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MESSAGE OF POPE LEO XIII. TO THE N.Z. TABLET.

Pergant Directores et Scriptores New Zealand Tablet, Apostolica Benedictione confortati, Religionis et Justitiæ causam promovere per vias Veritatis et Pacis.
Die 4 Aprilis, 1900.

TRANSLATION.—Fortified by the Apostolic Blessing, let the Directors and Writers of the New Zealand Tablet continue to promote the cause of Religion and Justice by the ways of Truth and Peace.
April 4, 1900.

LEO XIII., P.M.

LEO XIII, Pope

Current Topics

Political Trickery

A lie has more lives than a cat. It ordinarily takes a lot of killing, but most of all when it represents a tangible value in money or votes. In Australia, but more especially in New South Wales, the political and clerical leaders of the Orange brethren are again busy scaring their credulous following into a 'solid front' by the good old bugbear of the threatened domination of five million people by one million 'Papists' in these new countries. This is the chief plank in the formation of the new ally of Orangeism in New South Wales. Like the old Orange Societies its members are pledged to exclude Catholics from political and municipal life and to return to such positions only those who are associated or in sympathy with the movement. Like 'rough and tough old Joe Bagstock,' the Orange standard-bearers of the new association are sly, very sly. They know what they are about. They have learned by heart Plato's Machiavellian lesson in the 'Infernal Marriage': 'I will keep each faction in awe by the bugbear of the other's supremacy. Trust me, I am a profound politician.' The keeping up of that awe spells notoriety for the clerical, and solid votes for the political, leaders of the new offshoot of Orangeism. And thus each party catches the hare that it is hunting.

The Second Elijah

The middle age was the age of faith. This is the age of credulity. And the shortest cut to being a millionaire nowadays seems to lie in the launching of some new form of fancy religion, or the revamping of some old one, that will stagger the normally constituted mind by the preposterous character of its claims. Thus, the Eddys have become millionaires by 'Christian Science,' which is neither Christian nor scientific. And John Alexander Dowie—a Scottish imposter and former inmate of Melbourne Gaol—has gathered a vast following and raked in untold shekels by declaring himself to be the Prophet Elijah returned to earth once more! The recent report of his impending bankruptcy, that was published in the New Zealand Press, was, to say the least, premature. An American paper just to hand states that his name and fame have attracted to his standard farmers who sold out their homes in South Australia and other parts of the Commonwealth, and even in New Zealand, in order to lay their all at the pseudo-prophet's feet. Butler's couplet seems to have an application to their case:—

'Doubtless the pleasure is as great
Of being cheated as to cheat'

Here is how a recent issue of the 'New Yorker' sizes up Dowie—who, by the way, has two rivals to his

claim of being the re-incarnated Elijah: one a Rev. J. H. Smyth Pigott, in England; the other is one Mirza Ghulam Ahmed, in India:

'John Alexander Dowie,' says the 'New Yorker,' is the proprietor of a Zion city of 8000 inhabitants on the shores of Lake Michigan, about 20 miles north of Chicago. The city is located on a tract of 2000 acres, bought secretly by Dowie before anybody dreamed what he was up to. The inhabitants of Dowie's Zion community are as completely under his spell as were the personal followers of Mahomet to the Prophet. They work for him like an army of slaves, and everything they produce he calmly appropriates and puts in his own name. Besides his Zion city he owns millions of dollars of Chicago real estate, has banks of his own, publication houses, hotels and strong boxes bursting with choice securities. All told, he has about 15,000 devoted followers working for him, and if he keeps on growing he will ere long become a very formidable and possibly dangerous factor of society. He is already a power in northern Illinois politics, and swings his votes as one man. Not satisfied with his amazing success in and around Chicago, he proposes to establish himself here. Dowie invites abuse and thrives on it. He fairly foams at the mouth in his denunciation of the Catholic Church, is tireless in his roasts of the Press, and when the mood seizes him rages like madman over what he is pleased to call the persecution of his people. He dominates every proposition he takes hold of and is in reality an extraordinary personage. Chicago couldn't do anything without him.'

Our Tuberculous People

We get spasms sometimes in New Zealand public life. And we generally get over them. What, for instance, has become of the spasm of activity that shook our Department of Public Health some time ago in connection with the erection of consumptive sanatoria in various suitable places in the Colony? Has it spent itself, or side-tracked its early energy in the pressure that the Government is now putting upon various municipalities for the erection of infectious diseases hospitals? In the meantime the bacillus of tuberculosis is tunnelling away almost undisturbed, under the skin, in the bones, through the lungs, larynges, abdomens, brains, spinal marrow, and neck-glands of thousands of its victims, and confining annually close on 800 of our fellow-colonists. Over ten per cent. of all deaths in New Zealand for the past decade are due to the many and varied forms of tubercular disease, and the greater part of its victims are in the period of fresh young manhood and womanhood, from 20 to 30 years of age. The percentage of deaths is even higher in Europe. In England, during 1897, the proportion was 19.30 per 10,000 living persons in the population (in New Zealand the average rate for the past ten years has been 10½ per 10,000). And in Paris, according to a recent return before us, the tubercular bacillus is responsible for over

Hancock's "BISMARCK" LAGER BEER.

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12,500 out of the 50,000 'funeral marches to the grave' that take place in the gayest city every year.

Here, as in the olden lands of Europe and the unchanging East, tuberculosis is the 'ard-righ' or over-king of all the ills that flesh is heir to. Where bubonic plague, small-pox, scurvy, typhus, and relapsing fever slay their thousands, tuberculosis kills its tens of thousands. Those diseases were for a long time the pathological terrors of mankind; but they have been almost completely banished from the surface of the earth. Medical science and actual experience in Germany, have demonstrated not alone the possibility, but the probability of consumption and all its allied disorders being extirpated also. But the problem is too vast for voluntary effort. The melancholy figures published annually in our 'Year-Book' are sufficient proof that it is a matter of national importance to grapple with it. And the crusade might well fall within the many-sided activities of a Government which has one hand on the throttle-valve of an express engine, and with the other grades butter and cheese and slaughtered Dorkings for the Home market—like that wonderful limb, the elephant's trunk, which can at will pile a quarter-ton of lumber or pick a number six sewing needle from the ground. General contagious diseases hospitals are not sufficient. Particular wards or special attendance in a general hospital are equally worthless. Two years ago, at the Conference on Tuberculosis in Berlin, Professor Weber said: 'For the majority of cases, treatment in sanatoria should be preferred, but for the poor it is a necessity.' And he added: 'The erection of numerous sanatoria for the people is therefore a national requirement for the cure, the prevention, and the extermination of tuberculosis.'

In this, as in every branch of Christian charity, the Catholic Church has taken an early and prominent place. Among the first in the field with the new methods of combating tuberculosis were the Sisters of Marie-Auxiliatrice (Our Lady Help of Christians). A great consumptive sanatorium was erected by them, in the years 1878-80, at Villepinte, some twelve miles north-east from Paris, in the Department of Seine-et-Oise. Maxime du Camp described it as 'the most beautiful hospital in the world.' There are over 300 happy patients within its broad boundary—women, girls, and young children. They have another splendid establishment for consumptives at Hyeres, and, we believe, have thus far escaped the insane fury of M. Combes' policy of expulsion. France has altogether some fifteen public consumptive sanatoria, such as we need in New Zealand, with 1531 beds, and twelve private establishments with 412 beds. Scotland has moved to some purpose in the matter. Switzerland started, in 1893, a National Fund for Poor Consumptives, and (according to a recently-published medical work before us upon the subject), the little mid-European Republic 'bids fair to be the best equipped with institutions for the treatment of the disease among the less well-to-do.' The German Fatherland originated the now universal 'open-air cure' or 'Nordrach treatment' of consumption. It still leads the way, with close on forty sanatoria in which the poor are treated free, and (since 1900) with day sanatoria for workmen. In Prussia alone, the crusade against tuberculosis has had the happy result of diminishing the death rate from the burrowing bacillus from 31.4 per cent. before 1899 to 21.7 per cent. in 1897.

In this matter Germany furnishes an object lesson which the New Zealand Health Department might well take in more haste to follow. Several years ago, in advocating the establishment of public consumptive sanatoria in New Zealand, we said: 'Such a project would run small risk of suffering from lack of pence in New Zealand. The funds could be provided by (1) State aid, (2) by public subscriptions, (3) by the formation of associations working on the lines of the "Caisse Nationale," and of the German "Societies for Convalescent Institutions"; (4) by the contributions of benefit societies, trades unions, and life insurance companies, and (5) by the fees received from patients who are in a position to pay for treatment. Questions in the realm of "higher politics" presenting far greater practical difficulties have found a solution in our local Parliament. And this is one that, in the public interest, deserves and should receive immediate attention and a satisfactory and permanent settlement.' Yet, still we delay and dally.

SKETCHES OF TRAVEL

VI.—THE THOUSAND ISLANDS OF THE WEST.

By the Editor.

'Round many Western islands I have been.'
—Keats.

It is April 15 as these lines are being chucked out at a merry rate on the flying keys of the type-composing machine. It is the first anniversary of the day when I sailed out, on the Canadian-Australian ship Moana, from Victoria, the island-capital of British Columbia, to Vancouver, where her human freight of over two hundred passengers was to bid her good-bye and set their feet upon the mainland of the American continent. It was a bright, pleasant northern spring day. The sun was shining like a blessing from heaven. In the gently-stirring clear air you could almost count the twigs upon the cedars and the firs up the slopes that stretched away behind Victoria. The sky was as fleckless a blue as you see in the early summer days in the Swiss Engadine, or above the green irrigated valleys that wind away to east and west from the lower slopes of Canigou, in the Eastern Pyrenees.

We took on board at Victoria a new and

Welcome Addition

to our numerical strength: baggage officers, ticket-agents, and a cloud of sturdy porters—all sent to our aid by the courteous and greatly appreciated forethought of the Canadian-Pacific Railway corporation. Customs officers also boarded the ship and accompanied us on our way—the most urbane that I had met in a tolerably wide experience of travel. The vessel had scarcely got well under way when they were busy chalking their strange hieroglyphics upon the passengers' luggage, on deck and in the cabins, almost as fast as it came under their indulgent eyes. Down in the saloons, the Canadian-Pacific ticket-agents were as busy as lamp-lighters giving ready information and kindly travel-hints, and issuing tickets to all parts of Canada, the United States, and Europe. In the meantime the baggage officials were fast emptying the luggage-hold and the cabins upon the upper deck. In the days when the footpad and the brigand infested the world's highways, it was a motto that he travelled safest who travelled lightest. Pugin, for dear comfort's sake, perambulated all central Europe, studying the glories of Gothic architecture, with no impedimenta save a sketching-block, an overcoat, and a Saigey Gump umbrella. Only the roving bicyclist enjoys such heroic simplicity of touring-attire nowadays. Your old and experienced tourist, however, whether by land or sea, will cut down his baggage to the irreducible minimum. O si sic omnes! A glance at the baggage-room of any ocean-going steamer, or at the littered upper-deck of the Moana on that April morning, reveals the fact that the average tourist, and especially ladies that go down to the sea in ships, encumber themselves with almost as many wraps, rolls, valises, portmanteaux, boxes, trunks, and heaven knows what besides, as if they were setting out on a three-years' cruise with Nansen to the Farthest North. For all, but in quite a special way for your cumbrous travellers, the courteous Canadian-Pacific baggage officials, and the system of dealing with

Passengers' Luggage

prevalent all over North America, are blessings of the highest order. On production of travelling tickets, luggage was checked on the Moana, labelled, taken over, and sorted out with swift and business-like decision according to its destination; and passengers were left free to enjoy to their fullest bent the moving panorama of beauty that lay along our route.

A few days' experience of the Canadian and American and Continental European systems of dealing with passengers' luggage leaves one plunged in a state of puzzled wonder that the travelling public should continue to tolerate the risky and haphazard method that is still permitted in Australia and New Zealand. Here, on arrival at one's destination, each individual passenger rushes, pushes, and struggles before a rough barrier in front of the luggage van, identifies his belongings as best he can amidst a long and tangled pile of boxes, valises, hat-cases, wraps, trunks, swags, perambulators, bonnet-cases, drummers' samples, and household furniture, and makes a dive to seize and hold his own before the festive 'crook' or 'magsman' can remove them to that bourne from which stolen goods do not return. On the Cana-

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dian and United States railroads the system of forwarding passengers' effects is

Simple and Uniform.

You first arm yourself with your travelling ticket. You then proceed to the baggage office with such of your belongings as you do not desire, or are not permitted, to cumber yourself with in the carriage (in American 'car'). You inform the baggage-master to which 'depot' (station) on your route you desire your impedimenta to be sent. Each piece is labelled in accordance with your instructions. A metal tag, numbered after the manner of a bank note, is at the same time securely attached to each by a leathern loop. On the same system of railroads no two tags bear the same combination of letters and figures. For each separate valise, box, etc., you receive a check—that is, a cardboard ticket. Each check bears the name of the issuing company, a number corresponding with that on the metallic tag attached to the piece of luggage for which it is issued, and the destination stamped or written plainly upon it. You pay excess charges, if any, and may then go your ways in peace. Arrived at the destination to which your effects have been consigned, you are free to leave them in the depot, where they are practically as secure as your scrip in the safe-deposit; and you have, on production of your checks, free access to them at all times. Or, with or without the aid of wide-awake and willing baggage porters, you transfer them to cab or street car or overhead railroad. Or you hand your checks to one of the odd scores of registered express agents that are ever in attendance at arriving and departing trains, with instructions where to transfer your belongings to—instructions which are faithfully, promptly, and cheaply attended to. Or, finally, you pass your checks into the hands of the clerk at the hotel bureau, and your effects will be speedily and safely deposited in your bedroom. On some of the Australian State railways a tentative sort of check system is employed, at rather rare intervals, and only on the demand of the passenger. In Canada, the United States, and wherever I have travelled on Continental Europe the check system is in universal use.

As we steamed out of Victoria's harbor, our vessel's bows pointed for a brief space to the south-east, where the broad inland sea narrows into long, deep fiords and sweeps past wooded islands and steep, rocky mountainsides, for over a hundred miles into the heart of the Washington State. It is the glorious waterway up which timber-laden steamers were coming from bustling young Seattle and Tacoma, and it winds away to the forest-clad foothills upon which Mount Olympia raises its giant form. Soon, in a long, sweeping curve, the Moana's head came round to port, and our course lay a few points east of north to Vancouver. Our track lay through five-and-eighty miles of a north-western paradise. Soon after leaving the open waters that look towards Seattle, we were winding through a long and beautiful archipelago of

Clustering Islands

and islets of endless variety and a thousand shapes: some with sparse forest-trees and flowered meadow, most of them richly wooded to the water's edge; here, so large that they seemed to be the shore-line of the mainland, there so small that they were little more than islet-rocks holding their heads above the waters. How aptly Whittier's words describe the scene:—

'Beneath the westward-turning eye
A thousand wooded islands lie—
Gems of the waters!—with each hue
Of brightness set in ocean's blue.
Each bears aloft its tuft of trees.'

We rushed on the incoming tide past the massed grey rocks of Plumper's Pass and through the wider spaces where the soft-green waters of the 'Narrows' tossed and swirled, and we glided into the open reaches where the circling islands drew off from each other and the fresh breeze from the purple-shadowed forests on the far-off shore came tripping lightly over the ripples. On our left nearly all the islands were British territory; on our right, they belonged to the land of the Stars and Stripes. At times the Moana cut the waters so close to the American side, that you could have tossed a biscuit ashore, and the long, slanting wave from the vessel's wake lapped the rocks and gambolled up the pebbly beach and played with the dark tresses of the Douglas fir that trailed in the waters. Here and there picturesque Indian Catholic villages appeared in forest clearings, each with its modest presbytery and its pretty church with its ambitious-looking spire. To right and left, tree-clad islands,

And Ever More Islands;

while bold, rugged headlands thrust their wooded heads into the waters. And to right and front and rear, circling the fast-changing diorama as in a massive frame, rose the great, snow-capped, jagged mountain heights of Washington and British Columbia.

'Westward the star of empire takes its way.' And westward, too, the gathering throng of American summer seekers follow, not content to go for ever swinging round the circle of the stale conventions of the many overdone coastal and mountain resorts of the east. One spot, however, retains its evergreen charm. It lies nearly 3000 miles to the eastward of Vancouver: the delightful miniature archipelago of the Thousand Islands in the St. Lawrence river, where it empties out of Lake Ontario. Thirty years ago it was almost unknown, save as a Tibet, a Sacred Land, of American and Canadian anglers. But one summer day in 1872, Mr. George M. Pullman entertained General Grant and a large party of American nabobs in the now far-famed archipelago. They came and saw and purchased, and soon the green, wooded islands were dotted with villas and cottages and great hotels and lordly castles like those upon the Rhine. Nature had made the Thousand Islands a spot of surpassing, if neglected, loveliness. Art turned it into

A Fairyland.

And thirty years have done it all. The past thirty years have also wrought a mighty transformation in British Columbia. The wealth of its fields and fisheries and forests and mines has attracted an almost unexampled inrush of population. And its genial climate, its scenic grandeur, its facilities for fishing and the chase, will make it, year by year, a more and ever more favored spot of summer-pilgrimage. The wheel of progress, once set in motion, gathers speed apace. Another thirty years will, no doubt, see some of the clustering wooded archipelagos that extend for hundreds of miles along the Straits of Georgia far advanced in the process which has transformed the smaller islets of the St. Lawrence into 'the Venice of America.' The sheltered and far-extending island-clusters of British Columbia form ideal spots on which the over-wrought business man, 'too long in city pent,' might breathe the odor of pine-forests and ploughed fields and fresh-mown hay, amidst surroundings of alpine grandeur that

'Exhilarate the spirit and restore
The tone of languid nature.'

The Moana flew past the islands, past the open mouth of Canada's great salmon-river, the Fraser, and then, rounding a sharp-nosed promontory, swept into Burrard's Inlet.

Vancouver

was in full view: gay and sunlit; its fine harbor thronged with shipping, its long, wide streets stretching away over the gently sloping hills to the towering mountain ranges that bar the way to the broad wheat-fields of the great North-west. The Moana rested her iron sides against the wharf four hours and fourteen minutes from the time when she cast off at Victoria. This (as the 'Daily Province' of April 16 stated) represented a speed of 17.3 knots per hour and made the record for the journey. She made another record (22 days and some hours) for the long diagonal from Sydney across the Pacific by Fiji and Honolulu.

The Canadian-Pacific Railway authorities did another act of greatly appreciated courtesy to the Moana passengers: they delayed the transcontinental express and suspended all running schedules to accommodate the antipodeans who desired to make a flying run eastward through the Rockies. Most of the passengers, however, remained to see the interesting and fast-growing young city that stands where there was nothing but a thick forest of giant firs until the day, 26 years ago, when the Canadian-Pacific Railway gouged its way through the rock-ribbed mountains to the Pacific waters of Burrard's Inlet.

The Rev. Dill Macky petitioned Rev. Canon Cooper, of Temora, to interest himself in furthering the interests of the Protestant Defence Association in that town, and received the following reply:—'I have received your letter of the 12th instant, but I cannot take part in, or assist such a meeting as you propose. I have seen too much of the evils of religious animosity at home, especially in my own country, Ireland, that I should consider I was acting in an unchristian spirit if I assisted in any way to propagate or strengthen such feelings among the Australian people. This is supposed to be a land where there is civil and religious liberty. I must therefore conscientiously oppose any movement that would fetter or coerce the liberty of any religious body.'

Hancock's "BISMARCK" LAGER BEER.

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THAT 'CONVENT SCANDAL'

THE FACTS OF THE CASE.

