ryan, of Dunedin, preached the sermon.

The Rev. Father Cahill who has been under treatment by Dr. Van Slyck for an affection of the throat, has sufficiently recovered to permit his return to Dannevirke. He left on Wednesday.

His Grace the Archbishop left Wellington during the week to resume the missions which have thus far been a series of successes. Beginning at Westport, the missionaries will visit each of the parishes in the southern portion of the archdiocese.

The picnic held last Saturday by the ex-pupils of the Convent was in every sense a complete success. About 60 members journeyed to Titahi Bay by special train and coaches. The house which is being built for the nuns there is fast nearing completion.

Mother Mary Joseph Aubert recently wrote to the City Council asking for the remission of rates on the Home for Incurables. At its last meeting the Town Clerk was instructed to reply that the Council regretted that the present state of the law prevented its complying with the request.

Owing to a slight outbreak of scarlet fever in St. Joseph's Orphanage the Hill street school has been closed for a fortnight. One of the sufferers has been sent to the hospital while the only other patient has been isolated and all the necessary precautions taken to stay the spread of the fever.

The following is a list of the successful students from St. Patrick's College at the New Zealand University examinations: Matriculation: Arthur Ongley (Oamaru), Thomas McCarthy (Wellington), Michael Mahoney (Timaru), Thomas Walshe (Reefton), Edward Wilson (Auckland). R. J. Loughnan qualified on the scholarship papers. Medical Preliminary: Richard Dorset (Mauriceville), Patrick J. Garvey (Wellington).

In the fire at St. Mary's Cathedral last year two of the pictures, those representing the first and fourteenth Stations of the Cross, were destroyed. The work of replacing them was entrusted to Mr. M. J. McMahon, a local artist, who has just completed his task. Recognised critics are greatly impressed with the highly creditable manner in which the paintings have been executed, the one representing the fourteenth station being specially commended.

DIOCESE OF CHRISTCHURCH.

(From our own correspondent.)

February 12.

The Rev. Father McDonnell occupied the pulpit of the pro-Cathedral for the first time at Vespers on Sunday, and preached an instructive sermon on the Sign of the Cross.

Pending his departure for the Home Country, the Rev. Father Walsh, late of Kaitiaki, is the guest of the Rev. Father Marnane at St. Mary's, Manchester street, and celebrated High Mass on Sunday.

His Lordship the Bishop has handed the Patriotic Fund Committee the sum of £10 10s, as the result of the recent special collection in the pro-Cathedral. The Rev. Father Marnane, S.M., of St. Mary's, has also handed in £4, collected for the same object.

The Rev. Fathers McCarthy (2), recent visitors from Australia, returned to Sydney by the Zealandia which left Lyttelton on Friday last. By the Waikare, which left on the same date, the Very Rev. Father McEnroe, C.M., left for Melbourne.

The Rev. Father Crotty, from the pro-Cathedral, has taken the place of the Rev. Father Cooney as assistant to the Very Rev. Dean O'Donnell at Ashburton. Father Cooney left during the week for Westland, where he is to assist the Rev. Father O'Hallahan at Kumara.

Prior to his departure on Wednesday last from Ashburton to Kumara, the Rev. Father Cooney was presented by the members of the Ashburton Catholic Literary Society with a handsome travelling bag. The Rev. Father proved himself an active and energetic member of the Society during his comparatively brief stay in the town.

The pro-Cathedral choir have been ably assisted on the last two Sundays by Miss Kathleen Hickling, who sang the soprano solos of Farmer's Mass on the former occasion, and those of Weber's Mass in G on the latter. At the Mass the tenor solos were taken by Mr. Lenihan, another visitor. Other members of the Opera Company also assisted the choir of St. Mary's.

What was probably a record number of passengers to the seaside resort of Sumner was conveyed there on last Thursday by the Canterbury Tramway Company to take part in the fête organised to aid the War Fund. The whole of the takings, together with the fares, which the Tram Company intend handing over, will, it is expected, realise the substantial total of £500. A wonderful result for one day's operations, in the face of all that has been collected already. Truly the war fever in Christchurch is running very high.

PRESENTATION TO FATHER COONEY.

At the conclusion of the ordinary business at the meeting of the Ashburton Catholic Literary Society last week the members took the opportunity of saying farewell to their spiritual director, Rev. Father Cooney, and presenting him with a travelling bag as a mark of their esteem, the occasion being his approaching departure for Kumara. Mr. L. Hanrahan (says the *Mail*), who made the presentation, spoke at considerable length in regard to the sterling qualities of the rev. gentleman, and also thanked him most heartily for the assistance he had given the Society in various ways during his period in Ashburton, and he felt certain that Father Cooney would be missed in Ashburton and by no one more than by the Literary Society. On behalf of the Society he wished Father Cooney long life and happiness in his new home. Rev. Father Cooney, in a brief speech, thanked the members one and all for the handsome present given him. He stated that his work in connection with the Society was a labour of love, and he was exceedingly sorry that want of time had prevented him from devoting more of his services to the Society. He urged them to work together and make the Society a credit to Ashburton. The rev. gentleman again thanked them for their present and after a general handshaking with their beloved priest the meeting closed. The Rev. Father Cooney left on Thursday. There was a large number of friends and others at the station to see him off.

THE WAR IN SOUTH AFRICA.

THE RECORD OF THE DUBLIN FUSILIERS.

To the Dublin Fusiliers (writes a contributor in the *English Illustrated Magazine*), who stormed the Boer position in the first great fight at Glencoe, belongs the glory of establishing the British supremacy in India. They were the chief instrument in the hands of Clive, at Wandewash and Porto Novo they helped Coote to carry out the great design of Warren Hastings. Their name is written in letters of blood on every page of our Indian history. It is more than 200 years since the regiment was raised, but till 1871 it never saw the shores of England. All that time it was warring in the East. It had whipped the Dutch once and again ere the charge of Glencoe, but until the day of Glencoe it never fought outside the borders of Asia. Its badges are the Royal Tiger of Bengal and the Indian elephant. Round these are the great words, 'Plassey,' 'Mysore,' 'Buxar,' and 'The Carnatic.' The long list of victories that glitters on its colours is entirely made up of Indian names—and of these names 15 are peculiar to the 'Blue-Caps,' and are shared by no other regiment. The list of the victories is the story of Britain's lordship in the East: 'Arcot,' 'Condore,' 'Wandewash,' 'Sholingur,' 'Nundy Droog,' 'Amboyna,' 'Ternate,' 'Bandia,' 'Pondicherry,' 'Mahidpoor,' 'Guzerat,' 'Seringapatam,' 'Kirkee,' 'Beni Boo Ally,' 'Aden,' 'Punjaub,' 'Mooltan,' 'Goojerat,' 'Ava,' 'Pegu,' 'Lucknow.' Such is the great record. The history of the Dublin Fusiliers is the history of British India.

WEAK KNEED AND CHICKEN-HEARTED.

There has already been evidence (says the *Natal Witness*) that many who shouted loudest for war and urged others to do their duty to Queen and country are entirely weak-kneed and chicken-hearted. To the honour and credit of the colony, these timid men and hysterical women, who are covering with apprehension or seeking safety in hasty flight now that danger threatens, belong not to us. They are for the most part, from the ranks of those who came from the enemy's country to this place for shelter and for whom, in a large measure, our brave lads at the front are pouring their life's blood. In one case half-a-dozen individuals of the malegender who, directly they heard that the Boers were south of Ladysmith, immediately took train away. Many faces, familiar in Maritzburg a few days ago, would be sought for in vain now—faces of men who, in their airy pride and effervescent valour, presumed to tell us how the conquered territory was to be divided. When events did not go altogether in our favour, they violently attacked the Home Government, the War Office, our officers, and our heroes at the front. They dared do this, and to refer to us who gave them shelter and gave our money to their destitute as 'you British.' Now, when they have emptied their wrath-vials, when their flabbiness has become an unpleasant spectacle, they have fled, afraid. Let them go; we are well quit of them.

WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY ON THE BATTLE FIELD.

A Cape paper states that Sir Redvers Buller is awaiting Captain Kennedy's arrival with the Marconi wireless telegraphy apparatus. Captain Kennedy is to establish communications between the various camps with the least possible delay. 'We do not expect the slightest difficulty,' said he. 'The system has been so improved upon, and brought to such a state of perfection that we expect to have our apparatus in working order four days after landing at Cape Town. We do not know at present what point we shall be sent to, but I am informed that we shall be directly under the command of General Sir Redvers Buller. The apparatus will enable us to establish communications over 250 miles in extent, and we can defy any attempt to "tap" the messages. Our stations can be so rapidly removed from place to place that we can entirely disappear from human vision in half an hour, taking our apparatus with us.'

THE DUTCH ELEMENT AT THE CAPE.

Mr A. B. Paterson ('Banjo'), writing from Capetown to the *Sydney Morning Herald*, says:—'After landing was finished I went up the town and met my first Boer. I heard that a Boer prisoner on parole was at one of the hotels, and a mutual friend introduced us. He was not long and wild and hairy. He was a refined and educated man, a doctor of medicine, and had seen several battles. He at once offered to play me billiards, and said he had occasionally made breaks of over 50. I thought it wise to decline. He says that the Boers are having a long way the best of it as regards the fighting. They lose positions but they save men. They shoot till the last moment and then run. All the talk about the Boers being savages is nonsense. They treat the wounded well. I saw a man to-day who had four bullet wounds, and he had nothing but good to say of the Boers. They assisted him in every way they could. Here the ultimate success of England is looked upon as assured, but there is a deep political question underlying it all. The Cape Ministry is looked upon as pro-Boer, and the British organs call them all sorts of names. But the fact remains that they hold office by a vote of the majority of the local House. There are more locals against the war than for it, and the extremist papers on the English side here are urging that after the war the franchise should be taken from the pro-Boer party. This seems strange in view of the fact that the war itself is undertaken solely to get franchise for the Outlanders. The fact is that the Cape is very Dutch, and it cannot be expected that these people will look kindly on a war in which their own kinsfolk are engaged. After England has beaten these Boers she will still have a sullen and discontented population to deal with, not only across the Vaal but in the parent colony. All classes of the community are impregnated with the Dutch element, not that they profess any preference for Dutch over English, but their sympathies naturally are with their kinsmen in the Boer Republic. One never knows, even in a club or hotel, who may be a Boer sympathiser. Very little feeling is openly expressed. People are frightened to make any open declaration of hostility to England or of opposition to the war, lest they or their relatives should incur punishment when the day of reckoning comes. That the Boers will have to pay the reckoning is looked upon as beyond a doubt. Boer money is already advancing in price in the expectation that there will be no more Boer coinage after the war.'

PRISONERS OF WAR.

In view of the fact that large numbers of men have been taken prisoners by both sides, the question has been asked—How are prisoners treated by their captors? International law recognises the right of the belligerent so to deal with its prisoners as to prevent their escape, but no greater severity is to be exercised towards them than is necessary to effect this object. Imprisonment in the full sense of the word (says one writer) is only permissible under exceptional circumstances, as after an attempt to escape, or if there is reason that an attempt to escape will be made. If prisoner endeavours to escape, he may be killed during his flight, but if re-captured he cannot be punished except by confinement sufficiently severe to prevent the chance of escape, because the fact of surrender as prisoner of war is not understood to imply any promise to remain in captivity. Prisoners of war are maintained at the expense of the Government in whose power they are, and sometimes a money allowance is made to them, although it is hardly likely that on the present occasion the Boers will carry generosity to this extent. Prisoners may be put to work suitable to their condition, but not to such as has direct relation to the war.

A COOL GUNNER.

In a private letter from Ladysmith there is an account of a Boer who was sucking his pipe whilst firing a big gun. He was seen through a glass to fall down, presumably from the explosion of a shell. After a moment he rose up, found his pipe, and continued firing. Yet a second time he was knocked down, and to the surprise of the beholder, he again got up and went on firing and smoking at the same time. He was not wounded.

'SHALL I SLAY MY BROTHER BOER?'

In a hamper of literature sent out to the British soldiers in South Africa, there was discovered a bundle of Mr. Stead's pamphlet, 'Shall I slay my brother Boer?' Tommy Atkins has many faults, but he cannot be accused of being a philosopher, and his present business is to slay, otherwise his brother Boer is likely to slay him, consequently Mr. Stead's appeal is not likely to affect the accuracy of his aim. Newspaper editors may be very philosophic, or very warlike, as the case may be, but then they have no Mauser bullets nor murderous shells dropping close at hand to disturb their equanimity.

LET THE DONKEY HAVE A CHANCE

The first German officers who came to drill the Transvaal troops had a hard time of it. They found no discipline anywhere, and the men knew only the rudiments of drill. Major Albrechts, at present the chief in command of the O.F.S. Artillery, found it an irksome task to drill his contingent. One legend says he lost his temper, and was guilty of an amusing slip of the tongue. He had been putting a squad of country recruits through the approved evolutions, but several of the men could not keep step. The Major roared himself hoarse, and the 'donnerwetters' he uttered had become traditional. At last, losing all patience, he said, aside, 'You men are not worth drilling by an officer. You'd better get a donkey to drill you; Field-cornet Smit, will you take my place for the present?'

A NEWSPAPER PROPRIETOR IN TROUBLE.

A Queenstown despatch of December 7 states that on the Sunday previous a patrol of four men and a corporal of Brabant's Horse from Penhoek came across a few Boers about 10 miles from Symon's store on the Dordrecht side. The Boers were on a kopje and seemed to be in large numbers. The patrol succeeded in reaching the camp in safety. Mr. O'Brien, the proprietor of the *Dordrecht Guardian*, has been arrested and is now on his way to Bloemfontein. Mr. O'Brien, of the *Frontier Guardian*, who has just arrived here, reports that his father has been arrested by 10 armed burghers, and taken to Aliwal North, via Jamestown. There is much anxiety, as his paper was always strongly anti-Bond, and his son is secretary of the local Uitlander League.

A STRANGE STORY.

The death of Captain Weldon, one of the ill-fated Royal Dublin Fusiliers, was an overwhelming shock to his mother. She had felt anxious about her son for several days, and had refused in consequence to go to a dance given by her daughter. During the night of her son's death she heard someone say: 'Mother! Mother!' She arose and went into another son's room, but found him asleep. The message came to her the next day that her soldier boy was dead.

NOT AS BAD AS THEY ARE PAINTED.

Lieutenant C. E. Kinahan, of the Royal Irish Fusiliers, gives an interesting account of his experiences as a prisoner of war. Regarding his treatment by the Boers, he says: 'All you read about the Boers in England is absolutely untrue. They are most kind to the wounded and prisoners, looking after them as well as their own wounded, and anything they've got they will give you if you ask them, even if they deprive themselves. We came up to Pretoria in first-class sleeping carriages, and the way they treated us was most considerate, feeding us and giving us coffee every time we stopped. The day we arrived we took up quarters on the racecourse, but we have been moved into a fine brick building, with baths, electric light etc. They provide us with everything, from clothes down to toothbrushes. They also feed us, and we are constantly getting presents of vegetables and cigars from private people. In fact, we have everything we like except our liberty; for some reason or other they won't at present give us parole, and we are surrounded by sentries. There are close upon fifty officers in this building, and they have got any amount of wounded ones in different places. They say they won't exchange the officers at any price.'

A STRIKING INCIDENT.

The steamer *Orient* reached Southampton on December 21, with a number of men who had been wounded in the Boer War. A London *Daily Chronicle* who boarded the vessel had interviews with a number of soldiers. He says:

One of the most striking figures on the deck of the *Orient* was Corporal Kelly, of the 5th (Irish) Lancers. Wrapped in a huge greatcoat, he hobbled along with the aid of a stick, but if he suffered pain he showed no sign of it in his cheery smile. Kelly is the hero of one of the most striking incidents in the battle of Elands-laagte. He told me his story more modestly than it may appear in print in the first person.

'I struck two Boers,' he said, 'right through with my lance. They were mounted on one horse, one having had his horse shot under him. After pinning them I could not disengage my lance, and, finding myself surrounded by Boers, I had to use my sword to cut my way through them. Fortunately, I got away all right, but I was wounded in the spine in a little affair two days afterwards.'

'You are disabled from active service now,' I ventured to suggest.

'Oh, dear, no,' was the instant reply, 'I expect to be all right in a fortnight, and hope to get back to the front again.'

Friends at Court.

GLEANINGS FOR NEXT WEEK'S CALENDAR.

(Written for the N.Z. TABLET.)

