

the 'human person,' therefore the 'human being,' not the proceeding from the body of the mother. I am not called upon to say when this union takes place. Everyone who has learned the A B C of Christian psychology will admit that it is long before there is question of the child breathing.

Sir, I have written for readers who are supposed to be governed in their actions by the divine moral law, not for those (if there be any) who take the Criminal Code as the guide of their moral actions, for readers also who look with horror on the doctrine which teaches that 'the end justifies the means,' that 'unlawful means may be used to attain a much-desired end.' I have been taught in the good old school which says, 'Non licet facere malum ut veniat bonum' ('It is not lawful to do an evil thing that good may come from it'). Therefore I maintain that on sound, moral grounds and right reason, apart from criminal codes, apart from 'human sentiment,' public or private, and abstracting altogether from what my Church teaches on this matter, it is

A Morally Unlawful Act.

intrinsically unlawful in itself, to directly and intentionally kill by craniotomy or by any other operation an unborn child for any reason whatsoever, even to save the life of the mother. I maintain, also, that we have never been appointed, and therefore are not the supreme judges of the value of a human life, and in the mind of the Creator it may be the mother's duty to die in a very extreme case, just as it is a soldier's duty to die *pro patria*. At least, we are not the judges; but this we do know: that in our moral actions we are, and must be, guided by irrevocable, unalterable laws. Therefore, though well aware that the Criminal Code allows it, I certainly and strongly join issue with your sub-leader when it says "the operation of craniotomy, if regarded as necessary for the preservation of the mother's life, is justifiable, and should therefore be performed." It may be according to the human law and human sentiment, but there is a higher law than either of these, and that higher law says, "Thou shalt not kill." I say, further, that on such a line of reasoning every act done to prevent birth would be justifiable. Once you admit that it is lawful to kill the child to save its mother's life you cannot argue that it is not also lawful to kill a child to save a mother's character, for her character is oftentimes dearer than life. Why, Sir, the time would come when a mother, the noblest and most self-sacrificing being of God's creation, would be such a curiosity as to be deemed worthy of a place in a national museum. The time would come, also, when we should justify ourselves in putting to death the old and infirm, especially those who have to depend entirely on others. You see, it is a very dangerous thing to interfere with the divine moral law by lessening its influence or by pulling it down altogether and erecting in its stead a law of human sentiment or expediency, as you endeavour to do in this case.

Obituary.

MRS AINSWORTH, GREYMOUTH.

We have learned with sincere regret of the death of Mrs Ainsworth, wife of Mr Samuel Ainsworth, of Greymouth, and mother of the Rev Father Ainsworth of Wellington. The deceased lady was a native of Graigue, County Kilkenny, and was about 50 years of age. *R.I.P.*

The Pollard Opera Company.

After a successful run of several nights the 'Rose of Persia' has been withdrawn from the boards of the Princess Theatre in favor of 'The Gay Parisienne,' which will be staged for this (Thursday) night only. 'In Town' will be produced to-morrow night, when Mr. Percy will take the part of Captain Coddington, this performance being tendered as a complimentary benefit to him. On Saturday the piece will be the 'Belles of New York,' and the company have in active preparation 'The Messenger Boy,' which will be its first production in the Colonies.

Messrs Calvert and Brugh, Solicitors, Dunedin, have removed their offices to Albion Chambers, 41 Dowling street...

The time for planting all kinds of trees and shrubs is at hand, and our readers in Otago and Southland who are about to put in fruit trees, etc, should remember that it is only by purchasing trees from a reliable nurseryman they can reasonably expect to have a satisfactory return for their labor. Some people imagine that if they can purchase fruit trees at a cheap price from some unknown grower they are doing a good stroke of business, but after waiting anxiously for some years for such trees to bear, if ever they do bear, they discover that they have filled up their gardens with rubbish, and realise how foolish they have been. A bad line of fruit trees means the loss of several seasons, and to guard against such a contingency a reliable, old-established firm should be patronised. Messrs Howden and Moncrieff, of Dunedin, supply everything requisite for the planting of fruit and flower gardens, and as they devote special attention to this business clients can rely on getting everything true to name. They have an established reputation for the excellence of the trees, shrubs, and plants grown by them, and our readers can intrust their orders to this firm with the fullest confidence that they will be carefully and faithfully executed...

NEW ZEALAND: GENERAL.

PARLIAMENT opens on Tuesday, July 1.

JULY 16 will be observed as Arbor Day in this Colony.

It is alleged that old horses are used in certain districts in Christchurch for the feeding of pigs.