A few weeks ago we dealt at some length, in our editorial columns, with the cabled statement that one Mdle. Lecoanet, an 'orphan,' had taken successful action against the Good Shepherd nuns at Nancy, France, for over-work and cruelty. The 'orphan' in question is 48 years old, having been born in 1855. In June, 1871 she was placed by her grandmother in the convent, where she remained six years. She then left for a short time—but, of her own free will, returned and remained there for 11 years. It was only some three years ago—in 1900—that she complained of overwork, and consequent injury to her sight, and, under sinister influences, brought an action that was decided against her by the local tribunal. Under existing circumstances in France it is (as the 'W.A. Record' points out) perhaps, not inconsistent that, in a case where a religious community is concerned, an adverse verdict should be now given, as in the instance in question, as M. Combes is casting around for a pretext to include the Magdalen asylums in his drag-net legislation of proscription and persecution against the Catholic charitable institutions in the country.

The whole

Squalid Story

of those charges, which have been revived by Combes and the French infidel Press and their English echoes, is told as follows in a recent issue of the 'Glasgow Observer':—

To begin with, it is 10 years since this question arose, the date being 1893. Those who want the fullest particulars of the whole matter will find them in 'The Month' for June 1900, where Father Sydney Smith, S.J., in an article entitled 'Good Shepherds and their Accusers,' relates and discusses the whole affair.

The trouble began with the appointment of a new chaplain to the convent about the year mentioned, 1893. This chaplain seems to have got to loggerheads with the Sisters, and when matters were brought before the Bishop, who appointed the chaplain, the Bishop took the chaplain's part, and declined either to recall him or compel him to promote the harmony of the establishment.

Now a word or two retrospectively. The Convent of the Good Shepherd at Nancy was founded in 1835. Until 1893 the succeeding bishops of the diocese all regarded the convent with approval. This may be said of Mgr. Turinaz, the present Bishop, at least up till 1893. The chaplain appointed by the Bishop in 1893 had singular ideas of a chaplain's duties. He is charged with having generally fostered insubordination on the part of the inmates towards the Sisters, and it was out of the charges and counter charges laid before the ecclesiastical authorities of Rome that the present slander arose. It may be said here that there is no warrant for the inference that the charges against the convent were accepted as proved at Rome because they appeared in the Roman publication called 'Analecta Ecclesiastica.' This publication is nothing more nor less than a record of the decisions of the Holy See, and any statement of evidence printed in it is no more to be taken as evidence of accepted fact than would be the case of evidence in the 'Law Times' or in any other record of English judicial proceedings. In the pages of 'Analecta Ecclesiastica' the charges remained until in 1899 they were

Dug out for Circulation

in a French paper called the 'Aurore,' which was engaged in a general attack on all Catholic Orders, monastic and conventual, and which was, therefore, on the hunt for any statement, true or false, which would further its purpose.

Father Sydney Smith takes the charges against the nuns one by one.

First, it is alleged that the Sisters 'exploit' their penitents, and make vast sums of money out of their labor. Bishop Turinaz complained that inmates who had been working for five, ten, or twenty years in the Good Shepherd Convent were turned out of doors without resource and without funds. To this charge the Sisters make answer, and say that their institution is not a factory run for gain, that the inmates are recruited from the ranks of unfortunate girls rescued from lives of debauchery in the streets, who have little or no skill when they enter the convent, and that, therefore, their labor is fully remunerated by the shelter, clothing, and maintenance given to them. Very few of them remain so long as twenty, ten, or even five years in the convent. It is not the method of the Good Shepherd Sisterhood that the penitents should so remain, unless the spiritual welfare absolutely demands it. The Sisters rescue the girls, train them to a life of virtue and industry, and then place them out in situations obtained for them where they still are in touch with the convent, and free to return should necessity arise. The Sisters estimate that in their convents where work is plenty the profit accruing to the community doesn't exceed an average per head of half a franc a day (about 4½d.), and the institution is run, not as a means of providing remunerative occupation for an odd skilled inmate here and there, but for the purpose of providing all the inmates with a shelter and maintenance. Even if the Sisters were able to maintain their penitents and still to pay them some-

thing for the labor, it would be most unwise to do such a thing. The

Penitents Enter Voluntarily,

and they are free to leave when they will. But they are encouraged to stay until they have thoroughly reformed their lives and until situations can be found for them. It would be a very bad thing to hand over to girls in such circumstances money which they have no means of spending, because the accumulation of it would sooner or later tempt them to return to the streets, from which they had been rescued, and to spend the money in drink, which, in many cases, is the cause of their fall.

The Bishop charged the Sisters with spending too much money in building their convent and chapel. This is entirely a matter of opinion. The reply of the nuns is that the sum (£12,000) is not extravagant for a building designed to hold more than 200 persons separated in various categories, each category demanding segregation from the other.

The Sisters deny, in toto, that they send girls away after five, ten, or twenty years' service. Of course, if any inmate turns insubordinate she must be dismissed, but that is not a rule particular to the Good Shepherd convents, but common to all charitable institutions of all denominations everywhere. Such cases are very infrequent, and have rarely arisen, except in 1893, when there was a general insubordination from reasons already described. Otherwise it has very seldom happened that inmates have been discharged from the Good Shepherd Convent in Nancy. Perhaps the

Most Serious

of the accusations was that young girls, or a great number of them, had been compelled to work 'every day longer than the civil law permits.' Twelve and sometimes fifteen hours a day were the periods stated. To this the nuns make answer that their inmates have eight hours' sleep in summer and eight and a half in winter. Added to this they hear Mass, they have breakfast, dinner, and supper, the two chief meals being followed by an hour's recreation each. There are also morning and evening prayers, and they have religious instruction and Benediction daily, so it is quite clear that for the Bishop's charges there is no foundation.

The whole matter was discussed in the French Chamber of Deputies on the 28th of November, 1899, the subject being brought forward by M. Fourniere, a Socialist. The Abbe Lemire gave a trenchant and crushing answer to the calumnies advanced by the Socialist deputy. The Abbe pointed out that the Archbishops of Rheims and Paris had given emphatic denials to accusations made against Good Shepherd Convents in their dioceses, and he went on to state the unanswerable fact that the Good Shepherd Convent at Nancy had received in 1898 a silver gilt medal and a special expression of gratitude from the State authorities in France. The official report ran:—

'During the last 63 years this Convent has secured a livelihood for more than a thousand girls. Its merits are very great in all respects.'

This may be regarded as a sufficiently conclusive reply to all slanders on the Convent, but there is more to come. Directly Bishop Turinaz had first impugned the Convent, the Government had ordered an inspector to

Visit the Institution,

and report what he found. A surprise visit was paid, and the official report, dated October 24th 1899, states that the inspector was admitted without the least difficulty, that the girls employed were accommodated in a vast gallery, abundantly lighted, perfectly ventilated, and without even the slightest appearance of a workshop.

It would be impossible in a place of this kind to have an internal arrangement more favorable to the health of the pupils. We have acquired the conviction that it would be impossible to obtain elsewhere for our undisciplined and light-mannered girls a more favorable union of mental and moral conditions than they enjoy at this establishment.

Another inspector, sent with a view of testing the report of the first, corroborated all that had been said. This second inspector declared that the law was strictly observed in all religious houses, and that he was admitted instantly on knocking. Still a third inquiry was made; this time by the commissary of police at Nancy, and once again the report confirmed the earlier declarations of the previous inspectors.

As to the rather lengthy list of personal cruelties said to be inflicted on inmates, all these statements were

Tested by Interrogatories

from the police officials to the inmates of the institution, the nuns having been excluded from the inquiry. It was found that the allegations rested entirely on the statements of a single individual, a woman called Marie Folio, who had attempted to borrow money from the Sisters, and who subsequently uttered against them all the slanders so widely quoted, not one of which could be sustained by independent evidence when the police inquiry was made.

Catholics needed no reassurance with regard to the Good Shepherd community. They felt instinctively that the tales circulated were mere slanders, but in case any of our readers are interrogated by Protestant friends, or taunted by Protestant acquaintances with this Nancy story, the facts quoted will suffice to furnish rebutting answer.

In cases of attacks of Colic, Cramp, or Spasms, Evans's WITCH'S OIL will be found invaluable.—***

RIDE "ANGLO SPECIAL" CYCLES.

Diocesan News

DIOCESE OF CHRISTCHURCH.

(From our own correspondent.)

April 13.

The office of Holy Week commenced in the Pro-Cathedral on Wednesday evening. Among the clergy present were the Very Rev Vicar-General (who presided), the Very Rev. Deans Foley and Bowers, Rev. Dr. Kennedy, and Rev. Fathers Ginaty, Regnault, Price, O'Donnell, Richards, Hyland, Cooney, Tubman, Marnane, Kerley, Ahern, Gallais, and McDonnell (2). On Holy Thursday Pontifical High Mass was celebrated by his Lordship (who officiated under great difficulties). The Very Rev. Father O'Donnell was deacon, Rev. Father Price sub-deacon of the Mass, Very Rev. Dean Foley and Rev. Father Marnane deacon and sub-deacon respectively at the throne, Very Rev. Vicar-General assistant priest, and Very Rev. Dean Bowers master of ceremonies. His Lordship the Bishop officiated at the blessing of the holy oils, all the other ceremonies of Holy Week being performed by the Very Rev. Vicar-General. A sermon on the Blessed Eucharist was preached by the Very Rev. Dean Bowers in the evening and watches before the Blessed Sacrament at the altar of repose were maintained throughout the night by members of the H.A.C.B. Society and Catholic Club and others.

On Good Friday morning the services were commenced at 9 o'clock. The Passion was sung by the Very Rev. Dean Bowers, Very Rev. Father O'Donnell, and Rev. Father Richards. The Very Rev. Father Le Menant des Chesnais celebrated the Mass of the Presanctified and was attended by the Rev. Fathers Price and Cooney. The devotion of the Stations of the Cross took place in the afternoon and after Tenebrae in the evening the Rev. Father Regnault preached a sermon on the Passion of our Divine Lord. On Holy Saturday at eight o'clock there was Solemn High Mass, celebrated by the Very Rev. Vicar-General, the Rev. Dr. Kennedy being deacon and the Rev. Father Cooney sub-deacon. Large congregations were in attendance at all the services, and on Good Friday the church was crowded morning and evening.

The choir are worthy of the highest commendation for the really excellent and efficient manner in which they rendered the service of Tenebrae. Mr. H. H. Loughnan conducted throughout, and to him is due in no small measure the fine degree of perfection attained.

As usual on great festival days, the Pro-Cathedral was most effectively adorned for Easter Sunday, much of the work being performed by a few young men of the congregation, under the direction of the sacristan. The sanctuary and high altar were beautifully decorated and adorned by Miss White, whilst our Lady's altar was tastefully embellished by Miss Kearney. On the high altar a costly canopy was used for the first time and was the gift of a generous benefactor. Very large numbers of communicants approached the Holy Table at the earlier Masses. At 11 o'clock Solemn High Mass was celebrated by the Very Rev. Vicar-General, the Rev. Father O'Connell being deacon and Rev. Father McDonnell sub-deacon. The very rev celebrant preached on the day's festival and in concluding referred to the accident which befell his Lordship the Bishop, preventing his presence at the ceremonies of the preceding days and also on the present occasion. At his Lordship's desire, he conveyed his (the Bishop's) heartfelt wishes to the congregation for a happy Eastertide, together with his blessing. In happy terms he thanked the organist, Miss Funston, for her truly great services to the church during all the years of her occupancy of that position, she being rarely from her place on any Sunday or week night when required. He expressed his grateful thanks to the able conductor, the choir, church officers, sacristan and altar society, all of whom devoted their time and energy to the glory of God and the well-being and progress of His Holy Church. The music was Guonod's Messe Solennelle, very finely rendered by the choir under the baton of Mr. H. H. Loughnan, Miss Funston presiding at the organ. The principal soloists were: Misses Pender and Bowler (soprano), Mr. J. R. Hayward (tenor), Mr. E. McNamara (bass). After the offertory the organist played Fawke's Rhapsody, 'O filii et filiae.' Solemn Vespers were sung in the evening, the Very Rev. Father Le Menant des Chesnais officiating, being attended by the Rev. Fathers O'Connell and McDonnell. The Rev. Father O'Connell preached a forceful sermon on the Resurrection to a congregation which crowded the sacred edifice to the doors. During Vespers the Easter hymn, 'Haec Dies,' was sung, and after the sermon, Mrs. A. A. Mead gave a highly artistic rendering of Guonod's 'Ave Maria,' with cello obligato by Mr. H. H. Loughnan. As a recessional Miss Funston played the 'Hallelujah Chorus' from Handel's 'Messiah.'

After Vespers in the Pro-Cathedral on Easter Sunday the choir were entertained at the presbytery. Advantage was taken of the occasion by the Very Rev. Vicar-General, on behalf of the Cathedral clergy, to present Miss Funston, on her retirement from the position of organist, with a select little library of handsomely-bound volumes, including the works of Father Faber, 'Catholic Truth,' Lives of St. Francis of Assisi, St. Monica, etc., together with a nice collection of statuary. In doing so, the Very Rev. Vicar-General referred in grateful terms to the self-sacrificing zeal which had all ways distinguished Miss Funston's career in the dis-

charge of duties often onerous and trying. It was (he said) but a feeble return on their part, but its bestowal was at least a grateful acknowledgment by the Cathedral Fathers of what they felt towards her. Mr. H. H. Loughnan expressed his own sentiments towards Miss Funston, and in doing so felt convinced he was also expressing those of the choir as a body (remarks which were unanimously applauded). Mr. James Mercer, on behalf of Miss Funston, thankfully acknowledged the presentation, and suitably responded to the appreciative nature of the many kind things given expression to concerning her.

The names of the vocalists engaged in the production of Rossini's 'Stabat Mater' at St Mary's, on Palm Sunday were not available in time to be embodied in my last week's letter. They are as follows:—Mrs. C. M. Brooks and Miss N. Slattery took the duet, 'Quies est Homo.' The 'Inflammatus' was allotted to Miss F. Gardner, and Miss C. O'Brien sang 'Fac ut portem.' Mr. C. Read sang 'Cujus Animam,' Mr. C. Goggan 'Pro Peccat,' and Mr. Hynes 'Eja Mater.' At the conclusion of the 'Stabat Mater,' the Rev. Father Marnane thanked those outside members of the choir who had given such valuable assistance. As an offertory, Miss Young played Guilmant's 'As pants the heart,' and during the Benediction Miss O'Brien and Miss McLaughlin sang, as a duet, Carboni's 'Tantum Ergo.'

St. Mary's, Manchester street, was tastefully decorated by the Altar Society. High Mass was celebrated at eleven o'clock, the Rev. Father Marnane preaching on the day's festival. The music was Haydn's Imperial Mass, very capably rendered by the choir, under the conductorship of Mr. W. H. Corrigan, and assisted by an orchestra led by Mr. E. J. Painter. The soloists were: Soprano, Mrs. C. M. Brooke; alto, Miss M. Oakes; tenor, Mr. A. H. Blake; and bass, Mr. J. Hynes. Miss Katie Young was at the organ.

WAIMATE.

(From our own correspondent.)

April 13.

The Rev. P. Rouillac, S.M., the intrepid island missionary, is at present on a visit to his fellow-townsmen, the Rev. Father Regnault, S.M., of this parish.

The ceremonies of Holy Week were commenced on Thursday morning. After Mass—which was celebrated by the Rev. Father Aubry—there was the customary procession of the Blessed Sacrament to the Altar of Repose. At the close of Tenebrae, in the evening, the Rev. Father Aubry preached an eloquent sermon on the Blessed Eucharist. On Good Friday the Rev. Father Rouillac officiated, being assisted by Father Aubry. Adoration of the Cross was followed by the Mass of the Presanctified. In the evening the devotion of the Stations of the Cross took place. All the ceremonies were well attended.

At the nine o'clock Mass on Easter Sunday, very large numbers approached the Holy Table. A Missa Cantata was celebrated by the Rev. Father Regnault at 11 o'clock. He also preached a sermon on the festival of the day. The choir, under the baton of Mr. C. J. Goldstone, rendered in a very finished manner Farmer's Mass in B flat, the soloists being Miss Kent, Miss J. T. Quinn, and Messrs. Goldstone and Evans. After Mass the Rev. Father Regnault congratulated the choir for the way in which they had rendered the music, and remarked that it could compare favorably with any of the larger cities. There were crowded congregations at both Masses. The church was handsomely decorated for the occasion.

On Thursday last the Right Hon. the Premier, accompanied by the Hon. W. Hall-Jones (Minister of Public Works), the Hon. T. V. Duncan (Minister of Lands), and Mr. C. J. Moran, M.L.A. (Western Australia), visited St. Patrick's school, Waimate, and were met by the Rev. Father Aubry, and the Rev. P. Rouillac, S.M. The Premier briefly addressed the children, who then sang a song of welcome, and Master Kane, in a distinct and loud voice, read the following address to Mr. Seddon:—Sir,—In the name of the teachers and pupils of St. Patrick's school, I have the honor of tendering you a most hearty welcome, and of thanking you for your kind visit. You have often been spoken of in our homes for the last 10 years. Not only have you opened large estates to small farmers and townspeople, thus enabling them to gain a more independent livelihood, but you have given timely help to the aged poor by the granting of a pension, and to the people in general by large reductions in railway fares and postage duty. The dignity and integrity of the British Empire have been maintained in South Africa through the bravery of our soldiers, who responded so readily to your patriotic appeal. We followed with pride your steps in the country of your birth, when, as the worthy representative of New Zealand at the coronation of King Edward VII., you received all but princely honors. As the interests of education are advanced by our Liberal Government we hope that the work of denominational schools will be recognised and assisted as it is in the United Kingdom. That you will be spared for many years to lead New Zealand in the march of progress is the sincere wish and prayer of the pupils of St. Patrick's school, Waimate. The Premier thanked the school children for their address of welcome. Speaking of the work of the institution, he said that in the broader teaching of Christianity there was room for bringing under the notice of the rising generation that which was of importance to them. This life was temporary, but there was a life hereafter, and people were

not well equipped for life unless that fact was taught to them. Under these circumstances he would be sorry to see a Colony inhabited by those of the free-thought belief—by those who ignored the teaching of the great Master. It would be serious mistake for any country to be in that position. Where there were separate schools and where great sacrifices were made by the parents, and where there were good souls like the Rev. Fathers and the good Sisters, who devoted their time to the work of the school, it would ill become him as Prime Minister of the country were he not to say that he respected those sacrifices, feeling assured that they were conscientiously made and in the best interests of the children.

Seven boys in sailor costume sang a rollicking song, and the children sang 'All hail, Zealandia,' after which cheers were given for the Premier, Sir William J. Steward, and the teaching staff.

DIOCESE OF AUCKLAND.

(From our own correspondent.)

April 9.

For the first time for many years a contest for the mayoralty will be witnessed for Auckland city. The issue lies between Mr. Stutchbury and Hon. E. Mitchellson, ex-Minister of Public Works.

Rev. Father Tormey is now so far improved in health after his illness, that he is able to celebrate Mass at the Mater Misericordiae Hospital, which he will very soon be permitted to leave. His numerous friends at St. Benedict's and in the city will be delighted to welcome him again among them.

The Tenebrae services were begun at St. Patrick's last evening. His Lordship the Bishop, Very Rev. Father Benedict, O.P., Rev. Fathers Patterson, Adm., Purton, O.S.B., Furlong, and Holbrook were in the sanctuary. The choir, under Mr. P. J. Hiscocks, rendered very nicely the music appropriate to the occasion, and particularly the Miserere. This morning at 10 o'clock High Mass was celebrated. His Lordship blessed the holy oils and there was a procession of the Blessed Sacrament to the Altar of Repose, which was beautifully decorated. Throughout the day large numbers paid visits to the Blessed Sacrament. This evening the Rev. Father Gillan, of St. Benedict's, will deliver a sermon on the Blessed Sacrament at the Cathedral, and the Very Rev. Father Benedict will preach on the same subject at St. Benedict's.

