

The Trials of the Church

His Eminence Cardinal Moran, in the course of a speech made at the opening of a bazaar at Botany some days ago, said that the Church in Australia enjoyed a comparative peace which was not enjoyed by it in other lands. In France religion was persecuted in a thousand ways, to banish the very name of God from thousands of the people, and to banish from the fair plains of France those religious communities to whom the State was indebted for all the great things achieved in the past in the name of religion by that great nation. It was nothing new for the Church to be persecuted either in the home countries or in other lands. Writers had told them of the admiration with which they contemplated the Catholic Church, the only institution which led back to the time when gladiators fought in the Coliseum, and when the smoke of sacrifice arose from pagan altars in European countries. The Catholic Church in every century had been assailed by every strong power which the world could put forth. The power of Imperial Rome was so stern, so unrelenting, and so concentrated, that even in the monuments that remain they saw the abiding proofs of her all-embracing power. Every other power assailed by Rome disappeared. The Nestorian heretics and the Manichean sects were attacked and disappeared. The Emperor Diocletian was so convinced that he had crushed the Christian name that he erected monuments to record his success in stamping out the Christian name for ever. But

The Church's Triumph

told them of the Divine life of the Church, and it told them also that all the power of the world was wielded in vain against her bulwarks. Our Saviour had said that His Church would be persecuted, but He had promised also that the gates of hell should not prevail against it. Its enemies might gain a triumph for a while, but it would only be a passing triumph. Passing on, his Eminence referred to the storm of persecution which raged at the beginning of the present century in France, during which thousands of priests were put to death by the Revolutionists. Belgium and Holland had been visited by persecution, as also had, as they were well aware, Ireland, and also England. All seemed to be lost to the onlooker. In time England became tolerant, and never had a power so increased in wealth and prosperity as had that nation since she inaugurated that period of peace to the Catholic Church. His Eminence referred to the persecution sustained by the Church in Germany. Bismarck had determined to crush the teaching of the Catholic Church, and probably 30,000 priests were exiled from the Empire. But the storm passed, and the Church arose from its ruins in greater grandeur than ever before. So would it be with France, but no one dreamt for a moment that those who assailed the Church would achieve their aim. The Australian Church, too, had had its own days of persecution. For the first 35 years at least the Church sustained a fierce persecution, but it waned, and for the next 35 years a sort of tolerance was extended to Catholics. Of latter years the Church had enjoyed comparative peace. Many people still assailed them, but though they could not harm Catholics, fortunately, they could use very bitter words. Catholics hoped, however, that those who were their enemies to-day would be their best friends to-morrow.

OBITUARY

MRS. E. KILLEEN, WELLINGTON.

Mrs. Elizabeth Killeen, who died in Wellington on Monday, May 18, was well known and highly esteemed in that city, and also on the West Coast, where she and her husband, the late Mr. Michael Killeen, had resided for many years. During her illness the deceased was attended by the Rev. Father Holley. The Sisters of Mercy, of St. Mary's Convent, were also most attentive. On Wednesday, May 20, a Requiem Mass was celebrated in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart by the Rev. Father Holley, who also officiated at the graveside at the Karori Cemetery, where the interment took place on the same afternoon, being assisted by the Rev. Father Walsh. The deceased was the second daughter of the late Mr. Alexander McMahon, of Kilrush and Ballinacally, County Clare. Her husband predeceased her by about 10 weeks, and to the sorrowing family—a son and two daughters—the sincerest sympathy of a large circle of friends is extended in their bereavement.—R.I.P.

The winter excursion to the Islands of the Western Pacific, which is being organised in Sydney in connection with the opening of the Catholic Cathedral at Suva, will be the most comprehensive of the kind that has ever been arranged. The itinerary will include Tonga, Samoa, Fiji, New Hebrides, and Loyalty Groups, and Norfolk, Wallis, Futuna, Rotumah, Tanna, Pines Islands and New Caledonia. The steamer will leave Sydney about July 25, and will make a cruise of 7000 miles among those little known islands. Every point of interest will be visited, and it is safe to say that never before has such an opportunity for seeing these wonderful lands, and studying the habits and customs of the natives, been offered to the public.

