

NOTICE.

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.

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

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

NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS.

Complaints re irregular Delivery of Paper should be made without delay to the Manager.

All Communications with the Commercial Department of the 'N.Z. Tablet' Newspaper are to be addressed to John Murray, Secretary, to whom all Post Office Orders and Cheques are in all instances to be made payable.

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MARRIAGE.

On the 16th January, 1901, at St. Joseph's Church, Temuka, by the Rev. Father Galerne, Michael, third son of M. Lynskey, Esq., of Kaiapoi, to Catherine Delia, eldest daughter of M. Quinn, Esq., J.P., of Temuka.



'To promote the cause of Religion and Justice by the ways of Truth and Peace.'

LEO XIII to the N.Z. TABLET.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 31, 1901.

A GREAT AND GOOD QUEEN.



THE day after we had gone to press with our last issue a telegraphic despatch announced the sad intelligence of the death of the great and good Sovereign who for over three-and-sixty years graced the throne of England. The late Empress-Queen VICTORIA was, perhaps—with the possible exception of 'Good King EDWARD'—the most beloved of the long line of sovereigns—whether Norman or Plantagenet, Lancastrian or York, Tudor, Stuart, or Hanoverian—that have worn the diadem of the Britains.

Happily for her people, and for the stability of her House, the late Queen was blessed with length of years far beyond the span that usually falls to the lot of those who bear the thorny burden of a royal crown. Her long lifetime saw the introduction of the ocean steamer, the Morse telegraph, the railway, the telephone, the electric light, and the thousand-and-one wonders of science and invention that made the story of the nineteenth century read like the Eastern tale of ALADDIN. During her long reign the late Queen saw many thrones in Europe overturned; the others vacated many times. 'Many monarchies,' says JUSTIN MCCARTHY, 'and even some republics, have gone down within that time. The French Republic of 1848 was upset by LOUIS NAPOLEON, and the Empire of LOUIS NAPOLEON went down on

the battlefield of Sedan. A German Empire has been founded, although not exactly on the ruins of the Holy Roman Empire; and Austria has been driven outside the sphere of Germany. Italy has become one single kingdom, and Greece is at the present moment thrilling to complete what she not unnaturally thinks her national destiny. The Empire of Brazil is gone, and a sort of Republican Government works along its way in the place of the deposed sovereignty. While the late Queen held the sceptre, a procession of seventeen Presidents succeeded each other in the United States; there were ten Viceroys in Canada and fifteen in India; and France was successively ruled by a King, an Emperor, and seven Presidents of a Republic. She witnessed the transformation of her own country from an oligarchy in which only one in fifty of the population was permitted to vote, into a democracy in which those who are entitled to exercise the franchise number one in six of the total population. And, in brief, she saw the oncoming of such changes in the domestic and national life as were never witnessed in any equal period of British history. But to her wisdom as a constitutional monarch, and to the affectionate reverence in which she was held by her people, is due the signal fact that, amidst all this shifting change, 'never once during her time has the strength of the [English] monarchy been shaken, or even threatened.'

Practically every human success has, of course, its shadow side. And even the purview of the record reign reveals its chequered spots. As a constitutional Sovereign the late Queen naturally played no prominent part in the domestic or international politics of her long reign. Her chief glory is of a quieter and more sacred order than that which is associated with the intrigues of Courts and Cabinets. Every man who respects that virtue which is the brightest adornment of true womanhood should treasure with deep veneration the memory of her who, while still a sweet young Queen of less than twenty summers, cleansed a Court that was noted, even in a loose period, for its loose ways; who made it the model Court of Europe; and who throughout the long years that God spared her to her people set them an example of pure and wholesome domestic life that was, as it were, a living sermon preached to them, simply and without vain ostentation, from the highest and greatest pulpit in the land. Few things were more beautiful in the late Queen's reign than the sweet and evergreen freshness of her homeaffections; and few things more tenderly touching than the final parting between her—the '*liebes Fräulein*' ('the dear little woman'), the '*gutes Weibchen*' ('the good little wife')—and the man she loved. Her domestic virtues were the best glory of her life. They gave a new national meaning to the word 'Home.' The deep religious spirit and the example of their beloved Queen undoubtedly gave, at a critical time, a vogue to that decency of home relations which is, perhaps, one of the best characteristics of the British nation in our day.

The long reign which was closed last week by death witnessed the practically complete emancipation of Catholics under the British flag. It is no secret that from her early years the late Queen favored the extension of religious liberty. In the days when she was a blithe and winsome young Princess, those who plotted to debar her by armed violence from the succession to the throne, alleged as a chief ground of their conspiracy her known leanings towards a broad-minded tolerance of other creeds. She entertained a friendly feeling towards the present aged and illustrious Pontiff from the far-off days when he was Papal Nuncio at Brussels; and time and again—as on the occasion of their jubilees—kindly greetings passed between the Vatican and Windsor. In Catholic nuns the departed Sovereign displayed a kindly and even affectionate interest. Herself a woman of deep religious feeling, she knew the better how to appreciate the splendid heights of self-sacrifice to which Catholic charity, especially in our religious Orders, has soared.

In an age marked by frivolity, by the loosening of conjugal bonds, by the shirking of the most sacred domestic cares, it was no small thing that the late Queen chose her part wisely: it was the part of the 'valiant woman' who

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