The Sisters of St. Joseph are much in need of a suitable convent in Gladstone street, in St. Benedict's parish. In order to accomplish this desirable end, a large and very energetic committee of ladies and gentlemen has been formed, and for months past all have worked well and harmoniously, with the result that a most attractive bazaar has been prepared, which will be opened on Easter Monday evening in the Foresters' Hall, Karangahape road, by the Mayor (Mr. Alfred Kidd, M.H.R.) in the presence of his Lordship the Bishop and clergy. It is to be hoped that a successful result will be achieved, as no more deserving object exists just now than a new convent for the good and energetic Sisters of St. Joseph.

Mr. W. Beehan, J.P., District President of the N.Z. No. 3 Division of the H.A.C.B. Society, accompanied by Mrs. Beehan, left by the Waikare last Monday evening for Sydney to represent his district at the biennial meeting of the Society which is to be opened in Sydney on Monday, the 27th inst. Mr. J. T. O'Connell also left by the same steamer en route for Coolgardie, where, on last Saturday week, he had three large shops burned down. Mr. O'Connell will re-erect them at once, and will personally supervise their construction, which will necessitate his absence for eight months. Both Mr. Beehan and Mr. O'Connell are active members of St. Benedict's church committee, and last Sunday evening, after Vespers, the Rev. Fathers Gillan and Furlong, and a number of the congregation held a social meeting to bid goodbye to them. The opportunity was taken to present a fine silver tea service to Mr. Frank Buckley for his long and invaluable services to the committee as hon. secretary.

ARCHDIOCESE OF WELLINGTON.

(From our own correspondent.)

April 11

Rev. Father Dacha, of Sydney, has arrived in Wellington, and will be engaged among the Syrians of the city for some time.

The weekly meeting of the Literary and Debating Society of the Marist Brothers' Old Boys' Association was held at St. Patrick's Hall on Monday evening last, the Rev. Father Kimbell occupying the chair. The evening was devoted to a discussion on the Federated Catholic Societies' new magazine.

The attendance at the Newtown convent school is close on 300 at the present time, and the accommodation is totally inadequate for such a large number of children. It has been decided to build a new school on the same grounds, and the present building will then be used as a church. The contract for the erection of the new school has been let to Messrs. Campbell and Bourke for £676.

The great Easter carnival, 'Britannia's Call to Arms' will be opened by Sir Joseph Ward at three o'clock on Easter Monday. The drilshed, where the festival is to be held, will be completely transformed. The decorations are on a very extensive scale, and the

stalls will be well supplied with all kinds of works of art. Signor Borzoni and his 250 performers have everything in readiness for the grand spectacular display which is being looked forward to with a great amount of interest. Given fine weather crowded houses are assured every evening.

At the Church of the Sacred Heart on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday evenings of Holy Week, the office of Tenebrae was sung by the clergy, assisted by the Marist Brothers, Messrs. Loughnan and McManaway, the Miserere, Benedictus, etc., being harmonised by the choir. On Thursday morning High Mass was celebrated by his Grace the Archbishop, the Very Rev. Father Lewis being deacon and Rev. Father Moloney sub-deacon. Ven. Archdeacon Devoy acted as assistant-priest, and Rev. Father Holley master of ceremonies. In the evening a sermon on the Blessed Eucharist was preached by the Very Rev. Father Lewis. On Good Friday morning his Grace the Archbishop was the celebrant of the Mass of the Presanctified, with the Very Rev. Father Lewis deacon, and the Rev. Father Kimbell sub-deacon. In the afternoon the Stations of the Cross were said, and in the evening Tenebrae was repeated, a sermon on the Passion being preached by the Rev. Father Holley. On Saturday Mass was celebrated at eight o'clock when the blessing of the Paschal Candle, etc., took place.

At St. Joseph's Church on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday evenings devotions were held, sermons suitable to the occasion being preached by Rev. Father McNamara, the Very Rev. Father Keogh and Ven. Archdeacon Devoy respectively. Solemn High Mass was celebrated on Maunday Thursday at 7.30 by the Very Rev. Father Keogh, Father Moloney being deacon, and Father Hills sub-deacon. After Mass a procession took place to the Altar of Repose. On Good Friday morning the Mass of the Presanctified was celebrated at nine o'clock, Very Rev. Father Keogh was celebrant, Rev. Father McNamara deacon, and Rev. Father Moloney sub-deacon. The Passion was sung by Rev. Fathers Ainsworth, Moloney, and Hills. Mr. Timmings acted as master of ceremonies throughout the services. The Mass on Holy Saturday was celebrated at St. Mary of the Angels.

The decorations on the Altar of Repose at the Church of the Sacred Heart and St. Joseph's reflected great credit on the ladies responsible for the work.

Southland News Notes

(From our own correspondent.)

Despite various protests, military sports were held at Winton on Good Friday. As a further mark of disapproval, a large number of people absented themselves from the gathering.

Sir J. G. Ward informs me that the recent celebrations on 'the other side' in honor of Ireland's patron saint eclipsed his utmost expectations. On the festival day the 'little bits of green' were visible everywhere, and people of all nationalities joined in the festivities that commemorate Ireland's best gift in the present and her brightest glory in the past.

I believe that the Invercargill Irish Dramatic Club intend staging one of their dramas at an early date. These performances have gained a prominence to which they are justly entitled, and members of the club are to be greatly complimented on their untiring zeal which is for a laudable end, viz., the purchase of a new church organ.

It is with regret that I have to record the death of Mrs. O'Brien, wife of Mr. M. O'Brien, J.P., Winton. Deceased lady was the eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. P. Deegan, of Dipton, and a general favorite with all who knew her. Messages of condolence were received from all quarters, including two telegrams from Sir J. G. Ward, and the number of wreaths was exceptionally large. The funeral was the largest that has been at Winton for some time, and the impressive obsequies were performed by the Rev. Father O'Neill.—R.I.P.

Another of the fastly-diminishing band of pioneers has just passed away in the person of Mrs. John McDonald, of Hokonui. The deceased was widely and favorably known throughout the district; her genial and kindly hospitality was especially worthy of note. A representative concourse of mourners followed the remains to their last resting place, the Rev. Father O'Neill performing the rites of the Church.—R.I.P.

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Yours faithfully,

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A trial of Hand Cream Separators, lasting nearly a year, and conducted under the auspices of the Swedish Government Institute at Alnarp, has been recently concluded, 35 Separators having taken part, with results as undernoted.

At the 19th General Meeting of the Swedish Agricultural Association held at Gefle this year, the Prizes awarded for Separators were based on the trials conducted at the Government Agricultural Institute at Alnarp, as above mentioned, when the

HIGHEST PRIZE OF HONOR (GOLD MEDAL)

Was awarded to **ALPHA-LAVALS** only.

Silver and Bronze Medals were awarded to inferior Machines.

At the Hand Separator Trials held at Christiana (Norway), Buda-Pesth (Hungary), Warsaw (Russian Poland), and Alnarp (Sweden), during the present year, the **Alpha-Laval Separators** were alone awarded **Highest Score.**

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Irish News

ANTRIM.—The Tourist Traffic

It is reported in Belfast that the Midland Railway Company will place a very extensive order with the Steel Company of Scotland for rails, etc., for a new cable tramway from Larne to Glenarm, a distance of 13 miles, in order to develop the tourist traffic along the County Antrim coast road between Larne, Cushendall, Ballycastle, Giant's Causeway, and Portrush. This, it is added, is one of the first results of the purchase by the Midland Company of the Belfast and Northern Counties system. Other schemes of a similar character are in contemplation, and it is more than probable that eventually the entire distance will be covered with electric railway.

The Linen Trade

The decline of the linen trade has been so much the subject of serious concern in Belfast manufacturing circles that active steps are about to be taken with a view to bringing the Ulster staple textile into more general use. Damasks and table linens generally hold their own. It is, however, hoped that the making of linen fabrics for ladies' costumes may receive an impetus, and with a view to this a great fancy ball is to be given shortly. All the costumes worn are to be of linen, and the various business houses are displaying goods suitable for the purpose. The function is to be called the Linen Ball, and will be on the lines of the Calico Balls held in England during the last century to stimulate the use of Manchester prints after a depression in that trade.

Golden Jubilee Celebration

The venerable pastor of Ballymacarret, Very Rev. John Macaulay, was a few weeks ago the recipient of a unique demonstration of their affection, appreciation, and esteem from his colleagues in the distinguished priesthood of Down and Connor. The graceful compliment paid to Father Macaulay marks the golden jubilee of his ordination. For 50 years he has been laboring in the exalted and holy office of the priesthood, and fulfilling with all fervor the sacred and responsible duties appertaining thereto. This admirable address from his colleagues in the priesthood sums up in brief, telling sentences the life work of the grand old 'soggarth aroon'—a noble type of the Irish priest of the past and the present. Fifty years Father Macaulay has spent in zealous labors in various parts of the diocese—in Belfast, Glenavy, Kircubbin, Loughgiel, and Ballymacarret.

CLARE.—Mansion Destroyed

Tyredagh House, near Tulla, once the residence of the Gore family, but lately in the occupation of Mr. Martin Corry, Doonane, Tulla, was burned to the ground towards the end of February. Most of the furniture in the lower floors was saved, but in a more or less damaged condition. Mr. Corry, jun., who was seriously ill in bed, was removed with some difficulty. The house was completely gutted, and only the bare walls remain.

DUBLIN.—Discovery of Oil

Great interest has been aroused in Dublin by the discovery of what seems to be an oil-well. Close to the city there appears to be a steady flow of an oily liquid to the surface of the ground, and steps have been taken to test the commercial value of the produce, with a view to arranging for the development of an oil industry. Samples of the oil have been sent to London for expert test, and a most hopeful feeling prevails that a new Irish industry has been discovered. Anyone familiar with the country districts of Ireland is aware that in the roadside streams of trickling water often presents an oily appearance, and the Dublin discovery has led to the expression of opinion by scientists of standing, that Ireland gives a good deal of signs of being an oil-producing country. If this new find should prove real and extensive to any degree, it cannot fail to yield considerable profit, because America, which is the great oil-producing country, just now has a consumption that is practically equal to its own product.

Grievances

At a meeting of the Post Office employees in Dublin, the Lord Mayor presiding, resolutions were adopted 'protesting against the manner in which the claims of Irish postal officials are set aside by the constant appointment of officials from Scotland and England to vacant Postmasterships in Ireland,' and demanding, in conjunction with their brother officials throughout Great Britain and Ireland, a Parliamentary committee of Inquiry into the cause of discontent which pervaded the service.

GALWAY.—Proposed Terminal Port

The question of utilising the natural advantages of Galway as a terminal port for transatlantic shipping was again urged by a deputation which waited on the High Commissioner for Canada (Lord Strathcona) in London towards the end of February. A deputation, including all sorts of Galway men without distinction of politics—Mr. T. P. O'Connor, Mr. William O'Malley, M.P., and Colonel Nolan, M.P., joined such Unionists as the Hon. G. Morris and Lord Stratheden, in pointing out to the Canadian Commissioner the advantages which Galway can boast as a terminal port. It is 369 miles nearer to Halifax than Liverpool, and 399 miles nearer to New York; to Boston it is nearer by 430 miles, and to Quebec, 394 miles than is the Mersey landing-stage.

Then, in the matter of shelter and depth, it also boasts singular advantages. Two hours rail (express train) connects Galway with Dublin, and a few hours more would connect Dublin with Holyhead and Crewe. The Commissioner received the deputation with a good deal of sympathy, and promised to place these views before his Government. In connection with the suggestion of the deputation it is interesting to recall the fact that some 40 years ago a line of mail packets ran from Galway to Boston and New York. The fleet consisted of five steamers, but the service, which was subsidised, was abandoned in 1863. Galway people still declare that the service never got a fair trial. The boats were certainly unfortunate. One ran on a rock, another took fire, and none of them kept time. But one steamer did perform the feat of arriving in America two days before the Great Eastern, which started level with it from Liverpool.

KILDARE.—The Lord Lieutenant Sympathetic

In reply to a deputation from the Kildare County Council in favor of legislation for the holding of the International Automobile Race in the Midland Counties of Ireland, his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant made a most sympathetic, practical, and interesting speech. He practically pledged the Government that should any difficulty be experienced, which he did not anticipate, of securing the required legislation by a private member's Bill, it would be made a Government measure, and so relieved from the veto of the blocker. To this end he urged that the unanimous feeling in favor of the race in the district where it is proposed to be run should be embodied in resolution and submitted to Mr. Wyndham.

MONAGHAN.—A Windfall

Mr. William Hawe, farmer, Ballybay, County Monaghan, has received the welcome intelligence that he is the sole heir-at-law to the late Mr. John Hawe, Mash-onaland, Southern Rhodesia, whose estate is valued at over £50,000. The intimation, which is genuine, was made to Mr. Hawe, who resides at Confinlough, a small village near the town of Ballybay, by Mr. Lucas Dickson Gray, J.P., Monaghan, who was requested by the South African Courts to make the necessary inquiries.

WEXFORD.—A Successful Student

A Dublin exchange directs attention to the successful scholastic career of a member of a distinguished Wexford family. Miss Mary K. Ryan is the second daughter of Mr. John Ryan, Timcoole House, Taghmon, and began her literary career at Loreto Abbey, Gorey, where she passed through the ordinary course with very creditable success. She matriculated in '98, in Loreto College, Stephen's Green, obtaining honors in English and French. The following year she did First Arts, securing first place in English and honors in French. In 1900 she was a candidate for Second Arts, and obtained high honors in English and French. Since then she has studied abroad for the B.A. degree, which she has just taken with first class honors, and a first class exhibition in Modern Literature, a brilliant finale to a very successful educational career. Miss Ryan has just been enjoying a few well-earned holidays at the ancestral home of the Ryan family, Timcoole House, Taghmon, and has now proceeded to Cambridge to compete for further distinctions. Her sister, Miss Josephine Ryan, B.A., gained high honors during her educational course, both in Dublin and Germany; and another sister, Miss Minnie Ryan, although very young, has already carried off some intermediate exhibitions, and will, in due course, secure the B.A. degree.

GENERAL

Lenten Pastorals

In his Lenten Pastoral Cardinal Logue touches upon the securing of religious education in elementary schools, commends the extension of the Anti-Treating League, gives a word of warning against the betting evil, and exhorts his flock to the proper observance of the Lord's Day. His Eminence concludes by reprehending the holding of political meetings on Sundays at the church doors. Archbishop Walsh reproves attendance at dancing clubs, warns his flock against gambling, condemns wakes, immodest representations in public places, the reading of infidel books and poetry, and, finally, the vending of irreligious publications or pictures of a demoralising tendency. The Bishop of Derry deals with intemperance and the dangers of infidelity. The Bishop of Cloyne touches on the land question, as does also the Bishop of Ross and the Bishop of Raphoe, who speaks out strongly on the drink evil. The Bishop of Down and Connor treats of education. The Bishop of Clogher and the Bishop of Dromore and the Archbishop of Cashel commend temperance, while the Bishop of Limerick contrasts the results of the Catholic and Protestant systems as shown in the solidarity of the Catholic Church, and the ever-increasing divisions of Protestantism.

Irish Poverty

A correspondent of the 'Manchester Guardian' sends that paper what it describes as a diagram of Irish poverty, compiled from the latest report of the Irish Registrar-General. The proportion of indoor to outdoor paupers, the correspondent points out, is much higher than in England and Wales, the numbers being 734 indoor to 1000 outdoor in Ireland, and 388 indoor to 1000 outdoor in England and Wales. The number of persons in receipt of relief varies much more from year to year in Ireland than in England, but there has been no downward tendency, it appears, in the amount of either indoor or outdoor pauperism during the period. The combined rate has averaged 22.3 per 1000 of the population

in Ireland, and 22.8 in England and Wales. The most interesting feature of the figures, however, is the connection between the prices of certain articles of food and the number of persons receiving parish relief. This is the point which the very interesting diagram of the 'Guardian's' correspondent illustrates; and the inference from it is, apparently, that there is a large class of people in Ireland so poverty-stricken that they can only struggle on when bread and oatmeal are fairly cheap; if the price of these articles rise the parish has to come to their relief. They are, however, unaffected by changes in the price of meat, presumably because they are too poor to buy it, or at least it forms a negligible item in their expenditure.

The Defence Fund

Two thousand pounds more (says the 'Freeman's Journal') have come for the Defence Fund from America. This, as Mr. T. B. Fitzpatrick, the secretary of the United Irish League of America, points out in his admirable letter to the trustees of the Fund, brings the amount already subscribed up to £6000, with a confident promise of further subscriptions in the near future. The letter that covers the magnificent subscription is full of confidence and encouragement. The organisation is spreading and growing strong, winning new adherents even from those who were at first disposed to stand aloof. Mr. Devlin's efforts and success have unstinted praise, and there is very fervid appreciation of 'the magnificent support which has been rendered to the movement by the hierarchy and clergy of America.' There is a wonderful recognition on the other side of the Atlantic of the progress, success, and the necessities of the movement at home. There is a hearty congratulation on the defeat and the withdrawal of coercion. But there is, at the same time, a full appreciation of the absolute necessity for maintaining a vigilant and powerful organisation. The example of our friends in America might well be taken to heart by Nationalists at home.

Mr. Dillon's Health

General regret has been expressed in Ireland at the fact that Mr. John Dillon's health is still far from being what his many friends would wish it to be, and consequently he has been ordered by his doctor to go to a warm climate immediately, and take two months' absolute rest from work. After attending Sir Charles Gavan Duffy's funeral he was to leave for Egypt.

Transit Facilities

In the House of Commons Mr. Wyndham stated that Ireland's equivalent to the grant voted to England under the Education Act would be, according to a population basis, £185,000. Part of this sum would be devoted to meeting the losses incurred in the flotation of the 2½ per cent. stock to provide money for the purchase of land. The bulk of the remainder would be used to promote economic developments. He added that Lord Iveagh and Sir W. J. Pirrie (head of the shipbuilding firm of Harland and Wolff) were prepared, under the happier circumstances now prevailing, to provide transit facilities in certain test districts, and that if the result proved satisfactory the system would be extended all over Ireland. Since then Lord Iveagh and the Right Hon. Sir William Pirrie, P.C., have announced that they are prepared to advance to a company formed for the purpose of providing transit facilities for goods and produce in certain test districts in Ireland the sum of £500,000, to be expended on the establishment of central depots for the purpose of storing produce. Direct motor cars and other means of transport will be utilised to find markets for the produce. It is intended to devote the entire profits to the development of Ireland.

Those of our readers in need of the articles specified would do well to peruse the following lines. The best value is promised. Particular attention is drawn to the first-class stock of numerous sets of stations of the cross (size 17 x 13)—per set 7s 6d, posted 8s; large assortment of nickel statues in different styles and sizes, from 6s to 15s; marble fountains with brass crucifix attached, beautifully finished, from 1s to 3s 6d; medals (Sacred Heart and Blessed Virgin) at all prices; crosses in mother of pearl and gold from 2s to 15s; others 6d to 1s, crucifixes (wall and standing) 1s to 5s; framed religious (photo) pictures on imitation marble, all sizes, 2s to 4s; ordinary, 6d to 2s; unframed pictures, 1d to 1s; large-sized pictures of St. Patrick, 1s; others, 6d to 1s; plated nickel (bronze-colored) glass stands, different shapes and sizes, 6s to 15s; worked silk pictures of Our Lord, etc., encased in oval-shaped glass frames, 1s to 3s 6d; scapulars, etc. Where not specified all articles post free. Orders promptly executed and carefully packed. Note the address—H. Koorcy, Fancy Goods Depot, Victoria Avenue, Wanganui.—***

PHYSICIANS AGREE that every disease with which suffering humanity is afflicted is certainly due to the neglect of some trivial trouble, which could have been easily cured if a remedy had been applied in time. Most complaints make their early appearance in the shape of Affections of the Throat and Lungs, and what is required in the initial stage is a preparation that will arrest the development of serious trouble. TUSSICURA has proved its efficacy in this respect in thousands of cases throughout the length and breadth of the Colony, and for this reason its reputation is widespread and daily increasing. Price, 2s 6d per bottle. Obtainable from all Chemists and Storekeepers.—***

People We Hear About

London Catholics, headed by the Editor of 'Punch,' are moving to have published a centenary edition of Cardinal Wiseman's voluminous works. Sir F. Burnand, writing in support of the scheme, admits that some of the volumes, especially on scientific subjects, may be considered out of date, but he is anxious to see a careful if not complete edition, to include the six volumes of essays.