THE Irishmen of Wellington have forwarded £50 as a donation to the funds of the Irish Parliamentary Party.

IT is currently reported (says the *New Zealand Times*) that Mr T. Dwan, jun., will be a candidate for parliamentary honors at the coming general election, and will stand for Wellington City in the Liberal interest.

IN consequence of the holidays in connection with the Coronation we will be obliged to go to press on Tuesday, June 24, and therefore all correspondence should reach this office not later than Monday, June 23.

AN important discovery of hitherto unknown hot springs, possessing properties equal to those of Rotorua, has been made at Lower Kapara, within 33 miles of Greymouth. Samples of the water have been forwarded to the Government for analysis, and efforts are being made to get a direct road to the springs.

THE following have been appointed the Representative Commission for the readjustment of electorates:—North Island.—Dr. Giles, Messrs W. A. Richardson, J. W. A. Marchant (Surveyor-General, Wellington), Joseph McKenzie, and J. J. Mueller (Chief Surveyor, Auckland). Middle Island.—Messrs N. Y. A. Wales (Dunedin), T. S. Weston (Christchurch), G. R. Roberts, Thomas Humphries, and David Barron (Chief Surveyor, Otago).

GIVING evidence at the Arbitration Court at Wellington, the local manager of the Union Company gave some figures as to the falling away in the trade between New Zealand and Australian ports, caused by the operation of the Federal tariff. He stated that for the six months prior to the coming into force of the tariff 20,550 tons of cargo were carried between Wellington and Sydney. During the six months following there were only 5383 tons. In the Bluff-Melbourne trade 18,294 tons were carried during the six months prior to and 9406 tons during the six months after the coming into operation of the tariff. From Auckland to Sydney 5362 tons were carried within one period and 2500 within the other.

SIR JOSEPH WARD was interviewed at Christchurch last week with regard to the present position in connection with the contract entered into by the Government and the Blue Star line for a monthly steam service between New Zealand and South Africa. Sir Joseph said that the delay in inaugurating the service was not due to either the Government or to the Agent-General. The agreement to give effect to the contract had been in the hands of the successful tenderers' solicitor for some time, but at latest advices had not been returned to the Agent-General, who was pushing matters forward with all possible despatch. Sir Joseph ventured the opinion that probably the successful tenderer was being delayed owing to the non-completion by the company of the necessary arrangements.

We have to thank Messrs. Guy and Co., of Cork, for the latest number of the *Journal of the Cork Historical and Archaeological Society*. The contents are varied and interesting. There is an instalment of the records of the Barry clan, with which the history of the county and city of Cork is so intimately connected. A paper by Mr. R. Day throws a considerable light on the campaigns of William III. and Schomberg in Ireland. There is a list of the masters and wardens of the Goldsmiths' Company of Dublin, from 1637 to 1800, which shows that the Society had a continuous existence during the period mentioned. In the editorial notes are mentioned many matters which will be found of much interest to the antiquarian.

MR. M. GILFEDDER, M.H.R. for Wallace, addressed his constituents at Otautau Town Hall on Saturday evening, and was afterwards banqueted by the people of the district. The Acting-Premier (Sir J. G. Ward) was present at both functions, as were also Mr. J. A. Hanau, member for Invercargill, Hon. H. Feldwick, and a number of Invercargill people. The Town Hall was packed, and Mr Gilfedder got a very attentive hearing and was frequently applauded. His speech was a general defence of the Government and eulogy of the Premier and the Minister of Railways. Dealing with the 10 million increase in the Colony's debt under the Seddon Administration, he showed that most of it had been used for reproductive works, and that for all of it the Colony held good security, the railways revenue meeting all expenditure and showing a net profit of nearly 3½ per cent, while in other departments the borrowed money made a handsome profit over and above interest.

MR GRAHAM, S.M., speaking at the Dunedin Police Court last week, commented on the increase of drunkenness among young men. Some years ago, he said, it was a matter for congratulation that drunkenness was not the vice of New Zealand, and the youth of the Colony, whatever their vices, did not include drunkenness among them. Of late years, however, he regretted to see that the state of affairs had become totally altered, and it was becoming quite a scandal to see the number of young men going about in a drunken state upon any public occasion. During the peace rejoicings it was remarked that the only ones who were making themselves conspicuous, for being under the influence of liquor, at all events, were youths, whose actions were accompanied by a considerable amount of rowdiness and larrikinism which was most regrettable, and would have to be put down with a strong hand.

At first signs of the approach of consumption, ward off all danger by taking TUSSEIGRA.—*.

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