

lity which one extends to such 'historic' classics as Baron Munchausen's adventures and the story of Valentine and Orson.

We cannot say who created this bit of 'history' about the Naples of some five and forty years ago. But he might, at least, have given it a more plausible look. It is customary, in this particular variety of 'history,' to place the scene in a far-off land—Southern Italy, Mexico, and Peru happen just now to be the vogue—and to omit names, precise dates, and all other circumstances that would facilitate investigation by persons gifted with an inconvenient degree of curiosity. It is, of course, quite possible that some street-preachers may have been legally condemned and imprisoned in Naples for having been guilty of coarse and inflammatory public attacks on the religion of the people, like those that aroused such indignant feeling among Catholics and decent Protestants during the past few years in Arklow, Limerick, and Sligo, and drew down such vigorous condemnation from the judicial Bench. But the story that people in Naples were 'incarcerated and suffered lingering deaths on account of their possessing Bibles' is merely 'a fairy tale of a far-off land.'

A Famine

A cable message published in our secular contemporaries a few days ago runs as follows:—'Famine is causing terrible suffering in South China. Thirty thousand women and children have been sold into slavery since February.' China holds the melancholy pre-eminence of being the country that, of all others, has suffered most from the ravages of famine. The great famine of 1877-1878 swept off, according to the best estimates, no fewer than 9,500,000 persons in North China—or two and a half times more than the total population of Australasia—and left several millions more a mere 'death's undress of skin and bone.' India comes close up to China in the magnitude of its sufferings from famine. Even now portions of its teeming population are suffering the pangs of want. Over a million persons died of the long, slow agony of famine in India in 1877. The famine of 1896-1897 cost no fewer than 2,500,000 lives. The famine of 1900 afflicted about a quarter of all that vast country, resulted in a money loss of over £50,000,000, the death of many millions of cattle, and the loss of an untold number of lives. Famine problems, at least on their preventive side, have scarcely received serious study from the age that has 'achieved' Mauser and Lee-Metford rifles and quick-firing cannon. And, despite all our progress and the spread of our communications, we are almost as helpless nowadays to prevent serious suffering and loss of life as our forefathers were under the more difficult conditions that prevailed in the middle ages.

Back to the Fold

The fatherly care extended by the present Pope to the Eastern Christians outside the true Fold has from time to time resulted in the return of considerable numbers of schismatics to Catholic unity. We take the following further information in point from the London 'Tablet' of April 18: 'The Greek Catholic Church has, according to the "Missions Catholiques," just made what is described as a veritable conquest in the conversion en masse of more than fifteen thousand separated Greeks belonging to the districts of Aekar, Hossu, and Saita. The decision by which these people have abjured their errors and returned to the bosom of the Church was taken some time ago, when a deputation was sent to Mgr. Doumani, Greek Catholic Melchite, Bishop of Tripoli, to petition that they might be received.'

The French Kulturkampf

The war against religion in France goes gaily on. Three and thirty years ago the Government of the country entered 'with a light heart' upon a campaign against Prussia. Everything was declared to be in full readiness, down to the last button upon the garter of the last soldier, and the cry was: 'To Berlin!' We know the result. A stronger power, with 'the Man of Blood and Iron' at its head, failed to carry out a war against Catholicism in Germany. The new Kulturkampf in France is likewise sure to end in failure. The effects of proscribing and banishing the religious Orders as if their members were noxious wild beasts, are already beginning to be felt. 'Heartrending,' says the 'Catholic Times,' 'are the accounts of the scenes caused by the expulsions from monasteries and convents in France. A correspondent who has been a witness of what is taking place declares that it would be difficult to exaggerate