- February 18, Sunday.—Sexagesima Sunday.
 „ 19, Monday.—St. Titus, Bishop and Confessor. St. Catherine of Ricci, Virgin.
 „ 20, Tuesday.—Commemoration of the Passion of our Lord.
 „ 21, Wednesday.—St. Paul, Hermit, Confessor. Ven. E. Southwell, S.J., Priest and Martyr.
 „ 22, Thursday.—St. Peter's Chair at Antioch.
 „ 23, Friday.—St. Peter Damien, Bishop, Confessor, and Doctor.
 „ 24, Saturday.—St. Mathias, Apostle.

ST. CATHERINE OF RICCI, VIRGIN, O.S.D.

St. Catherine of Ricci, who was a contemporary of St. Mary Magdalen of Pazzi, was born, like her, at Florence of a distinguished family towards the beginning of the sixteenth century. In her miraculous life, her frequent ecstasies and visions, and her intimate union with her Divine Spouse, she closely resembled the above-named Saint, and also St. Catherine of Siena, whose name she took in religion, having been baptised by that of Alexandrine. Having lost her mother in her infancy, Catherine was formed to virtue by her pious stepmother, and appeared from her earliest years a favoured child of Heaven.

At the age of seven she was placed by her father for her education in a Benedictine convent, of which her aunt was the superioress. Her new home appeared to her like a paradise, in which, far removed from the tumult of the world, she was able to serve God without distraction or impediment. After some years she returned home, where her father proposed to settle her in the married life. Finding, however, that she was deaf to all his entreaties—for her heart was already given to her heavenly Spouse—he at length, after a long struggle, permitted her to take the veil in a convent of the Third Order of St. Dominic at Prato of which her uncle was the spiritual director. Almighty God, who in His merciful designs had chosen Catherine to be the favoured spouse of His beloved Son, was pleased to exercise her patience with severe trials in order to render her dispositions more comfortable to those of her suffering Saviour. For two years she endured inexpressible pain from a complication of diseases, which all the remedies of the physicians seemed only to increase. After the recovery of her health her fervour in the observance of the rule and the practice of prayer and penance was redoubled. Her singular virtue and prudence caused her, however, to be chosen to fill some of the most important posts in the community, and she was successively mistress of novices, superioress and prioress of the convent. This latter post she held from her twenty-fifth year to the day of her death. Our Blessed Lord often appeared to her in visions, and on one occasion solemnly espoused her in the presence of His Mother, bestowing upon her at the same time a golden ring adorned with a brilliant diamond, which always appeared visible to her, though to others it bore the resemblance of a bright red circlet round her finger. He also conferred upon her the sacred stigmata and other miraculous favours, such as the gift of prophecy and miracles. All these extraordinary graces only served to increase her humility, and her constant prayer was that they might be withdrawn from her, or at least concealed from the eyes of men. This favoured spouse of Jesus gave up her soul to God on February 11, A.D. 1589, in the sixty-seventh year of her age. Those who were present at her death heard, at the moment of her departure, the sound of heavenly canticles, and St. Mary Magdalen Pazzi, who was rapt in ecstasy, beheld her soul mounting to Paradise in the midst of a company of angels.

VENERABLE ROBERT SOUTHWELL, S.J., PRIEST AND MARTYR.

Venerable Robert Southwell was born in Norfolk in the year that Elizabeth ascended the throne of England, and was sent to the English College at Douay for his education when yet very young. Thence he proceeded to Rome, where he was received into the Society of Jesus at the age of 16. His abilities were remarkable, and he has left behind him both in prose and verse writings which bear witness both to his poetic genius and his tender piety. In A.D. 1584, Father Southwell was sent upon the English mission, where he laboured with great fruit for eight years and was the means of effecting many conversions. Being at length apprehended by treachery at Uxendon, in Middlesex, he was committed to the Tower, where he was confined in a filthy dungeon. During the three years that the venerable confessor was imprisoned, he was put to the rack 10 times by order of the Queen and Privy Council. Father Southwell endured these cruel torments with heroic fortitude, nor were the persecutors able to draw from him a single admission that could compromise the lives and fortunes of his fellow-Catholics. After three years of close imprisonment in the Tower, Father Southwell was removed to Newgate, and a few days later was brought up for trial at Westminster before Lord Chief Justice Popham and three other judges on the charge that, after having received priestly orders by the pretended authority of the Bishop of Rome, he had remained in England as a false traitor, contrary to the statutes of the realm. A verdict of guilty was quickly returned and the prisoner was asked whether he had anything to say why sentence of death should not be pronounced against him. 'Nothing,' replied the holy Confessor, 'but from my heart I beg Almighty God to forgive all those who have been in any way accessory to my death.' On the following morning, February 21, A.D. 1595, he was drawn on a hurdle through the streets to Tyburn, where he was hanged in the presence of a large number of people who had assembled to witness his glorious martyrdom.

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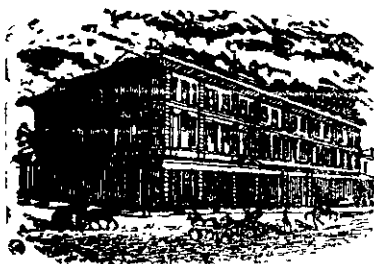
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Irish News.

ANTRIM.—Appointment of Postmaster at Belfast.—A rumour has gained currency (says the *Irish Weekly*) that Mr. Sheridan, postmaster of Cork, has been appointed to the Belfast vacancy. There is little doubt the rumour will turn out to have foundation in fact, though no official announcement on the subject has been made. An evening contemporary goes out of its way to remind its readers that the gentleman appointed is a Catholic. It may be presumed, however, if the appointment has been made, religion did not enter into the calculations of the Postmaster-General. Seniority of service is the first consideration taken into account in most Government departments when a vacancy occurs and an appointment has to be made. In this case, therefore, if the rumour prove correct, the usual practice has been followed. According to the ethics of the Orange Lodges, Catholicity should be made a barrier to all promotion in the Post Office.

DUBLIN.—The better Housing of the Poor.—At a recent meeting of the Catholic Women's Total Abstinence League, Dublin, Mr. J. N. Briscoe, candidate for the councillorship of the Mountjoy ward in the interests of temperance and the better housing of the poor, said the cause they were fighting was a great one, and they now placed foremost on their programme the housing of the poor and the providing of sanitary houses for the people. So long as the people of Dublin were compelled to live in crumbling tenements, which the Corporation shirked the responsibility of compelling the owners to put in habitable repair, so long would the people be the victims of drink, disease, and crime.

Death of a veteran Musician.—The death is reported of the veteran Irish musician, Professor J. W. Glover. The deceased edited Duffy's edition of *Moore's Irish Melodies*, and put the accompaniments to Dr. P. W. Joyce's Irish tunes. Professor Glover had attained the great age of 86 years.

A Conductor who put his foot in it.—There is a story going the rounds of the Press which, if true, shows that the well known conductor, Hans Richter, committed a serious indiscretion recently in Dublin. During his stay in the Irish metropolis the Provost of Trinity invited him to a reception at his official residence, where all that is high, socially and intellectually, in Dublin had foregathered to meet him. During the course of the afternoon Professor Mahaffy delivered a short address to the distinguished musician in German. Hans Richter replied in English, but commenced by apologising for his inability to speak fluent English. However, he promised all who came to hear the performance of the Halle Band later in the evening to compensate them with his baton. He expressed the great pleasure he felt of having the opportunity of visiting Ireland, the land of scholarship of music, and, he added with a look that betokened his confidence in the applause of his audience, 'so cruelly oppressed by its neighbour.' If a lyddite shell had exploded in the Tory gathering the consternation could not have been greater. The musician's 'slip' was received with prolonged silence.

The Poor Servants of the Mother of God.—The Poor Servants of the Mother of God have, with the approbation of his Grace the Archbishop of Dublin, made a new foundation in Ireland. The Superioress who has been appointed matron of the Rathdown Union has reached the scene of her future labours, with her community and one of the Mother-General's assistants, and has had a cordial reception from the Guardians, Canon Quinn, P.P., Father O'Connor, C.C., and the parishioners.

Prayers for Peace.—In a postscript to the Advent Pastoral his Grace Archbishop Walsh, of Dublin, says: 'Subject to the arrangement notified on a previous occasion as applicable to all cases of collects prescribed by the diocesan authority, the prayer for the living and the dead (*Pro vivis et defunctis*), the last in order amongst the collects assigned in the missal for special occasions, is to be said at Mass when the rubrics permit during the continuance of the war now being waged in South Africa. Let us thus persevere in prayer to the Almighty that in His power and wisdom He may be pleased to bring to an end this war, so calamitous to all who are involved in it. Let us also implore His mercy on behalf of the victims of this disastrous conflict, on whichever side they may have fought, who dying in such sad circumstances, deprived as they must be in so many cases of all religious aid, have so strong a claim on our charitable sympathy.'

KERRY.—A Killarney Man at the Paris Conservatoire of Music.—Our readers (says a Kerry newspaper) will be glad to learn of the success of a young Killarney man at the Conservatoire of Music in Paris. At a recent examination held for the admission of pupils, Mr. John O'Sullivan succeeded in taking first place out of 90 candidates, and was received *à l'unanimité*. He now enters on a course of four years' study under the first masters in Paris. From a very early age he displayed considerable musical ability, and possesses a tenor of great compass, sweetness, and power. He is a son of the late Dr. John O'Sullivan, Killarney.

KING'S COUNTY.—Retirement of a Postmaster.—H. T. Love, who for 25 years has been postmaster of Tullamore, is shortly to retire. A committee of the townspeople has been formed to arrange for the presentation to Mr Love of an address and testimonial.

Death of a Venerable Nun.—A Home paper says that the announcement of the death of the Rev. Mother Mary Evangeliste, of the Order of Mercy, at Birr, was received with a feeling of deep and widespread sorrow. Mother Evangeliste was born at Nenagh in 1819, was professed in St. John's Convent, and

remained attached to it ever since, having as a valued colleague and co-worker the Venerable Mother Beckett, now an octogenarian, and the last, it is believed, of the nuns who received the veil from the foundress of the Order.

LIMERICK.—A Successful Young Man.—The vice-consul and chief judicial officer at Blantyre, Central Africa, is a young Limerick man, Mr Joseph J. Nunan, a graduate of the Royal University and of Trinity College, Dublin. He is also studying for the Irish Bar, and recently won the junior fellowship in English of the Royal University, £200 a year for four years. He also won the Blake History Scholarship and the Vice-Chancellor's prize for English Composition at Trinity, and the Bacon scholarship at Gray's Inn. Mr Nunan is yet under 25.

Settling the People on the Land.—In addition to the estates of Mr. W. T. Treach, Lord Guillamore and Lord Dunraven, which have been finally purchased by the tenants at terms extending from 12 to 16 years, arrangements are being conducted between the owners and tenants on the following estates in the parish of Abbeyfeale with a view to purchase. An application has been sought by the tenants on Rowland Batman's estate, and the matter awaits consideration in court. The Hartnett estate has been almost finally disposed of at from 13 to 15 years' purchase, while the tenants on Major Ellis's and Miss Nixon's estates have each submitted to the owners through their respective agents a proposal of 14 years' purchase on present rents. Should the sales mentioned be finally arranged there will remain in this parish, whose extreme boundaries are 10 miles apart, only a few small estates unsold. The success achieved by the tenants is principally due to the efforts of the Rev. Father Casey, the parish priest.

WEXFORD.—Death of an Enniscorthy Man in California.—The Los Angeles *Herald* announces the death of Mr Andrew Martin, 'one of the richest young men in the State of California.' The deceased came of a fine old Wexford stock, his parents being natives of Enniscorthy.

GENERAL.

The Irish Judicature.—Commenting on the proposal to appoint a Catholic to succeed the late Justice O'Brien on the Irish Bench, the *Leeds Mercury* says:—'Nothing in connection with Irish judicature is more remarkable than the way in which Protestants have displaced Roman Catholics. About a quarter of a century ago there were ten Roman Catholic Judges to seven Protestants. Since then the proportions gradually altered, until in 1886 there were twice as many Protestant Judges as Roman Catholics. At the present time the Protestant ascendancy is even more marked, and if a Roman Catholic is not appointed to succeed Mr. Justice O'Brien the Protestants will be in a majority of 15 to three. It is certainly not desirable that an impression should be created that Roman Catholicism is a bar to advancement in the legal profession in Ireland. Successive Tory Governments have done their best to produce, unfortunately, such an impression by elevating to the Bench barristers who are mere party hacks, and by boycotting men of brilliant forensic abilities because they are Home Rulers. And yet we profess to wonder why the Irish do not love English rule.'

The Irish Catholic Truth Society.—The Catholic Truth Society of Ireland has completed its organisation. A general committee representative of the whole of the country is in process of formation. In an address issued by the Society to the clergy and laity of Ireland, the committee says: 'The Catholic Truth Society of England has, for several years past, been doing excellent work of this character, not only in Great Britain but in this country also—a fact which we gratefully recognise. We intend to co-operate cordially with its members, who have already given us valuable guidance and assistance. But in literature as in other things every people has its own national needs and tastes, for which native sources alone can make adequate provision. In undertaking to carry on the work of this Catholic Truth Society of Ireland, the managing committee most earnestly solicit the cordial co-operation of all their fellow-countrymen, but particularly of the clergy and of the influential Catholic laymen, without whose assistance we could never hope to make this project a permanent success.'

The Religion of the Irish Bar.—An unofficial religious census of the members of the Irish Bar has been taken. There are, it is said, over 400 practising barristers in Ireland. Of these 253 belong to the various Protestant communions, 159 are Catholics, and one is a Jew. Out of fifty-six Queen's Counsel 16 are Catholics. If the proportion of each creed in the profession were maintained in the judiciary seven judge-ships out of eighteen should be filled by Catholics, whereas there are only three Catholic judges on the Irish Bench.

Marriage of Mr. J. E. Redmond, M.P.—On Saturday, December 16, at the church of the Servite Fathers, Fulham, London, Mr. J. E. Redmond, M.P., was married by special license to Miss Ada Beesley, daughter of the late Mr. James Beesley, formerly of Leamington. The ceremony was strictly private, no one being present except the aunt and sister of the bride. The marriage was performed by the Rev. Father Brugnoti, rector of the church. In the afternoon Mr. and Mrs. Redmond left for the country.

Co-operation in the Dairying Industry.—The co-operative movement has done much for the Irish trade during the past half dozen years, but in no department have its effects been more noticeable than in the dairying industry. Here are a few particulars: 'One hundred dairy societies, exclusive of auxiliaries, furnished complete returns of their business. From the statistics it will be seen that the 20,814 members of these societies have invested no less a capital than £53,131, which is held by them in fully or part-paid shares. This share capital has been augmented by the sum of

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£113,427 loan capital, making altogether £166,558, invested by Irish farmers in the development of this branch of their industry. The value of buildings and plant after depreciation is returned as £97,266, but it is estimated to greatly exceed this figure, as many dairies were in course of equipment at the date to which the returns refer. Turning to the actual trade done by the dairy societies we find that they received nearly twenty-three and a quarter millions of gallons of milk, from which they produced nearly nine and a half million pounds of butter. The farmers supplying milk realised an average price per gallon of 8d, with the separated milk and butter milk given back free. Milk payments absorbed £351,536, and working expenses amounted to £16,081—roughly 11½ per cent. of the value of the output, which realised the large figure of £401,771. A net profit of £6176 was earned on the year's trading, which is available for allocation among the members of the societies, whose reserves and accumulated profit now amount to £13,648. This is undoubtedly a record of which the organisation may well feel proud.

THE PROGRESS OF THE CENTURY.

HIS Eminence Cardinal Moran recently laid the foundation stone of a new church at Bulli, New South Wales. In the course of his address his Eminence said:—

And when we looked back upon the century just closing what marvellous progress is everywhere disclosed. In those hundred years two mighty agents were introduced to civilisation in steam and electricity. By the agency of the one journeys which once were reckoned by months were now matters of days, while by means of the other communication with the ends of the world was reduced to hours. Some said that we might have been happier had these mighty engines of advancement not been introduced; but, without waiting to consider that point, we must all recognise the marvellous material progress of the century. As another evidence of advancement we had but to look to the newspapers of the last century. The people of to-day would hardly deign to regard them as newspapers. The newspapers had been revolutionised into what we saw them to-day, and it was only right that the people should recognise their value in the enlightenment of the world. The newspapers were the servants of the public, and brought the current facts of daily life to the public, and sustained and helped the maintenance of the people's independence. And what geographical advances had characterised the century! The map of the world

HAD UNDERGONE MARVELLOUS CHANGES.