A Paris message states that on Saturday, February 21, Miss Maud Gonne, who was, a few days before, received into the Catholic Church, was married to Major McBride, one of the officers of the Irish Brigade on the Boer side in the South African war. The ceremony took place in the Chapel of St. Honore d'Eylan. There were only about 20 persons present—relations of the bride and bridegroom, witnesses, and a few friends. The place and hour fixed for the marriage were kept secret.

General Sir William Butler, who triumphantly completed his rehabilitation by the evidence which he gave before the War Commission the other day, went out to Africa in November, 1898, to take up duty as General Officer Commanding. During Sir Alfred Milner's absence on leave in December, 1898, and until the middle of February, he also acted as High Commissioner and Governor of Cape Colony. Because he foresaw the grave nature of the struggle then impending, and warned the Government, he was encouraged to resign his command, and was broadly accused, by Lord Heneage, among others, of something between incompetence, cowardice, and treason. Events tragically justified his forebodings, and the Government made some amends for the distrust with which his warnings were regarded by giving him the command of the Western District. Sir William is the husband of Lady Butler, the painter of the 'Roll Call,' and is, of course, a Catholic.

The Abbe Perosi, the young priest-composer whose new opera 'Leo' was to be performed at the Vatican in connection with the close of the Pope's jubilee, is one of the popular figures in Rome, where he lives in a modest apartment in the Palazzo Gabrielli. But, though visitors flock to see him, Perosi is the simplest and most unassuming of men, to whom, as he has confessed, no pleasure is so great as to go to his little house in Tuscany, 'and there, among the trees, the sun, and the flowers, gain inspiration and take care of my garden.' The story is told to the traveller in Sicily how once a stranger entered a cathedral and began examining the organ, which he begged to be allowed to try. It was a fine organ, which not even the organist understood, and when, with some reluctance the organist allowed the stranger to play, the cathedral was filled with sounds that its walls had never heard before. As the stranger played, pulling out stops never before combined, and working slowly up to the full organ, the cathedral filled, and it was not until a vast congregation had wondered at his gift that the stranger told his name. He was Dom Lorenzo Perosi.

The Hon. Charles Dormer, R.N., Commander of H.M.S. Victory, who was married recently in London to Miss Mary Clifford, is the brother of Lord Dormer, who succeeded his uncle in the title. Their father was the late Lieutenant-General Sir James Dormer, who was killed by a tiger while Commander-in-Chief in Madras. Their grandmother was a daughter of Sir Henry J. Tichborne, so they are cousins of the baronet whose predecessor's disappearance at sea led to the famous trials. The Dormers are a very old Catholic family, and have been associated with Buckinghamshire and Warwickshire since the time of Henry VIII., and in 1616 Sir Robert of that name was ennobled by James I. Lord Dormer's uncle, the late peer, who died in December, 1900, served in the Crimea. He was three times married, but his only son died in infancy. It was of his ancestor, the second baron, that Pepys relates that he described timber as 'an excrescence growing upon the face of the earth for the purposes of enabling a gentleman to pay his debts.'

Hon. John P. Mitchell, the son of the Irish patriot and comrade of Sir Charles Gavan Duffy in the '48 movement, who is mentioned as one of the prominent speakers at the recent Irish meeting at Orange, New Jersey, and which was addressed by Mr. Jos. Devlin, recalls American memoirs of his father while a resident of the United States. After John Mitchell's escape from Van Dieman's Land, in the July of 1853, he landed in San Francisco on the following 12th of October. Proceeding to New York, he published in the following spring his well-known 'Jail Journal.' While here he edited his paper, 'The Citizen,' which, after a year or so, failed, owing, it is said, to the strong independence of its editor on questions then of weighty import to the nation. During, and previous to, the Civil War of 1861-65 he resided in San Francisco. The genius of Calhoun and other opponents of Southern States' rights influenced him in throwing in his lot with the Confederate States. In this he may be said to be joined by many noble-minded men, even from the North, who failed to see eye-to-eye on the negro question with Lincoln and his friends. After the war he again produced in New York his 'Irish Citizen,' which he conducted until his election for Tipperary, in 1874, recalled him home, only to die.

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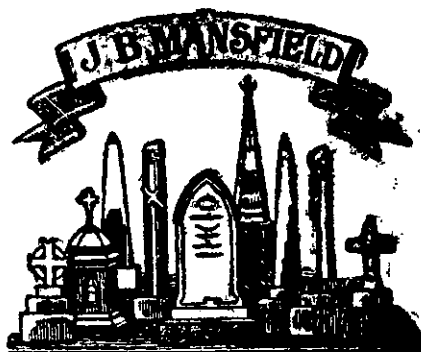
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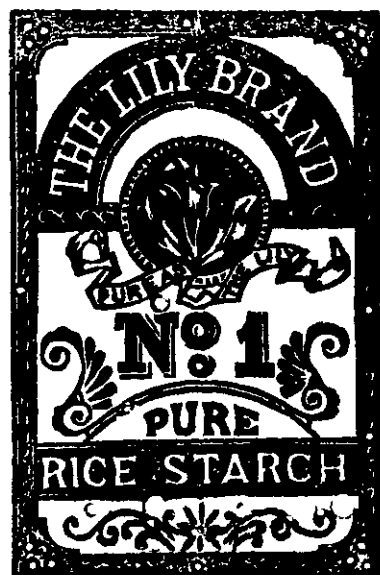
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Frozen meat.—Sheep unchanged. Lambs: Canterbury light, 5 9-16d, heavy 5½d; Dunedin and Southland, 5½d; North Island, 5½d. New Zealand beef (nominal): Fores, 3½d; hinds, 4½d. River Plate beef: Fores, 3½d; hinds, 4½d.

SOUTHLAND PRODUCE MARKET.

Invercargill prices current:—Wholesale—Butter (farm), 8d; butter (factory, bulk, 11d; pats, 11½d cash, 11½d booked. Eggs, 1s 3d per dozen. Cheese, factory, 6½d. Hams, 9d. Potatoes, £3 per ton (bags weighed in). Barley, 2s to 2s 6d. Chaff, £5. Flour, £10 15s to £11 15s. Oatmeal, £11 10s to £12. Bran, £4 10s. Pollard, £6 10s. Retail—Fresh Butter, 10d. Butter (factory), pats, 1s 1½d; bulk, 1s. Eggs, 1s 6d. per dozen. Cheese, 8d. Bacon, 11d. Hams, 10d. Potatoes, 4s 6d per cwt. Flour, 200lb, 23s 6d; 50lb, 6s 6d. Oatmeal, 50lb, 7s; 25lb, 3s 6d. Pollard, 10s 9d per bag. Bran 5s 6d. Chaff, 3s.

Mr. F. Meenan, King street, Dunedin reports:—Wholesale prices only.—Oats: Milling, 1s 9d to 1s 10d; feed, 1s 7d. Wheat: Milling, 4s 2d to 4s 4d; fowls' wheat, 3s 6d to 4s 1d. Potatoes: Derwents, £3 10s; kidneys, £2 10s to £3. Chaff: Old, £2 10s to £3 5s; new, £3 5s to £3 15s. Straw: Pressed wheat, 30s; oatens, 35s; loose, £2. Flour: Sacks, £10; 50lb, £10 15s; 25lb, £11. Oatmeal, 25lb, £11. Bran, £4 10s. Pollard, £5 10s. Butter: Dairy, 8d to 10d; factory, 11d. Cheese, Old, 6½d; new, 5½d. Eggs, 1s 6d. Onions: Melbourne, £5 10s; Christchurch, £4 15s.

Messrs. Donald Reid and Co. report as follows:—We held our weekly auction sale of grain and produce at our stores on Monday, when we submitted a moderate catalogue to a good attendance of buyers, and under fair competition the bulk of the catalogue was cleared at satisfactory prices.

Oats.—During the past week practically no business has been passing, and shippers show little inclination to purchase at present quotations, in view of the lower prices ruling at northern ports. Very few oats have come to hand this week, and quotations remain practically unchanged. We quote: Prime milling, 1s 9d to 1s 9½d; good to best feed, 1s 7d to 1s 8d; inferior and medium, 1s 5d to 1s 6½d per bushel (sacks extra).

Wheat.—There is little inquiry for prime quality. Owing to uncertainty as to the price of flour, millers are not inclined to operate to any great extent. Fowl wheat, however, is still scarce, and meets with ready sale at late quotations. We quote: Prime milling, 4s 2d to 4s 4d; medium, 4s to 4s 1d; whole fowl wheat, 3s 11d to 4s; broken and damaged, 3s 3d to 3s 10d per bushel (sacks extra).

Potatoes.—Supplies continue to come forward steadily, and are readily sold at prices on a par with late quotations. We quote: Best Derwents, £3 5s to £3 10s; medium to good, £3 to £3 2s 6d; other sorts, £2 15s to £3 per ton (bags in).

Chaff.—Heavier consignments have come forward during the past few days, and prices have receded 5s to 7s 6d per ton in consequence. Very little old chaff is now on hand, but is rather slow of sale, preference being given to prime bright new chaff. We quote: Prime oatens sheaf, £3 5s to £3 7s 6d; medium, £2 15s to £3 2s 6d; inferior and straw chaff, £2 10s to £2 12s 6d per ton (bags extra).

WOOL.

London, April 9.—The Bradford wool market is strong, and there is a better demand in most directions. Sixties, 24½d.

LIVE STOCK.

ADDINGTON STOCK MARKET.

There was a full yarding at Addington Market—20,000 sheep, 550 cattle, and 400 pigs being penned. There was a good attendance of buyers, but the sale was not finished till after dark, and the two last pens of sheep suffered in consequence.

Fat Cattle.—194 head yarded, principally light heifers and cows. There was a good demand at late rates. Steers fetched £6 17s 6d to £9 10s; heifers, £5 15s to £8 15s; cows, £5 5s to £9 7s 6d; beef, 24s to 27s per 100lb.

Fat Sheep.—The yarding included a good proportion of first-quality wethers and ewes. Prime wethers were keenly competed for, and sold readily at recent rates; but export buyers neglected ewes, and values eased in consequence. Towards the close of the sale the attendance of buyers was small, and as a result a number of good lines were passed unsold. The range of prices was: Best freezing wethers, 17s to 18s 6d; heavy wethers, 19s 11d; light wethers, 14s to 16s 6d; maiden ewes, 14s

5d to 16s 10d; freezing ewes, 11s to 14s 6d; butchers' ewes, 9s 6d to 16s 7d; extra heavy, to 19s 6d.

Fat Lambs.—The 2839 entered included a large proportion of hardly prime, and for these the sale was dragging. For all fit for freezing there was good competition, though prices were a shade easier than at last week's sale. Freezers fetched 12s 6d to 14s 10d; tegs, to 15s 7d; butchers', 11s to 13s 6d.

Pigs.—A good entry, which included a number of first-class quality baconers and porkers. Competition was not particularly keen, and prices all round were inclined to be irregular. Choppers brought up to £4 7s 6d; baconers, from 46s to 68s—equal to from 5d to 5½d per lb; porkers, from 28s to 45s—equal to 5½d to 6d per lb. Stores were hard to sell, prices ranging from 18s to 30s, and for weaners from 6s to 10s.

How Thermometers are Made

The making of a thermometer may be either a delicate scientific operation or one of the simplest tasks of the skilled mechanic, according to the sort of thermometer made (says the London 'Express'). With the extremely sensitive and minutely accurate instruments designed for scientific uses great care is taken, and they are kept in stock for months, sometimes years, to be compared with instruments that are known to be trustworthy. But so much time cannot be spent over the comparatively cheap thermometers in common use, and these are made rapidly, though always carefully.

Mercury is generally used for scientific instruments, but most makers prefer alcohol, because it is cheaper. The alcohol is colored red with aniline dye, which does not fade. The thermometer maker buys his glass tubes in long strips from the glass factories. The glassblower on the premises cuts these tubes to the proper lengths, and with his gas-jet and blow-pipe makes the bulb on the lower end. The bulbs are then filled with colored alcohol, and the tubes stand for 24 hours. On the following day another workman holds each bulb in turn over a gas-jet until the colored fluid, by its expansion, entirely fills the tube. It then goes back into the hands of the glassblower. He closes the upper end and turns the tip backward to make a little glass hook which will help keep the tube in place in the frame.

The tubes rest until some hundreds of them, perhaps thousands, are ready. Then the process of gauging begins. There are no marks on the tube, and the first guide mark to be made is the freezing point, 32 degrees Fahrenheit. This is found by plunging the bulb into melting snow. No other thermometer is needed for a guide, for melting snow invariably gives the exact freezing point. This is an unailing test for any thermometer when accuracy may be suspected. But melting snow is not always to be had, and a little machine resembling a sausage grinder is brought into use. This machine shaves a block of ice into particles, which answer the purpose as well as snow. When the bulbs have been long enough in the melting snow, a workman takes them one by one from their bath, seizing each so that his thumbnail marks the exact spot to which the fluid has fallen. Here he makes a scarcely perceptible mark upon the glass with a fine file, and goes on to the next.

The tubes, with the freezing point marked on each, now go into the hands of another workman, who plunges the bulb into a vessel filled with water, kept constantly at 64 degrees. Another tiny file scratch is put at 64 degrees.

Then a third workman plunges the bulbs into another vessel of water, kept constantly at 96 degrees. This is marked like the others, and the tube is now supplied with these guide marks, each 32 degrees from the next.

With its individuality thus established, the tube goes into the hands of a marker, who fits its bulb and hook into the frame it is to occupy and makes slight scratches on the frame corresponding to the 32 degrees, 64 degrees, and 96 degrees marks on the tube.

The frame, whether it be wood, tin, or brass goes to the gauging-room, where it is laid upon a steeply-sloping table, marked exactly in the position for a thermometer of that size.

A long, straight bar of wood or metal extends diagonally across the table from the lower right hand corner to the upper left hand corner. On the right this rests upon a pivot, and on the left it rests in a ratchet, which lets it ascend or descend only one notch at a time. Each notch marks the exact distance of two degrees.

PHYSICIANS AGREE that every disease with which suffering humanity is afflicted is certainly due to the neglect of some trivial trouble, which could have been easily cured if a remedy had been applied in time. Most complaints make their early appearance in the shape of Affections of the Throat and Lungs, and what is required in the initial stage is a preparation that will arrest the development of serious trouble. TUSSICURA has proved its efficacy in this respect in thousands of cases throughout the length and breadth of the Colony, and for this reason its reputation is widespread and daily increasing. Price, 2s 6d per bottle. Obtainable from all Chemists and Storekeepers.—***

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The Puritans and Art

Non-Catholic writers like Matthew Arnold (says the 'Ave Maria') have scored the Puritans for their warfare against art. The vandalism of these fanatics is almost beyond belief. They destroyed the first National Gallery of England, which contained nine Raphaels, eleven Correggios, and twenty-eight Titians; and only the influence of honest John Selden prevented a Puritan Parliament from spoiling the two great universities, Oxford and Cambridge. But the Protestants of an earlier day had just as little love of beauty as the Puritans. Art and literature suffered more than will ever be known in the reign of Edward VI. The notion of justification by faith alone caused the demolition of many exquisite creations and the defacement of what could not easily be destroyed.

The celebration of the tercentenary of the Bodleian Library at Oxford is the occasion of an interesting article by Mr. J. B. Firth in the current 'Fortnightly Review.' He tells how the pre-Reformation library was destroyed, and of the industry and good fortune of Sir Thomas Bodley in founding another:—

Edward VI., in the zeal of his Protestantism, published an edict for 'the calling out of all superstitious books, as missals, legends, and the like'; and commissioners were appointed to visit the universities for that purpose. In due course they came to Oxford. There they worked havoc. They carried out their instructions so literally that they destroyed every illuminated missal or manuscript on which they laid hands. It is probable indeed that they condemned volumes at a hazard without regard for their contents, and that the mere presence of a rubricated initial was held to be sufficient evidence that a manuscript was Papistical and idolatrous. Possibly, too, in the confusion caused by such a visitation, books were freely looted and stolen; but the fact remains that after they had completed their visitation the library stood empty. The dispersal and destruction of the library at Oxford were due principally to religious bigotry.

The Early German Bibles

Monsignor John S. Vaughan, in his very interesting and valuable contribution, 'Concerning the Holy Bible' (says a correspondent of the 'Catholic Times'), deals at considerable length with the editions of the Bible in German which were printed before Luther's time. He mentions that the Paulist Fathers of New York in their library possess a copy of Anton Konruger's splendid Bible in German, published in 1483. May I add that the Catholic University at Washington contains another copy of one of these early Bibles, printed prior to Luther's birth. It is exhibited in the Museum of Biblical Archaeology founded there by the Orientalist, Rev. Dr. Hyvernat. But may I further draw the attention of your readers interested on this subject to the copies of these early Bibles preserved much nearer home in our own British Museum? The British Museum Library contains very many copies of early Catholic vernaculars, including those in German. It has copies of eight different editions of Bibles printed in German and bearing dates previous to Luther's birth, and three more editions bearing dates before his losing the Catholic faith. There are also in that library two editions in Low German on the dialect about Cologne. Among these German Bibles the earliest is 'not later' than 1466. They also include a well-preserved copy of Anton Konruger's Bible of 1483. One or other of these early Bibles is usually on view in the cases illustrating early German printing, which are arranged in the King's Library gallery of the museum. A full list is published in the Catalogue of Printed Bibles sold in the Museum. A vast amount of information on these German Bibles may be found in Janssen's great work, 'The History of the German People at the close of the Middle Ages.'

You will find that the mere resolve not to be useless, and the honest desire to help other people, will, in the quickest and most delicate ways, also improve yourself.

Jesus Christ, our great model, suffered much for us; let us bear our afflictions cheerfully, seeing that through them we have the happiness of resembling Him.

We prefer soil which produces abundant harvests after we have cultivated it in preference to that which, though it have not thorns, yet yields but little fruit.

The whole faculties of man must be exerted in order to call forth noble energies; and he who is not earnestly sincere lives in but half his being, self-mutilated, self-paralysed.

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The Extra Charges are: Washing, £1 10s a year, and Medicine and Medical Attendance if required.

Students will provide their own wearing apparel, including the Bontane, as well as Surplice for assistance in Choir.

The College re-opened on Saturday, February 14th.

The Seminary is under the Patronage and Direction of the Archbishop and Bishops of New Zealand, and under the immediate personal supervision of the Right Rev. Bishop of Dunedin.

For further Particulars apply to the Rector, Holy Cross College, Mosgiel.

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Students are prepared for the N.Z. University Junior and Senior Civil Service, Medical Entrance, Solicitors' General Knowledge, Bank and all other Public Examinations.

Students not preparing for the learned Professions have the advantage of a Special Commercial Course, under efficient management, where they are taught all that will be of use in mercantile pursuits.

Special attention is also paid to the teaching of Physical Science, for which purpose the College possesses a large Laboratory and Demonstration Hall. Vocal Music, Elocution, Drawing, and all other branches of a Liberal Education receive due attention.

Physical culture is attended to by a competent Drill Instructor, who trains the students three times a week in Drill, Rifle Practice, and Gymnastics. A large and well-equipped Gymnasium is attached to the College.

