

coach for the middle classes, and the post-chaise for the wealthy, were the universal means of communication.' But the locomotive and the marine-engine have altered all that. They did not merely create improved methods of travel. They revolutionised it. The old 'Puffing Billy' types of 1814 and later years were long ago replaced by the fast express engine running at fifty to sixty miles an hour. The world's railways in 1897 were (according to MULHALL) 442,000 miles in length; they carried 3,380,000,000 passengers in the twelve months; their receipts were £631,000,000; and their expenditure £393,000,000. Little steam cockle-shells puffed and groaned on the Seine (FULTON'S) in 1803; on the Clyde in 1812, and on the Thames in 1815. The *Great Western* that first crawled across the Atlantic in 1838 was the bold pioneer of great fleets of ocean steamers, torpedo boats, and fast cruisers that career over the surface of the water at the rate of from twenty to over thirty miles an hour. And the dead century drew the ends of the earth nearer together than they had ever been in previous history. The steam-engine and other inventions that were devised or brought into general use during the nineteenth century enormously increased the efficiency of human labor. One marked result of the amazing mechanical progress of the century was the cheapening and increase of output in every branch of manufacture. This, in turn, placed what were the comforts or luxuries of the early decades of the century within the reach of the masses. Apart from certain phases in the relations between labor and capital, the change, in this respect, has been both vast and, in the main, beneficent.

Various.

Among the minor, yet important, discoveries, inventions, or devices of the century we may briefly enumerate the following: The phonograph; the bicycle; chemical fire-extinguisher; anaesthetics and antiseptics in surgery; the spectroscope; pneumatic tubes; the typewriter; envelopes and penny postage; the hydraulic elevator; steam heating; vestibule cars; the Westinghouse air-brake; cantilever bridges; the Jacquard loom; the linotype, monotype, and other type-composing machines; harvesting and threshing machinery; the Röntgen rays; the steam hammer; breech-loading and magazine rifles; torpedoes; armored vessels, etc.; refrigerating machinery; macadamised roads; and the lock-stitch sewing machine, which was first successfully made by ELIAS HOWE in 1846. Various types of sewing machines have been devised since then. And they have ended for ever the plaint of the hapless needlewoman so pathetically told by HOOD in his 'Song of the Shirt':—

Work—work—work
Till the brain begins to swim;
Work—work—work
Till the eyes are heavy and dim;
Seam and gusset and band,
Band and gusset and seam,
Till over the buttons I fall asleep,
And sew them on in a dream.

NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS.

Subscribers are entreated to forward the amounts due by them at the earliest possible moment. The amounts due by individual subscribers are not considerable, but taken together they amount to a very large sum. The many calls that we have to meet make it imperative on us to greatly reduce the amount of indebtedness of our subscribers. We therefore ask those who have received accounts to wipe off their indebtedness to us before the close of the dying century. This will be a suitable mode of celebrating the parting of the nineteenth, and the beginning of the twentieth century.

MARIST BROTHERS' FUND.

We have received and duly forwarded to the Rev. Treasurer (Father O'Shea, Bouleott street, Wellington), the sum of £1 1s from Mr. David Roche, Invercargill, and £2 10s per the Very Rev. Father O'Neill, Milton, in aid of the fund being organised to reimburse the Marist Brothers, late of Stoke, the heavy financial outlay which they have been compelled to undergo in their necessary defence during the recent trials.

ARCHDIOCESE OF WELLINGTON.

(From our own correspondent.)

December 22.

The Rev. Father Hills, of St. Patrick's College, is spending his holiday in Auckland.

It will interest those concerned in the dairying industry to learn that the Government has decided to grant a bonus on condensed milk manufactured in New Zealand.

It is officially announced that the land which reverted to the Crown when the Midland Railway was taken over by the Government is to be thrown open for settlement on February 1. Canterbury, Nelson, and Westland should benefit considerably as a result.

Though extremely unseasonable weather prevailed on Boxing Day—a bitterly cold southerly wind was blowing—a great number of people from the city and suburbs journeyed to Very Rev. Father Lane's grounds at the Hutt, where the annual Catholic picnic was held. In spite of the unpropitious weather a most enjoyable day was spent.

The rules of the Order provide for a periodical 'long retreat' for the Marist Brothers, and the first of these held in New Zealand began here on Wednesday. The retreat will last for 30 days.