At the opening of the century Canada seemed only to exist on that map to attract by its divisions and its internal weakness the attention of Powers bent on the acquisition of new territory. Now it was a vast united dominion marked by every sign of prosperity and exerting a powerful influence in the world. The United States, too, at the opening of the present century was hardly noticed with its scarcely 3,000,000 of population. But from that population had arisen a magnificent and independent people of 80,000,000. It was in Africa, however, upon which the eyes of the world were just now directed that the greatest changes were noted. In that country the marvellous feat of joining two distant portions of the world had been accomplished in the cutting of the Suez Canal. In Africa 100 years ago a million slaves were sent away every year to wear out their lives in foreign lands. By their united influence in the work of civilisation the various European Powers had cut off these 1,000,000 slaves a year from a degrading servitude. He did not know that a greater work had been accomplished in the century than that of England in pacifying the people of Egypt. That country, which had fallen from its ancient enduence, was after the lapse of 2000 years beginning to give promise of becoming a great centre of commerce, and at no distant day of being a distinct aid to the enlightenment of other civilised countries. To show the great hold Europe had upon Africa, England had 2,500,000 square miles, Portugal 900,000 square miles, Germany 900,000 square miles, and France 3,000,000 square miles. It had been said that these various Powers had objects of their own in thus acquiring African territory; but, whatever might have been the objects, the 'Dark Continent' was at present as a result as well explored and as well known as Europe. With regard to the present war, however it might end, he (the Cardinal) felt sure that it would result in the opening of another mighty dominion. But during the 100 years the progress and the spread of enlightenment was not more marvellous anywhere than in our own Australia. They had indeed emerged from darkness to light. And in that work those he (the Cardinal) represented that day had done their share. The pioneer priests of their faith in this land had laid the foundation of that enlightenment and provided those religious advantages they enjoyed to-day.

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN NEW ZEALAND.

WE take the following particulars regarding the Catholic Church in New Zealand from the *Australasian Catholic Directory*—

The archdiocese of Wellington is divided into 26 districts, with 79 churches, attended by 54 priests. There are 31 religious brothers, 236 nuns, 1 college, 8 boarding and high schools, 28 primary schools, 4 orphanages, and 1 industrial school for boys. The number of children receiving Catholic education is about 4000. The total Catholic population of the archdiocese is about 26,500, inclusive of 1500 Maoris.

In the diocese of Auckland there are 23 districts and 61 churches (exclusive of the Maori missions), which are served by 35 priests. There are 10 religious brothers in the diocese, 121 nuns, 5 boarding schools for girls, 12 superior day schools, 24 primary day

schools, 2 orphanages, and one home for the poor. The number of children receiving Catholic education is about 2500, and the total Catholic population is set down at 23,525.

The following is the summary for the diocese of Christchurch:—Number of districts, 19; churches, 50; priests, 35; religious brothers, 13; nuns, 150; boarding and high schools, 6; primary schools, 30; Magdalen Asylum, 1; number of Catholics in diocese, 22,000. There are 2700 pupils attending the primary schools of the diocese, and about 380 the boarding and high schools.

The diocese of Dunedin is divided into 15 districts, with 50 churches attended by 22 priests. There are 7 religious brothers, 108 nuns, 3 boarding schools for girls, 7 superior day schools, and 18 primary schools. The total number of children receiving Catholic education is 2187, and the Catholic population of the diocese is about 20,000.

The total Catholic population of the Colony is over 92,000, and the number of priests 116. There are 213 churches, and 141 schools attended by about 11,600 pupils.

RETURNING TO THE FOLD.

The *London Tablet* announces that Lady Primrose, wife of Sir Henry Primrose, chairman of the Board of Inland Revenue, has been received into the Catholic Church.

Karl Minati, late professor of the University of Pisa, an active Freemason, renounced Freemasonry when he fell ill, returning all his diplomas to the lodge. Mgr. Cipponi took the Holy Viaticum to him publicly and he died an edifying death.

The Right Rev. Dr. Patterson, Bishop of Emmaus, who is now quite recovered from his recent indisposition, administered the Sacrament of Confirmation on a Sunday recently at St. Mary's, Cadogan street, Chelsea, S.W., to 11 adult converts—12 ladies and two gentlemen.

Baron d'Este, son-in-law of the late General Harney, renounced Protestantism on December 4th, and was admitted into the Catholic Church in the Chapel of the Visitation, St. Louis, by the Rev. Father Sullivan, S.J., of the St. Louis University. Baron d'Este was an Episcopalian.

Hon. Walter J. Hoffmann, D.D., honorary curator of the Catholic university museum of ethnology, Washington, and United States consul at Mannheim, Germany, D.C., has died at his home in Reading, Pennsylvania. He was received into the Catholic Church some time before his death.

Mr. James S. A. Purcell, formerly of New York, was baptized and received into the Catholic Church at Quebec recently. The ceremony took place in St. Patrick's Church, Rev. Father Francis Gutherbutt, C. SS. R., received the abjuration and conferred the Sacrament of Baptism. The sponsors were Senator Joseph Arthur Paquette, Maria Georgiana Paquette, his wife; Caroline Angers Larue, Maria P. Angers, and Felix Larue, N.P.

Mrs. Stanhope Sprigg, who is a well-known black and white artist under the name of 'Jess C.', and who was for some years on the permanent staff of the *Lady's Pictorial*, and has since been connected with the *Daily Mail* and the *Windsor Magazine* (founded and lately edited by her husband), was, on the eve of the Feast of the Immaculate Conception received into the Church by the Rev. L. Kenefick at the Church of Our Lady Star of the Sea, Staithe, Yorkshire. On the feast day itself Mr. and Mrs. Sprigg made their first communion at the same church from the same priest.

Rev. Dr. Benjamin F. De Costa, of New York, who resigned the Protestant Episcopal ministry in September last, and afterward gave up altogether his membership in the Episcopal body, was on Sunday, December 3, received into the Catholic Church. The ceremony took place in the chapel of the Academy of the Sacred Heart, New York. Rev. Father Thomas McLoughlin, pastor of the Church of the Transfiguration, officiated. Among the few present was, by special invitation, the Rev. Father O'Connor, S.J., of St. Francis Xavier's Church. The chapel had been elaborately decorated with roses and the altars were brilliant with many candles. It is understood that the candidate's Protestant baptism being accepted as valid, the baptism was not conditionally repeated, as is done in doubtful cases. This action on the part of Dr. De Costa will not come as a surprise, for it has been long predicted. The majority of those who have hitherto left the Episcopal for the Catholic Church have been Ritualists, but Dr. De Costa has never had much to do with Ritualism. At one time the Ritualists expected that he would join them, but he pronounced the movement 'unreal, hopeless and uncatholic in its spirit and method.' Ritualists, he declared, were merely imitators doomed to extinction in the near future by the broad church movement. He is a descendant of a Huguenot family who settled in Boston seven generations since. He was for many years engaged in journalism, and later on was ordained a minister of the Protestant Episcopal Church. Dr. De Costa devoted many years to study and travel in Europe, and had always taken a prominent part in all social questions affecting the well-being of the industrial classes.

Dunstan Times says:—"Messrs W. Gawne and Co. have forwarded us a bottle of their Worcestershire Sauce. The sauce is quite equal in quality to Lea and Perrin's, and is only half the cost of the imported article. It has also a delicate piquancy all its own, which must make it an epicurean's delight and a joy for ever. We asked a number of people to sample the Sauce sent us, and they were charmed with it. Our readers should ask for the Sauce and try it for themselves.—"

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Boots with this Brand on the heel are Guaranteed to Fit and Wear Well.	On this Brand only the Very Best of Workmen are employed.	Only the Very Best of Materials are used in this Brand of Boots and Shoes.	Farmers, Miners, and all who want to keep their feet dry, try this Brand.	The "STANDARD" Brand Boots and Shoes are known from Auckland to the Bluff for sterling quality.

Commercial.

(For week ending February 14).

MR. J. A. CHAPMAN, Sharebroker, Dunedin, reports as follows:

BANKS.—National, from 2/16/0 to 2/17/0; New South Wales, from 39/0/0 to 40/0/0; Union of Australia, Ltd., 35/0/0 to 36/0/0; Bank of Australasia, 65/0/0 to 65/10/0.

INSURANCE.—National, from 16/6 to 17/0; New Zealand, 3/1/0 to 3/2/0; South British, 2/14/0 to 2/16/0; Standard, 13/6 to 14/0.

SHIPPING.—New Zealand Shipping, from 4/14/0 to 4/15/0; Union Steam, 10/9/0 to 10/10/0.

COAL.—Westport from 3/6/6 to 3/7/6.

LOAN AND AGENCY.—Commercial Property and Finance Company, from 5/0 to 5/6; National Mortgage, 23/0 to 30/0; Perpetual Trustees, 12/6 to 13/0; Trustees and Executors, 29/6 to 30/6.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Kaiapoi Woollen Co., from 6/5/0 to 6/6/0; Mornington Tramway, 16/0 to 16/6; Mosgiel Woollen, 4/0/0 to 4/2/0; New Zealand Drug, 2/12/0 to 2/13/0; New Zealand Drug, new issue, 1/18 6 to 1/19/0; Milburn Lime and Cement, 2/0/0 to 2/2/0; do., new issue, 1/0/0 to 1/0/6 (30/- paid); Otago Daily Times, 13/4/0 to 13/5/6; Emu Bay Railway, 7/6 to 8/6; Wellington Woollen, 5/0/0 to 5/2/6; Silverton Tram, 4/14/0 to 4/16/0; New Zealand Refrigerating, 1/10/0 to 1/11/0; Roslyn Tramway, 5/3 to 5/9.

GOLDFIELDS.—Reefton: Big River Extended, from 7/0 to 8/0; Keep-it-Dark, 25/0 to 26/0; Alpine Extended, 2/9 to 3/3; Croesus (Paparoa), 4/0 to 4/9.

DREDGING COMPANIES.—Chatto Creek, 42/0 to 45/0; Clyde 56/0 to 60/0; Dunedin, 14/0 to 14/6; Empire, 3/17/0 to 4/0/0; Enterprise, 85/0 to 90/0; Evan's Flat, 33/0 to 34/0; Ettrick, 4/6 to 4/9 (paid up); Golden Gate, 137/0 to 139/0; Golden Beach, 55/6 to 57/6; Golden Point, 33/0 to 35/0; Tuapeka, 38/0 to 40/0; Vincent, 36/0 to 38/0; Hartley and Riley, 9/17/0 to 10/1/6; Jutland Flat, 4/0 to 4/3 (contrib.); Macraes Flat, 4/0 to 6/0; Golden Run, 60/0 to 62/0; Golden Terrace, 9/0 to 10/6; Magnetic, 64/0 to 66/0; Matau, 83/0 to 87/0; Molyneux Hydraulic (B), 30/0 to 32/0; Nevis, 27/6 to 28/0; Otago, 39/0 to 41/0; Upper Waipori, 2/3 to 2/9; Waimumu, 21/0 to 22/6; Sunlight, 33/0 to 35/0; Cromwell, 69/6 to 71/0 (prem); Riverbank, 7/0 to 8/6; Nil Desperandum, 41/0 to 43/0; Klondyke, 31/6 to 32/6; Waikaka Forks, 1/3 to 2/0 (prem); Dunstan Leads, 17/0 to 18/0; Ophir, 2/0 to 2/9; Golden Gravel, 2/3 to 3/0; Dunstan Pioneer, 3/3 to 3/9; Golden Reward, 1/0 to 1/6; Halfway House, 15/0 to 17/0.

SLUICING COMPANIES.—Moonlight (contrib.), 13/0 to 14/0; Roxburgh Amalgamated (contrib.), 6/9 to 7/0; Deep Stream, 22/0.

PRODUCE.

London, February 7.—Wheat: 8500 quarters of Victorian February shipment have been sold at 29s 4½d.

London, February 8.—The wheat market is firm and dearer. South Australian (January-February shipment) is offering at 29s 6d.

Butter is firm, with a steady trade. Colonial, 98s to 100s (occasional lots, 102s); Danish, 110s.

Cheese is steady; prime unchanged.

Rabbits firm. Five thousand crates ex Tomoana were condemned.

The imports for January increased by L3,344,000 and the exports by L3,236,000 as compared with the corresponding month of the previous year.

The American visible supply of wheat is estimated at 87,473,000 bushels.

London February 11.—Frozen mutton: Crossbred wethers, maiden ewes—Canterbury, 3d; Dunedin and Southland, 2 13-16;

North Island, 2 11-16d. Lamb: No New Zealand offering. River Plate unchanged.

Wellington, February 12.—The Agent-General cables: 'Butter, 99s; market good. Cheese, 58s; market firm.'

Messrs. Stronach Bros. and Morris report as follows:—

WHEAT.—There is a fair demand for prime milling at 2s 5d to 2s 6d, but medium samples are dull of sale at 2s 3d to 2s 4d; fowl wheat is readily placed at 2s to 2s 2d for good and 1s 9d to 1s 11d per bushel for broken.

OATS.—In fair demand. Prime milling, 2s 1d; good to best feed, 2s to 2s 0½d; medium, 1s 10d to 1s 11½d per bushel (sacks extra).

CHAFF.—Prime oaten sheaf is in good demand at L2 15s to L3, but medium is difficult to place at L2 10s to L2 12s 6d per ton (bags extra).

POTATOES.—Prices slightly easier. Best kidneys, L2 10s to L2 15s per ton (bags in).

AUSTRALIAN COMMERCIAL.

Sydney, February 7.—Wheat: Chick, 2s to 2s 1½d; milling, 2s 8d to 2s 8½d. Flour: L6 10s to L7. Oats (feeding): New Zealand, 2s 4d to 2s 6d; Tasmanian 2s 4d. Barley: Cape, 2s 3d to 2s 6d. Maize: prime, 2s 6d to 2s 9d. Peas: Prussian blue, 3s 3d to 3s 6d. Bran, 7½d to 8d. Pollard, 9d to 9½d. Potatoes (only local offering), L2 to L4. Onions (market bare): Victorians, L3. Butter: Dairy-made, 7d to 7½d; factory, 8½d. Cheese: New Zealand unquoted. Bacon, 4½d to 7d.

[The above quotations are those ruling between merchant and retailer, and do not represent the slightly lower values obtained by the recognised broker.]

Melbourne, February 7.—Wheat, (firm) 2s 9d to 2s 9½d; large sales for export at higher figure. Oats: Algerian, 2s 1d to 2s 3d; stout, up to 2s 3½d. Barley: Cape, 2s to 2s 3d. Maize, 2s 8d. Bran, 8½d. Pollard, 10½d. Potatoes, L1 10s to L2 2s 6d. Onions, L1 15s to L2.

Adelaide, February 7.—There is a large demand for breadstuffs for export. Wheat, 2s 7d to 2s 8½d. Flour, L6 5s to L6 10s. Oats: Dun and Algerian, 1s 9d to 2s; stout, 2s to 2s 6d. Bran 9d. Pollard, 10d.

Messrs. Donald Reid and Co. report as follows:—

OATS.—Only medium and inferior lots were offered. The demand for these was slack, but for good to prime short feed there is ready sale at late quotations. We quote: Prime milling, 2s 1d; good to best feed, 2s to 2s 0½d; medium, 1s 10d to 1s 11d; inferior, 1s 6d to 1s 9d per bushel (sacks extra).

WHEAT.—Prime milling is in fair demand, but medium quality is neglected. Fowl wheat, which is offering more freely, finds buyers at prices a shade below late values. We quote: Prime milling, 2s 5d to 2s 6d; medium, 2s 3d to 2s 4d; fowl wheat—whole 2s to 2s 2d, broken 1s 8d to 1s 11d per bushel (sacks in).

POTATOES.—The market is more fully supplied and values a shade easier. Best kidneys sold at L2 10s to L2 15s; others, L2 5s to L2 7s 6d per ton (sacks in).

CHAFF.—We catalogued several trucks, mostly good to prime quality. This was the only class in demand, and sold at L2 17s 6d to L3; medium, L2 to L2 15s per ton (bags extra).

SOUTHLAND FROZEN MEAT COMPANY.

At the annual meeting of the Southland Frozen Meat Company held at Invercargill on Saturday the report showed a net profit for the year of L3,926, which, added to the balance carried forward from last year, gave a total credit of L6,769. No dividend was declared, L2,380 being written off for depreciation, L4,000 placed to the reserve, and L389 carried forward. During the year the company shipped 84,548 sheep, 118,078 lambs, and 43,259 crates of rabbits.

"Tested Seeds." New Supplies.

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Grass Seeds—Ryegrasses, machine dressed, off old pasture, Italian Ryegrass. Cocksfoot. Chewing's Fescue. Timothy.

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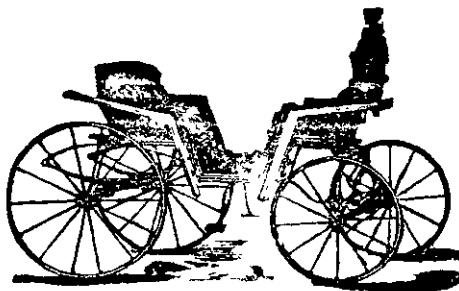
Turnip Seeds—*Swedes*: Champion. Elephant. Monarch. Webb's Imperial. Tait's Best of All. Webb's Giant King. *Yellows*: Aberdeen Green Top. Aberdeen Purple Top. Romney Marsh (our strain gave very great satisfaction last Season). Fosterton Hybrid. *Whites*: Devon Greystone. Lincoln Red Globe.

