

TO THE CLERGY.

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Apply TABLET Office.

THOSE who have disposed of tickets in the HAWERA ART UNION are requested to return Blocks to REV FATHER POWER before 16th March. The drawing will take place on the 18th.

Winning Numbers in our issue of the 28th.

ST. PATRICK'S SPORTS ASSOCIATION,
TIMARU.

ANNUAL SPORTS GATHERING,
MONDAY, 18th MARCH, 1901.

Running - Cycling - Jumping - etc.

A GRAND NATIONAL CONCERT

will be held in the evening at the Assembly Rooms.

N.B.—Competitors for Cycling and Running events are reminded that entries close on Friday, 8th March, at 10 p.m., addressed to the Secretary, Box 123, Timaru.

M. F. DENNEHY, Secretary.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

READER.—We know of no such institute in or near Napier. There is one in Wellington and another in Nelson. For particulars, address Superior, Convent of Mercy, Wellington, or Convent of Our Lady of Missions, Nelson.

'INQUIRER'—Write to the publishers, Messrs. Angus and Robertson, Sydney.

DEATH.

GROVES.—At Ballydwyer, County Kerry, Ireland, November, 1900, Mrs. William Groves, and January, 1901, Mr. William Groves, parents of George, John, and William Groves, of Southland, Mrs. Richard Fitzgerald, and Miss Annie Groves, of Christchurch, N.Z.—R.I.P.



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

LEO XIII to the N.Z. TABLET.

THURSDAY, MARCH 14, 1901.

THE RUSH TO CITIES.



DR. JOHNSON regarded 'the sweet, shady side of Pall Mall' as the nearest approach to an earthly paradise since the days of the vanished Eden. 'The happiness of London,' he once declared, 'is not to be conceived but by those who have been in it.' The brusque old lexicon-writer found country life duller than 'the fat weed that rots itself in ease on Lethe wharf.' 'No wise man,' said he, 'will go live in the country unless he has something to do which can be better done in the country.' And yet—with that sweet inconsistency which, somehow, became the rugged character of the man—he 'pinked' the epidermis of the English nobility of his time with the caustic remark that the decay of their old-time military spirit was due to the fact that it had 'gone

into the city to look for a fortune.' From the Restoration to the Revolution the immense majority of the English nobility lived quietly for the greater part of each year in mansions upon their estates. Then the rush to the city gradually set in—for the English nobility followed the fashion of the French court in this as in the lesser matter of the shape of their bob-wigs and the cut of their gowns and frills and ruffles. In the gilded days of LOUIS XIV. the old French nobles, and the *anobles* who had raked and scraped together sufficient capital to support patents of nobility, and the *bourgeoisie* who would purchase fat employments, swarmed in their ponderous and lumbering coaches into the glare or shadow of the gayest court in Europe; and a courtier could say to the King: 'Whenever your Majesty creates an office, God creates a fool to buy it.'

The modern movement city-wards began at one end of the social scale. It seized upon the other after the spinning-jenny and the water-frame and the 'mule' and the power loom had opened up the era of the great industrial revolution in England. This was in the latter half of the eighteenth century. The steam-engine and allied inventions brought the movement in England onwards with a rush at a time when Continental nations were too eagerly hacking each others' eyes out to see the start in the race for commercial supremacy which they were giving to their former insular enemy or ally. But they set to work as soon as the butchering was done and the knife was wiped clean and placed within its sheath and they had taken a breathing spell. Then they got the industrial fever and gradually swarmed into and widened out the old cities, and upon the green fields raised up new centres of busy population. America, too, caught the infection of industrialism. And one result of all the wheel-whirling and brick-piling was this: that the nineteenth century was, of all others, the age of great and rapidly-built cities, bulged out to extreme corpulence with overcrowded populations. Nothing like it had ever been witnessed in the world before. Athens long held the supremacy of the old world-art. But, according to Dr. BELOCH, in its palmiest days its population did not exceed 150,000. Alexandria was a world-mart—a sort of Eastern London—in its prime. But it gave shelter to not over 500,000 souls—or about the population of Melbourne. Of the other famous trade centres of the olden time, Tyre—the New York of those far-off days—could (according to the estimate of Dr. BELOCH) count only 40,000 souls within its circling walls—less than the population of Christchurch. Thebes could claim some 10,000 more—or about as many people as are gathered in Dunedin. And all the world wondered at Rome, whose massive ring of brick-enclosed some 900,000 persons at the time of the death of AUGUSTUS, fourteen years before the birth of CHRIST. This is about the population of Brooklyn, the fourth city in the United States. But it was none the less a massive head for an empire which, although it scrambled over portions of the surface of three continents, had (according to BODIO) a population (chiefly non-industrial and largely semi-barbarian) not exceeding 54,000,000. Imperial Rome presented the nearest approach to the urban conditions which, at the close of the nineteenth century, saw in Berlin in 1895, a population of 1,677,304 souls; in Paris, in 1896, 3,536,834; in New York, at the census of last year, 3,437,202; and in Greater London, as far back as 1891, a great Babel of 5,633,332 inhabitants.

But the industrial revolution has altered the old order. It has hung agriculture where SHAKESPEARE would throw physic—to the dogs. 'All the mechanical and chemical skill,' says the author of *Merrie England*, 'and all the capital and energy of man, have been thrown into the struggle for trade profits and manufacturing pre-eminence.' Primary producers have in tens of thousands abandoned their work and congregated around the factory boilers and made cities where the ox had grazed and the wheat-crop had been garnered in the days when HARGREAVES and ARKWRIGHT were 'mewling and puking in their nurses' arms.' A recent address by Mr. WALTON to the Statistical Society—as reported in the *Saturday Review*—shows that the population of England and Wales increased from 8,892,536 in 1801 to nearly 32,000,000 in the year of grace 1900. But the lecturer pointed out that almost 400 per cent. of

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