

deliberately deprived themselves of the necessities of life in order to give them to the sick and wounded soldiers under their care, and actually died of starvation as a consequence of noble self-sacrifice. 'At Estcourt,' says he, 'it was so. The Superior herself died of starvation, though it was supposed to be enteric fever.' The *Edinburgh Catholic Herald* quotes a sergeant who writes as follows from the Jewish School Hospital at Johannesburg: 'It is largely due to the untiring energy and self-devotion of the Sisters that not only has a very great deal of suffering been alleviated, but many lives saved.' Many others have written to the Superiors of Nazareth House, Johannesburg and Hammersmith, words of grateful recognition of the kindness of the Sisters. 'They never seemed,' says one, 'to tire in their endeavors to relieve some poor sufferer. They worked hard for all alike and had a smile and a kind word for everybody.' The *Diamond Fields Advertiser*, of September 1, in its report of the proceedings of the Hospital Commission at Capetown, tells how the chorus of warm approbation of the Sisters' work was swelled by the evidence of Rev. Mr. McCLELLAND, Presbyterian chaplain to the Forces. In the course of his evidence he said: 'He went to Kimberley on March 9. Here there was also a large number of sick, and every available building seemed to have been taken up for hospital purposes. The Nazareth House, managed by the Sisters, was especially good, and witness was very much struck by the care, skill, and attention shown by the Sisters. This hospital seemed to him to be one of the best he had ever seen.'

It was only when lying wounded and dying upon the battle-field—'his battered casque and plumage gone'—that MARMION found a good woman to be 'a ministering angel.' A like lesson was learned by many a non-Catholic soldier regarding the Sisters of Mercy in the bungling campaign of the Crimea, in the American Civil War, and more recently still in the brief struggle between the United States and Spain. The wretched war which still sputters and flares in South Africa has, in like manner, probably resulted in tearing up by the roots many a deep and long-standing prejudice from the minds of non-Catholic soldiers regarding the religious Orders and the life and teaching of the Church. The beautiful story of the self-immolation of the Catholic Sisterhoods—without earthly fee or reward—in the days of pestilence and war recalls the lines in *GERALD GRIFFIN'S* 'Sister of Charity':—

Unshrinking where pestilence scatters his breath,
Like an angel she moves, 'mid the vapor of death,
Where rings the loud musket, and flashes the sword,
Unfearing she walks, for she follows the Lord.
How sweetly she bends o'er each plague-tainted face.
With looks that are lighted with holiest grace;
How kindly she dresses each suffering limb.
For she sees in the wounded the image of Him.

Behold her, ye worldly! behold her, ye vain!
Who shrink from the pathway of virtue and pain,
Who yield up to pleasure your nights and your days,
Forgetful of service, forgetful of praise.
Ye lazy philosophers—self-seeking men—
Ye fireside philanthropists, great at the pen,
How stands in the balance your eloquence weighed
With the life and the deeds of that high-born maid!

To learn is often slow. To unlearn is generally hard, especially when it is a question of parting with ingrained and long-standing prejudice. But the plague camp and the battle-field and the military hospital are stern schools and the lessons learned in them are not soon forgotten.

DIocese of DUNEDIN.

In the list of successful candidates from St. Dominick's College at the recent musical examination, which appeared in our last issue, the name of Miss Geraldine O'Connell was printed Miss Geraldine O'Connor. Miss O'Connell passed in the Higher Grade (pianoforte).

The Rev. Father Coffey, who is at present collecting in the country districts on behalf of the St. Vincent de Paul Orphanage, South Dunedin, celebrated Masses at Queenstown and Arrowtown on Sunday last. He was to leave Queenstown for Skippers on Tuesday. On next Sunday he is to celebrate Mass in Garston and will collect there and Nokomai, and possibly at Nevis during the week. He expects to be back in Dunedin on the first, or at latest, the second Sunday in December.

An adjourned meeting of the Catholics of St. Joseph's Cathedral parish was held in St. Joseph's Hall on Sunday evening for the purpose of considering the report of two experts on the cause of the lateral movement which has been taking place in the towers of the cathedral for some time. The Right Rev. Dr. Verdon presided,

and there was only a moderate attendance, due to the short notice and the inclement weather. His Lordship read the report of the experts—Messrs. Lawson and Hay—who made certain recommendations, which were approved of by Mr. Petre. It was eventually decided that the experts' recommendations be given effect to, and that the meeting stand adjourned until next Sunday evening, when a committee will be appointed to make the necessary arrangements for the carrying out of the work. As the matter requires immediate attention it is very necessary that it should be taken in hand at once, and it therefore behoves the parishioners to act without delay. It is to be hoped that there will be a representative meeting on Sunday night, when ways and means will have to be considered. Although there is no immediate danger to the cathedral, still it is well to act on the principle that 'a stitch in time saves nine,' and what now can be remedied at a small cost might, if allowed to continue, entail considerable expense. His Lordship the Bishop expects a full and representative gathering of the people of the cathedral parish at the meeting in St. Joseph's Hall on Sunday evening.