The religious and moral training of the pupils is an object of special care, and particular attention is bestowed on the teaching of Christian Doctrine.

A well-appointed Infirmary attached to the College is under the charge of the Sisters of Compassion, from whom in case of illness all students receive the most tender and devoted care, and who at all times pay particular attention to the younger and more delicate pupils, who without such care would find the absence of home comforts very trying.

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THE RECTOR



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

LEO XIII. to the N.Z. TABLET.

THURSDAY, APRIL 16, 1903.

A RAMPANT EVIL



O the average man, the humor of 'Punch' is generally of the leaden-heeled order. But 'the London Charivari,' none the less, often holds the mirror up to nature, even where it does not alight upon a streak of the merry fancy that tickles the groundlings. Some time ago it pictured two little maidens fresh from school. They were in earnest conversation. 'I don't want to be married,' said one little demoiselle, 'and I don't want to be an old ma.d.' 'Then,' quoth the other, 'get married and be divorced.' That is just it. The prevalent social ideals of the hour are sure to leaven the budding mind and to find quaint, and sometimes unconsciously wise or witty, expression upon the babbling lips of childhood. It is bad enough, in all reason, to have the principles of moral decay at work in the grown tree. With us, the dry-rot begins its work in the lack of noble Christian ideals with which the human saplings in our State-school nurseries are permitted to grow up. From Monday morning till Friday afternoon we ding-dong into the youthful brain, directly or indirectly, the idea that 'the siller' is everything, that the be-all and the end-all of life is to 'get on'—to 'make a pile' it may be, in the not too distant by-and-by.

Our material national progress is gratifying to a degree. But we have had many a time and oft to point out the absurdity of supposing that the possession of a well-lined fob is everything. Beneath the roscate surface of the wealth of most of the foremost nations there lie evils that are preying upon the very vitals of society. They are, in vary-

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ing degrees, gnawing also at our own young and favored countries. We refer in particular to the spread of divorce. Nobody needs to be reminded that the family is the foundation of the State. And the increasing facilities for divorce are fast severing the bonds that hold the family together. Keen observers look with deep uneasiness at the drift of divorce legislation. It was last week made the subject of a grave and warning utterance by the Coadjutor-Archbishop of Sydney. A few years ago the eminent Protestant writer, Professor GOLDWIN SMITH, said of the increasing laxity of the American divorce laws:—

‘Of all the thunder-clouds, none is darker or more charged with ruin than this. The responsibility, so far as it is legislative, rests not only on those legislatures which have perilously relaxed the divorce law, but upon jurists who, carried away by the generous desire of emancipating the wife from the dominion of the husband, have broken up the legal and economical unity of a family. To preserve its integrity, the family needs a headship. The necessity may be unwelcome, but it seems to be the fiat of nature.’

The future of the State, the standard of conjugal morality, the family tie itself, depend virtually upon the incidents of marriage. Among these colonies, New South Wales has, since 1892, attained an evil notoriety for the ‘advanced’ character of its legislative tampering with the unity and indissolubility of the marriage bond. In 1898 New Zealand also began—and with woful results—experimenting along the lines of greater laxity.

In New Zealand, the divorces granted in each year advanced from 25 in 1893 to 46 in 1899. In that year the late Queen gave her assent to the Divorce Bill of 1898. In the following year (1900) the number of divorces granted soared at once to 85. Later returns are not before us, but they will, doubtless, merely serve as a further evidence in support of the common experience, that divorce increases in proportion to the facilities with which it is granted. In the United States some 75,000 husbands and wives are annually put asunder by courts. There, as in these countries, divorces are, of course, almost entirely limited to the non-Catholic population. It is difficult to realise the world of domestic unhappiness, the ruin of home-life, the disintegration of families, that those fearful figures imply. ‘The nation,’ said Cardinal GIBBONS in a recent memorable utterance, ‘is sick, and the malady is all the more dangerous because the patient is unconscious of the disease. There is a social scourge more blighting and destructive of family life than Mormonism. It is fearfully increasing the number of divorce-mills throughout the United States. These mills, like the mills of the gods, are surely but slowly grinding the domestic altars of the nation, and, as if the different States of the Union were not sufficiently accommodating in this respect, South Dakota has the unenviable distinction of granting divorce for the mere asking of it, on the sole condition of a brief sojourn within her borders.’ ‘Tandem polygamy’ is the name aptly given to the re-marriage of divorcees.

The fact is, we are plainly verging back, in divorce legislation, to pagan principles. The so-called ‘right’ of divorce was practically unlimited in pagan Rome. Men of even the type of MÆCENAS continually changed their wives. Women displayed almost equal alacrity in repudiating their husbands. The Catholic Church taught, and teaches, the unity, the sacramental character of marriage, and its indissolubility except by death. The Christian world knew no divorce till the great religious revolution of the sixteenth century. Laxity of ideas regarding the unity and permanency of the marriage bond came with the Reformation. LUTHER permitted PHILIP of Hesse to have two wives at the same time. And the English Reformation had its origin in the Pope’s stern refusal to permit HENRY VIII. to exchange a faithful but faded consort of forty three for the fresh charms of beauty still in its teens. There is, happily, a healthy minority in the Anglican and American Episcopalian Churches who hold firmly, with Catholics, the inviolability of the marriage bond. But of the bulk of the Protestant denominations it must be said, with regret, that they are apparently satisfied to accept the woful condition of things imposed by secularist legislators, with, perhaps, at best, an occasional word of mild and unrepresentative

disapproval. Writing on this identical theme in the ‘Boston S. H. Review,’ Dr. STARBUCK, a learned Protestant divine, says: ‘I do not mean, for I do not believe, that Protestantism, as a whole, inclines to simultaneous polygamy. To the successive polygamy of indeterminate and indeterminable divorce, it is only too sadly plain that it does incline. Nor, as we see, has it been able, in any age, to give an authoritative and controlling voice against simultaneous polygamy.’ The existing legalised system of divorce with re-marriage—to use the late Mr. GLADSTONE’S words—destroys the integrity of the family ‘root and branch.’ A remedy will be in distant sight when the non-Catholic creeds shall have purged the pagan leaven out of their teaching on the nature of the marriage bond. The ultimate remedy must ever be in a return to the old and well-tried Catholic principles. ‘The Roman Catholic Church,’ said the Protestant Bishop BURGESS, of Long Island, in a recent discourse, ‘has stood like a bulwark against divorce. It has stood for the inviolability of the marriage tie and the unity of the home. Because of that, it is in the world to-day one of the greatest forces for the progress of Christianity.’

Notes

A Speculation

Our readers will readily recall the hurricane of hot feeling that blew through New Zealand over the alleged ill-treatment of boys in the Stoke Industrial School, conducted at the time by the Marist Brothers. Fierce stress was laid upon the statement that some of the boys had been flogged—a form of punishment that had been abandoned several years before in the institute. At the Burnham State Industrial School, Christchurch, James Denny, a lad of weak body and intellect, committed suicide a few days ago. At the inquest on Tuesday last, the punishment book of the school was produced. It showed that the boy had been flogged no fewer than four times since January, 1902. We are just now busy speculating as to what particular variety of hysterics some of our so-called ‘liberal’ legislators would fall into if James Denny had been an inmate of a Catholic Industrial School.

Rabbits

There are unamiable failings which, in Pope’s phrase, ‘we first endure, then pity, then embrace.’ Rabbits in these countries appear to be evils of this kind. We hired Pasteur to show us a way to exterminate the pest; we have spent many millions sterling in poison and wire netting for their especial behoof; and now at length we have come to look upon the ‘varmint’ as one of our national assets. In the three years 1899, 1900, and 1901, New Zealand alone exported 16,209,200 frozen bunnies ‘in the skin.’ In addition to these, no fewer than 20,704,549 rabbit-skins were exported during the same period, representing a value of £179,853. The frozen rabbits exported in 1900 and 1901 brought over a quarter million sterling into the country. John Bull has a fine taste in the matter of rabbit, and the plump, green-fled New Zealand variety seems to ‘touch the right spot’ in him every time.

The Songs They Sang

Home papers to hand continue to publish sundry reminiscences, of very varied interest, regarding the late Sir Charles Gavan Duffy. Here is one:—

‘The late Sir Charles Gavan Duffy had many amusing experiences as a Minister of the Crown in Victoria. For instance, when, visiting a Swiss settlement in the Colony, he inspected the local school, and asked the teacher whether the children could sing. ‘Certainly,’ was the reply; whereupon, to his amazement, the Swiss youngsters started in chorus a well-known Hibernian ditty. “We’re Paddies evermore.”’

‘The tale,’ says the Edinburgh ‘Catholic Herald,’ ‘has a recent parallel in the experience of an Irish visitor to South Africa. Calling at one of the orphanages maintained by the Sisters of Nazareth, he was greeted with a school chorus, “Erin, my country.” I sung by the children—including, among others, some colored youngsters, from whom the “touch of the tar-brush” did not drive away the charity of the Sisters of Nazareth.’

RIDE “ANGLO SPECIAL” CYCLES.

A Hint to Policy-holders

Some of our readers who are holders of life-insurance policies may be interested in the following paragraph which we extract from the Philadelphia 'Catholic Standard.' It is a copy of a letter written to the manager of a life insurance company by a policy-holder, and runs as follows: 'I hold a policy in your company for 20,000 dollars, on which I have paid the yearly premiums. I have now to inform you that my physician advises me that I have a pronounced case of appendicitis, and his diagnosis is confirmed by a specialist whom I have consulted. I am told that the only hope of saving life is an operation, which, with hospital expenses, will cost 800 dollars, an amount that I have no means to pay. I am sensible that I owe it to you, who have so large a pecuniary interest in my life, to give you the option to pay the cost of this operation to save my life, that I may continue to pay you the yearly premiums on my policy (I believe that I am otherwise strong and healthy), or in the alternative to pay the 20,000 dollars to my beneficiary within a few weeks. I am quite willing to be examined by any physician, you may name and to have you select the operating surgeon. Immediate attention is, of course, imperative.'

Catholic Missionaries

Madame Lohman is a well-known Dutch Protestant writer, with strong rationalistic tendencies. She is also pretty outspoken in her opinions, as may be gathered from the following extract which the London 'Tablet' translates from one of a series of articles by her in the 'Amsterdamsche Courant' on a long and recently completed scientific expedition made by her in the East. Here is what she has to say concerning Catholic missionaries in the Orient:—

'It is impossible not to be filled with sincere respect at the sight of the immense benefits which are diffused by the Catholic religious Orders and missionaries. Catholic faith retains a power which very soon must win a final victory over Protestantism. I know that these assertions will draw down upon me the wrath of a large number of my fellow-countrymen, but I do not hesitate to repeat that modern Protestant Christianity must end by becoming an empty phrase. In both the East and West Indies, as well as in various parts of Europe, I have had opportunities of observing at close quarters the exemplary lives of the Catholic religious and missionaries, and the prodigies of charity of both the teaching and nursing Sisters. Many of our people, before visiting these countries, either through ignorance or human respect, used to insult Catholicism. But I have heard them confess with shame, on seeing the miracles of the Catholic Apostolate among the lepers and the despised negroes, that the heroism of Catholic charity surpasses all that can be imagined, that it is unique in the world and in history.'

Newspaper Sensations

The tendency to sensationalism is not so pronounced in the daily papers of Australia and New Zealand as in those of the United States. Daily journalism there is, as a rule, not so much a means of catering for legitimate information regarding current events, as of tickling the blase appetite of readers with highly seasoned accounts of common happenings and spasms and jumps of the thrilling and the sensational. Somebody has remarked that the secret of the success of the daily paper is the fact that everybody is interested in what everybody else is doing that is wrong. That is why long accounts of murders, suicides, and divorces form, on occasions, such a feature even in our relatively staid and respectable newspapers in these colonies. The effect of this class of sensationalism upon weak and morbid minds is so well known to the medical profession, and to legislators as well in some countries, that in most of the German States no newspaper is permitted by law to give more than the bare announcement of such happenings. A similar law would be a public benefit in Australia and New Zealand.

The rampant sensationalism of the more shrieky American daily paper reaches its culminating point in the newspaper detective-reporter and in the screaming headlines that announce the results of his work. 'Nowadays,' says 'Mr. Dooley,' 'larceny is discovered by a newspaper. The lead pipe is dug up in ye'er back yard by a rayporther who knew it was there because he helped ye bury it. A man knocks at ye'er dure airly wan mornin' an' ye answer in ye'er nighty. "In the name iv th' law, I arrest ye," says the man, seizin' ye by the throat. "Who are ye?" ye cry. "I'm a rayporther

f'r the Daily Sleuth," says he. "Photygrafter, do ye'er jooty!" Ye're hauled off in th' circylation wagon to th' newspaper office, where a confession is ready f'r ye to sign; ye're thried be a jury iv th' staff, sentenced be th' edithor-in-chief, an' at tin o'clock Friday the fatal thrap is sprung be th' fatal thrapper iv th' fam'ly journal.'

A project of legislation against newspaper sensationalism is at present before the State legislature in Minnesota. The Pittsburg 'Observer' has the following remarks upon the subject in a recent issue:

'The baleful sensationalism on which so large a portion of the secular daily press of this country thrives is threatened with a set-back in Minnesota. A member of the Senate of that State has announced his intention to introduce a Bill, under which a fine of 100 dollars will be imposed on any newspaper which publishes more than a bare announcement of any murder, suicide, manslaughter, or other felony. The only statement to be published of such events will be the mere mention of names, places, and dates. The details of the crime must be omitted. The statement must not be printed in type larger than the ordinary type of the paper, and must contain no headlines, sketches, or pictures.'

DIOCESE OF DUNEDIN

The Rev. Father Hogan left Dunedin on Monday, via Christchurch and Wellington, on his return journey to Dookie, Victoria.

The handsome stone church in course of construction at Clyde is fast approaching completion. It follows the same general lines as the church at Alexandra. A fine two-storey Convent of Mercy at Winton is also nearing completion.

The fine new church at Garston is almost completed. The building is roofed and lined, and the entire woodwork will be completed in about a week. Mr. Owen Kelly, of Gore, is the contractor, and the skilled and conscientious work which he has put into the sacred edifice has won the warm approval of the pastor (Rev. J. F. O'Donnell) and the Catholics of Garston. It is expected that the church will be opened about the middle of May.

The Hibernian Society scored a double success in Oamaru on Easter Monday by their annual sports and concert. The sports (ninth annual) took place in pleasant weather on the Show Grounds. The attendance was large, although the takings at the gates did not quite reach the amount received last year, which was the record year in that respect. An excellent programme was provided, and the North Otago Pipe Band furnished an added attraction to the proceedings. In the evening the annual concert was held in the Theatre Royal. There was a large and very appreciative audience, and the programme was one of high and exceptional merit. The following performers contributed the various items: Misses Rose Blaney, Marks, and D. Wilkinson, and Messrs. Farquhar Young, C. A. Jefferson, and J. Swan. The accompaniments were nicely played by Miss M. Duggan.

The solemn ceremonies of religious reception and profession took place in the chapel of the Dominican Convent, Dunedin, on Tuesday morning. His Lordship the Bishop was celebrant. He was assisted by Fathers Murphy and O'Malley, and there were also present the Rev. Fathers O'Donnell (Queenstown), M. Ryan, and P. O'Neill (Mosgiel), and Howard and H. W. Cleary. Miss Jane Hayes, of Cromwell (in religion, Sister Cuthbert) received the white veil, and the following young ladies made their religious profession: Miss Rita Prendergast, of Athy, Ireland (in religion, Sister M. Barbara), Miss Anne Hughes, of Invercargill (in religion, Sister M. Chanel), and Miss Kate Donnelly, of Ophir (in religion, Sister M. Perpetua). At the close of the ceremonies the community entertained the clergy and the relatives of the young Sisters to a choice dejeuner.

A very enjoyable Catholic entertainment was given in St. George's Hall, Milton, on Monday evening, when there was a fair attendance. The programme opened with a nicely played pianoforte duet by Misses Nellie and L. Scanlan. Miss Coleman and another young lady, whose name we have been unable to ascertain, sang a duet which was received with well-merited applause. Miss May Morrison also met with an excellent reception, her vocal items being encored by Mr. T. Hussey, a Dunedin visitor, was in splendid voice, was recalled several times for his vocal items. Other attractive features of the programme were a sailor's hornpipe and an Irish jig danced by Mr. Powley, who was also encored. Mr. J. A. Scott's vocal item was given in a finished manner. Mr. W. H. Haydon Jun., Dunedin, amused and mystified the audience with several conuring tricks, which were very cleverly performed. During the evening Mr. J. A. Scott thanked the performers, especially those who had come from a distance, for their services, and the audience for their attendance.

There were large congregations at all the Masses at St. Patrick's Basilica, South Dunedin, on Easter Sunday. The eleven o'clock Mass was celebrated by the Rev. Father Hogan (Dookie, Victoria), a sermon on the Resurrection being preached by the Rev. Father Coffey. The music was Weber's Mass in G, which was given in

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a praiseworthy manner by the choir under the baton of Mr. Eager, Miss G. Stokes being at the organ. The solos were taken by Misses M. Mahony and G. Creagh (sopranos), Mrs. Eager and Miss Freed (contraltos), Messrs. Applegarth and Gaffney (tenors), and Messrs. Matheson, Mee, and Bush (basses). As an offertory piece Mrs. Eager sang Mascagni's 'Ave Maria,' with orchestral accompaniment. The choir was ably assisted by an orchestra consisting of Mr. Stokes and Miss Robinson (violins), Mr. Amor (flute), Mr. Briggs (clarinet), Mr. Holland (cornet), Mr. Palmer (French horn), Mr. Rainsford (cello), and Mr. Dallas (double bass).

The various services at St. Joseph's Cathedral during Holy Week were attended by large congregations. The office of Tenebrae, at which his Lordship Bishop Verdon presided, was sung on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday evenings. The following clergy were also present:—Right Rev. Mgr. Mackay (Oamaru), Very Rev. Mgr. O'Leary (Lawrence), Very Rev. Dean Burke (Invercargill), Very Rev. Father O'Neill (Milton), Rev. Father Murphy (Adm. St. Joseph's Cathedral), Rev. Father Hogan (Dookie, Victoria), Rev. Father Coffey (South Dunedin), Rev. Father O'Dea (Ophir), Rev. Father Lynch (Palmerston South), Rev. Father Cleary, Rev. Fathers Delaney, M. Ryan, and P. O'Neill (Holy Cross College), Rev. Father Howard, and Rev. Father O'Malley. On Thursday morning Pontifical High Mass was celebrated by his Lordship the Bishop, Right Rev. Mgr. Mackay being assistant priest, Very Rev. Mgr. O'Leary, and Very Rev. Dean Burke, deacons at the throne; Rev. Father Howard deacon at the Mass, Rev. Father O'Malley sub-deacon; and Rev. Father O'Dea and Rev. Father M. Ryan deacons at the blessing of the holy oils. In the evening after Tenebrae the occasional sermon on the institution of the Blessed Sacrament—a very able and impressive discourse—was preached by the Rev. Father Coffey. The Altar of Repose was beautifully decorated, and numbers of devout worshippers visited the Cathedral during the day. His Lordship the Bishop was the celebrant of the Mass of the Presanctified on Friday morning, Rev. Father Lynch being assistant priest, Rev. Father Howard deacon, and Rev. Father O'Malley sub-deacon. The Passion was sung by Monsignor Mackay, Monsignor O'Leary, and Rev. Father Cleary. A very earnest and powerful sermon on the Passion was preached by Rev. Father O'Dea. The Rev. Father Murphy was master of ceremonies at all the Masses and services during the week. The students of the Provincial Seminary (Holy Cross College) assisted in the sanctuary on Friday morning.

