

Urban, was praised in the same subject. Another Urban student, Mr. John Kavanagh, of the Diocese of Maitland, carried off the first prize in *De Locis Theologicis*, where Mr. Buckley, a New Zealand student of the College, was *proxime accessit*, or nearest-arrived; and Mr. Burke, another Urban student, was the first *laudatus*, or commended. In moral theology, a Sandhurst student of the College, Mr. O'Byrne, was *proxime accessit*; a Bathurst Urban student, Mr. Heath, *laudatus*; and a student of the same for the Diocese of Christchurch, Mr. MacDonnell, also *laudatus*. Mr. Kavanagh, of Maitland and the same college, was *proxime accessit* in Church history, and attained the same honor in Canon Law and again in Liturgy, in which last subject Mr. Buckley, the New Zealander mentioned above, was highly commended, and Mr. Burke, of the Diocese of Perth, *laudatus*. Mr. Buckley attained the same distinction in Sacred Archaeology, as did also Mr. Kavanagh, of Maitland, where Mr. Burke, just mentioned, was *laudatus*.

**His Holiness again under the Surgeon's Knife.**—On December 6 Pope Leo XIII. again submitted to the surgeon's knife, being operated upon for the removal of a small tumor under the arm. This operation had been decided upon as necessary to prolong the life of the venerable Pontiff. Dr. Mazzoni directed the operation. In a few minutes a bulletin was handed out to members of the Papal household, who were anxiously waiting at the door. This stated that the small tumor under the arm had been removed without great difficulty. The Pope had borne up well under the ordeal. There was great rejoicing at the statement that the conditions were favorable for complete recovery.

**A Souvenir of the Holy Year.**—Perhaps the most interesting souvenir in connection with the present 'Anno Santo' will come from the magnificent collection of groups of different pilgrims taken by the Papal photographer, Chev. de Fredericis. This gentleman, who is a veritable artist of the camera, has photographed free of charge several hundred groups of pilgrims from every part of the world, each in their distinctive costumes, and intends to present the Holy Father with the complete collection, which will form a sort of photographic history of the jubilee year pilgrimages. Looking over these interesting pictures it is more easy to form an exact conception of the number, variety, and importance of the pilgrimages than by perusing mere statistics, and this compendium of the ethnographic characteristics of every race and nation in the world gives us an approximate idea of the essentially catholic character of the true Church, which unites in its motherly embrace the children of every clime.

**The Holy Father and the Index.**—As I informed you in a previous letter (writes a Rome correspondent) the Sacred Congregation of the Index recently published a new list of prohibited books. It is not generally known that the Holy Father personally revised the existing catalogue of the Index, and expunged therefrom the titles of no fewer than 3000 works which had hitherto been condemned. In the course of time many books which under previously existing circumstances were justly considered dangerous reading, became quite harmless, so that it would have been a useless rigor to comprise them in the Index. This is another instance of the wise liberality of Leo XIII.'s ideas and of the marvellous activity of the aged Pontiff who, in the midst of the numerous and important cares of his exalted position, still finds time to give attention to the minutest details having reference to the spiritual welfare of the flock confided to his care.

**UNITED STATES.—A Millionaire Acts as Waiter.**—With a big white apron tied around his waist Mr. John D. Crimmins, the millionaire contractor of New York, on Christmas Day acted as the host to the 300 inmates of the Home for Aged Persons, conducted by the Little Sisters of the Poor. It has been Mr. Crimmins's custom for the last four years to give a Christmas treat to the institution. There was plenty of turkey, chicken, roast beef, and eatables. Mr. Crimmins's three sons and four daughters aided him in waiting on the tables. Mr. Crimmins was greeted on every side with 'God bless you' when the dinner came to an end, and the three cheers which were proposed for him were given with all the strength the feeble voices could muster.

**Death of a Popular Priest.**—An American exchange reports, with regard to the death of the Vicar-General (Very Rev. Father Barry), of Concord, New Hampshire, that on Sunday, November 18, in all the 12 Protestant churches of the city, reference was made to the demise of the beloved priest. In some of the churches mention of the loss was made in prayer, while in others short addresses were made. In the First Unitarian Church an entire memorial service was held. At this church a series of resolutions were passed unanimously and ordered to be placed upon the records of the church. The Hon. James O. Lyford, naval officer of Boston, who attends this church, gave a half-hour's tribute to the memory of Father Barry. Special prayers and an address were given at the Episcopal Church. The body lay in state from two o'clock on Sunday afternoon until 10 in the evening, and it is estimated that 2000 Protestants entered the church to view the remains. The priest who earned such general esteem must indeed have been a power for good. The tribute paid to him is honorable alike to his memory and to the Christian sentiments of those by whom it was accorded.

The Grand Prix was the highest award obtainable at the Paris Exhibition, and the McCormick Harvesting Machine Company, of Chicago, secured this coveted honor, and not only this but they obtained more special prizes than all other competitors. Such a tribute to the worth of the McCormick machines is proof positive of their excellence. Messrs. Morrow, Bassett and Co., Christchurch, Ashburton, and Dunedin, are the agents for the Company's manufactures in New Zealand.—.