NEW ZEALAND: GENERAL.

It is gazetted that the census of the Colony will be taken on the night of March 31 next.

COLONEL ROBIN has cabled to the Government from Pretoria that the remainder of the first contingent is now under orders to return to New Zealand.

THE Dunedin City Council has decided to ask the citizens to sanction a loan of £50,000 for the purchase of the city and suburban tramway plant.

ARRANGEMENTS have been made by the Government to send the Southland Pipe Band of 20 members with the New Zealand contingent to the Australian Commonwealth celebrations.

THE *Government Insurance Recorder* for October, just to hand, contains several brightly written articles, the majority of which deal with the question of life assurance.

Dr. Mason, who has been appointed head of the Health department, is to receive a salary of £800 a year, not £1200, as has been stated. He will, of course, also receive the usual travelling allowance.

THE railway passenger traffic returns for the four weeks ended the 10th inst., under the reduced tariff, show an increase of 83,000 ordinary tickets, with an increased revenue of £900, and an increase of season tickets of 1600, from which the added revenue is £600.

THE following pupils from the Convent of Mercy, Gisborne, passed the practical music examination held recently by the representative of Trinity College, London Junior Division—Honors—Rose Liddle. Preparatory Division—Mabel Clarke, Nellie Murphy, Linda Nicholson, May Fitzgerald, Jane Hale, Nellie Martin. Violin—Honors—Lullie Power.

In our issue of November 5 we gave the names of 22 young priests who had lately arrived in Melbourne from Home for missionary work in Victoria and New South Wales. We learn that one of the number, Rev. W. F. Cahill, who has gone to the Goulburn diocese, N.S.W., is a younger brother of the Rev. T. J. Cahill, of the Dannevirke parish, Hawke's Bay.

THE examination in connection with Trinity College, London (says the *Nelson Colonist*), was held at St. Mary's High School, Mr. Charles Edwards, L. Mus. T.C.L., being the examiner. Thirteen pupils were presented and all passed. The following are the names of those who were presented by St. Mary's Convent:—Piano: Misses A. Eden, E. Wimsatt, I. Crisp, M. Cullinane, E. Light, I. Louisson, S. Eden, H. Wiesner, M. Mercer, M. Floyd; violin: H. Gibbs and M. McMahon.

It is the intention of the Government to start a salmon-rearing station at Hakataramea, where an area of 20 acres has been acquired on Robert Campbell and Co's Station Peak property, and also a temporary station on Lake Ohau. The Agent-general will send out regular supplies of ova, which will be hatched at the station, and the fish kept until they are three years old before being liberated. The first consignment of 800,000 is expected from America shortly, being the gift of the United States Fish Commission and the Canadian Government.

SEVERAL of the papers read at the Australasian Catholic Congress in Sydney appear in the November number of the *Austral Light*. His Grace the Archbishop of Melbourne brings to a conclusion the learned series of articles entitled 'No Salvation outside the Church; or the Doctrine of Exclusive Salvation.' The Rev. Father Cognet continues his sketches of the manners and customs of the Maoris, and there is a further instalment of the interesting serial, 'The Shadow Children.' The Rev. Father Slattery, C.M., contributes an article on 'The Development of Electrical Science,' and in addition there is a Federal hymn by Marion Miller, and several short articles, etc.

THE Lake County correspondent of the *Otago Daily Times*, writing with reference to the fatal accident at the Londonderry Company's claim at Skippers Point, says: Regarding the deceased Mr. Martin Tobin, it may be mentioned that his aged and widowed mother, who is still alive, has lost three children out of a family of six by drowning. Her eldest son, Thomas, came by his death at the age of 19, while bathing in a dam at Whitechapel Flat, Arrow River; while her eldest daughter was drowned at the age of 16 by falling off a footbridge when the river was in a flooded state: the present accident adding the third victim. That in so sad a bereavement the heartfelt sympathy of the whole district goes forth to the sorrowing mother, who is highly and universally respected, goes without saying.