

This supposition is strengthened by the bogus names of 'nuns' which Maria Monk, and, after her, Mrs. Slattery, have introduced into their narratives. No such nuns as those mentioned in *Maria Monk* were known to the Sisters. The affidavit of Mrs. McDonnell deposes that the names 'Fougnce' are miss-spelt for 'Fournier,' and stand for two sisters who were assistants to Mrs. McDonnell in the management of the Asylum at the time Maria Monk was an inmate. In the same way the 'Miss Howard,' 'Jane McCoy,' 'Jane Ra,' and 'one of my cousins who lived at Lachine, named Reed,' so far from being nuns, were reclaimed prostitutes who were living at the Asylum at the very time that Maria Monk was under probation for an amendment of her infamous career of sin and shame. Briefly, the Maria Monk imposture is simply a slightly edited reprint of an old eighteenth century anti-convent romance, revamped with a piece of fiction based on the sojourn of a fallen woman in an institution under lay control, for the reclaiming of prostitutes to a life of virtue.

MARIA'S MISERABLE END.

Little more remains to be said. Maria Monk was not allowed to profit by the financial success of Hoyt's unclean enterprise. Her death was, as might be expected, of the same complexion as her life. The sad account of the close of her career of sin and shame is told as follows in *Holman's Register* of October 9, 1849: 'Two months ago or more the police book recorded the arrest of the notorious but unfortunate Maria Monk, whose book of *Unfulfilled Disclosures* created such excitement in the religious world some years since. She was charged with picking the pocket of a paramour in a den near the Five Points. She was tried, found guilty, and sent to prison, where she lived up to Friday last, when death removed her from the scene of her sufferings and disgrace. What a moral is here indeed!'

And this is Mrs. Slattery's heroine and 'famous nun' and 'valiant woman! Behold thy gods, O Israel!'

Appleton's *Cyclopædia* says: 'The Know-nothing party used it [*Maria Monk's*] to make political capital [in the fifties], and the burning of Roman Catholic churches in various cities was indirectly the result of it. Happily, religious passions are not so easily aroused now as they were half a century ago. But the purpose of the circulation of this book by the Orange Society is undoubtedly at root the same as that of their congeners, the Know-nothings—to arouse public hatred against the Catholic body. For roving impostors like Mrs. Slattery the chief value of the book would probably lie in the appeal which its contents would make to the lewd as well as to the bigoted.

MARIA MONK'S DESCENDANTS.

Catholic as well as Protestant readers will be interested to know that Maria Monk's daughter is still living. She is a cultivated woman, was twice honourably married, is in easy circumstances, is a devout and fervent Catholic, speaks with frank indignation and keen regret of the use which is still being made by the adventurers and purveyors of unclean literature of the disgusting book of which not one line was penned by her unhappy and half-witted mother who, as we have seen, was probably as much sinned against as sinning. In 1870 she published in New York an autobiography entitled *Maria Monk's Daughter*. Her daughter (the grandchild of Maria Monk) grew up a girl of great piety. She renounced the world somewhere in the eighties, after her father's death, and entered a religious Order which, we believe, devotes its whole or chief care to the reformation of the frail sisterhood of the streets from the evil of their ways.

Diocesan News.

ARCHDIOCESE OF WELLINGTON.

(From our own correspondent.)

February 21.

A sum of £100 has been collected towards the erection of the new Cathedral as a result of the visit of the Archbishop and the Rev. Father Ainsworth to Westport.

Rev. Father O'Reilly, of Melbourne, has been staying in Wellington for the last week with the Ven. Archdeacon Devoy. He begins his return journey via Sydney to-day.

The following are the pupils attending the local Catholic schools who succeeded in passing the Junior Civil Service Examination—Ethel Mary Crombie (St. Mary's Convent), Joseph Leydon, Duncan McMurich, and Arthur Woolcott, from the Marist Brothers.

The parishioners of Thorndon very much regret the departure of Police Sub-Inspector MacDonnell for Greymouth, but congratulate him on his promotion. He has been appointed an inspector in the Westland district, *vice* Inspector Ellison. We gladly welcome Sub-Inspector Mitchell in his place.

The Rev. Father Clancy went out to Titahi Bay on Sunday and celebrated the first Mass in the nuns' cottage there. Several of the visitors who were expected from town were unable to be present owing to the very unsettled state of the weather on that day. The building is now almost finished, and as donations of furniture, etc. collected by Miss O'Connor, continue to flow in the house will probably be completely furnished without cost to its owners. To avoid the possibility of having their sea view on the north-west side cut off, the Sisters have purchased a further section of about a quarter of an acre, and can now boast of possessing one of the finest seaside residences in the district. The Ven. Archdeacon Devoy is to bless the house and grounds at an early date. 'Maristella' is the name by which the house is to be known.