the desolation caused by the persecution. Mr. Richard Davey, the well-known writer, informs us that he has just received a letter from a celebrated French author who has been visiting the Grand Chartreuse, and his experience is that the distress in the neighborhood is piteous. Hundreds have been ruined, and nobody will gain by a measure which is the result of mere fanaticism. The Grand Chartreuse has spent over £70,000 a year in acts of benevolence. From all parts of the country touching incidents are reported. One of the saddest has occurred at Curriere, in a school for deaf mutes founded and maintained by the liberality of the Chartreux. Brother Leulroy was in the midst of the children bidding them good-bye when gendarmes arrived to command, in the name of the Government, that the institution be closed. As the officers entered, the Brother, who was deeply moved, staggered and fell, never to rise again. His career on earth closed before the closing of the school that was so dear to him. We are glad to observe that the Bishop of Quimper has not been intimidated by the suppression of the stipends of 28 priests for having used the Breton language in teaching the catechism. The priests of the diocese of Quimper are, by the Bishop's directions, to continue to preach and teach in French when the hearers are French; in French and Breton when they are mixed; and in Breton alone when the auditory is exclusively Breton.'

DIOCESE OF DUNEDIN

On Sunday there will be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at St. Joseph's Cathedral from last Mass until Vespers. In the evening the usual procession will take place.

The very handsome new Catholic church just erected at Garston will be opened on Sunday next, when the Rev. Father Murphy, Adm. St. Joseph's Cathedral, will preach the occasional sermon. The new church is a very pretty edifice and highly creditable to the generosity of the Catholics of the district and the zeal and energy of their pastor, the Rev. Father J. O'Donnell.

On Sunday, the feast of Pentecost, there was Pontifical High Mass at St. Joseph's Cathedral, his Lordship Bishop Verdon being celebrant, Rev. Father Murphy deacon, Rev. Father Howard sub-deacon, and Rev. Father Cleary assistant priest. At the conclusion of the Mass his Lordship announced a plenary indulgence in the usual form. The music was Farmer's Mass, the soloists being Miss Comyn (alto), Mrs. J. Hally (soprano), Mr. W. Shepherd (tenor), and Mr. McKennah (bass).

There was a crowded meeting of the members of the Catholic Young Men's Club, South Dunedin, and their friends on Monday evening. An excellent short programme of vocal music was rendered by Misses Pearson and Fitzpatrick and Messrs. Mullin and Graham, and a lecture on New York and its commerce, life, and traffic was delivered by Rev. Father Cleary. At its close a hearty vote of thanks to the speaker was carried by acclamation on the motion of Messrs. Marlow and Carr. Rev. Father Coffey occupied the chair.

It is understood the House Committee of the Dunedin Hospital have decided to appoint Dr. Arthur Hall as senior house surgeon, pending the meeting of trustees this month. Dr. Hall, who was formerly house surgeon, has since gained the diplomas of M.R.C.S. and F.R.C.S. The bazaar held recently in Lawrence for the purpose of liquidating the debt on the fine new presbytery, resulted in a net profit of £250. Active steps are to be taken immediately to clear off the balance still due.

On Sunday evening a meeting of the parishioners of St. Joseph's Cathedral was held in St. Joseph's Hall for the purpose of devising means for paying off the balance of the debt incurred in repairing the foundations of the towers of the Cathedral. His Lordship Bishop Verdon presided. Rev. Father Murphy, Adm., said that a sum of £365 had been received as a result of the collection made at the Cathedral door last year. The total cost of the work was about £1000. After a conversational discussion regarding ways and means a committee, consisting of the local clergy and Messrs. J. B. Callan, W. J. Hall, P. Hally, Woods, T. Deehan, and Foley, was appointed for the purpose of drafting a scheme for liquidating the debt, the proposal to be submitted to a general meeting of the parishioners to be held on Sunday evening, June 14.

St. Joseph's Men's Club entertained the Ladies' Club on Friday evening. Notwithstanding the very inclement weather, both clubs were very well represented. A very enjoyable hour was spent at cards, after which the following ladies and gentlemen contributed songs and recitations: Misses Poppelwell, Davis, and Quin, and Messrs. McKennah and Hill; while Misses Poppelwell and J. Griffin acted as accompanists. Mr. Haydon also contributed to the evening's amusement with a number of phonographic selections. The club's gymnastic class promises to be very successful this season. The attendance has greatly exceeded expectations, and judging by the manner the members go through their exercises Instructor Drumm should have a very efficient class in a short time.