

Competitive Designs.

DESIGNS are invited for a brick building for a Convent for the Sisters of Mercy, Palmerston North, at a cost not to exceed £2000; the sum of £25 to be the award for the first prize design.

Conditions of the competition may be seen at 'TABLET' office, Dunedin, or on application to Rev. Father Tymons, Palmerston North.

Competition closes with Rev. Father Tymons, Palmerston North, on August 5th, 1903, at 5 p.m.

W. RYAN,
Secretary.

GRAND POPULAR CONCERT
In aid of
ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY
In the
GARRISON HALL
On
FRIDAY, MAY 22, 1903.

Accompanists—Miss E. Hughes and Mr. Albert Vallis.
Piano kindly lent by the Dresden Company.
W. Carr and J. J. Marlow, Hon. Secs.

The Stoke Orphanage.

We beg to acknowledge the following sums entrusted to us for the Stoke Orphanage:—

	£	s.	d.
Previously acknowledged	35	12	0
Rev. J. Delany (V.R., College, Mosgiel)	2	2	0
Rev. M. Ryan (College, Mosgiel)	1	1	0
Rev. P. O'Neill (College, Mosgiel)	1	1	0
Mr. D. Hughes (Mosgiel)	1	1	0

We shall be glad to receive, acknowledge, and forward further subscriptions entrusted to us for this great and sorely-trying charity.
Rev. P. Murphy, Adm., has kindly consented to act as Treasurer for moneys received by us for this purpose.

EDITOR, 'N.Z. TABLET,'
DUNEDIN.

MARRIAGE.

Warne—Hartnett—On March 17, at St. Joseph's Cathedral, Dunedin, by Rev. Father Murphy, John Warne, third son of the late William Warne, Bristol, England, to Johanna, only surviving daughter of Michael Hartnett, County Kerry, Ireland.

DEATH.

Coll—On April 21, 1903, at San Francisco, Katie Josephine, daughter of the late John Coll, late of Pleasant Point, South Canterbury, after a long illness, aged 25 years.—R.I.P.



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

LEO XIII. to the N.Z. TABLET.

THURSDAY, MAY 21, 1903.

A HISTORICAL ARBITRATION



KLING'S blackboard, in 'A Day's Work,' told the audience all it knew—which did not amount to much. It also told them a great deal that it did not know. In one respect the London correspondents of some of our New Zealand dailies have just been playing a similar part. An exhibition of more or less historical curios is in progress in the great metropolis in commemoration of the third centenary of the death of Queen ELIZABETH. Among the exhibits is a copy of the

historic Propaganda map of 1529, containing the line from the north to the south pole by which, in 1493, Pope ALEXANDER VI. defined the spheres of influence of Spain and Portugal, the two foremost powers of the time in commerce, geographical discovery, and colonisation. One correspondent moralises on the incident as a melancholy example of colossal vanity on the part of a Roman Pontiff. Another knocks Pope ALEXANDER on the head with a literary slung-shot for his ineffable presumption in bestowing upon others that of which he had not the right to dispose. Faithful reporting of current incident is by no means what an American humorist-philosopher would term a universal 'berth-rite' of foreign newspaper correspondents. Much less can we look to them for strict accuracy in recording events of distant bygone days. There they ought to be, if they are not uniformly, at home. Here they are treading the twilight ways of what is to most, if not all, of them an unexplored and mysterious land. And they have come back from their brief excursion into those distant regions with a budget of 'travellers' tales'; like KIPLING'S blackboard, they have told some things which they did not know. For Pope ALEXANDER'S historic line is not a monument of 'human vanity'; neither is it a record of the free gift of the western world, by one who had not the disposal of it, to those who were its first discoverers and colonisers.

Pope ALEXANDER'S famous line is the most remarkable application of the principle of international arbitration of which history bears a record. The good offices of the peacemaker are as sorely needed to-day as at any previous period in the annals of our race; for—in Lord PALMERSTON'S words—man still remains by nature a fighting and quarrelling animal in just as great a degree as ever. Pope ALEXANDER'S pacific action at the close of the fifteenth century contains a useful lesson to the age that seeks release from the imminent and deadly peril of vast rival armaments in the attempted—and by no means conspicuously successful—establishment of a tribunal of international arbitration at the Hague. At the time when the historic line of demarcation was drawn upon the map of the Atlantic, Europe had but 'one Lord, one Faith, one Baptism.' The seamless robe of the unity of Western Christendom had not yet been broken by the great religious revolution of the sixteenth century. 'The Holy See,' says Dr. LUDWIG PASTOR in the sixth volume of his 'History of the Popes,' 'was still regarded by all Christian princes and nations as the international arbiter, the highest tribunal for the decision of all national rights and important political questions.' When Portuguese navigators, in their quaint, broad-bowed, high-pooped ships, made their series of discoveries along the West Coast of Africa, it was to the Pope—the recognised arbitrator in international boundary disputes—that they naturally turned to obtain security over their trading and colonising rights in the new lands that the skill and daring of their adventurous sailors had opened to European commerce. This dispute between the two great rival powers was peacefully settled by Pope CALIXTUS III. and agreed to by Spain at the peace of Alcacevas in 1479.

The discovery of America by COLUMBUS in 1492 opened up enormous possibilities of conflict between Spain and Portugal, then the dominant powers of Europe. King EMMANUEL of Portugal claimed the newly-discovered lands by virtue of the treaty of Alcacevas. King FERDINAND of Spain claimed them by right of prior discovery; for COLUMBUS'S great project had been drenched with cold water and rejected as impracticable by the Portuguese court, and it was FERDINAND and ISABELLA of Spain who, through the influence of a pious monk, equipped the historic expedition which opened up the western world to Christian civilisation. The relations between the two countries became strained almost to the point of rupture. Both were on the verge of an appeal to the 'jus gladii'—the arbitrament of the naked steel: it was merely a question as to which would 'kindle the dead coals of war.' At this critical juncture King FERDINAND appealed to Rome to bring the dispute to a peaceful ending. The result was the publication of an award in three memorable documents in May 1493. 'The First,' says PASTOR, 'dated 3rd May, confers on Spain an exclusive right of possession over all the islands and countries now discovered by COLUMBUS, and all future discoveries of his, on condition of propagating the

RIDE "ANGLO SPECIAL" CYCLES.