At the early Masses at St. Joseph's Cathedral on Easter Sunday very large numbers approached the Holy Table. At eleven there was Solemn Pontifical High Mass of which his Lordship Bishop Verdon was celebrant, Rev. Father Cleary being assistant priest, Rev. Father Murphy deacon, Rev. Father Howard sub-deacon. As at the other Masses there was a very large congregation present. His Lordship the Bishop preached on the Resurrection. The choir, under the conductorship of Mr. Vallis, and assisted by an efficient orchestra gave a finished rendering of Gounod's 'Messe Solennelle.' The soloists were Miss Rose Blaney (soprano), Mr. Shepherd (tenor), and Mr. T. Hussey (bass). At the offertory Miss Blaney gave a very devotional and artistic rendering of Luzzi's 'Ave Maria,' and the Easter hymn 'Hæc Dies' was also sung at the Mass. Miss J. Woods presided at the organ with her accustomed ability. Dunster's 'Festival March' was played as an outgoing voluntary. The decorations, which were confined to the high altar and sanctuary, were appropriate to the festival and in excellent taste. His Lordship presided at Vespers, when the occasional sermon was preached by the Rev. Father Murphy. Solos were sung by Miss Rose Blaney and Miss Angus. Mr. Vallis being at the organ. After High Mass the choir, at the invitation of the Bishop, partook of light refreshments in St. Joseph's Hall. The Bishop congratulated them on their good work and referred in complimentary terms to Mr. Vallis. Easter Sunday being the anniversary of the day on which he first assumed the duties of organist.

OAMARU.

(From our own correspondent)

April 14

In a paragraph, a week or two ago, I mentioned that the completion of the portico of the basilica was then in progress. Now the contractors have almost finished the work. At the Masses last Sunday Right Rev. Mgr. Mackay announced that at the opening ceremony his Grace the Archbishop of Wellington and their Lordships the Bishops of Christchurch and Dunedin will confer the high honor of their presence upon the people of Oamaru. No doubt this honor is intended as a tribute in the first place to the zeal and energy of Right Rev. Mgr. Mackay, and secondly to the devotedness and self-sacrifice of his parishioners who have so nobly and generously co-operated in this great work.

The basilica has from time to time been described in the 'Tablet,' but as the work of carrying out the full details of the plan goes on something additional is always becoming noticeable. A line or two in reference to the portion now nearly finished will therefore be not out of place. Of course the readers of the 'Tablet' are aware that the basilica is of the Grecian order, showing wealth of column and chiselled ornamentation, carved capitals, and carved projections. The Oamaru white stone lends itself to this style, and, as the work is in

the hands of such a skilled carver as Mr. Given, the finest ideals of the architect are fully expressed. The total elevation from the street to the top of the cross surmounting the domes is 83ft 6in. The approach consists of a flight of thirteen steps the full width of the portico, and leads to the main entrance. The portico itself rests on light carved and fluted pillars and is surmounted by a marble cross 7ft in height. The corner towers are 42ft 6in high and on those rest eight pillars with carved capitals bearing an octagonal dome, giving a height of 32ft from the top of the towers. These domes are also surmounted by marble crosses. A Dunedin firm has contracted for the double gate, with two smaller side gates, and these, with the piers and walls, are to be in their places by the time of opening.

When the contract now on hand is finished, the nave of the basilica, except the carvings inside, will be completed. The sanctuary and transepts are the work of the future. When we consider the means of our people, with the monthly drain upon their poor resources to carry on our schools, only an optimist would venture to say that the dream and the hope of the people of Oamaru will be realised in the near future. But if one looks back a few years—not quite few—and remembers the task that then lay before our revered pastor, and now looks at the magnificent piles—basilica, convent, presbytery—he must say the most exaggerated dream is capable of realisation, under such guidance, and by such people.

NEW ZEALAND: GENERAL

It is stated that the Government has agreed to pay £242,000 for the Levels estate, which has an area of 38,000 acres. Possession is to be given on March 31 next.

The Mayor of Timaru, in the course of a speech some days ago, remarked that he did not believe there was another district of the same size under the English flag that could compare with South Canterbury in productiveness, and he doubted if, in any other part of the world, a population of 30,000 produced as much as was obtained in that fertile district.

At present 600 co-operative workmen are employed on the North Island Trunk Railway, on the left bank of the Wanganui river, and work is being pushed on vigorously. Last week a start was made with the erection of the railway bridge over the Wanganui river at Taumaranui. The work will take at least two years to complete.

The railway traffic to and from Dunedin during the Easter holidays was very heavy, and it is satisfactory to know and complimentary to the department that the large numbers who took advantage of the fine weather to travel by rail were conveyed to and from their destinations without a single hitch or accident of any kind. This speaks well for the officers of the department, who had their hands very full in coping with the press of work during the holidays.

With very great regret (says the 'Inangahua Times' of April 7) we have to report that Dean Rolland's health is in no way improved, on the contrary it was found necessary to remove him to the hospital yesterday afternoon for the purpose of having an operation performed. Doctors Conlon and Scott held a consultation on Wednesday last and decided that this course was absolutely necessary in order to save his life. Both doctors are sanguine as to the result, although, of course, at Dean Rolland's advanced age an operation of this kind is always attended with a certain amount of danger. The rev. gentleman, however, bears up with characteristic fortitude under the trying ordeal, exhibiting in his whole demeanor that sublime resignation and implicit confidence in God, which have sustained him through life of many trials and vicissitudes. We who know Dean Rolland so well have only to hope with earnestness and sincerity that the operation may prove successful, and that he may be spared for many years to come to discharge his priestly ministrations.

Speaking at Waimate last week the Hon. Hall-Jones referred to the marvellous change which had taken place in Cheviot since it was acquired by the Government. A comparison of the position now, he said, with the position of the estate before it was acquired by the Government was an object lesson to all who differed from the Government in their land settlement policy. To give an illustration: In 1892, when the estate was acquired, the owner had upon it 82,000 sheep and 53 head of dairy cows, and obtained 7000 bushels of oats from it. Last year there was 196,000 sheep, nearly 6000 dairy cows, and more than 10 times the quantity of grain grown at the time the estate was owned by the Robinsons.

The lands acquired by the Government under the Land for Settlement Act up to the end of September last (said Mr. Seddon in his speech at Waimate last week) were valued at £2,596,721. Canterbury's share was £975,714, and, with some estates bought since and the purchase of the Levels (£242,000), the amount was brought up to a million and a quarter. Canterbury had fared well, and rightly so. There were few Crown lands in the province, and the largest estates were drawing the sons and daughters of the settlers to the North Island or elsewhere. Auckland had 2,513,000 acres of Crown lands; Hawke's Bay 270,000 acres; Taranaki, 557,000 acres; Wellington, 734,000 acres; Nelson, 3,351,000 acres; Marlborough, 142,000 acres; Canterbury, 4876

acres; Westland, 358,000 acres; Otago, 1,723,000 acres; and Southland, 1,911,000 acres. It could not be said, then, that Canterbury had had more than its share of the public moneys, and the Government were not going to stop acquiring land for settlement in the province. When land was required, and could be secured at a fair price, the Government would purchase it. As to the manner in which some of the owners of the large estates had undervalued the land, he would produce figures to prove his case. The land tax value of the Levels estate was a little over £2 per acre, and yet the Government were paying £6 9s an acre for it.

One of the measures most adversely criticised at one time was the Advances to Settlers Act, and Mr. Seddon, in the course of a speech last week, showed how beneficial it has been to the people of the Colony. He said that the number of applications received under that Act up to September 25, 1902, was 15,758, representing a sum of £5,500,000. The number of applications authorised was 12,000. The number of advances authorised which were declined by the applicants was 1500. The amount of the applications granted came to £4,046,000, less £694,000, which was not taken up, leaving the amount authorised and accepted by applicants at £3,352,720. Up to the present no losses had been made, and for the three millions authorised the Government held good real estate security valued at over four and a half millions. It was said by the Opposition that the Government would lend money to their friends, and that the taxpayers would have to make good large sums of money but, strange to say, those who rushed the Department and asked for the largest sums were those who had actually feared the Government were going to give the money to their friends.

Speaking at Waimate on Thursday Mr. Seddon said he had to announce in connection with the Government Life Insurance Department, that the accounts for the past year had been audited. The bonus certificates amounted in the aggregate to £290,000, and the reversionary bonuses represented a cash divisible surplus of £167,900. At one time there was a doubt as to whether the Government should take up life insurance, but the position of the Department to-day showed that it was a step in the right direction, and that the people of the Colony and benefited by what had been done. It was the same with the Accident Insurance Department. In spite of all that was said, good results had followed. Premiums had been brought down, and the Department as a whole was working satisfactorily. After the outside companies had cut down the rates too low, thinking they were stronger than the Government and the people of New Zealand, they had come to the Government and asked them to reduce the premiums. Next session the Government would also introduce a Government Fire Insurance Bill, and press it on the representatives of the people. Noting the high charges of private companies in different districts, it behoved Parliament to give relief, and this relief could be granted with safety to the public funds, and with advantage to the people. The Government had succeeded with the Life and Accident Departments, and why should they not satisfactorily work a Fire Department? He had been thinking the matter over, and he had an idea of a new departure. In reading of the bonuses granted under the life insurance scheme, he thought they might give bonuses to the fire insurers. Instead of the profits going to the Government, let them go to the insurers. The insurers would, doubtless, make every effort to prevent fires, and by so doing they would earn a larger bonus. No doubt, adverse criticism would be showered on his devoted head, because the insurance companies were powerful in the country, and had powerful influence with the Press. He recognised, too, that he would not get the bill through without a fight, but he loved a fight.

OBITUARY

MR. WADE, LATE OF HOKITIKA.

Throughout the Colony (writes a Hokitika correspondent) the numerous friends of Mr. and Mrs. Wade, late of Hokitika, will learn, with sincere regret, that, prior to their arrival in South Africa towards the end of last year, Mr. Wade developed a malady of the throat which proved to be cancer. To this, despite the most assiduous care, he succumbed on March 19th. Mrs. Wade's sympathisers in her sorrow will be glad to know that she had the unspeakable consolation of seeing her beloved husband received into the Church some five weeks before his death.—R.I.P.

MRS. M. O'BRIEN, WINTON.

General regret was felt in Winton when it became known that Mrs. O'Brien, wife of Mr. M. O'Brien, had passed away on the 6th inst. at the comparatively early age of 34 years. The deceased had been ill for about a fortnight, and a few days before her death was reported to be progressing satisfactorily, consequently her demise was a great shock to her husband and relatives, and many friends. The deceased was eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. P. Deegan, very old and highly-respected residents of Southland, and she was greatly esteemed by all in the district. Both the bereaved husband and Mr. Deegan received numerous messages of condolence from many sympathisers in their affliction, among the senders being Sir J. G. Ward. The funeral took place on Wed-

nesday of last week, the remains being followed to their last resting-place by a large concourse of mourners. The Rev. Father O'Neill read the burial service both at the house and graveside.—R.I.P.

The Works of the Ancients.

When a person wants to silence an engineer who boasts of the works of the present day he points to Egypt as the country where the biggest engineering works in the world have been carried out thousands of years ago. It is undoubtedly true (says "Engineering") that Egypt contains the largest structures in the world, and probably will for all time. It is not likely that we shall again see a building with 7,000,000 tons of stone in it, as has the Pyramid of Gizeh, and it will be long before we have an irrigation reservoir of greater capacity than Lake Moeris, which, accepting the figures of Major Sir R. H. Brown, R.E., held 11,800 million cubic metres (tons) of water between high and low water marks. What the Labyrinth was like we do not really know, but Herodotus classed it as a greater wonder than the Pyramids, although lesser than Lake Moeris. We may safely assume that there is now nothing in the world that will compare with it in size. Further, there is a tradition that in the dim past the Nile flowed at the foot of the Libyan hills, and that it was diverted from that course into its present bed, and, if the account be true, the work was of enormous magnitude. Measured by the standard of the quantity surveyor, the works of the ancient Egyptians have never been surpassed, and probably never will be.

The engineers of the past directed the forces of nature on a large scale; but to compare their work with ours to their advantage shows a complete ignorance of the science of engineering. The matter in which they excelled us was the transportation and manipulation of heavy weights—a feat which appeals strongly to the lay imagination. Among the chief examples of such work are the columns of the temple of Karnak. To cut a block of stone in a distant quarry, to work it to a cylinder 12ft. in diameter, float it down the Nile, land it, and place it on the top of a column of similar stones, making a total height of 60ft., was no small enterprise. A still more difficult undertaking was the great obelisk now standing beside the Church of St. John Lateran in Rome, with a height of 108ft. and a weight of 450 tons. But the crowning example of Egyptian engineering was the colossal statue of Rameses II., at Thebes. Before it was broken it was a single block of red granite, 60ft. in height, and it has been computed to weigh 887 tons.

These were notable examples of engineering work, and a modern engineer might be proud of executing them. But it must be remembered that they were done very leisurely, and that labor was abundant. With the simple appliances that we may assume the Egyptians possessed, such as wedges, levers, ropes, and pulleys, great weights may be handled if time is no object. The city of Thebes was in course of building for 2000 years, and in such a place it would excite little comment if a year was spent in putting an obelisk into position. If a weight can be moved at all, no matter how little, it can be transported any distance, provided the same conditions persist for the whole route. The Romans moved two obelisks from Thebes, and re-erected them at Alexandria, showing conclusively that the Egyptians had no secrets in relation to mechanics, and that their methods could be imitated by a practical people with perfect success. Their strong point was the abundance of cheap labor.

Stonyhurst College Observatory.

Of the four complete sets of instruments in the United Kingdom for observing and recording terrestrial and magnetic phenomena, Stonyhurst College possesses one set. It is quite probable that Stonyhurst will eventually be the only place in the country where these delicate and wonderful measurements can be prosecuted with the necessary exactitude. The electrical disturbance produced by the tram system in the metropolis and its suburbs is proving to be the ruin of Kew and Greenwich as magnetic stations, so that it will be left to comparatively isolated places like Stonyhurst to carry out these extremely important observations. Records have been taken at Stonyhurst hour by hour and minute by minute since 1868. The magnetic needle is constantly varying, and at present in this district it points 18 degrees west of north. Fathers Cortie and Sidegreaves, S.J., are the painstaking and able astronomers and scientists who, in conjunction with the late Father Perry and other Jesuit Fathers, have gained world-wide renown for the Stonyhurst Observatory.

Messrs. Coughlan Bros. have now entered into possession of their New Shamrock Hotel, MacLaggan street, Dunedin, which is one of the most commodious and up-to-date hostels in the city. The house has been renovated and refurnished throughout, and everything deemed necessary for the convenience and comfort of boarders has been supplied, so that the proprietors expect that their enterprise will meet with due recognition from the travelling public. In addition to dining, smoking, and private sitting rooms, the establishment contains 60 bedrooms, which shows that the accommodation is on a very extensive scale. To further popularise the New Shamrock it has been determined to reduce the tariff to the very moderate charge of 4s 6d per day, a departure, coupled with the popularity of the genial proprietors, which should result in taxing the very extensive accommodation to its utmost capacity....

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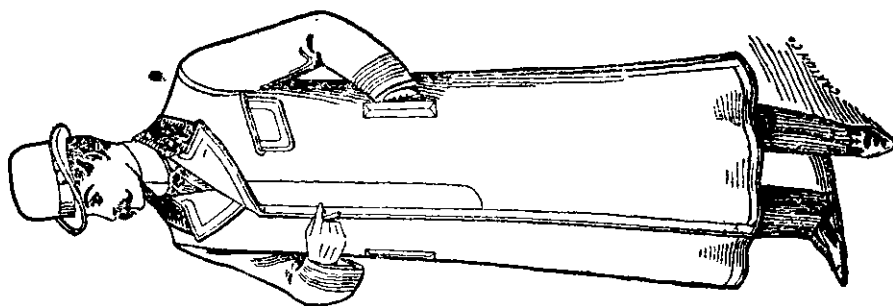
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Hoping you will favor me with a Call when I will do my utmost to secure and retain your Custom and kind recommendation by giving best personal attention to all Orders, as well as the Lowest Possible Prices.—I am, yours respectfully

P. J. HELEAN

The Storyteller

THE OFFICER WHO RAN

'Tis strange how the influence of heredity shapes our lives. The story of Dickie Talbot furnishes an interesting problem to those who love to delve in such things.

As a boy Dickie was very timid, and all the vague fears that assail childhood plagued him. Away back among his ancestors must have been some disreputable person with a craven soul, or perhaps his great-great-grandmother, when a child, had been frightened at some old nurse's goblin tales, thereby unconsciously transmitting a shrinking disposition to one of her descendants far down the family line.

In Dickie's blood there lurked a few black drops—a yellow streak among the red—for he was a constitutional coward. Many are born thus and think themselves brave until in the presence of danger, when an unsuspected and hideous spectre of fear rises up to grip them by the throat.

The Fates who, with inscrutable smile, ever sit in the darkness spinning the thread of men's lives, spun for Dickie, and down in the West Indies, where the tropical sun is so fierce that after the heavy rains the miasmatic mist rises in clouds of steam from the dark, smoking earth, the Three Sisters at the end of their weaving remorselessly used their iron shears on his life-cord.

When he entered college he lost some of his excessive timidity and in time developed into a loud-talking, self-assertive Freshman. But the fatal defect in his character remained, ineradicable. With this, as is often the case, he had an inordinate vanity, which led him eagerly to seek after college honors in the classroom and on the athletic field. He led his class in oratory, held a quarter-mile record, and was first tenor in the glee club. Graduating with honors, for the lad did not lack brains or muscle, he entered his father's bank in the village as assistant cashier. Talbot senior was the leading citizen of the town.

There was a military company in the town, which Dickie joined, not from love of a martial life, but because it was quite the thing in a social way to belong to the Governor's Guards. Aided by his father's wealth and influence, in time he was elected commander of the company, and had held that commission for several years when the war with Spain broke out, like sheet lightning from a summer sky.

The Governor's Guards were part of the Fifth Regiment, and this regiment was ordered out at the first call for volunteers by the State.

Very proud and handsome Captain Richard Talbot looked the day he marched away at the head of his company, resplendent in new uniform with gold double-bars, surrounded by cheering men and weeping women.

Two weeks later the Governor's Guards, now known as Company A, were in camp at the State Capital, somewhat against Captain Talbot's will, as he loved ease, and the fatigue and monotony of camp life wearied him greatly. An old West Pointer happened to be in command of the Fifth, and he did his best to drill the regimental legs off daily. Captain Talbot would have gladly resigned, but pride forbade. It would never do for a member of one of the best families of the State to show the white feather in a crisis like that.

After a time the War Department moved the Fifth, with other regiments, down to the sea, where after many vexatious delays, they embarked on a dirty, leaky transport, and, under the command of a fussy little brigadier, set sail to invade Spain's finest possessions in the Caribbean Sea.

Captain Talbot was supremely disgusted with the whole proceeding. The miserable quarters, foul sea smells, badly cooked food, and other discomforts incident to the voyage made him ill. Besides, he began to be a bit afraid of the outcome of what at the start had promised to be only an enjoyable military junket. The two lieutenants of Company A were detached on staff duty, leaving him as the only commissioned officer with the command.

Rumors vague and terrifying flew thick and fast among officers and men. Some descendants of Ananias boldly asserted that Spain had a vast number of ferocious and seasoned veterans waiting to annihilate them on landing.

Other cheerful prevaricators stated to knots of gaping and appreciative listeners that they would certainly be attacked at sea by the enemy's cruisers and every defenceless transport fiendishly sunk with all on board. Not that many of the harum-scarum scamps cared for the prospective danger; they would have joyously welcomed an enemy, and would have fatuously attacked even a torpedo boat with nothing but Springfields and their invincible courage.