— Samples and Prices on Application. —

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Princes street South, Dunedin.

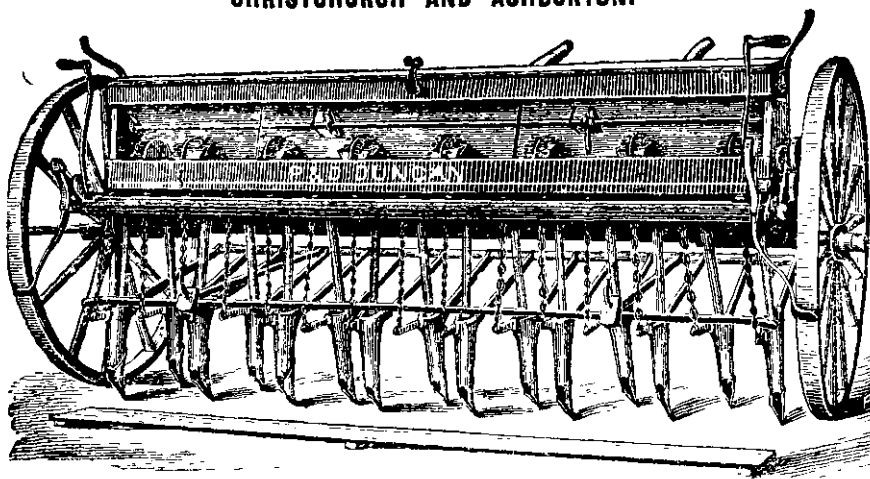
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Have now on hand Single and Double Buggies, Station Waggonettes, Spring Carts, etc. First award for Carriages at New Zealand and South Seas Exhibition, 1889-90.

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AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERS,
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Manufacturers of Agricultural Implements and Machinery, sole manufacturers of Duncan's Patent Drills, with Fertiliser Attachments; Duncan's Patent Spring Tine Cultivator, with Seeder Attachment; Duncan's Patent Disc Harrows; Duncan's Patent Stubble and Multi-furrow Ploughs, etc. Agents for Marshall, Sons and Co.'s Threshing Machinery.

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**LIGHT-RUNNING PLANO
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THIS Machine is fitted with the simplest
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Trials will be given in your district.

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COMPANY OF NEW ZEALAND
LIMITED**

Steamers will be despatched as under
(weather and other circumstances
permitting):

LYTTELTON and WELLINGTON—

Talune	Thurs. Feb. 15	3 p.m. D'din
Flora	Fri. Feb. 16	3 p.m. D'din
Mararoa	Tues. Feb. 20	2.30 p.m. tr'n

NAPIER, GISBOURNE and AUCKLAND—		
Flora	Fri. Feb. 16	3 p.m. D'din
Mararoa	Tues. Feb. 20	2.30 p.m. tr'n

SYDNEY via WELLINGTON—

Talune	Thurs. Feb. 15	3 p.m. D'din
Monowai	Thurs. Feb. 22	2.30 p.m. tr'n

SYDNEY via AUCKLAND—

Mararoa	Tues. Feb. 20	2.30 p.m. tr'n
Waihora	Tues. Feb. 6	2.30 p.m. tr'n

MELBOURNE via BLUFF and HOBART—		
Mokoia *	Feb. 18	2.30 p.m. tr'n
Talune	Mon., Feb. 5	3.35 p.m. tr'n

* Calls at Milford Sounds

**WESTPORT via TIMARU, AKAROA,
LYTTELTON, and WELLINGTON.**

Cargo only.

Upolu, #1111	Fri., Feb. 23	4 p.m. D'din
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* Calls at Nelson.

**GREYMOUTH via OAMARU, TIMARU,
LYTTELTON, WELLINGTON, and
NAPIER**

Cargo only.

Taupo	Wed., Feb. 21	4 p.m. D'din
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TAHITI and RARATONGA—

Ovalau	Tues. Feb. 13	From Auckland
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FIJI (SUVA and LEVUKA)—

Taviuni	Wed., Jan. 31	From Auckland
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FOR TONGA, SAMOA, FIJI & SYDNEY
(From Auckland).

Hauroto	Wed., Feb. 7
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FUNERALS Conducted with the
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FAMILY & DISPENSING CHEMISTS.**

Since the death of the late T. M. Wilkin-
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All prescriptions and Recipes are dis-
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the purest Drugs and Chemicals.

Orders by post receive special attention.
For Xmas Presents of Perfumery, Sachets,
Hair Brushes, Perfume Sprays, Toilet Soaps,
etc., we have a large assortment to choose
from.

WILKINSON & SON, CHEMISTS,
Medical Hall, Princes Street, Dunedin.

DEAR ME!

I've forgotten that **SYMINGTON COFFEE ESSENCE**, whatever shall I do? Call at the next
Store you pass; they All Keep it."

EXPORTS OF PRODUCE FOR JANUARY.

During January the following were among the chief items of export:—Butter, L142,981; cheese, L33,719; beef, L32,161; mutton, L82,343; lamb, L58,209. Each item shows a large increase over the amount exported for the corresponding month of 1899.

SOUTHLAND PRODUCE MARKET.

There has been very little change in the values of oats during the past week. A steamer has arrived at the Bluff for the purpose of taking 20,000 sacks to Capetown and other South African ports. The quantity offering in the local market is small, but sufficient to regulate prices elsewhere in the Colony.

Invercargill prices current.—Wholesale. Butter fresh, 6d; eggs, 10d per doz.; cheese, farm, 3½d; bacon, farm, 7d; do (rolled), farm, 6d; hams, 8d; potatoes, L1 10s per ton; barley, 2s to 2s 6d; fowl, wheat, 2s; chaff, L2 10s per ton; flour, L7 10s; oatmeal, L9 to L10; pollard, L3; bran, L2 10s, including bags. Retail.—Fresh butter, 8d; eggs, 1s per doz.; cheese, 6d; bacon, rolled, 8d, sliced, 9d; hams, 10d; potatoes, 2s per cwt; flour, 200lb, 16s; 50lb, 4s 3d; oatmeal, 50lb, 5s; 25lb, 2s 9d; pollard, 5s 9d per bag; bran, 3s 6d per bag; chaff, L3 per ton; fowls' feed, 2s 3d per bushel.

MR. F. MEENAN, King street, reports:—Wholesale price only.—Oats: Quiet demand. Feeding, 1s 11d to 2s; milling, 2s 1d to 2s 2d. Wheat: milling, 2s 6d to 2s 9d; fowls' wheat, 1s 9d to 2s 1d. Hay: ryegrass and clover, best, L3. Straw, pressed, 27s; loose, 28s. Bran: L2 15s. Pollard: L3. Flour: L6 10s to L7. Butter: best brands factory, 10d to 11d; dairy, 6d to 8d. Oatmeal: L11. Chaff: fair demand; L2 15s to L3. New potatoes: Local, L2 10s best. Market glutted.

WOOL, SKINS, TALLOW, ETC.

London, February 7.—At the tallow sales 875 casks were offered and the whole were sold. Mutton Fine, 30s 3d; medium, 28s 6d. Beef: Fine, 29s 3d; medium, 28s.

London, February 8.—The Bradford wool market is quiet. Common sixties, 30½d.

London, February 11.—Hides: New South Wales light ox and cow, 5½d; New Zealand basils, average, strained, 10½d.

CHRISTCHURCH WOOL SALES.

There was the usual attendance of local and foreign buyers at the fourth of the series of the Christchurch wool sales on Friday. The bidding was most irregular throughout, most of the competition resting with local fellmongers, and prices showed a decline of 1d to 2d on the January sales, fine wools suffering most. There was no spirit in the sale. Out of 1969 bales offered only 2385 changed hands at auction, the balance being withdrawn. Prices were Greasy merino, 8d to 10d, and in a few isolated cases up to 11½d; half-bred, 6½d to 9½d, and up to 10½d for a few exceptional lots, crossbred, 4d to 8d, and up to 9d for exceptional; long wool, 4½d to 6d; pieces and bellies, 3½d to 7d, and up to 10½d for exceptional; locks, 1½d to 5½d.

Messrs. Stronach Bros. and Morris report as follows:—

RABBITSKINS—Very few offering and prices unchanged.

SHEEPSKINS—Market unchanged. Best dry crossbreds, 1s 6d to 5s 6d; do half-breds, 5s to 6s 6d; do merinos, 6s to 7s 6d.

HIDES—Market very firm. Prime heavy ox, 4d to 1½d; medium, 3½d to 3¾d; light and inferior, 2d to 3d per lb.

TALLOW—In good demand. Best rendered mutton, 15s 6d to 17s; medium, 13s 6d to 15s; rough fat, 10s 6d to 13s 6d per cwt.

LIVE STOCK.

ADDINGTON STOCK MARKET.

The entries at Addington were—3000 fat sheep, 1500 fat lambs, 7500 store sheep, cattle, and pigs.

FAT CATTLE—The 266 yarded were mostly good sorts, including some prime steers. Bidding, especially for the better classes, was brisker, owing no doubt to the Belfast Company freezing a large number of this sort. Prime steers brought L7 to L8 10s; lighter sorts, L5 17s 6d to L6 10s; heifers (all light weights), L4 to L6 5s; cows, L3 17s 6d to L6 2s 6d.

STORE CATTLE were in great request, and many were taken privately before sale. Those by auction realised:—Three year steers, L4 1s to L5 10s; three year heifers, L4 to L4 10s; 18 months' cattle, L2 2s 6d to L2 17s 6d. Dairy cows were a poor lot, selling at L3 10s to L6 10s.

FAT SHEEP—A mixed entry, mostly butchers' ewes and no good lines of freezers. All classes were in keen demand. Wethers, 11s 2d to 15s 6d; do ewes, 12s to 15s 6d.

FAT LAMBS—There were no extra prime, mostly medium quality. There was a good demand for all sorts. Freezers, 11s 6d to 13s; others down to 10s 6d.

STORE SHEEP—Those entered were mostly medium-sized lines of wethers, lambs, and ewes. All classes were in great request. Wethers, 11s 7d to 13s 7d; ewes, 10s to 14s; lambs, 8s 11d to 11s 4d.

PIGS—There was a short supply, and a rise in prices, especially for stores. Baconers, 30s to 37s, or 3½d per lb; porkers, 20s to 33s, or 3½d to 4d per lb; stores, 10s to 15s; weaners, 10s to 14s 6d.

DUNEDIN HORSE SALEYARDS.

Messrs. Wright, Stephenson, and Co. report as follows:—

Close upon 100 horses of one sort and another came forward for this week's sale, and we are pleased to add that there was a splendid attendance of the public, the proportion of buyers being much

above the average. The entries included consignments from New South Wales, Rangiora (North Canterbury), the Waitaki, Dipton (Southland), Owaka, Milton, and elsewhere. The draughts from Dipton were a very serviceable lot of farm horses, young and apparently sound. They realised from L35 to L41—the latter price for a good five-year-old gelding by Herd Laidie. Those from Sydney were mostly of medium size and weight, but nevertheless they sold well, realising from L17 10s to L27. The Rangiora consignment comprised a fine lot of farm horses, some 15 in number, and all of them changed hands at from L25 to L40. The light horses were mostly from the Waitaki district, and included a number of good reindeer, suitable for South Africa, and a number of these were picked up by the Horse Selection Committee of the Otago and Southland contingent at prices ranging from L16 to L22. Many others were purchased for use locally. Although at the opening of sale bids came slowly, competition increased as it progressed, and a very satisfactory day's business was done. The state of this market is very healthy, and if those having useful young horses for sale, whether draught or light harness sorts, will send them forward at once they will have no grounds for disappointment with the results afterwards. We quote as follows:—Superior young draught geldings, L40 to L45; extra good prize horses, L46 to L50; medium draught mares and geldings, L30 to L38; aged do, L20 to L27; upstanding carriage horses, L25 to L30; well-matched carriage pairs, L50 to L60; strong spring van horses, L22 to L28; milk cart and butchers' order cart horses, L15 to L20; tram horses, L8 to L12; light hacks, L6 to L10; extra good do, L15 to L25; weedy and aged hacks and harness horses, L2 to L5.

THE WEEK'S DREDGING RETURNS.

During the week ended Monday, 12th inst. (says the *Otago Daily Times*), returns were reported from the following 29 dredges, the total yield being 693oz 0dwt, 23gr or an average of 23oz per dredge:—

Matau (Clyde), 75oz; Golden Gate (Island Block), 6 days, 67oz; Enterprise (Alexandra), 138 hours, 59oz 2dwt; Empire (Waipori), 55oz 16dwt 19gr; Perseverance (Alexandra), 4 days, 36oz; Inch Valley (near Palmerston), 33oz; Clyde (Alexandra), 30oz; Success (Waipori), 24oz 3dwt 12gr; New Alexandra (Alexandra) 23oz 4dwt; Hartley and Riley (Cromwell), 3½ days, 22oz 8dwt; Waimumu (near Gore), 132 hours, 21oz; Upper Waipori (Waipori), 110 hours, 20oz 13½wt; Golden Beach (Alexandra) 132½ hours 20oz 10dwt 10gr; Jutland Flat (Waipori), 134 hours, 18oz 2dwt; Unity (Clyde) 84 hours, 17oz; Manorburn (Manuherikia), 16oz 4dwt; Evans Flat (Tuapeka), 15oz 11dwt; Molyneux Hydraulic (Alexandra), 15oz 10dwt; Lawrence (near Lawrence), 14oz 18dwt; Charlton Creek (near Gore), 125 hours, 11oz 17dwt 6gr; Tuapeka (Tuapeka Flat), 112 hours, 12oz; Morning Star (Manuherikia), 124 hours, 12oz; Otago, (Miller's Flat), 12oz; Nil Desperandum (Manuherikia), 11oz; Dunedin (Roxburgh), 119 hours, 10oz; Galtee More (Manuherikia), 10oz; Golden Terrace (Lower Shotover), 9oz 19dwt; Junction Electric (Cromwell), 4 days, 8oz 10dwt; Vincent (Clyde), 7oz 12dwt. Total, 693oz 0dwt 23gr.

NELSON.

THE annual outing of the boys of the Stokes Orphanage (says the *Nelson Colonist*) took place on February 7 at Richmond Park. The boys were taken to Richmond by train, and a number of friends from town and country joined in the proceedings of the day, over which the Very Rev. Dean Mahoney exercised genial direction. Needless to say the lads thoroughly enjoyed the outing, for special means had been taken to give them a good time. Games, sports, and plenty of toothsome picnic fare kept the boys well employed till evening. Cheers were then given for Mr B. Crisp, jun., who has taken the place of the late Mr J. Hunt as collector of funds, and who intimated his intention of continuing to undertake such task; for Mr R. McEae, for the permission to use the Park as a picnic ground; for the contributors to the picnic fund; and for Dean Mahoney and the Brothers in charge of the institution. During the afternoon a party of visitors from town arrived, and their visit was much appreciated. There were about 150 boys present.

WEDDING BELLS.

DENNEHY—SWAN.

A quiet wedding (writes our Wellington correspondent) was celebrated by the Very Rev. Father Lewis, Administrator, in St. Mary's Chapel, Guildford Terrace, on Wednesday morning. The contracting parties were Mr. E. J. Dennehy, a son of Mr. Dennehy of Timaru, and Miss Louie Swan, second daughter of Mr Swan of this city. Miss E. Swan, a sister of the bride, was bridesmaid and Mr. J. Brennan was best man.

SCULLY—LEONARD.

A POPULAR wedding took place at Rakahouka on Thursday (writes a correspondent of the *Southland Daily News*), the contracting parties being Delia Leonard, second daughter of Mr. Rodger Leonard, and Mr. T. Scully. The marriage ceremony was performed by the Very Rev. Dean Burke in the Rakahouka Church, which was crowded to the door. The ceremony concluded, the party proceeded to the residence of Mr. Leonard, where over 100 guests sat down to the wedding breakfast. A large party was held in the evening in honour of the occasion, the dance being held in a commodious marquee. The array of presents looked beautiful, consisting of costly and useful articles of every description.

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PROSPECTUS

A.M.D.G. ET S.P.H.

(*Sectura Pidem.*)

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All communications connected with the literary department, reports, correspondence, newspaper cuttings, etc., should be addressed to the Editor.

Correspondents forwarding obituary and marriage notices are particularly requested to be as concise as possible.