The retreat for the clergy of the archdiocese begins on January 29. Father Piquet, from Sydney, will, before commencing the retreat for the clergy, preach one to the Sisters at St. Mary's Convent.

Mr. Charles McDonald, an ex-student of St. Patrick's College, has distinguished himself by obtaining a first-class pass in the A.M.P. Office intermediate examination.

The Ven. Archdeacon Devoy and Very Rev. Dean Carew, accompanied by the Very Rev. Father Keogh, the new Rector of St. Patrick's College, left on a visit to Rome on November 1. The last-named is expected in Wellington about the end of January.

Considerable local interest was evinced in a marriage celebrated by the Rev. Father O'Shea on Boxing Day. The contracting parties were Miss McParland, daughter of Mr. F. McParland, and Mr. A. Pender, eldest son of Inspector Pender. The parents of both are widely known and respected throughout the Colony.

The rifle team to compete in the 'Federal Match,' to be fired in connection with the Commonwealth celebrations, left for Sydney in charge of Lieut.-Colonel Collins on Wednesday.

We have been anything but fortunate here in the way of holiday weather. After two exceptionally fine months Christmas morning was ushered in with a howling southerly gale. At St. Mary of the Angels' Rev. Father Moloney sang a *Missa Cantata*, and the choir rendered Lambillotte's 'Messe Pascale.' This was the first singing of the setting in Wellington, and Mr. Oakes has every reason to feel particularly proud of his orchestra, which, in close touch with the vocalists throughout, added considerably to the beauty of the rendering. The solo work was entrusted to Mrs. Oakes (soprano), Miss K. McParland (alto), Mr. Brook (tenor), and Mr. Morris (bass). At St. Mary's, Hill street, Rev. Father Holly celebrated the last Mass, the choir, under Mr. Cimino, rendering selections from the Masses of Haydn, Gounod, and Mozart.

DIOCESE OF DUNEDIN.

All the clergy of the diocese are requested by his Lordship the Bishop to assemble at Holy Cross College, Mosgiel, on Monday, January 21, in order to take part in the annual retreat, which is to be conducted by the Rev. Father Boyle, Melbourne.

St. Patrick's Basilica, South Dunedin, was very tastefully decorated for the feast of Christmas—the work of the ladies of the Altar Society. The early Masses were said by the Rev. Father Coffey, and the Rev. Father Delaney was the celebrant of High Mass. The Music was rendered in an exceptionally able manner by the choir under the conductorship of Mr. G. Neill, Mrs. Neill presiding at the organ. There was a large number of communicants at the early Masses.

The close of the century was marked by special religious ceremonies in St. Joseph's Cathedral. At midnight on Monday the *Te Deum* was solemnly sung in thanksgiving to Almighty God for all the blessings bestowed on the Church during the century. Then followed Pontifical High Mass during which the Blessed Sacrament was exposed. The Right Rev. Dr. Verdon was celebrant of the Mass. After that the *Veni Creator* was sung to implore the Divine blessing upon the century which had just then opened. The ceremonies concluded with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

A successful bazaar was held in Owaka on December 21 and 22 in aid of St. Columba's Catholic Church. There were three stalls, two of which were devoted to fancy work and the third to refreshments. There were some very fine specimens of painting, fancy work, and carving displayed in the stalls. The hall (says the *Clutha Leader*) was tastefully decorated with flowers, evergreens, flags, etc., and presented quite a gay appearance. Several Balclutha people were present to assist their Owaka friends, and some of the best of the prizes fell to the former, notably a handsomely-painted mirror, which was won by the Mayor, Mr. John McNeill, who, it may be mentioned, performed the opening ceremony at considerable personal inconvenience. A number of youthful performers from Balclutha executed some pretty dances and sang several nice choruses. The music for the dances was supplied by Mr. Neill Walls. A piano duet was nicely played by Misses Norah Angus and Maggie Walls. Miss Fitzgerald and Mr. Walls sang a duet in good style. Miss Vial contributed a few selections on the piano. The following is a list of the stallholders and their assistants: No. 1 stall was in charge of Miss Coneys, who was ably assisted by Miss Craig (Owaka) and Misses Fitzgerald and Gillies (Balclutha). No. 2 stall was in charge of Mesdames Pickworth (Balclutha) and Dowling (Owaka). These ladies were assisted by Misses Horan and