They lounged the lazy days on deck, watching the heaving, shining waves as they rushed past, lashed into foam by the fast-spinning screw, which threw up a white, boiling phosphorescent wake behind the ship. Three times a day they brought out hard-tack, cold canned tomatoes, pork and beans, and had a poor picnic, littering the decks and throwing the surplus rations to the myriad finny life which ever followed the ship. Crap games, chuck-a-luck and keno, played on outspread blankets, whiled away the time, enlivened occasionally by a fist fight, the offenders being summarily dragged off by the

guard and cast into the dark forepeak to meditate on their sins. In the cabin the officers played draw-poker from the early morning into far into the night, and sometimes all night. The novelty of the voyage soon wore off, and counting the miles reeled off by the patent log at the stern, or calculating the time of day by the ship's bells, were occupations earnestly engaged in. At twilight the red sun went down where the white-capped waste of water met the purplish azure sky, and one by one the white stars came out and hung glittering in the spangled heavens; then the Southern Cross, like a beautiful jewel, sparkled against the blue dome of infinite space, and the pallid rays of the tropic moon cast an unearthly radiance on the tossing sea. In the misty dawn the bugles blew the shrill reveille, the regiment swarmed out of its swaying hammocks, and, drawn up in two long lines on the freshly-scrubbed decks, were inspected by the fussy little brigadier and the cold-eyed colonel. Ill were the consequences if any 'rookie neglected to appear spick and span in clean blue shirt and khaki trousers, gray hat creased at the proper angle, brown canvas leggings, and shining rifle and accoutrements.

Time passed. The regiment landed with other regiments, a handful of cavalry and a battery or two. After dispersing the feeble resistance of some Guardia Civile, the march was taken up through the smiling country. The inhabitants joyously welcomed the invaders with much 'vivan los Americanos,' incidentally appropriating stray canteens and blankets when their new-found friends were not looking. The little army marched on, the enemy, with desultory skirmishing, persistently retreating. At a strong place in the mountains he finally halted, entrenched and waited to offer battle. The Americans followed fast, and at the close of a hot August day forded a boulder-strewn little river, and within striking distance of the Spaniard bivouacked for the night.

In the gray mist of the morning the fussy little brigadier sat on the top of a huge rock; around him stood his eager staff. Behind and on each side lay the restless, waiting regiments.

Company A was lying down on its blanket-rolls, shivering with the penetrating cold. Up and down in front of the recumbent soldiers Captain Talbot walked with nervous step. Sergeant Burke, an old regular, observed his officer's manner, and as a flash from his pipe lit up the veteran's battle-scarred face a smile disclosed his strong white teeth gripping the pipe-stem.

'Tis unasy he is,' confided Burke to his 'bunkie,' who lay at his feet munching a cold bacon sandwich.

A subdued murmur arose from the company as the men moved uneasily on the hard ground, and speculated on what would happen next. Private Red Finn, who had presided over a keno game the whole of the previous night, had fallen asleep, his head pillowed on a canteen, and was snoring vigorously, as if protesting against the proceedings. A Ph. D., sitting on the wet earth with his rifle across his knees, was discoursing learnedly to an interested squad of listeners on the doctrine of chance, with an appalling application to their present situation.

A mile away, as the fog lifted in smoky rifts and the light of the cloud-smothered sun shone on their sombre tops, the towering mountains loomed above the valley. Through the murk along their sides twinkled little points of light, star-like in their shine. They were the campfires of the Spaniards.

The fussy little brigadier gazed long and earnestly at the position, conversing in low tones with his adjutant, and, from time to time, consulting a rude native map. Suddenly an order issued from his lips, galvanising his staff into action. Many more orders followed, and the battle was about to begin.

The fussy little brigadier planned it all clearly in his head, and part of the plan resulted in the Fifth making a wide detour and marching at route-step in columns of fours along a precipitous, narrow mountain road. They were going to take the enemy from the rear, and, swinging round, try to roll up his right flank. Chance had it that Company A was the advance guard, and 600 yards in front of the regiment it stumbled along in the semi-darkness, muttering curses on the lack of light, the roughness of the road, the quartermaster sergeant for not serving coffee while they were waiting, the commanding-general—at everything. They knew they were going to have a fight.

It was the crucial moment in the life of Captain Talbot, and meant a fierce struggle between pride of position and family and inherited cowardice. With tightly-clenched teeth he marched at the head of the first set of fours, nearly paralysed with cold and fatigue, and the old boyish apprehension of the unknown. He was so unmoved that he overlooked the important precaution of sending forward a party of skirmishers, and this error cost the company dearly.

As they stole along with a faint rattle of accoutrements under the overhanging palms, a single shot rang out, and the right guide next to the captain sank to his knees a little round black hole in his forehead from which the blood slowly oozed. Instantly from behind the frowning rocks skirting the road, a fierce, cracking volley burst out, stabbing the black night with red flashes, and the Mauser bullets whistled and sang among the astonished soldiers. A bullet knocked off the captain's hat, another sniped his shoulder-strap; men were scrambling for cover, and the hoarse voice of Sergeant Burke was heard imploring the 'rookies' to stand firm.

Captain Talbot looked with startled eyes one fearful instant into the Valley of the Shadow, and beheld then the Pale Spectre, vague, monstrous, terrifying; earth and sky seemed to whirl in a round dance about him, punctuated by the constant red jets of flame and deadly whirl of the steel-clad missiles. Panic seized him, and he re-

membered no more, but, dropping his sword, and stooping with low-bent head, he ignominiously bolted back through his struggling company to the rear and safety. The men followed like sheep, with the exception of Sergeant Burke, who dropped behind a convenient rock, and with the caution learned by many an Indian skirmish, 'lay low' under the fusillade. In the twinkling of an eye the once famous Governor's Guards were wildly fleeing back the way they had come, pursued by the never-ceasing flood of bullets and the victoriously derisive cheers of the unseen enemy. A dozen fallen figures dotted the path whence they fled. They rushed back into the arms of the advancing regiment, now coming up at the double-quick to learn what had happened forward. The panting fugitives were stopped by the cold-eyed colonel, whose white moustache and imperial bristled with rage. With virtuperative and comprehensive language and the flat of his sabre he soon quelled the tumult, and restored in a measure the morale of the frightened men.

Captain Talbot stood with bared head, panting and terror-stricken, before his superior officer. The old veteran glared at him with a freezing sneer, in which disgust, pity, and a fierce desire to kill the miserable culprit struggled forth for the mastery. Finally he said, with choking voice:

'Talbot, report to the General under arrest.'

The disgraced officer slunk to the side of the road, and, with his head in his hands, heard the regiment rush past to wounds and death. Private soldiers as they ran, shouted ribald jeers at him, and an excited lieutenant, waving his sword swore at him violently and spat on his breast as he passed.

Presently they were gone, but the Officer Who Ran still sat by the road. Oh, the bitter misery of that moment to that proud soul! Something seemed to snap in his brain, and out of the blackness ran flickering tongues of flame, on whose tips little red devils sat, and shouted, 'Shame! Shame! Shame!' Overhead the whirring bullets cut the leaves. In the distance the rattle of the Krags was interspersed with the 'puff, puff' of exploding shrapnel and the droning whistle of impact shell. At intervals the hearty American cheer floated on the wind down the road. The enemy were being gradually, but surely, pushed up the mountain. The unfortunate officer thought of his home, his father, his mother. He then seemed to be in a dark and noisome dungeon, behind the bars of which he saw his parents looking at him, one with a stern and strong countenance, the other with pitiful tears and outstretched arms. He groaned aloud, like a lost soul in torment. At that last piercing thought desperation seized him; he hated himself and the whole world; the kind of madness that fills the desert-born fanatic possessed the Officer Who Ran. A maniacal fury shook him. Jumping up, he frantically snatched an abandoned rifle and rushed after his comrades.

Overtaking the charging line, he saw, in a scarlet haze, the maelstrom of the battle. On his right a corporal's knees suddenly seemed to be paralysed; he rolled in the mud with a pained and astonished expression on his face. A sweating soldier on his left clapped his hand to his stomach and gently sank to a sitting posture in the long grass; his smoking rifle fell from his grasp and clattered among the rocks. A little in advance, three cursing men were frantically hacking and tearing at a barbed-wire fence; one of them threw down the nippers with a shriek of pain—blood spurted from his hand; another suddenly crumpled up and fell forward on the slack wires, where he hung, an inanimate object, gently waving to and fro. A hatless orderly rushed passed on a foam-flecked, plunging horse; one hand gripping a trumpet with the mouthpiece shot away, gesticulating impotently to heaven. A grizzled sergeant's angry face suddenly changed to an expression of great peace as he fell and rolled down a little declivity, a smile on his lifeless lips, his hands convulsively clutching the brown, sunburnt earth. Faintly from somewhere in the distance, came the blare of the regimental band. Shrill bugles ever blew the forward, and the beating of the drums smote the hot, palpitating air. A soldier near him staggered drunkenly, gasping stentorously, his hands holding his shattered jaw. A horse with its spine cut by a jagged fragment of shell neighed piteously, hammering the ground with its forefeet. Behind the charging line in the distance a battery silhouetted against the sky-line emitted tiny flashes at ten-second intervals, followed by the demoniacal scream of the shells overhead; manikins ran back and forth in furious haste serving the toy guns. A heedless youth threw down his rifle and clutched his throat, gasping for breath, a spouting red flood pouring from his lips, he fell sprawling and lay still. A galloping Gatling, clung to by powder-blackened figures, rushed like a whirlwind through the lines, crushing alike the wounded and dead. Over all a pitiless, coppery sun beat down with brazen fury. Off to the west a black thunder-cloud hung like a monstrous funeral pall over the land, and through its titanic bulk the forked lightning played to and fro. Hell itself seemed to be let loose at the foot of that mountain. It hailed bullets. A rent appeared in the blue tunic of the Officer Who Ran, and through the tear a crimson splash widened and spread on his naked shoulders.

A quarter of a mile ahead flapped a great red and yellow flag of Spain, and all along in front lay the little brown, linen-clad soldiers in their trenches, the light scintillating on the bayonet tips as they volleyed a sparkling line of gleaming red at the thin line of advancing Americans. A faint orange-colored smoke hung over the muzzles of their rifles and rose and floated in eddying, whirling drifts. On top of the hill a square stone blockhouse vomited jets of yellow flame at many

apertures. Near it a machine-gun snarled and spat bullets with devil-like repetition; in the infernal din it made a loud buzzing noise like a gigantic swarm of angry bees. The Officer Who Ran saw, as if in a dream, a Spanish general in glittering uniform, on a white horse, riding back and forth behind the trenches, waving his sword and shouting orders to his men. He seemed in the distance as a boy on a hobby-horse, shrilly yelling commands to tin soldiers, enforced with a mimic sword. At that sight battle-madness descended on the Officer Who Ran, fear fell from him like a cast-off garment, and an ecstasy of heroism lifted him as on a roseate, silver-lined cloud. Throwing aside his empty rifle, with blazing eyes and widespread nostrils, his long fair hair glinting in the sun, with a hoarse shout he ran, bare-headed, at the trenches. He was leading the charge. A few moments and he had reached the breast-works. Some of the Spaniards were throwing down their arms and frantically scrambling out of the trenches, others were firing their last cartridges, with the raving, shouting Americans only a few yards away. Captain Talbot put his foot on the vamp and reached up to grasp the red and yellow flag. The Spanish general on the white horse fired a pistol in his face, and he fell headlong with the captured standard in his arms.

With a sobbing intake of the breath, like a strong swimmer about to plunge into an icy flood, a ferocious, roaring, irresistible human wave, the men in khaki poured over the parapets into the red corpse-strewn pits, and with the bayonet slaughtered the fleeing foe.

The battle was won.

The Caribbean moon rose above the shadowy hills and cast her pale rays down into the valley. A gentle rain fell from heaven as if Nature wished to pitiably wash away the crimson stains of combat. Peace and silence reigned along the lines, broken only by the hoarse challenge of the sentries and the flickering torches of the hospital corps and the burial squads slowly moving over the field in search of the wounded and the dead.

The cold-eyed colonel and the fussy little brigadier were riding along the captured position. They came to a burial squad with bared heads, standing around a dead officer, whose face in the ghastly light was a hideous crimson splotch, but the bullet-torn, blood-stained colors of the beaten enemy were tightly clenched in his stiffened fingers.

'Tis Captain Talbot, sir,' said Sergeant Burke reverently.

'God rest his gallant soul,' said the cold-eyed colonel, taking off his hat.

'Amen to that,' said the brigadier.

Was it moisture caused by the stinging smoke of the torches, or a tear wrung from a lion-heart, that sparkled under the thick gray brows of the cold-eyed colonel, and splashed down his weather-beaten face?

On Decoration Day, in the little town back in the States, a stern old man and a sad-faced woman in black strew with fragrant flowers the green grave of the Officer Who Ran.

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Q.—What does it cure?

A.—All diseases of the kidneys and liver.

Q.—Are there many diseases of the kidneys and liver?

A.—Not very many; but there are a great number of diseases caused by a diseased or inactive condition of those organs.

Q.—Name some.

A.—Rheumatism, Gout, Lumbago, Backache, Gravel & Bladder troubles are all caused by a deranged condition of the kidneys. Uric acid and other urinary poisons are retained in the system, and the diseases named are the result. On the other hand, when the liver is working imperfectly, Indigestion, Billiousness, Jaundice, Sick Headache, General Debility and Blood Disorders are developed.

Q.—Will Warner's Safe Cure cure all the diseases named?

A.—Yes; simply because it restores the kidneys and liver to health and activity when all urinary and biliary poisons are duly expelled from the system in a natural manner.

Q.—Will Warner's Safe Cure cure Bright's Disease of the Kidneys?

A.—Yes, in nearly every instance when the cure is taken in time.

The Catholic World

BELGIUM.—A Pilgrimage

A great Belgium pilgrimage was organised to leave Brussels for Rome on February 26, and enormous numbers had expressed their intention of taking part in it.

ENGLAND.—Converts in Southwark

The Bishop of Southwark has informed a Catholic newspaper representative in Rome in the course of an interview that an average of 600 converts are annually gained to the Church in his diocese.

Temperance Revival

A wonderful revival is taking place almost throughout London—and especially in the Southern districts—in regard to temperance and total abstinence work. The League of the Cross is meeting with far more generous sympathy than has been the case for many years, and priests as well as laity are exercising themselves remarkably in the great fight against alcoholic excess. Amongst the children good progress is made.

The Oratorians

Rev. Robert Eaton, the English Oratorian priest, who came to this country to collect funds for the Newman Memorial Church to be erected at Birmingham (says the Philadelphia 'Catholic Standard and Times') is booked to sail for London in a few days. During his four months' stay in this country Father Eaton has not preached nor lectured, nor has his mission been mentioned from the pulpit. Despite this fact, his visits to Washington, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Boston, and New York have brought to him, unsolicited, the sum of 4000 dollars for the Newman memorial. England, Ireland, and Scotland have contributed 75,000 dollars. Father Eaton thinks it probable that a branch of his community may settle in the United States at some time in the near future. The Order is unique among the Catholic communities. The Fathers of the congregation are a body of priests living in community, but without vows other than those of the secular priesthood and under a highly democratic constitution. There is no superior general, as in other Orders. Each house is distinct and independent and the members take their places according to seniority, not according to official rank, even the superior taking his turn in all the duties. It is against the rules of the Order to ask for donations. Money is never mentioned from their pulpit, and all contributions made to the community are devoted to beautifying their churches or supporting their charity schools and hospitals. The Fathers find their chief occupation in the cultivation of theological and other studies. The two English branches of the Order which Cardinal Newman established there are composed largely of men of noble birth and broad learning. They give no missions, nor do they usually preach in churches other than their own.

FRANCE.—Annals of Lourdes

The 'Annals' of Lourdes record that in 1902 240 special trains brought to the grotto 170 pilgrimages, comprising 200,000 persons. Counting those who came by ordinary trains, double this number visited Lourdes. Forty thousand Masses were celebrated, and 410,000 Communion received. Six thousand invalids bathed in the waters, and numerous cures were registered in the 'Annals' by Dr. Boissarie, chief of the committee of medical attestations, to which practitioners of every belief are invited to give their opinions of the cures.

The Monks of Chartreuse

That there is no small amount of feeling concerning the French Government's recommendation that the application of the Chartreuse monks should be rejected has received fresh evidence from the fact that the 'Temps' has reprinted large portions of the special report sent in by the prefect of the Isere Department. It will be remembered that the Government gave as evidence in support of their recommendation that the Fathers were large contributors to Peter's Pence, to denominational schools, and caused communes to go to heavy expense in building operations because they made it a condition of their subscribing that the communes themselves should raise a certain portion of the expenditure required. Those points certainly appeared in the prefect's report, but they were the only ones to which the government seem to have paid any attention. All arguments that told in favor of the monks were given the go by. Here it is a subscription of 50,000 francs at the time of a local disaster, there the building and up-keep of a school; 7000 francs a year to one hospital; and twice that sum to another. At St. Laurent du Pont in 1892 the Fathers built a hospital of eighty beds at a cost of 1,400,000 francs, and have since given 800,000 a year towards its maintenance. Another of their works is a school for deaf mutes at Curriere which is in their sole charge.

GERMANY.—Catholics in Bavaria

A Congress of almost all the Bavarian deputies of the Centre Party, together with 640 delegates from eight provinces of the Kingdom of Bavaria, was recently held at Munich, under the presidency of Dr. Daller, leader of the Centre Party in Parliament. The Congress decided on the constitution of a central federation of Catholic and social associations for the whole kingdom, the publication of a political dictionary, and the establishment of a central secretariate of the party.

A New Party

A Catholic party has been founded in Alsace-Lorraine. It bears the title of the Alsatian Country Party; and its programme includes a demand for universal suffrage, and for the treatment of Alsace-Lorraine on a footing of equality with the other States of the German Federation.

ROME.—Dinner to the Poor

His Holiness the Pope gave a dinner to the poor of Rome on February 22, at the Vatican. He had 1000 guests, who were waited on by nuns, while the Swiss Guards, in their brilliant uniform, kept order. There was great enthusiasm, and the cry, 'Long live Pope Leo!' was repeatedly uttered.

The Pope's Charity

At this time (writes a Rome correspondent), when faithful and devout children are bringing their offerings as tributes of devotion to their common Father, the Holy Father, because he is the common Father of all, is not unmindful of the needs of the poor. He has remitted, through the Cardinal-Vicar, the sum of 50,000 lire for the poor of the city of Rome; 20,000 for the city of Perugia, the half of that sum to be applied directly to the actual needs of the indigent, and the remainder to be destined for the establishing of soup kitchens; 10,000 to his native city of Carpineto, and 20,000 to be added to the 25,000 which his Holiness gives annually to the poor nuns of those Orders deprived of means of support.

Speculation

Much speculation (writes a Rome correspondent) is going on just now on an attempted Franco-German agreement on the Catholic and Roman question. Messengers are passing between Berlin, Paris, and Rome. From both Paris and Berlin envoys have been sent to a high personage at Rome to prepare the way for a new departure. It is also said that the Papal Secretary of State has been officially notified of the intended arrival of the Emperor William in Rome in the approaching month of May.

The Biblical Commission

The Holy Father has given orders for the Biblical Commission to meet twice each month. In the meantime the Consultors resident in Rome meet regularly. Since the death of Cardinal Parrochi Cardinal Rampolla is President of the Commission. Leo XIII. urges on the work. He is its mainspring, and shows himself most anxious about it. He makes himself acquainted with all details, and receives immediate and direct information from specialists. He has received proofs of the wide approbation called forth by his choice of consultors—proofs indicating that he had struck the gamut of the schools of knowledge.

UNITED STATES.—Catholic School Successes

Chicago is keeping up the high percentage of successes scored by graduates from Catholic schools there in the examinations for admission to the Normal School, or as cadets (says the Pittsburg 'Observer'). Out of one hundred candidates sixty-two passed, of whom forty-five were graduates from Catholic parish schools.