Correspondents are particularly requested to bear in mind that to insure publication in any particular issue of the paper communications must reach this Office not later than Tuesday morning.

BIRTH.

POLASCHEK.—At Temuka, on February 11, the wife of J. C. M. Polaschek of a son. Both doing well.

The New Zealand Tablet.

FIAT JUSTITIA.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1900.

CONSCRIPTION: IS IT COMING?



ROUDHON placed man's chiefest happiness in a return to the savage state. If there is anything in his dictum modern military men ought to be happy in at least a quiet and undemonstrative way. For the Powers that are called great have almost unanimously adopted to a great extent the principles of armed defence or offence that have prevailed and still prevail in savage and barbarian communities. Every adult and able-bodied male citizen must be a fighting man at the

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close of the nineteenth century, just as in the times far past when every man that comprised the hard-hitting hordes of ATTILA and GENSERIC bore and used a weapon of some kind. The days of the ill-armed and unorganised rabbles were succeeded by the feudal army—iron-clad knights and men-at-arms who formed the nucleus of the fighting force and were followed by a nondescript collection of serfs and slaves who were not armour-plated, who fought anyhow, and who went down before the onset of the mailed warriors like wooden hulks before the broadsides of modern men-of-war. The period of ill-organised tangles of ill-armed mobs disappeared with that of the standing armies of comparatively few but highly trained professional soldiers. In England standing armies date from CHARLES II.'s body of 'gentlemen of quality and veteran soldiers, excellently clad, mounted, and ordered'; and they gradually ushered in the days of tactics and scientific soldiering. The days of the professional and life-long soldier passed in France in the wars of the great Revolution. Conscription or compulsory service then became and has remained practically ever since the law of the land. It is, in effect, a return to the old period of savage warfare when every adult male had to arm and fight for the defence of his village, his hunting-grounds, or his tribe; but with this important difference, that the modern national, or, so to speak, tribal army, does not depend for its terrors on mere brute force of numbers and courage, but on acquired skill in the use of the latest scientific inventions for converting human fighting animals into so much dead meat. A military authority rightly says that 'no nation ever did or ever will accept conscription except by compulsion.' All the great European States have long since of necessity adopted conscription as a means of keeping up their military strength. As matters stand, their very existence depends upon it, and the grumbling and hard-used taxpayer and the young recruit have come to resign themselves, though with a mighty bad grace, to the fearful burden of heavy taxation and long personal service on the plea that conscription is, after all, but a form of insurance of national property and independence against the inroads of watchful and jealous neighbours.

It is not so generally known that a form of conscription has been provided for by an Act of Parliament which has been upon the British statute-book, unrepealed, for the last forty years. We refer to the Ballot Act of 1860. It provides that all males over 5ft 2in in height and between the ages of eighteen and thirty years shall serve in the militia. A merciful Act of Parliament, passed with monotonous regularity every year, suspends the operation of the Ballot Act of 1860. Fewer still are aware that the press-gang is still a legal, though obsolete, resort for the manning of the 'Queen's navy,' and that to this hour sailors, river-watermen, and even rank land-lubbers may be legally dragged out of their homes to help Britannia to rule the waves. An Act of Parliament passed in 1835, and regarded at the time as a great boon, limits the term of service of impressed men to five years 'save in urgent national necessity.' This method of recruiting has happily gone out of vogue. Voluntary enlistment has long been the rule. 'When volunteers fail,' says an authority before us, 'a system of bounties has been resorted to. But the laws sanctioning impressment slumber, without being repealed.' For some years past there have been uneasy indications which go to show that the time is approaching when conscription, more or less on the Continental plan, will become a live and lively political question in Great Britain. Thus far the average Britisher has preferred to do his fighting as MARK TWAIN did his mountain-climbing—by proxy. He pays a youth named TOMMY ATKINS to go forth and convince the enemy with hypodermic arguments of lead, but himself stays at home and sees that the hum of business never slackens in office or factory. And when the Ballot Act of 1860 comes up annually to disturb his tranquillity he promptly administers to it a dose of parliamentary morphia that keeps it reasonably quiet for twelve months more. But the spectre of a coming conscription has been haunting him none the less. Lord ROBERTS and the advanced party in the War Office are known to be in its favour. Some time ago the Secretary of War presented a Bill in the House of Lords which went far beyond the Ballot Act of 1860. As in the Continental compulsory service, Lord LANDSDOWNE'S Bill allowed no substitutes, and provided that any

person who, after being chosen by ballot, refused to don the uniform, might be arrested and compelled to serve for a period of five years. This Bill was regarded at the time as a step towards conscription. The events now passing in South Africa might easily precipitate compulsory military service in the British Isles. There is undoubtedly an abundance of good fighting material within the boundaries of the Empire. But a soldier is not trained in a day. And half-trained recruits, whatever their personal bravery, are but frail reeds for a world-wide Empire to lean her bulky form upon in the day when the nations go up to war. Recent events have proved that the standing army of Great Britain must be doubled if an emergency is to be adequately met. In times of prosperity recruiting will fail and has failed, because employment for the class who enlist will then be plentiful and the Queen's shilling and the scarlet tunic will in consequence lose much of their glamour and customary charm. But we opine that a decade of conscription would have a marked effect on the colonial policy of Great Britain. The 'Little Englander' (as he is contemptuously called) would then probably have his innings; and the policy of indefinite expansion—which, if persevered in, must inevitably lead to conscription—would probably find itself docked all round under the intolerable stress of personal and financial military burdens such as are breaking the hearts of the nations that are committed to it, not as a matter of choice, but, in the present circumstances of Europe, as a necessary preservative of their mere existence.

It reads like the instance of poetic justice that the countries which originated and perfected this return to the old tribal principle of army-raising should themselves feel most deeply its wear and grind and cumbrous weight. Modern conscription is one of the unpleasant legacies of the French Revolution. The levy *en masse* ordered by the Directory drew to the revolutionary standard in three years 1,200,000 men, repelled the allied invaders from France, and formed the fierce armies which HOCHÉ and MOREAU, and afterwards NAPOLEON BONAPARTE, 'the little Corsican,' led to the victories that culminated in 1797. Conscription was established by law in France in 1798. Other continental countries were gradually compelled, in self-defence, to adopt it. The system was perfected by Prussia. It took the shape of the 'short service with reserve' system, which has been described as 'the greatest revolution ever effected in this branch of military art.' There was a spice of patriotic romance about the inauguration of the new system which turns practically every adult male citizen into a trained soldier. It came into existence after the Peace of Tilsit, which was concluded between the First NAPOLEON and Prussia in 1807. Prussia was defeated, crippled with a war indemnity, partially dismembered, and her standing army reduced by express stipulation to 42,000 men. The last-mentioned condition was evaded in a curious way. The trained soldiers were sent to their homes, to be called to the colours again when needed. Their places were immediately filled by recruits. These were in turn trained to the use of arms, sent home, and again replaced by young recruits. And so on, *ad infinitum*. The 'short service and reserve' system was thus for the first time established. The operation was carried out with what was, in the circumstances, an altogether phenomenal degree of secrecy. Prussia closed its mouth and held its tongue, and slowly and grimly prepared for the stern *revanche* which came at Waterloo.

Ever since then Prussia has been perfecting her fighting machine, till her army has come to be regarded as the model of all scientific man-slaying organisations. Full 1800 years ago the Roman historian, TACITUS, in his *Germania*, described the Germans of his day as the greatest fighting race on earth. A nineteenth century strategist said of the modern German army that it is 'the sternest man-slaying system since the days of Sparta.' The Prussian system of 'short service and reserve' was at first slowly and partially taken up by other countries, chiefly because of the old and deep-set feeling in favour of armies of professional soldiers. But the hard-hitting campaign that ended so swiftly at Sadowa was a knock-down argument which not merely convinced, but stunned, the critics and the waverers. The lesson of 1866 was clinched by the Franco-German campaign of 1870-71. And now every Continental great Power has its army reorganised on the Prussian model. Considerably

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 Unfrooked 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 Unfrooked 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. Mil lar, 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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There was a crowded attendance at M'Kenzie's Hall, Balclutha, on Friday night (says the *Leader*), on the occasion of the Catholic concert. A very excellent programme was faithfully carried out to the entire satisfaction of the audience. The piano duets by the Misses Dunne and M'Corley were capitally rendered, as also were the violin selections by the universal favourite, Miss M'Neill. Mr. King has an excellent voice and his songs were loudly applauded. It is needless to say that Mr. Jago was a host in himself. He is always at home with his audience and had to respond to repeated encores. Mrs. Labatt possesses a very sweet voice, and is undoubtedly a great acquisition to the musical circle of Balclutha. Miss Mary Morrison has an excellent voice of which she has entire control and must take a leading part in any popular concert. Miss Nora Mahoney danced and sang very nicely. Mr. Parlant gave his comic recitations with good effect, while a couple of comic songs by Mr. J. P. Walls exactly hit the taste of the larger portion of the audience, and were received with loud applause. The 'Soldiers of the Queen,' which Mr. Jago had previously sung, was then repeated with chorus by the audience, and the concert was brought to a close by all joining in singing a verse of the National Anthem.

BISHOP VERDON IN ROME.

YESTERDAY (Wednesday) morning a cheery letter was received by Father Murphy, Administrator of St. Joseph's Cathedral, from the Bishop of Dunedin. At the date of writing (January 4) his Lordship was staying at the Irish College, Rome, with which he was so long and honourably associated, first as Vice-rector, afterwards as Rector. We make the following extracts from his Lordship's letter:—

'I dare say my letter and the two young Waterford priests arrived soon enough to put you in good humour for the Christmas celebration. The two young Thurles priests should by this time be near the New Zealand coast. I shall certainly bring one priest, probably two, with me when I sail in February. All have been highly recommended by their College superiors, so I expect my trip to Europe will prove beneficial to the Diocese.

'I was preparing to send off a full account of the opening of the *Porta Santa* and the Christmas festivities here, when I unexpectedly got a lot of work thrown upon my shoulders. On the eve of Christmas the Propaganda authorities requested me to put the *Acta* and the *Decreta* of our Provincial Council into shape and get them printed in full for distribution among the Members of the Congregation. Of course this meant a great deal of work, but I shall have all the printing done and the proofs revised before the end of next week. I hope to get the Decrees approved by the Congregation before I leave Rome in February.

'The Holy Father was suffering from a severe cold when I arrived in Rome. He had been confined to bed for a couple of days; but he soon gets over such attacks, and he gave me a private audience on December 11. Of course he was very gracious, as he is to every one who approaches him. He inquired about the clergy and the people of the diocese, and manifested a deep interest in their welfare, spiritual and temporal. He seemed greatly consoled when I told him of the zeal of the clergy and of the faith and devotion of the people, of their generous support of the Church, and their noble efforts to give their children a good, sound religious education, although heavily taxed to support a godless system of education which they condemn and abhor. His Holiness bestowed his Apostolic Benediction on each and every member of my flock, and wished them every blessing, spiritual and temporal.

'I have presented 3,500 francs (over £130) to the Holy Father in the name of my flock. When I made my offering the Holy Father prayed that God might reward all the contributors for their generosity. Money is not as plentiful in the Vatican now as it was a few years ago, and the Peter's Pence are indeed sadly needed by the Holy Father. Whatever is offered to him is not thrown away. At the close of my audience the Holy Father allowed me to present our good student, Mr. D. Buckley, of the Propaganda College. The Holy Father received him most paternally, and spoke kind words which, I am sure, will never be forgotten.

'A few days after my audience I saw the Holy Father again at the Consistory—accounts of which I have no doubt you have seen in the papers—and on Christmas Eve I assisted in cope and mitre at a most impressive and deeply interesting function, when the Holy Father opened the *Porta Santa* of St. Peter's and gave his benediction to a very great concourse of privileged people. For 75 years that 'Holy Gate' had been walled up and never been opened. The Holy Father—probably the only one of that vast concourse—had passed through it in 1825, and now, after 75 years, he passed through it again, and we were all deeply moved as we watched the venerable old man kissing the portals as he advanced with slow but firm step into the great Basilica. His frame is bent with the weight of years, but his eye is bright, and his intellect clear, and his will is as strong as it was during the best days of his long Pontificate. "Will he close that gate on December 24, 1900?" was a question which many asked, but few could venture to answer. He is now over 90 years of age, but to give you some idea of his vigour I may tell you that his voice was heard distinctly when he sang the prayers and invocations; and he wielded the golden hammer with such effect that he left his mark on the marble slab which he struck, and the ringing sound of his blows reached the very end of the portico.

'Making use of the Holy Father's great concession, I enjoyed the rare privilege of pontificating at the midnight hour which marked the close of the old and opening of the new year. In presence of the Blessed Sacrament enthroned on the altar at that solemn hour, I offered up the Holy Sacrifice for my flock, thanking God for all the blessings showered down upon them during the past year, and begging for additional favours and blessings during the year that was commencing. The 'Te Deum' and the 'Veni Creator Spiritus,' with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, concluded our

solemn function. Thus you see that my first thoughts and prayers as the year A.D. 1900 began were for my people. But I have, indeed, thought of them during all my travels, and at many holy shrines I have offered up my prayers for their spiritual and temporal wellbeing. I feel very happy in Rome. I am occupying the very rooms which I occupied for many years during my term of office in the Irish College. But much as I enjoy Rome I am longing for home—my adopted home—longing to be back again in my diocese of Dunedin. I have travelled through some of the richest countries of the world during the last nine months, I have visited some of the greatest cities of America and Europe, I have seen very magnificent buildings, but I have not seen a more beautiful country than New Zealand, or a more picture-quely-situated city than Dunedin, or a more faithful, fervent people than our own good, faithful people of the diocese of Dunedin.

'Dean O'Leary talks of leaving Europe in February. Possibly he may sail in the Omrah with me, but he has not decided yet.

'Tell Father Cleary that the TABLET is greatly praised by all who see it in Ireland and elsewhere. I am proud of it. I shall present a number of it to the Holy Father before I leave Rome, and ask his blessing on the good work.'

NEW ZEALAND: GENERAL.

WE have received the sum of 10s from Mr. John Deegan, Wiamatuku for the Very Rev. Father Lighthouse's Maori mission.

WE have received parcels of used postage stamps for Rev. Father Kreymborg's mission from Mr. B. Leydon (Kensington), G. O'K. (Greymouth), and Miss Mary A. Doody (West Oxford).

THE Very Rev. Father Lighthouse acknowledges, with thanks, receipt of the sum of £4, for the Maori mission, collected by a lady in the Balclutha district, and forwarded through this office by the Very Rev. Father O'Neill.

MR O'REGAN, ex-M.H.R., was entertained in the Princess Theatre, Reefton, on Thursday night, and presented with a purse of sovereigns by his supporters. In the course of a lengthy speech he said that there was apparently not the slightest intention on the part of the Government to abolish the crushing taxation on food and clothing through the Customs. He was therefore better pleased to be out of politics for the present. This is the fourth presentation made to Mr O'Regan since his defeat.

A MEETING of the committee of the Ashburton St. Patrick's Day Sports Association was held on Tuesday evening of last week. A programme of sports (says the *Mail*) was adopted. This included a Sheffield handicap of 135yds, value £15 5s; four bicycle races, including a wheel race of £17 10s; tent pitching competition, fire brigade events, dancing, jumping, and wrestling competitions, and also other cash and amateur running events, so that all classes of athletes are well catered for. Substantial prizes are being given for all events, and a grand meeting can be looked forward to.

AT the last meeting of the Ashburton Catholic Literary Society a contest was held between the junior members, and for which Mr. Mui-on contributed three and Mr. Jones one trophy for the respective winners. As was expected there were a large number of competitors, and the judges—Messrs. McSherry, Burgess, and Cooper—had their work cut out in selecting the winners, as the recitations of one and all were delivered in an excellent manner, and they were a credit to the young elocutionists themselves and to the Society generally. First honours fell to J. Moriarty for his rendering of 'The Execution of Montrose,' with D. Moriarty second, F. Hanrahan third, and P. Hanrahan fourth. Mr. L. Hanrahan in a neat speech presented the winners with their trophies, and the respective winners duly responded, thanking the donors of the trophies for their kindness.

THE departure from our midst of any well-known personage (writes a Hokitika correspondent) is always a matter for deep regret; but when it is one of our co-religionists who is compelled to say farewell the loss is doubly felt, as our community is so small that even one from amongst our numbers is of great moment. On Wednesday (31st January) Mr. and Mrs. Flannery and family left for Napier. For the past three years Mr. Flannery has been in charge of the local gaol, and during that time he, as well as Mrs. Flannery and family, had won for themselves golden opinions, and when it was made known that he had been transferred to Napier, expressions of regret at his departure were heard on all sides from Catholics as well as non-Catholics. Ever upright and devout members of the Church their loss is deeply felt, and whilst regretting that Napier is to profit at our expense we can only wish Mr. Flannery and family every happiness in their new home.