A very large number of stallholders and assistants interested in the bazaar to be held during Easter Week assembled on Tuesday at the Archbishop's house. Correspondence was read from Signor Borzoni dealing with the spectacular display he proposes to put before the people of Wellington. The meeting unanimously accepted the suggestions in their entirety. As may be gathered from the title of the festival, 'The Birth of the British Empire,' something very novel and highly interesting is in store for those who patronise the bazaar.

Under the auspices of the Marist Brothers' Old Boys' Association Mr. J. Doyle gave a most interesting lecture on physical culture in St. Patrick's Hall on Tuesday last. Besides dealing with the subject from a theoretical point of view, Mr. Doyle, who is one of the ablest exponents of the art in the Colony, gave an excellent display of club swinging and weight lifting. After the exhibition songs were sung by the Rev. Fathers O'Reilly (Melbourne) and Moloney and Mr. T. Walsh, the items being highly appreciated. Before the conclusion of the entertainment the Ven. Archdeacon Devoy moved a vote of thanks to Mr. Doyle for his lecture and display, and advised the Association to place physical culture on its programme for the coming winter. I understand that the committee has since adopted the suggestion, and that Mr. Doyle, who offered his services gratuitously, has been appointed honorary instructor.

During his sermon at St. Joseph's Church on Sunday the Ven. Archdeacon Devoy referred to the calumnies and slanders concerning priests and nuns which are being at present circulated in this city by the Slatterys. To the Catholic people and those of other denominations who gave the matter the slightest thought it was, he said, unnecessary to contradict such palpable falsehoods, but it was his duty to impress on his people the necessity for the exercise of the virtue of charity towards the people whose business it is to circulate them. Catholics must not be disheartened with the attacks made on those they revered, or on the doctrine of the Holy Church. Out of these evil attacks good frequently came, and he cited as an instance the lectures in Christchurch of a person engaged some 20 years ago on a business tour such as the Slatterys are now conducting. He himself was at that time stationed in the Cathedral City, and the number of virtuous and intelligent people converted to the Catholic Faith as a result of the lectures was surprising to him and his fellow-priests there. Having heard of those coarse attacks on the Catholic Church and its ministers they took to reading up the matter for themselves. They speedily saw the falsehood of the assertions made, gained incidentally a knowledge of Catholic doctrine, and finally embraced the Faith. He concluded by urging the congregation to visit the Church on Sunday, when the Blessed Sacrament would be exposed, and spend some time in prayer in reparation of the insults offered to God by these lectures.

DIOCESE OF AUCKLAND.

(From our own correspondent.)

February 22.

The Rev. Father Fay, S.M., of Blenheim, is at present on a visit to Auckland.

The Rev. Father T. McKenna, who has been on a visit here, leaves for the South to-day.

The Very Rev. Dean O'Reilly visited Otahuhu last Sunday, and officiated there in the evening.

A substantial surplus is likely to result from the recent concert on behalf of the cemetery improvement fund, and the committee intends to push on immediately the much-needed work.

The old Norman custom of ringing the curfew-bell was strongly urged upon the Government of the Colony by a resolution adopted at a meeting of goody-goody ladies this week in Auckland city.

A successful concert was held in Mockett, situated in Rev. Father Ahearne's parish, last Friday evening in aid of the Church Building Fund. A number of well performed items made a very acceptable programme. Misses Annie and Clara Lorrigan, from Auckland, rendered valuable service.

The annual cry with regard to a water famine has been again sounded by our civic authorities. This question of a water supply for Auckland is a positive scandal. The precious liquid is in abundance and at comparatively short distances from the city, and though millions of gallons are allowed to go to waste in the rainy season, yet in the dry months of the year the citizens are regularly treated to 'expert opinions' as to how a sufficient supply is to be obtained. And there the matter is invariably allowed to rest.

The Very Rev. Dr. Egan, O.S.B., hon. sec. to the Auckland Catholic Diocesan Education Board, is to be heartily congratulated upon the way in which he placed, in an interview with a *Herald* representative, the Catholic claim for State inspection of our schools. Dr. Egan in the most concise and conclusive manner marshalled his facts, going back to the time when the first appeal was made to the Board of Education, showing subsequent appeals with their accompanying curt refusals; producing a telling letter addressed to the Bishop from the Hon. C. Bowen, the father of the Education Act, and from the present Premier, both of whom stated that the refusal to examine the schools was contrary to the spirit of the Act. Since Dr. Egan's interview, the Board of Education have met, and, with but two dissenting votes (those of Messrs. Muir and Luke), have granted permission to their inspectors to examine our schools. The argument put forward by Mr. Muir with regard to the financial aspect of the case was ludicrously illogical. By maintaining (he said) their own schools, the Catholics saved the State a great deal of money. But the Board of Education was not the State. On that ground he would oppose the request. The battle has been, after years of requisitioning, won, and a meed of justice has at last been dealt out to us.

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