## THE BOER WAR.

### NOTES AND POINTS OF INTEREST TO CATHOLIC READERS.

#### FARMING IN RHODESIA.

The endeavor of the British South African Chartered Company, who are promiscuously advertising in the Sydney papers, to secure Australian settlers for Rhodesia (says the *Freeman's Journal*) is not likely to meet with great success when the real worth of the company's offer becomes known. Interesting reference to the subject is contained in a letter recently received by Mr. E. Cuffin, from Sergeant-Major William Spooner, who left Melbourne in the last Bushmen's Contingent as a lance corporal. The writer summarises the company's terms in the following manner:—

'A settler is given an area of about 3000 acres on which he has to pay survey fees, etc. He receives £2 5s per annum, in consideration of which he becomes a military subject. He also receives 5s a day for such parades as he may attend. Fifty head of cattle are handed to him, and he contracts to either work the purchase money off on the shares system, or to pay it off in instalments.'

These conditions, says the writer, may sound very tempting to a Victorian farmer, but to the initiated they are but a delusion. Granting that Rhodesia is a cattle country, it must be remembered that the animals die from every known and unknown disease. Bullocks die in the yoke, and cows die while being milked. Cattle-raising, which was a 'going concern' before the rebellion of 1896 and the rinderpest, has been reduced to a struggling stage. It will, he adds, be many years before the country is anything like adequately stocked.

In another portion of the letter the writer states that the southern part of Rhodesia is well watered and adapted to stock-raising, and in a less degree is suited for agriculture. Cattle, sheep, and goats would do very well if it were not for the dire diseases from which they suffer. Horses also are very liable to contract mortal complaints unless properly stabled, 90 per cent. dying before being in the country 12 months. Pigs thrive well, and so far have shown no disease. Poultry, on the other hand, are subject to a complaint called 'poultry cholera.' To the writer's personal knowledge, one farmer lost 60 full-grown fowls in a night. Experiments that have been made up give hope of the ultimate discovery of a means of preventing the high mortality amongst animals and birds by means of inoculation. In regard to agriculture, mealies (which realise 23s and upwards per bag), Kaffir corn and other native cereals, as well as potatoes and pumpkins, grow in the rainy season without irrigation. Potatoes sell at 3d to 8d per lb, in a good market. Wheat grows well under irrigation. Grass is very good, but dries up on the highlands towards the end of May. The first rains fall in October, and are usually succeeded by a month or six weeks of fine weather. The rains recommence in November or December, and continue, with occasional dry spells, until the end of March or April. The temperature is very hot in summer—anything up to 130deg in the shade.

#### WAS IT A COMPLIMENT?

Mr. Michael Davitt tells some curious stories of General De Wet with whom he discussed the campaign. After hearing many caustic opinions, M. Davitt asked him what he thought of General French, 'Ah,' said De Wet, with a change of tone, 'he is the one Boer General in the British Army.'

#### TAXING THE CAPITALISTS.

The Transvaal war (says the *Catholic Times*) is apparently by no means over, and if the guerillas are as formidable to us as France found them to be in Spain, Mexico, and Algeria, and Spain lately in Cuba, and as America now finds them to be in the Philippines, the war may drag on for years. Already there is a huge bill to pay, and the nation naturally expects that the Transvaal capitalists shall be made to help to pay it. Of course these gentlemen object, but we think the people of the country, which has sacrificed blood and lives, will sternly demand that the mine-holders shall be taxed to meet the expenditure already incurred. The capitalists would be delighted if the Chancellor of the Exchequer laid no embargo on the gold output, and if the Secretary for the Colonies granted them cheap native labor. We trust, and the nation trusts, that both these officials will do their duty. Sir Michael Hicks-Beach must get as much money as he can from the mines, in order to pay the bill now due for the maintenance of the army which secured possession of them. And Mr. Chamberlain must prevent the miserable natives from being exploited by crafty companies which desire forced labor, little disguised from slave labor, in order to cheapen prices. The people of Great Britain will not tolerate any system of control over the native population of South Africa that would hand those defenceless people to the tender mercies of capitalists who value them merely for the work they can be made, willingly or unwillingly, to perform.

#### AN ESTIMATE OF GENERAL BULLER.

There was something blunt and frank about General Buller's despatches, and there is an honest ring about his speeches (says the *Belfast Weekly*) that contrasts well with Lord Robert's magniloquent despatches over the occasional capture of a baker's dozen of Boers. Why Buller has returned is perhaps not quite clear to the man in the street, but the man who is not in the street knows, according to the *New Age*, that he returns because Mr. Rhodes desires it. General Buller has very many friends, but he is an honest man, and Mr. Rhodes does not find an honest man very valuable as an Imperial asset. When at last the history of this war comes to be written one of the very few names that will come out with credit will be that of the man who frankly confessed to defeat, who spoke generously of a brave enemy, and who refused to rehabilitate himself by 'faking' a despatch. It was a greater thing to do and a harder thing to do than the relief of Ladysmith.