PREACHING on Sunday (writes a Waimate correspondent) the Rev. Father Regnault referred to the introduction of the new catechism into the diocese, and exhorted parents to see that their children studied it. The enemies of the Church throughout the world and particularly in France, he said, were doing their utmost to destroy the Catholic Faith by attacking the schools, but with the help of God the Church would maintain the schools in spite of all her enemies. Referring to the N.Z. TABLET the rev. preacher said that Catholics should not forget the services rendered by the rev. editor in connection with the Slatery crusade. He urged the congregation to take the TABLET, and assist it in every way they could.—Catholicism is in such a flourishing state in Waimate that the church is far too small to hold the congregation. A larger one will be a necessity in the near future—Harvesting is now in full swing, but the weather has been anything but favourable. The crops are all looking well.

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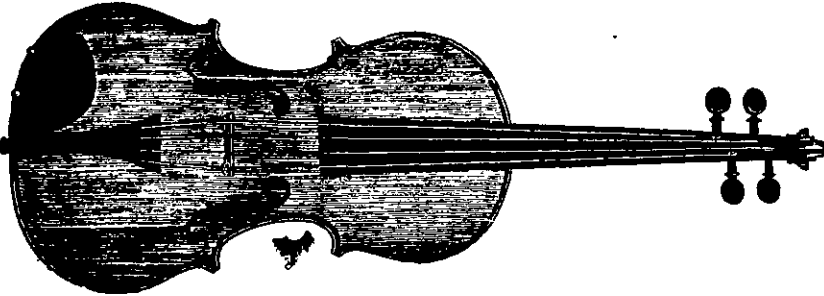
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The Storyteller.

CELIA'S FRIENDS.

'WELL, dear,' said Mrs. Dalmayne to her husband as he entered the breakfast room, 'as you were late, I took the opportunity of wading through my pile of letters, and I have found one from Celia which I scarcely know how to answer.'

'Another appeal for a starving family, I suppose,' said Colonel Dalmayne, 'but ring the bell for breakfast, my dear, for at present I am almost in a starving condition myself, and we will discuss the contents of Celia's letter whilst we minister to our own creature comforts.'

Mrs. Dalmayne, who was one of the best wives in the world, waited until she saw him doing full justice to the devilled kidneys before she again alluded to her sister's letter, which she then read as follows:

'Dearest Sister,—You are always so kind and ready to help me, that I am now going to ask your co-operation in a little plan I have formed to benefit some exceedingly nice people—a widow and her son. The former is elderly, but in every sense of the word she is a most worthy person.'

'Oh, Lulu dear,' interrupted the Colonel, 'I can quite picture her. If nothing else can be said of people they are called "worthy," or perhaps "amiable." However, I'm sure Celia means "worthy" as the very highest recommendation. But go on with letter, perhaps she has something more brilliant to say of the son.'

Mrs. Dalmayne resumed: 'The son, a young man about 28, is not in good health and has been recommended a change to sea air, which his mother is too poor to give him. In my wish to help them I first thought of offering to defray their expenses at some watering-place, but I feared to hurt Mrs. Bridgman's feelings, as I believe she is most sensitive. People who have seen better days are usually the proudest of the proud. I understand that Mr. Bridgman was a member of the Bar, and this son was to have been brought up to the same profession, only his delicacy prevented his having the necessary education. Another son is in the army somewhere abroad, and a third is an engineer; but I fear that neither of them is of much help to the poor widow. Now, Lulu dearest, I have thought this: Could you ask them to your place?'

'The maddest idea in the world,' exclaimed Colonel Dalmayne, rising from the breakfast table: 'Celia is always so Quixotic.'

The wife said nothing, but a troubled look passed over her face and she went on with the letter.

'They would not be much in your way, as mother and son would probably spend most of their time on the beach, and you have told me that you are not expecting visitors just now. Sydney might object perhaps, but you could coax him round I am sure.'

'Indeed,' exclaimed the Colonel sarcastically.

'Think what a good action you would be doing; perhaps saving a valuable life. Let me hear, dear, as soon as possible that you consent.'

The writer then went on to other topics, and Mrs. Dalmayne, putting the letter down with a sigh, said:

'Now, Sydney, how am I to answer this?'

'Oh!' he replied, 'it is all out of the question, of course; you know how wrapt up Celia is in her charitable mission, and how in her goodness she entirely loses sight of common sense. Far better to send her a substantial cheque for them; they could go where they liked, which probably they would prefer to visiting strangers.'

'But you know, dear,' objected Mrs. Dalmayne, 'Celia shrinks from offering them money, and she is so good I scarcely like to refuse to do what she has asked.'

'Ailey comes home to-morrow,' said the Colonel, 'and guests will, I think, be rather in the way.'

'Not if they are agreeable ones,' replied his wife; 'as the widow of a barrister Mrs. Bridgman must be a gentlewoman, and she may be a highly cultured one. I should imagine the young man to be very quiet and unobtrusive; probably devoted to reading, as invalids generally are, so if you give him the use of your library I dare say he will amuse himself very quietly then indoors. However, of course, my dear, we will not have them if you dislike the idea.'

This last sentence was a very masterly stroke on the part of Mrs. Dalmayne, and, as she knew, it would have a better effect on her husband than the 'coaxing him over' as suggested by her sister; so that after a few more pros and cons had been weighed on both sides she quietly laid down her oars, ending the argument with:

'I'll leave it entirely to you, dear.'

The Colonel at once agreed to have the barrister's relief and invalid son, and a letter went off that night to Celia inviting them down for a week or ten days, which visit, as Colonel and Mrs. Dalmayne agreed, could easily be lengthened if the newcomers proved to be all that 'fancy,' or rather Celia, 'had painted them,' and a week from that day was fixed for their arrival.

CHAPTER II.

The dressing-bell had just sounded the following Thursday at Dalmayne Lodge when the sound of wheels passing the drawing-room window announced the arrival of the two visitors.

'There they are!' cried Mrs. Dalmayne to her husband. 'I was afraid they wouldn't be in time for dinner. We can just see them and then get dressed.'

At that moment the door opened and the footman announced: 'Mr. and Mrs. Bridgman.'

The announced couple did not enter for a moment.

'Wait a minute, young man,' came a hoarse voice from the hall, 'I'm just taking off my bonnet.'

Colonel Dalmayne darted a look at his wife that said plainer than words: 'I told you so.'

Mrs. Dalmayne's look of discomfort was by no means lessened when Mrs. Bridgman waddled rather than walked into the room, and behind her trailed a long, thin creature, to whom she sharply said:

'Wipe your boots, 'Enery.'

And the man, turning round, humbly did as he was bid upon an ornamental drawing room mat. He was the very opposite to his mother in size, for whilst she was tall and pathetically thin she was short and vulgarly fat. She wore a black silk dress, with three narrow frills at the bottom of the skirt. Round her ample waist was wrapped a wide band worked with brilliant crimson flowers in an artistic design of the early part of the century. A heavily-beaded black velvetene mantle completed her outfit. She was wiping her rubicund countenance with a large silk handkerchief as she came into the room, and immediately sank down into a very comfortable easy-chair, her son following her example. There was a kind of click, as if something had gone wrong with the springs, but Mrs. Bridgman continued mopping her forehead.

Colonel and Mrs. Dalmayne had risen to greet the new-comers, but being speechless with astonishment, Mrs. Bridgman was the first to break the silence.

'Good evening, ma'am,' she said nodding pleasantly; 'excuse me rising, but I'm hexausted with the eat. Good evening, sir. My son, 'Enery, ma'am.'

The young man rose and gave a stiff bow, and, sitting down, proceeded to draw off a pair of gloves which appeared glued to his hands. A silence of some minutes ensued, and then Mrs. Dalmayne, who felt that unless something were done an explosion would take place, said:

'I'm sure you must both be tired and will be glad to go to your rooms. Dinner will be ready very soon.'

She touched the bell, and giving orders that servants should attend them to their apartments, the two guests retired, Mrs. Bridgman making a profound curtsy worthy of the Court of Louis Quatorze.

Once more alone Colonel and Mrs. Dalmayne looked at each other for some moments in silence, which was broken by the Colonel bursting into a hearty laugh, in which, however, his wife failed to join. Tears of annoyance and mortification had sprung to her eyes, and it was with some difficulty that she succeeded in keeping them from falling.

'I must go to Ailey's room,' said she, 'and prepare her to meet our dreadful visitors. Her risible faculties are so easily excited, that I am sure she will find it hard work now, poor girl, to hide her merriment, sorry as she would be to appear unkind. Indeed, we must all make the best of it now they are here.'

'And not hurt their sensitive feelings,' added the Colonel ironically. 'But really, my dear, we must get rid of them as soon as possible.'

'Our visitors have arrived, dear,' said Mrs. Dalmayne, as she entered her daughter's room.

'Oh, yes, mother; what dreadful people they seem to be,' exclaimed Ailey. 'They were getting out of the carriage when I was coming in from the garden. How they were dressed! Surely they cannot be friends of Aunt Celia's.'

'At any rate she is interested in them,' said Mrs. Dalmayne, 'and as they are here, we must not notice their failings, but treat them with kindness. So suppose, dear,' she continued, 'you go when you are dressed to Mrs. Bridgman's room, and show her the way down.'

Mrs. Dalmayne was not a girl to refuse a request of her mother's, but she now seemed disinclined to further her this behest.

Half an hour after this conversation, Miss Dalmayne tapped lightly at Mrs. Bridgman's door, and in response to that lady's 'Come in,' entered the room.

'I have come to show you the way downstairs, if you are ready,' said she.

'Now, that is very kind of you, my dear,' answered Mrs. Bridgman, 'you seem a very nice young person; I suppose you're the lady's-maid, aren't you?'

'Not exactly,' replied Ailey, with a merry laugh, which she was very glad to have a legitimate excuse for indulging in, for Mrs. Bridgman had on a bright yellow muslin skirt, somewhat too short for her.

Her feet, which showed beneath it, were clad in white stockings and bronze morocco shoes, with wide black sandals crossed over, as may be seen in fashion-plates of sixty years ago. The skirt was surmounted by a green velvet bodice, plentifully besprinkled with bright-coloured sequins. It was trimmed with yellow satin ribbon to match the skirt, and fastened at the throat with a very large brooch, containing the portrait of an exceedingly stout and red-faced man—the defunct Bridgman. The lady's costume was completed by a scarlet osprey, fastened with a diamond buckle in her hair, and a pair of black lace mittens, which, being of fine texture, failed to conceal her coarse, red hands. She formed a striking contrast to the tall, elegant girl by her side, to whom, after applying a powder puff to her cheeks and nose, she expressed herself ready to accompany.

On opening the door they found 'Enery,' who had evidently been waiting outside to take refuge under his mother's wing, and the three went down into the drawing room together.

Henry's appearance demands a word. He was attired in a dress coat which had evidently been made for a man of much larger growth, and hung upon its present owner in a similar way to a scarecrow in a field. His shirt was nearly eclipsed by a voluminous sailor-knot tie of a sporting design, and his collar hardly escaped cutting his ears, which organs were almost as red as his hair. His cuffs nearly covered his hands, on which he had a pair of white kid gloves. Knickerbockers with thick stockings and lace boots completed his costume.

The time which elapsed before dinner was a most trying one to Mrs. Dalmayne and her daughter, especially to the latter, on account

of 'Enery's attempts to make himself agreeable to her, encouraged as he was to this by nods, winks, and smiles from his mother.

The boom of the dinner gong was therefore a welcome sound to them, and evidently so to Mrs. Bridgman, who owed to feeling a 'sinking' at her chest.

'For what stay is a couple of pork pies as we brought from home and ate in the train,' she said, 'though we did wash 'im down with a little half and half, which 'Enery had put in a bottle and brought with 'im.'

The Colonel did not come down till they had entered the dining-room, so Mrs. Dalmayne again performed the office of cicerone.

They were soon seated at table, and the butler advanced to uncover the soup tureen. As he did so, he accidentally touched Mrs. Bridgman's chair. In a moment that lady was on her feet, and she made a deep curtsy to the stolid functionary.

'I 'ope I aint taking your chair, sir,' she said politely.

The butler did not deign to reply, but the footman retired hastily, as if suddenly overcome.

With the soup Mrs. Bridgman became conversational, and began to assume an attitude of great cheerfulness.

'Thank you, young man,' she said, when a servant proffered sherry, 'I'll just have a bitter, or a glass of porter. You see, she continued, addressing the hostess, 'I've had a very tiring journey, and my 'it was 'ot. There was one young lady in the kerriage. You needn't blush, 'Enery, I won't tell no tales. She had brought some cold tea, which I don't know what I should 'ave done without, the pies 'avin' been that salt. Yours is a very good brew, Colonel,' remarked Mrs. Bridgman, after a few minutes' silence, as she handed her second glass of 'bitter.' 'It's just what my poor, dear 'usband would have liked, poor man; he was a connysoor,' and she gave a profound sigh.

The Colonel merely bowed in response to her remark, but Mrs. Dalmayne thought this a good opportunity to learn something of the dear departed.

'Did you live in London when Mr. Bridgman was alive?' queried she.

'Well, ma'am, not exactly in London. We had a pretty rural little willa 'Ackney way, but dear Benjamin, my 'usband had to go to London every day. You see, ma'am, my Benjamin was in the public line, and so had to go to business daily.'

'At the bar, was he not?' enquired her hostess.

'Well, he was, and he wasn't, if you can understand,' replied Mrs. Bridgman. 'He was attached to the 'Orse and 'Ounds, but was not exactly the proprietor. However he earned a tidy bit, his services being often required. 'Enery would have followed the same profession, but wasn't strong enough.'

'By calling he was a chucker bout,' continued the widow after a short pause, 'that is ma'am,' she said as she saw a puzzled look on Mrs. Dalmayne's face, 'he had to clear the house at closing time of any who was inclined to give trouble.'

Dinner was at length over and the dessert graced the board, to which Mrs. Bridgman and her son did full justice.

The sight of a pine apple again loosened her tongue, it reminding her, as she told Mrs. Dalmayne, of her soldier son.

'He is now in Hinda, ma'am,' said she, 'and I'll be bound he has those things for the mere picking of 'em up. He's a good son he is. He's promised me a Hindian shawl, such as her Majesty gives away, you know, ma'am, and he says he'll bring 'Enry 'ome a Nookah, but it wouldn't be much good to him as he doesn't smoke. But I'm proud of Sam, she continued, 'he's earned his stripes, and he always was a steady lad.'

'You've a third son, have you not?' enquired Mrs. Dalmayne. 'Yes, indeed I have,' replied Mrs. Bridgman with evident pride, 'and a fine chap he is; he drives a hngine belonging to the Great Western Railway Company, which has a wife and twins.'

Mrs. Dalmayne's signal to rise was a great relief to Mr. Dalmayne, who was very glad when he found himself alone, 'Enry having left the room with the ladies.

When they were all in the drawing-room and the coffee was brought in the room Mrs. Bridgman declined to partake of it.

'Hoping you'll excuse me, ma'am, it always gives me congested spasms,' she said, 'but if I might arst just a little somethin', to which I've always been accustomed, when I go to bed, I shall be obliged.'

'Oh, certainly,' replied Mrs. Dalmayne, 'and I hope you will not sit up longer than you like, you must, I am sure, be tired after your journey.'

'Thank you kindly, I think we will retire. And, as we are both 'evy sleepers, perhaps one of your obliging young men, who was so attentive to me at dinner will rap us up in the morning.'

After saying this Mrs. Bridgman gave one of her courtly courtesies and withdrew. But just as Mrs. Dalmayne was telling her daughter to let the Colonel know that their visitors had retired (as she knew he was absenting himself on their account) Mrs. Bridgman again appeared.

'Only just to say, ma'am, that as you are so very kind, will you please, biff its the same to you, let the little somethin' be gin, and "Hold Tom" if handy,' and she again disappeared, this time for good.

That evening Colonel and Mrs. Dalmayne had a long chat. Both decided that it would be impossible to endure their company even for another day, and as Mrs. Bridgman did not evince any signs of a sensitive nature, they felt sure that an end to the visit could be easily arranged; with a substantial cheque to act as a panacea to any wound to their self-love. That Celia was ignorant of the kind of people she had persuaded them to invite was certain, so she must have been deceived in some way or other. At any rate, they could have no scruples in sending them away.

A letter was, therefore, written to be sent to Mrs. Bridgman next morning with her early cup of tea, to which the Colonel mischievously suggested a 'little something' being added so as to

strengthen the lady's nerves before reading the missive. The letter was as follows.