You can protect yourself from any serious after effects arising from a bad cold by taking TUSSICURA.—

NEW ZEALAND: GENERAL

On account of Wednesday of this week being the Prince of Wales' birthday and a close holiday in the Post Office, we have been obliged to go to press on Tuesday evening. Correspondence reaching this office on Wednesday morning has, therefore, to be held over for next issue.

Book debts, like fruit (said Judge Kettle in the Hawera Bankruptcy Court the other day), want to be collected when they are fresh.

A witness in the Arbitration Court in Wellington the other day delivered himself thus: I don't consider the baking business a trade; I consider it a profession. No man has yet mastered the art of fermentation.

The trade of the port of Bluff during some months past (says the 'Southland Daily News') has suffered considerably owing to the lateness of the harvest affecting the export of oats. The ordinary revenue for the month was reported by the Secretary to have been £1530, or £490 less than the returns for the same period last year. In reply to a member, he also stated that for the past five months the deficiency, compared with the corresponding period of 1902, was some £1700.

A rather interesting point was raised at the Napier Magistrate's Court last week, in a case in which a prohibited person was charged with having entered an hotel on May 9, during the currency of an order that existed against him. Counsel for defendant contended that as the order had been made on the morning of the 10th May, 1902, it expired on the morning of the 9th May, 1903, and was, therefore, not in force when the defendant went into the hotel. The police inspector maintained that the order had not expired till midnight on the 9th. Mr. Turnbull, S.M., remarked that the only authority he knew on the point was that a man was supposed to have attained his majority on the day before he was 21. Counsel intimated that he would be able to produce authorities if the case were allowed to stand over. The case was accordingly adjourned.

The Premier, interviewed on the subject of the cable message to the London 'Daily Express' newspaper regarding the sale of New Zealand meat in the United Kingdom, said it is not intended to enter into competition with either the meat export companies here or the retailers at home, and there will be no cutting of rates because the Government believes that the superior quality of New Zealand meat will carry its own recommendation. The problem of the fluctuation in prices through large or short supplies on the Home market will be taken into consideration in fixing the retail price so that prices will not go up and down suddenly, but will remain the same for definite periods. The Government has felt that New Zealand meat has not had justice done to it in the markets of Great Britain, and that inferior meat, such as that from the Argentine, was sold in its stead. Under these circumstances, it was felt that something should be done to advance the interest of the New Zealand producers. The question of purchasing at this end and shipping from New Zealand is a detail that has yet to be arranged, and generally it does not appear that the scheme is very far advanced.

Replying to Press strictures on his attitude towards the Farmers' Union, Sir Joseph Ward, in a speech at the opening of the new Waimakariri bridge, said that on a former occasion he had publicly stated that union was a good thing, and was as necessary for the protection of farmers as workers. Farmers' unions were for their protection, and were destined to do a large amount of good. He had never viewed these unions with a suspicious eye or shown hostility to them. He had never said that any union in the Colony should be formed for political purposes, but held that membership should be open to all shades of political opinion. Members of unions should be allowed to exercise the political franchise they possessed, without interference. The Government would not support unions of the character indicated. Referring to the retirement of Mr. McCurdy from the post and telegraph service, Sir Joseph said it was reported to him that an officer in the telegraph service was also secretary of a Farmers' Union. It was entirely against the rules of the department for any officer to hold the position of secretary, not only of the Farmers' Union, but of any union. As a result of attention being called to the matter, fair time was given the officer to conform to the rules of the Public Service. An attempt had been made to 'martyrize' the officer in question, but he had the right to do that which he thought best—either to conform to the rules of the Service or leave the Service, and he had elected to take the latter course.

We are always more profitably employed in praising God than even in despising ourselves.

Sincerity is the basis of all true friendship. Without sincerity it is like a ship without ballast.

Always there is wine or there is oil, the grape must be crushed and the olive must be pressed.

God regards not how much we do, but from how much it proceeds; he does much that loves much.

Mind is that which perceives, feels, remembers, acts, and is conscious of continual existence.

He who never in his life was foolish was never a wise man.