A Large Order

The erection of a sky-scraper on a prominent site in the business centre of Chicago, to be occupied largely by the Catholic societies of the city, the rehabilitation of St. Mary's University, and the abolition of tuition fees in the parochial schools are among the ideas which will be presented by the Catholic clergy and laity to Archbishop Quigley when he assumes control of the archdiocese of Chicago.

Death of a Clare Priest

The Rev. Patrick Egan, for 23 years chaplain of the Carney Hospital, South Boston, died suddenly recently of heart disease. Father Egan was born in Milltown, county Clare, in 1838, received his early education in the schools of his native place, and in Ennis, and was educated for the priesthood in Maynooth College, being ordained in 1864.

The Catholic University

In Rome on March 1 Cardinal Serafino Vannutelli gave a dinner in honor of Mgr. O'Connell, the new rector of the Catholic University at Washington. The guests included Cardinal Satolli, Cardinal Vincent Vannutelli, Very Rev. J. A. Zahm, Notre Dame, Ind., and a number of Monsignors. Mgr. O'Connell, it is stated, has already received two purses of £1000 each to found new scholarships from personal friends, and promises of much larger sums from others.

Church Growth

In the 125 largest cities of the United States (says the San Francisco 'Monitor') the Catholic population aggregates 3,644,000, while the total number of Protestants is only 2,117,000. The entire population of these cities is 14,110,000. In the country as a whole one person in every 321 is a communicant of a church; in the cities one person in every 224. From 1850 to 1900 the value of Protestant church property rose from 78,000,000 dollars to 401,000,000 dollars, of Catholic church property from the insignificant sum of 9,000,000 dollars to 211,000,000 dollars.

Parochial Schools

The Catholic parochial schools of New York State contain 145,702 children. The cost of maintenance is \$dols. a pupil.

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N.S.W., "my life was rendered miserable by indigestion and
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An old friend recommended Mother Seigel's Syrup.

Within a week I discovered it was doing me substan-
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SEASON 1902.

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Sales of Produce as inaugurated by us many years ago, and which have proved so benefi-
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merchants, millers, and produce dealers, and are thus enabled to dispose of consignments
to the very best advantage, and with the least possible delay.

PRODUCE SALES EVERY MONDAY.—Our sales are held every Monday morning,
at which samples of all the produce forward are exhibited.

Account Sales are rendered within six days of sale.

CORN SACKS, CHAFF BAGS, Etc.—We have made advantageous arrangements
to meet the requirements of our numerous clients.

ADVANTAGES.—We offer producers the advantage of large storage and unequalled
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Archdiocese of Chicago

The annual report of Rev. Francis A. Barry, Chancellor of the Chicago archdiocese, shows an increase for the year of about 200,000 members in the churches of the archdiocese and 12,000 children in the parochial schools and church institutions. Father Barry estimates that the present Catholic population of Chicago reaches 1,000,000 persons, with 300 places of worship and 566 priests, secular and religious. The largest city parishes are St. Stanislaus, with 30,000 parishioners; the Holy Family, with 20,000, and St. Michael, 15,000. The predominating nationality of these is, respectively, Polish, English-speaking, and German.

The Catholic Population

According to the advance sheet of the official Catholic directory of America for 1903, there is a total Catholic population of 11,289,710 in the United States, or one-seventh of the total population. Taking into account the newly-acquired possessions, the Catholic population under the American flag, from the latest figures obtainable, is as follows—United States, 11,289,710; Philippines, 6,565,998; Hawaii, 33,000; American Samoa, 3000; Guam, 9000; Porto Rico, 953,243; total, 18,853,951. The total population of the above-mentioned territory is 84,233,069. There are 100 prelates in the States—1 Cardinal, 13 archbishops, and 86 bishops. Other statistics of the clergy and institutions are—Secular clergy, 9743; clergy of religious Orders, 3225; churches, 10,878; universities, 7; seminaries, 71; students in seminaries, 3382; parish schools, 3978; children in schools, 963,683; charitable institutions, 923. New York is the largest diocese, with an estimated Catholic population of 1,200,000. Chicago comes next with 1,000,000, but it has the largest number of churches—300.

GENERAL.

The First Church in America

It is an historical fact that the first church erected in the New World was a Catholic church. It was dedicated at Isabella, in Hayti, on the festival of the Epiphany, January 6, 1494. This event took place 126 years before the pilgrims landed at Plymouth.

The Bishop of Baghdad

The Rev. John Drure, of the Order of Discalced Carmelites, has been appointed Latin Archbishop of Baghdad, and Consecrated in Rome by Cardinal Gotti, Prefect of Propaganda. The Latin see of Baghdad was created in 1632, with residence at Ispahan (Persia), and transferred in 1842 to Baghdad (Turkey). It embraces the missions of Baghdad, Mardin, and Mossul, and contains 54,000 Catholics of various rites.

Nuns in Japan

The nuns of the Catholic Order of the Holy Church, who have many houses and institutions in England, have established an orphanage at Kioto, Japan, which shelters some hundred Japanese orphans. Half of the number are being trained as school teachers, but so frail is the constitution of these girls that many of them break down under the strain. Those who do not qualify for school teachers are trained as nurses. The nuns have recently opened a school for the study and practice of subjects of domestic economy, and here the Japanese girls are taught needlework, washing, and the general management of a household. This new departure proved at once to be popular, over 50 girls joining it as soon as it was opened.

The Marists and French Penal Laws

The Protestant correspondent of an American Protestant paper, 'The Living Church,' writing from France, speaks as follows of one of the religious Orders against which the Combes' Government is carrying on its infamous campaign—

'The general subject of the crusade against the Congregations brings up naturally the merits and services of the different bodies attacked. With the work of most of them people are generally acquainted broadly. There are, however, some special congregations of religious—priest and freres banded together—who fall under the present ban, and with whose exploits many are less conversant. It may interest your readers to learn a few facts of a body of such men, who, from their fulcrum in France, have made the other side of the world especially their field of labor; whose mines are indeed much better known in Australia, and in the Islands of Oceania, than they are in France itself. Such is the Congregation of the "Marists." The Marists are a modern body. Their work is less often quoted in papers and periodicals than that of others with greater antiquity and more sounding names on the roll. But they have, none the less, done devoted and true missionary work in the sense of the very first evangelists.

In 1790, a young priest from the Beaujolais named Colin, who from a child had the fixed idea to found a new institution for evangelising, set to work to carry out his determination. His first disciple was his brother. He strove, worked, prayed, and convinced others. The small Society grew. It took the name of "Marie." In 1822, having put himself into communication with the Holy See, Colin received from Pope Pius VII. a laudatory and permissive "brief." After this Pere Colin held the post of director of the seminary at Belley, where instruction became one of his necessary duties.

'Now came the "occasion" which launched the Marists on their special work. The Holy See asked, in 1836, of the Society of the Propaganda at Lyons whether they had not a man or men who could work in Western Oceania, a district that the Congregation at Rome specially desired to be cultivated.

Colin and his friends were signalled out, and the proposal made to them "to go." It was accepted with generous fervor. This was the beginning of a mission that has been actively worked ever since.

The Marists soon became a household word in that far-off part of the world. In some of the islands where their work lay the inhabitants were known cannibals, so the prospect was not alluring. Certainly several of the number of devoted missionaries suffered martyrdom for their cause. This body especially ministers to the wants of New Caledonia, and the convicts sent thither from France. This has, from a kind of unwritten tradition, become their particular task.

'The islands of the archipelagoes of the Navigators' and of Fiji have been worked and converted entirely by them.

New Zealand owes its early Christianising influences to them. Besides such far-off stations, the Marists have centres of work in London, Dublin, and Louisiana, and a college at Jefferson, as well as several houses in France.'

Life in an Old English Monastery

There has recently been published in England an interesting volume, a transcript of the 'Customary of the Monastery of St. Augustine's, Canterbury,' from an early 14th century manuscript of the Cotton Collection. A 'Customary,' we may say for the benefit of those who are not familiar with the technical meaning of the word as used here, is a written or printed statement of laws and customs. In this volume (says the 'Sacred Heart Review') are to be found the fullest and most minute directions as to the rule and discipline of the ancient and historic foundations of St. Augustine's.

There is a chapter describing the election of an abbot, and also particulars as to the election and duties of prior, sub-prior, third and fourth priors, chanter, sub-chanter, sacrist, sub-sacrist, cellarer, sub-cellarer, granator, hostilar, crypt-master, refectioner, almoner, and sub-almoner. The details of the hostilar's or hospitaller's duties are certainly interesting as showing how the least matters were ordered in the monastery. The chief duty of this functionary was to act as guest-master; and he had charge of beds, seats, tables, towels, table-cloths, plates, basins, and cups in the hospice, and had further to see to the supply of straw or litter for the beds, and charcoal or wood for the hearth from the cellarer, and cups and spoons from the refectioner. On guests arriving at the gates, news was sent to the hospice by one of the cellarer's servants, and the hostilar, or one deputed by him, first conducted them to the church for prayer, being instructed to offer them holy water and to kneel by their side. They were then taken to the parlor, where, after Benedicite had been pronounced, and a kiss of salutation offered, the hostilar straitly inquired of them their names and estate and from what house (religious) or place they had come. They were then led to a cell in the hospice, where their conductor, inviting them to be seated, read to them a short passage from Holy Writ for the health of their souls. If the visitors were monks and unacquainted with the house, he led them through the cloister to the dormitory, and if time permitted, showed them the whereabouts of the offices; but only if due explanation had been given of the cause of their visit. Inquiry was also made as to the number of their servants and grooms and horses, and the result communicated to the cellarer in order that they might be fitly housed. If the visitor was a monk he was usually entertained in the common frater, or dining-hall; if a prior, in the frater, but with a double portion; if an abbot, provided he wished to take his meals in the frater, he was to be served as their own abbot.

In the evening the hostilar was to receive from the sacristan four candles, and from the chamberlain a cresset-light, for each guest-monk; if a prior, the lights were to be double; if an abbot, no certified number, but an ample sufficiency.

All these curious details are given in the 'Customary'; and it seems also that the compilers were aware that some time their hospitality might be abused, for there is a rule laid down that if any guest should be a mere vagabond or acted in any dishonest or disorderly way, he was to be corrected according to his fault, either by words or stripes, and after his correction suffered to depart.

The volume further contains the usages and discipline of the frater, the dorter (or dormitory), and the chapter, also everything pertaining to the admission and profession of novices; to the infirmary; to the rules observed in visiting the sick, in Extreme Unction, and at death and burial; to the provision of candles and lights, both for conventual and church purposes; to the respective dignity of festivals, and to the ringing of bells.

Altogether the volume gives a most interesting insight into the orderly, everyday life of an old-time monastery.

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A single trial of MOUNTAIN KING ASTHMA POWDER will convince the most sceptical of its efficacy.—***

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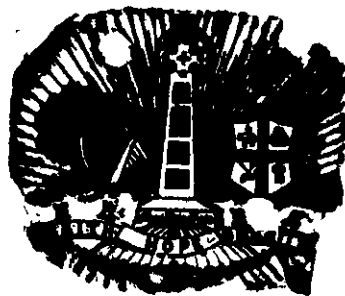
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District Secretary,
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NEW ZEALAND
NEW INDUSTRY

INTERCOLONIAL

The Very Rev. Father Ginisty, S.M., of Sydney, has been appointed Director-General of the League of the Sacred Heart and the Apostleship of Prayer. The position was held for over 20 years by the late Father Muraire, S.M.

Mr. F. Dillon, of Glen Innes, an old man in poor circumstances, has received an intimation that, in conjunction with his brother, who is 70 years of age, he has inherited £80,000, besides landed estate of considerable value. The property was left by a sister in Boston, U.S.A., 25 years ago, and it was only by chance that he heard of his good fortune a few days ago while on a visit to Sydney to undergo medical treatment.

The New South Wales Department of Agriculture has a Kerry cow, Belvedere Bratha, which has put up a big record for the past dry season. Her yield of milk for the season was 834 gallons, with an average test of 4.64 per cent. of butter fat, or equal to 420lb of butter. She yielded 5 gallons of milk per day for some time after calving. The cow is depastured at the Government Stud Farm, Berry, and her milk has been weighed daily. She was giving nearly 2 gallons of milk per day when the farm manager began to dry her off, being near calving.

The Redemptorist Church and Monastery at North Perth (says the 'W.A. Record'), which Messrs. Cavanagh and Cavanagh are erecting for the Redemptorists, is proceeding rapidly. The workmen are now engaged on the third story, and the building gives evidence of becoming one of the landmarks of Perth. Rapid progress is also being made with the Coolgardie Convent, which Mr. O'Donnell, clerk of the works, is carrying out under the same architects. The building is nearly ready for the roof, and, judging from the progress the Sisters of Mercy will have their building completed before the winter. The delay in the work of the Kalgoorlie Church, which Mr. Campbell, contractor, is building from the designs of Messrs. Cavanagh, has been caused by the difficulty of getting the freestone for the windows and tracery work from Sydney. The freestone is, however, now landed, and the masons are at work on it, and the whole of the work will be carried on without further delay.

On Sunday, March 22, his Grace the Archbishop of Melbourne presided at the ceremony of profession and reception at the Convent of the Good Shepherd, Abbotsford. The following young ladies received the white veil:—Miss Mena Gleeson (Hobart), in religion, Sister Mary of St. Ildephonsus; Miss Kathleen O'Neill (New Zealand), Sister Mary of St. Constance; Miss Mary Moore (New Zealand), Sister Mary St. Marcella; Miss Cecilia Guerin (Bendigo), Sister Mary of St. Vincent Ferrar; Miss Agnes McIntosh (Bendigo), Sister Mary of St. Kilian; Miss Kate Clooney (Collingwood), Sister Mary of St. Eulalie; Miss Mary Heurt (Ireland), Sister Mary of St. Patrick. The following were professed:—Miss Meagher, daughter of Mr. T. Meagher, governor of the Melbourne Gaol (in religion Sister Mary Domitilla); Miss Lizzie Donnelly (Sister Mary Patricia); Miss Essie Donane (Sister Mary Marine); and Miss O'Neill (Sister Rose Virginia). His Grace administered the Sacrament of Confirmation to about 140 inmates, 100 being children from St. Joseph's preservative class, and the remainder from the Magdalen class of the convent.

In a recent issue Melbourne 'Punch' had a very appreciative article regarding the work done at St. Vincent's Hospital, conducted by the Sisters of Charity. It said: 'A splendid vindication of the claims of those supporters who, from the first, saw that the institution would be a public benefaction is to be found in the fact that since its foundation over 80,000 patients of all classes and creeds have sought relief within its walls, while there is nothing to show that the public support accorded to St. Vincent's has at any time been the means of detracting from the revenue of any other institution. A consideration that should carry weight with the charitable public is the markedly economical working of the establishment. There are few—if any—amongst us who do not understand that the lives of the Sisters of Charity are devoted unreservedly to the care of suffering humanity, without expectation of any earthly recompense, and herein lies an explanation of the fact that such a comparatively small amount appears in the expenditure column of the annual financial statement as "nursing expenses"; also, there are no paid clerical officials, the Sisters themselves personally attending to that branch of the work of the institution. The contributions of the public towards this charity find their way into the channel for which they are intended, with the least possible deduction. What causes many of the hopeless and friendless poor to yearn for admission to St. Vincent's is the knowledge that, in addition to the leading medical and surgical skill for which the hospital is justly celebrated, they will find, under the care of the Sisters of Charity, a sweet womanly sympathy, coupled with a tender solicitude for their spiritual welfare. St. Vincent's Hospital is now recognised by the Government as one of the charitable institutions of Victoria. With steadily-increasing public support, it now enters upon the second decade of its existence with gratifying prospects, which to the Sisters will, we are sure, be only an incentive to increased fidelity in the discharge of their duty towards the helpless and afflicted under their charge. It is gratifying to know that at no distant date accommodation will be provided for nearly 100 patients.

Friends at Court

CLEANINGS FOR NEXT WEEK'S CALENDAR.

- April 19, Sunday.—Low Sunday.
 „ 20, Monday.—St. Cyril of Jerusalem, Bishop, Confessor, and Doctor.
 „ 21, Tuesday.—St. Anselm, Bishop, Confessor, and Doctor.
 „ 22, Wednesday.—SS. Soter and Caius, Popes and Martyrs.
 „ 23, Thursday.—St. George, Martyr.
 „ 24, Friday.—St. Fidelis of Sigmaringen, Martyr.
 „ 25, Saturday.—St. Mark, Evangelist.

Low Sunday.

The first Sunday after Easter is called Low Sunday because it emphasises the contrast between the great Easter solemnity and the Sunday which ends the octave. The name given to it in the missal is 'Dominica in Albis,' because then the newly-baptised wore their white robes for the last time.

St. George, Martyr.

St. George is honored throughout Christendom as one of the most illustrious martyrs of Jesus Christ. In the reign of the first Christian Emperors numerous churches were erected in his honor, and his tomb in Palestine became a celebrated place of pilgrimage. But his history is involved in great obscurity, as no early records of his life or martyrdom are at present in existence. The following are the traditions concerning him which have been handed down to us by the Greek historians, and which are celebrated in verse by that illustrious saint and poet of the eighth century, St. John Damascene. St. George is said to have been born in Cappadocia, of noble Christian parents. After the death of his father he travelled with his mother in Palestine, of which she was a native. Being strong and robust in body, he embraced the profession of a soldier, and was made a tribune, or colonel, in the army. His courage and fidelity attracted the attention of the Emperor Diocletian, who bestowed upon him marks of special favor. When that prince declared war against the Christian religion, St. George laid aside the signs of his dignity, threw up his commission, and complained to the Emperor of the severity of his bloody edicts. He was immediately cast into prison, and alternate threats and promises were employed to induce him to apostatise. As he continued firm he was put to the torture and tormented with great cruelty, and later on beheaded.

St. Mark, Evangelist.

St. Mark, who was a Jew by birth, was probably one of the converts made by the Apostles after Our Lord's resurrection. He seems to have attached himself to the company of St. Peter, who in his first Epistle written at Rome calls him his son. He composed his Gospel at the request of the Romans, who desired to have set down in writing what they had heard from St. Peter by word of mouth, and he wrote it in the Greek language, which was used at that time in the Sacred Liturgy and was familiar to the people of Rome. Rome was the capital of the world, and St. Peter therefore chose it as the seat of his episcopate. He had already erected his chair at Antioch, which was the chief city of the East. The next city of importance was Alexandria, the capital of Egypt and of Roman Africa, and thither St. Peter sent his disciple Mark to preach the Gospel and rule the flock of Christ.

Upon his arrival in Africa St. Mark labored for some time in the district of Pentapolis and in various parts of Egypt and the adjacent provinces, until, by a particular call from God, he entered the important city of Alexandria. Here he soon established a flourishing church, composed in part of Jewish converts and partly of Gentiles. The rapid progress of the faith stirred up the fury of pagans, whereupon St. Mark, leaving St. Anianus to rule the Church in his absence, quitted the city and returned to Pentapolis. Upon revisiting Alexandria a few years later he found the faithful greatly increased both in number and in fervor. Again, however, the rage of the heathen became excited against the venerable Evangelist, whom they called a magician on account of his many miracles. Having resolved upon his death, they sought him for a long time in vain, for God concealed him from their hands. At length upon the feast of the holy idol Seraphis, those who were in search of the holy man discovered him standing at the altar, offering the Adorable Sacrifice of the Mass. Overjoyed at finding him in their hands, they immediately bound him with cords and dragged him by the feet through the streets of the city to a place near the sea full of rocks and precipices. The stones along the way were stained with his blood, and the ground was strewn with pieces of his flesh, but all the while he ceased not to praise and thank God for his sufferings. As he was still alive when evening closed in, they cast him into prison, but next day they recommenced their cruel sport. In the midst of these barbarous torments he happily expired on April 25, A.D. 69, three years after the martyrdom of SS. Peter and Paul.

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