Colonel and Mrs. Dalmayne hope that Mrs. Bridgman and her son will not be inconvenienced by a change of arrangements, but they find that they require the rooms now occupied by them for other visitors. However, as they fear these altered plans may be the occasion of some expense, they trust that Mrs. Bridgman will accept the enclosed cheque, which they hope will also enable them to go to some other watering place, and they would suggest a more bracing one, as probably likely to prove more beneficial to Mr. Henry Bridgman. The carriage will be in readiness to take them to the station at any time after breakfast for which Mrs. Bridgman may order it.

The 'more bracing watering place' was suggested by Colonel Dalmayne to get them out of the neighbourhood, fearing that if they remained within easy reach of Dalmayne Lodge they might retain their host and hostess on their visiting list.

Next morning upon coming down to breakfast Mrs. Bridgman was profuse in her thanks with regard to the cheque.

'I thank you very much, ma'am,' she said, 'and your good gentleman, too, to whom please give my respects as I don't see him here, and I quite think with you, ma'am, as to the hair, Devonshire is henerivating, and I should certainly prefer Margate, and, if you'll forgive me saying it, younger and more cheerful society—not but what your young Miss is young and merry enough, I must say, and my 'Enery will feel leaving her, I know; he's very susceptible and seldom 'art 'ole. However,' she continued after a pause, 'your reasons is enough—your visitors—and of course we must make way for older friends.'

Both Mrs. Bridgman and her son did ample justice to the breakfast, and the former expressed her desire for the carriage at twelve o'clock. At that hour they were equipped for departure, and Mrs. Dalmayne accompanied her visitors to the hall door, and it may be imagined with what pleasure she did so.

Celia's part in the transaction had to be accounted for, and after some inquiry all was made clear, much as it may be imagined, to that charitable lady's annoyance.

Mrs. Bridgman, who was naturally of a soaring nature, had mentioned to the secretary of the 'Society for the Provision of Garments for the Indigent' that her great maternal ambition was to see 'Enery moving in the society which by his natural accomplishments and charms he was eminently fitted to grace. She had added that any institution which could procure for her the attainment of her long-cherished object would be presented with a special large consignment of cast-off clothes.

The secretary had brooded over this remark, and it had occurred to her that dear, good-natured Miss Celia Wharton would be a fitting agent to help the society to win the prize, being well connected and so kind-hearted. She had therefore broached the subject to that lady, dwelling chiefly on 'Enery's delicacy, with his need for change of air, and the charity of the poor widow in presenting her mite of disused clothing (not referring to the bribe). She had found Celia immediately and irresponsibly sympathetic, hence the disastrous visit to Dalmayne Lodge.—*Catholic Fireside*.

The Catholic World.

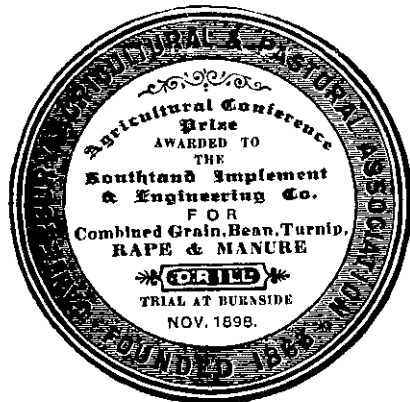
ENGLAND.—Death of a Prominent London Catholic.—

It is with deep regret (says the *London Tablet*) that we have to record the death of Mr. B. F. C. Costelloe, L.C.C., M.L.S.B., which occurred on December 22. He was a man whose variety of interests led him into many activities, the chief of which perhaps was his strenuous and devoted work for the Church of his affection. His earnestness and eloquence in placing old truths in a new light and in urging his conclusions on social subjects will be sorely missed. 'In the prime of life (says the *Daily Chronicle*), when he was beginning to make his mark, Mr. Costelloe died. He will be sorely missed by London Liberals, for he was the warm friend of all progressive causes. Members of the Catholic Church and those who belong to the most advanced schools of philosophy will join in regretting his loss, as he united a loyal devotion to that Church to wide and peculiarly keen sympathies with all movements of modern thought. A convinced and stalwart Progressive, he fought with extraordinary vigour many a plucky fight for the cause of good government, and although for some years he has felt the strain of his arduous labours, his energy was unrelenting. His last great effort was his valuable speech at the London school Board only a week or two ago on the under-fed scholars question. Benjamin Francis Conn Costelloe, son of Martin R. Costelloe, a Board of Trade surveyor at Glasgow, was born on April 15, 1855. He married Mary Whitall, daughter of Mr. Robert Pearsall Smith, of Philadelphia, U.S.A., in 1885, and he leaves two daughters. In his day he was one of the most distinguished students of the University of Glasgow. He took his degree in 1875 with high honours in philosophy and with high honours also in classics. After his course at that University he went to Balliol College, Oxford, and there he also took a prominent position. He was a favourite pupil of Jowett, who once described him as 'the most distinguished student of his year at Balliol.'

Death of Lady Mostyn—The death is reported of the Hon. Lady Mostyn, which took place at her residence, Haunton Hall, Tamworth, on the evening of Christmas Day. She was the widow of Sir Piers Mostyn, eighth baronet of Talacre, Flintshire, and daughter of Lord Lovat, fourteenth Baron of Beaufort Castle, Inverness-shire. She leaves behind her nine children to mourn their loss. The eldest son is the present baronet; another is the Bishop of Menavia.

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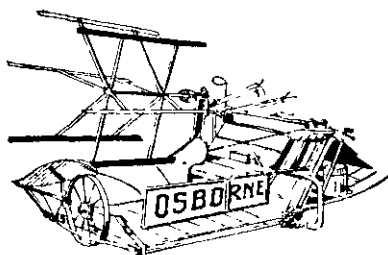


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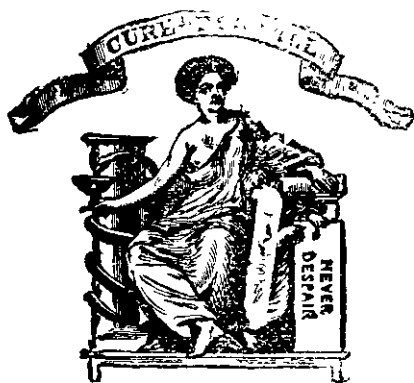
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FRANCE—The Vicar-General of Paris.—The Abbe Caron, Vicar-General of Paris, retires from his post at the age of 79 years (writes a correspondent), after being for a quarter of a century the right-hand of two successive Archbishops of Paris. His place is to be taken by Abbe Bureau, Archdeacon of Ste Genevieve, who now becomes Archdeacon of Notre Dame. A simple, humble priest, and at the same time a man of profound learning, the Abbe Caron's life presents the singularity that he has never been beyond Paris and its outskirts. One of his duties during his long tenure of office as Vicar-General was that of presiding at the installation of each Curé appointed to a fresh parish. With the retirement of the Abbe Caron a familiar and dignified figure in the ecclesiastical world of Paris sinks into private life.

A Congress of Catholic Working Men.—It is proposed to hold an international Congress of Catholic working men in Paris this year.

GERMANY—Rumoured Establishment of an Apostolic Delegation.—It is rumoured that the Pope will establish an Apostolic Delegation in Berlin, the only capital in Central Europe where the Holy See is not represented. The Prussian Government keeps a Legation in Rome, and a Papal Delegation would be equivalent to a Legation, but it is likely that an Internunciature will rather be established.

ROME—Prelates Received in Audience by the Holy Father.—Amongst the prelates received in audience during the week (says a Rome correspondent writing about the middle of December) were the Right Rev. Dr. Riordan, Bishop of San Francisco; the Right Rev. Dr. Verdon, Bishop of Dunedin, New Zealand; and the Right Rev. Dr. Wigger, Bishop of Newark, United States.

Proposed Pilgrimages during the Holy Year.—Many pilgrimages to Rome are announced from various parts of the world for the Holy Year. Amongst others there is to be one from Portugal numbering upwards of a thousand persons, at whose head will be the Cardinal Patriarch of Lisbon and four bishops. Another is being organised at Munich, in Bavaria, which will come on the occasion of the beatification of the Venerable Crescenza De Kaut-
beuren, a native of Bavaria.

The Holy Father holds a Consistory.—The Holy Father held a Consistory at eleven o'clock on Thursday morning, December 14, at which was performed the ceremony of conferring the hat on the newly-created members of the Sacred College, Cardinals Nava and Missia. Contrary to the newspaper statements that the Consistory would be held in a hall adjoining the apartments of the Pope, owing to the state of health of his Holiness, the Consistory met as usual in the Sala Regia with the traditional ceremonial. The Pope appeared to be in very good health, and was in excellent spirits. Leo XIII. held a Secret Consistory in the Sixtine Chapel, where he delivered an allocution. His Holiness then performed the ceremony of opening and closing the mouths of the new Cardinals, and preconised a number of new Bishops, of whom fourteen were French, and many Apostolic Vicars.

The Pope's Health.—The representative of a London newspaper writing from Rome on December 21 says:—The health of the Pope is satisfactory. His Holiness took part in to-day's advent service. His Holiness celebrated early Mass at seven o'clock on Tuesday morning. He has in no way suffered in health through the fatiguing ceremonies of Sunday, and now feels quite strong again.

Diplomatic Relations with Russia.—It is untrue (writes a St. Petersburg correspondent) that the efforts to establish diplomatic relations between the Vatican and Russia have collapsed. On the contrary, it is pretty certain that Monsignor Tarnassi will arrive here about the end of December in the quality of an Envoy and Nunzio of the Pope. The Polish Catholics are rejoiced at the prospect, and are preparing a grand reception for the distinguished diplomatist.

Imposing Ceremony at St. Peter's.—A Rome correspondent writing on Sunday, December 24, says:—The important ceremony of proclaiming the Holy Year was performed at eleven o'clock this morning by the Pope, in St. Peter's Church, in the presence of an immense congregation, including many pilgrims from England and the United States. Preceded by a long procession of ecclesiastical dignitaries the Pope was carried in his *sedia gestatoria* to the great door of St. Peter's, which had not been opened since the last ceremony of that kind, performed in the year 1825. His Holiness descended from his chair and was presented with a small golden hammer by Cardinal Vannutelli, and struck the door with it, at the same time uttering the words, 'Open the gates of justice to me that I may celebrate the name of the Lord.' A second and third summons followed, each preceded by blows of the golden hammer. The door was then thrown open and the Pope entered the Cathedral, followed by his attendant dignitaries. His Holiness walked to the Chapel of Piety and passed to that of the Holy Sacrament, where he re-entered the *sedia gestatoria* and was carried to his Throne in front of St. Peter's Chair, and solemnly blessed the congregation. It was stated after the Pope had returned to his apartments at the Vatican that he was in no way fatigued. His Holiness was present at the ceremony in 1825, when he was fifteen years of age.

SCOTLAND.—Gift of an Altar.—A Lourdes altar, the gift of P. F. Cavanagh and family to St Mary's Cathedral, Edinburgh, was unveiled recently by the Very Rev. Canon Donlevy. It is a *fac-simile* of the grotto at the famous shrine, and is very beautifully executed.

UNITED STATES.—Departure of Bishop Blenk from New Orleans.—The departure of Right Rev. James H. Blenk, S.M., Bishop of Puerto Rico, from New Orleans was marked by

one of the most remarkable demonstrations of affection and loyalty ever witnessed in that city. All along the route from the Church of the Holy Name of Mary to the Southern Pacific wharf the Bishop received a perfect ovation. Mothers came to the door holding up their little babes, asking him to bless them before going away. Aged men knelt in the street as he passed to receive his blessing. An immense throng of people followed him to the wharf landing.

The Spiritual Care of Italian Immigrants.—His Grace Archbishop Corrigan has taken a practical step towards providing priests for the many thousands of Italians residing in his jurisdiction. He has made the study of the Italian language obligatory upon all theological students of his archdiocese. With four years' study of Italian, these seminarians ought to be competent, when ordained to hear confessions and preach in that language.

Catholic Mayors.—It is worthy of note (says the *Catholic Times*) that at the recent elections in the United States the following cities elected Catholics to the mayoralty:—Lowell, Hon. Jeremiah Crowley; New Haven, Hon. Mr. Driscoll, the first Catholic ever elected; San Francisco, Hon. Mr. Phelan; Syracuse, Hon. Jas. K. McGuire; Troy, Hon. Mr. Malloy; and Springfield, Mass., Hon. Mr. Hayes, the youngest and first Catholic ever elected in that city.

GENERAL.

Death of the Mitred Abbot of the Cistercians.—The death of Dom Sebastian Wyart, mitred abbot of the Cistercians, deprives modern monasticism (says the *Daily Chronicle*) of one of its most illustrious chiefs. He was quite recently promoted to the office of Abbot-General holding jurisdiction over all Trappist monasteries as unified by Leo XIII. Dom Sebastian Wyart was a former officer in the Pontifical Zouaves, and was attached for some time to the Austrian general staff. A tender personal bereavement led him to the cloister, although his bearing remained martial to the last.

The Care of the Orphans.—The Salesians have 400 Houses in Europe, Africa, and Asia, from which every year are proceeding 30,000 well-educated orphans.

The Propagation of the Faith.—At the beginning of the century (says an American Catholic exchange), before the founding of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, the Propaganda numbered scarcely five million Catholics, under its jurisdiction. For the present century the number has risen to about twenty-six millions. Generations of missionaries have spent their lives in bringing about this happy result. The Propagation of the Faith has collected and distributed towards that end nearly \$11,000,000 during the course of seventy years (1822-1891). The receipts of the Society last year were £267,662. Of this sum the Catholics in the United States contributed \$10,700.

THE ASSUMPTIONISTS.

A PARIS cable message informed us, a few weeks ago, that the Assumptionists, whose house was raided some time ago by the Paris police, were fined a nominal sum, and that the Society was declared illegal. The Assumptionists are, comparatively speaking, a youthful congregation. The establishment of the community dates only from 1851. Its founder, Pere Alzon, received from Pope Pius IX. a special mission to labour for a religious revival in the East. The Assumptionists took up their work with zeal, and they have done much for the propagation of the Faith from Rouotchouk on the Danube to Jerusalem, from Angora to the coast of Asia Minor. In the Patriarchal Vicariate of Constantinople they have a number of important institutions, including a seminary. The yearly pilgrimages to the Holy Land which they have organised in France have been the means of extending the influence of the Catholic Church in Palestine, and the Russian Consul is stated to have said: 'If these pilgrimages had not restored the power of the Church and Latins in the East, we, the Orthodox Christians, would to-day be absolute masters of the population.' Of the Assumptionist missionaries 25 are in America. In France the Congregation has 11 houses. Father Picard is the Superior and the Procurator-General is the well-known Father Bailly, director of the *Croix*. The large circulation of the paper has been in a considerable measure due to 'circulation committees' which have been established in three-fourths of the French communes.

MR. P. LUNDON, Phoenix Chambers, Wanganui, is still busy putting people on the soil. He has also hotels in town and country For Sale and To Lease. Write to him.—*.*

MYERS AND CO., Dentists, Octagon, corner of George street. They guarantee highest class work at moderate fees. Their artificial teeth give general satisfaction, and the fact of them supplying a temporary denture while the gums are healing does away with the inconvenience of being months without teeth. They manufacture a single artificial tooth for Ten Shillings, and sets equally moderate. The administration of nitrous-oxide gas is also a great boon to those needing the extraction of a tooth. Read advertise ment.—*.*

PRETTY TEETH are essential to the beauty of every woman. Bad teeth would make Venus herself homely. We can make you a beautiful set of teeth or make your teeth beautiful, whichever is necessary. Years of experience, improved methods, and the constant care and attention devoted to all branches of scientific dentistry enable us to do the work at the least cost. Branch London Dental Institute, Princes street, Dunedin. A complete set from £3 3s; guaranteed 10 years. Extractions guaranteed absolutely painless.—*.*



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OUR REMINGTON BICYCLES HAVE A REPUTATION THAT IS WORLD-WIDE, And never have we put REMINGTONS on the Market the quality of which could even be questioned. Write or call or fully Illustrated Catalogues.

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ILLEGAL ASSOCIATIONS IN FRANCE.

FATHER AUBRY EXPLAINS THE POSITION.

A REPRESENTATIVE of the Sydney *Catholic Press* had an interview recently with the Rev. Father Aubry, Superior of the Marist Fathers, with reference to the conviction of the Assumptionist Fathers in France, and the decision that the Order was an 'illegal association.' Father Aubry said:

In France since the Revolution and the suppression of religious Orders, monastic communities have been decreed 'illegal' by law, and those only which obtain a kind of charter, making them wards of the Government, tied hand and foot with red tape and barely a voice in their own affairs, have been exempt from the destroying hand of justice. But after the bitterness of the first religious persecution had died away, although this Act was not repealed, it became practically inoperative, and the monastic communities which had been scattered in its first wrath gradually grew up in France again, without opposition, if not with the approval, of the Government. Thus the Order of the Marist Fathers, although it flourishes in France, is technically

AS MUCH AN ILLEGAL ASSOCIATION

as the Order of the Assumptionist Fathers. In our own Constitution we have similar laws, that have been created in some moment of excitement, served their turn, and then become forgotten, swept from the public mind, preserved only in the Statute Book because no one thinks it necessary to repeal them. But why the twelve French Assumptionist Fathers, including Father Bailly, have been brought into court is precisely because they controlled *La Croix*, an active Catholic journal that took a very prominent part in the Dreyfus case. Now *La Croix* is a halfpenny paper with an enormous circulation throughout France—in fact the largest circulation of any paper in the world—and not only does it bring out a general edition, but once a week a supplement accompanies the ordinary edition to each province containing all the local news of that particular province, written and collected by a special local representative, either priest or layman. It will be understood the vast influence such a paper must have. Well, *La Croix* threw itself heart and soul into the Dreyfus case—and it was against Dreyfus. Time has cleared that unhappy man's name and the French public have become conscious of an injustice, so that the Government in power in France to-day does not regard *La Croix* with favour. Hence it is that the old Act has been put in operation again for the benefit of *La Croix*, and, contrary to law, the Assumption Fathers have been found to be members of an association (a religious Order) that is 'illegal': and as that association is their community it has been dissolved. Practically, the cases went together.

THE FULL MEANING OF THE COURT'S DECISION

is that that the Assumptionist Fathers can no longer live in community in France—they must abandon their monastery. for the time at any rate, until the storm blows over. So the crime of the Fathers is not conspiracy, but because they were connected with a paper not favourably regarded by the Government, and as this in itself was scarcely a crime, the old act was resurrected for their special benefit. There are many 'illegal' Orders in France—indeed all the successful Orders practically can be so termed—of which, as we said before, the Marist Order is one, but they are not likely to be disturbed in the slightest. They have not, like their brethren identified with *La Croix*, taken a public and aggressive part in French politics, which, though Father Aubry did not say so, burn so many people's fingers. These political enemies of the Church in France are very powerful just now, and lose no opportunity of giving her a stab. But it is pleasant to reflect that the great mass of the French people remains faithful to the traditions of Holy Church, a striking evidence of which is their answer to the secular schools established by the State throughout France. Side by side with the schools of the State, purely Catholic schools arose, and supported by the people stand as grand barriers against the tide of indifference and heresy that vainly beats against them. The Government can erect schools, but they cannot drive the children there, and just as the Catholics of Australia are bearing a double burden to-day, so, too, the Catholics of France, similarly oppressed, have not failed in their duty. The persecution of the priests connected with *La Croix* is probably almost purely a matter of personal politics, but if it is, as some would have it, the first of a series of attacks against the Church in France, there need be no fears for the result, for, as the Catholics of Australia emerged triumphant from their early persecutions, so will the French Catholics grow strong in their trouble, and drawn into closer union by the assaults of their enemies, emerge consolidated and victorious.

HOTEL RULES.

SOME facetious person wrote the following rules over the fire-place in the bedroom of an American hotel:—Board, fifty cents per square foot. Meals extra. Guests are requested not to speak to the dumb-waiter. Guests wishing to get up without being called can have self-raising flour for supper. Guests wishing to do a little driving, can find hammer and nails in the closet. If the room gets too warm open the widow and see the fire-escape. If you are fond of athletics and like good jumping lift the mattress and see the bed spring. Base-ballists, desiring a little practice, will find a pitcher on the stand. If the lamp goes out take a feather out of the pillow; that's light enough for any room. Any one troubled with nightmare will find a halter on the bedpost. Don't worry about paying your bill; the house is supported by the foundations.

NOT AN ENGLISHMAN.

REV. FATHER O'SULLIVAN, the Egyptian missionary priest who was lately in the United States, has travelled all over the land of the Pharaohs; and he hardly found any place where there is not a son of the Emerald Isle in the neighbourhood. One day he went to the highest point of the pyramids and saw several Bedouins sitting in the shade of its base. As a rule these Bedouins are professional beggars, who are constantly asking strangers for 'backsheesh'—money. They are ever ready to act as guides for persons desiring to ascend the pyramids. He was astonished to see them sitting quietly, but later he learned why it was that they were not bothering visitors. As he was passing on he saw a British soldier, with a gun on his shoulder, a match-box cap on the side of his head, and a red jacket. Father O'Sullivan thought he was the servant of an English officer that he had just seen ascending the ancient pile, and, walking up to him, remarked: 'I suppose you are an Englishman?' The soldier brought his gun to an 'order arms,' and then, touching his cap, said: 'Faith, I'm not, Father; I'm a County Longford man; and I'm here to keep them black devils beyant from bothering decent men like yerself.'

THE CHOIR-BOY OF PARIS.

To become a choir-boy in Paris you must be either one of two things—the pupil of one of the ecclesiastical schools in the city, or a youth of exceptional gifts as to voice and recommendations from the world beyond the shadow of the Church. The scholars of the monks are the more favoured ones, and from their ranks are supplied nearly all the vacancies occurring in the many churches of the capital. Besides standing high in his class, the applicant for altar honours must possess a good voice and one capable of very high cultivation.

The salary given to the boy singer is merely nominal, but occasion for generous feeling on the part of impulsive and highly emotional people, makes his earnings considerable, often running up to 10 dollars a month for the best singers. The costumes worn by the boys during service are most elaborate and costly, the colours varying from pure white, through red, violet, and blue. Red is much in vogue, as its richness harmonises splendidly with the golden ornaments of the altar and throws off to advantage the rays of light from the surrounding candles. Special colours for the cassocks, shoes, and headgear are reserved for particular churches and certain saints; blue is sacred to the Blessed Virgin, and is never worn except in her honour.

Messrs. Louis Gille and Co., the well-known Catholic booksellers, of Liverpool street, Sydney, direct attention to their new edition of the *Garland of the Soul*, a most complete prayer book, printed in fine bold type on tinted Indian paper with red border lines. The contents include the devotions for Mass, Communion, Confession, Epistles and Gospels of the day, the prayers used at the burial of the dead, Divine Praises, lay Baptism, antiphons, hymns, litanies, etc. This prayer book, which is 5jin. by 3jin., can be had in cloth for 2s 9d post free, or in leather binding 3s 9d.—* *

DUNEDIN WOOL SALES, 1899-1900.

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TO THE WOOL GROWERS OF OTAGO.

GENTLEMEN,—Another Wool Season being upon us, some of the early Clips having already come to hand, we take the opportunity to again tender our best services to Wool Growers, for the disposal of their Wool here or for shipment of same to London or other markets.

CONGRATULATORY.

We are pleased on this occasion to be able to congratulate our numerous friends and Wool Growers generally on the cheering prospects for the season's sales. It is a long lane that has no turning, and after long and weary years of abnormally low prices we may reasonably hope for the continuance of better prices for some time to come.

SHOW ROOM.

We would remind Wool Growers that our Stores offer unequalled advantages for exhibiting and selling wool, and for expeditious handling of same.

Our Show Room being fully equipped with all the latest improvements, conveniently situated and specially lighted for the proper display of the wools, buyers are placed in a position to value to the best advantage and to operate with such confidence as must ensure a satisfactory sale, to which no end will be spared on our part.

VALUATIONS.

We make careful examination of every lot (large or small) prior to sale, and as every department of the business is conducted under our personal supervision, consignors may rest assured that no lot will be sold below its full market value and that their interests generally will be thoroughly protected.

SELLING DAYS

Our First Sale will be held on THURSDAY, 21st December, 1899
Second Sale will be held on FRIDAY, 12th January, 1900
Third Sale will be held on FRIDAY, 2nd February, 1900
Fourth Sale will be held on THURSDAY, 22nd February, 1900

CHARGES AND ACCOUNT SALES.

All Charges throughout will be made on the very lowest scale. Accounts will be rendered and proceeds paid over promptly within six days of sale as heretofore.

We remain, yours faithfully,

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Suites of rooms for families. Terms strictly moderate.

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Hot, Cold, and Shower Baths.

The very best of Wines, Ales, and Spirits kept in stock.

Two of Alcock's best Billiard Tables.

A Night Porter in attendance.

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We invite all who enjoy A Good Glass of Beer to ask for STAPLES' BEST,

On Draught at almost all Hotels in the City and surrounding districts.

And confidently anticipate their verdict will be that STAPLES AND CO. have successfully removed the reproach that Good Beer could not be brewed in Wellington.

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The Patent Prize Range
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VERANDAH CASTINGS OF all kinds.
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W. H. HAYDON begs to inform his old customers and the public generally that he has taken the above Hotel, and that he will be glad to see them, and that nothing will be wanting to make those who patronise him comfortable.

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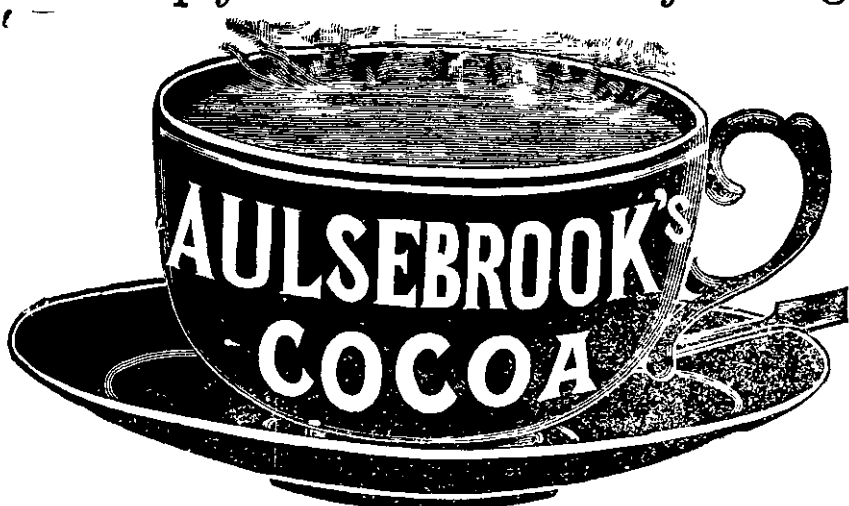
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We supply the Dunedin and Wellington Hospitals, the Union Company's entire fleet, and Bellamy's with our Pure Mineral Water. Specially-made Soda Water for Invalids. For Permit to visit Springs apply Dunedin Office
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People We Hear About.

Miss Gavan Duffy, eldest daughter of Sir Charles Gavan Duffy, is to attend the Paris Exhibition as special correspondent for the *Australasian*, in whose pages Miss Gavan Duffy's articles, signed 'An Exiled Victorian' and otherwise, have appeared for years.

Major Murray, of the N S W. Irish Rifles, bound for the war, is a son of one-time Speaker Murray, and an all-round sort of practitioner. He is an Oxford graduate, a prize shot, an expert swordsman, a skilled boxer, a noted footballer, a Parliamentary draughtsman, a barrister, a Crown Prosecutor, and a married man. Also he is 6ft 4in long.

William Marconi, whose wireless telegraphic invention has made him a peer of Edison and Tesla in the scientific world, is not altogether an Italian. His mother is Irish of the Irish. Marconi has lived a good deal in Ireland among his mother's relations, but he was born and educated in Italy. He considers himself fully half Irish, and many of his characteristics are more Irish than Italian. Marconi's first practical experiments with wireless telegraphy were made in Dublin Bay. The first wireless telegraphic newspaper dispatch was printed in a Dublin paper.

The late Judge O'Brien is still remembered in Cork by old citizens as a reporter on the *Cork Examiner*. The Judge led as monastic a life as it was possible for a man in the world to lead. In town or country he went to Mass every morning. During term he always dined at the King's Inns, and few knew where he spent his time between the rising of the Court and dinner in Henrietta street. It was in prayer in the Church of St. Dominic, a church he greatly loved. Among the foibles of the Judge, (says the *Freeman*,) was his extraordinary inattention to sartorial appearances. He was the worst shaved and worst dressed man in Dublin. His shirts were buttonless, his coats always shabby and sometimes actually ragged. A great collector—his house in Merrion square was full of beautiful and rare objects, but the few who entered it found all covered with a thick coat of dust.

Mr John Augustus O'Shea, for whom an annuity is being secured through the efforts of Mr A. P. Graves and others, used to be in considerable request as a lecturer on his military experiences. Once, at Dumfries, he came upon the platform wearing in his buttonhole a daisy, which he quietly removed and held up. 'Ladies and gentlemen,' he began, 'I hold in my hand a "wee modest flower" I plucked this evening from the grave of Robert Burns.' The audience was interested and became enthralled as the lecturer went on to speak of the national poet. Then, suddenly recollecting that Burns had nothing to do with his subject, he stopped abruptly. 'And now,' said Mr O'Shea, 'I will proceed to relate my experiences in the war.' But by this time he had thoroughly engaged the sympathies of his listeners, who would not hear of another subject. 'Never mind the war, sir,' they vociferated, 'give us Robbie Burns.' And he did. This extempore oration afterwards became one of the most popular of Mr O'Shea's lectures.

Monsignor Angelo Fiorini of the Minor Capuchins, who was recently appointed to the episcopal see of Pontremoli, has just invented a simple but extremely ingenious apparatus by means of

which he claims that railway collisions will in future be rendered impossible. It consists of an automatic arrangement, moved by electricity, which warns the driver of the approach of any other train on the same line, and at the same time places him in communication with the station master along the line, so that he can receive alarm signals, announcement of the interruption of traffic, etc. Monsignor Fiorini has patented his invention, which will shortly be adopted on all Italian railways, and the proceeds of which he intends to devote to charitable purposes. The Holy Father has been highly pleased with this invention, which may be the means of saving so many lives, and in token of his satisfaction has addressed a brief to Monsignor Fiorini, bestowing his apostolic blessing on the learned prelate.

Mr. Justice Day, of England, who is not in as good health as his friends would desire, will, it is believed, soon retire from the Bench. His place will probably be taken by another Catholic lawyer, Mr Joseph Walton, who is a Home Ruler to boot. Mr. Walton has a splendid business, his income being second only, if it is second, to Sir Edward Clarke's. Mr. Walton is married to an Irish lady, a Miss Darcy, sister of Lady Coll, and niece of Mr. Milo Burke, of Dalkey. Sir Gavan Duffy, in his account of his fourth trial for treason, gives a most interesting account of the late Mr. Martin Burke (Milo Burke's father) being called as a juror. 'He was a Catholic,' says Sir Charles, 'but his tastes, pursuits, and interests might be regarded as binding him fast to the class who detested the prisoner at the Bar.' Mr. Butt, who led for the prisoner, Sir Colman O'Loghlen, his junior, and all his friends implored Sir Gavan Duffy to challenge Mr. Burke. He refused, and he tells us why in *Young Ireland*. 'In the gallery, directly opposite the juror's box, sat Mr. Burke's wife and daughter, and I was confident that the Irish hearts of these two women would exercise a silent mesmerism over the juror stronger than any personal or party interest.' Mr. Burke held out all night against the 11 other jurors. Duffy was set free. Mr. Burke's daughter, mentioned above, was Mrs. Darcy, Mrs. Walton's mother.

The death of the Chevalier Antoine de Kontski, at the advanced age of 82, is announced from his native Cracow. Chevalier de Kontski visited New Zealand on a concert tour about three years ago. The *Daily News* says of him that 'he was, five and twenty years since, a well known figure in London musical life. Indeed, some of his fashionable pianoforte pieces, and particularly the still-recollected "Reveil du Lion" and the "Souvenir de Biarritz," were at one time played in every drawing and schoolroom. De Kontski was merely a superficial musician, but he was an excellent pianist of the brilliant school of which Thalberg was the principal exponent. He was particularly noted for the delicacy of his touch and the refinement of his playing. Born in 1817, he was a pupil at Warsaw of Markenski; and at Moscow, in 1830, of "Russian" Field. He lived for some years in Paris, and afterwards at Berlin (where he was Prussian Court pianist) and at St. Petersburg. About 30 years ago he settled in London, where he resided for many years, until, at the age of nearly 70, he emigrated to Buffalo, United States. From there he went on several tours in the Far East, being, it is said, the first pianist to give recitals in China and Japan. Even down to a couple of years ago, when he was 80 years of age, he was still touring and was certainly the doyen of his profession.' When Chevalier de Kontski visited New Zealand he was advertised as 'the only living pupil of Beethoven.'

ESTABLISHED 1859.

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Mr. S. G. SMITH, J.P., "Dalmore," Pine Hill, Dunedin.

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SPENCER GEO. SMITH, J.P.

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