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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

The Stoke Orphanage

The strong appeal made by the Archbishop of Wellington and reported in our issue of last week should loosen many a purse-string and bring in a bounteous stream of clinking coins to that great national work of Catholic charity, the Orphanage and Industrial School that is to be re-erected at Stoke. This noble institute has, for almost a generation, catered for the spiritual and temporal needs of the fatherless boys and the waifs and strays of our Church from every corner of New Zealand. It has passed through the furnace of persecution, it has been devoured by material fire, and the spirited effort now being made by the Archbishop and his priests and laity to raise it up in beneficent operation once more rightly claims the hearty co-operation of the Catholic body in every part of the Colony. There is none so poor but he may put a brick or two into the new Orphanage, and thus have a share in the good work of instructing our neglected children unto justice and training them up to be creditable citizens of New Zealand. Here, indeed, is a rare opening for the exercise of that true charity which is

'Meek and lowly, pure and holy,
Chief among the "blessed three."'

The Cardinal's Cruise

A rare treat is in store for the privileged travellers who are to take part in Cardinal Moran's approaching cruise through the summer isles of the Western Pacific, whose gilded romance has been told to the world by Beck and Stevenson. The voyagers are to wander for over six thousand miles through ocean and coral sea, visit the quaint, bronze-skinned tribesmen in their homes, witness their 'mekas,' their festivals, and their ways, get an insight into the trials and triumphs of missionary endeavor, visit the shrine at Pori, where the Blessed Peter Chanel, the St. Stephen of the Pacific, was martyred two and sixty years ago, witness the opening of Suva's new Cathedral, and feast their eyes upon the glorious tropical vegetation by the circling reefs where the waves break lazily and

'The palm-tree standeth so straight and so tall,
The more the hail beats and the more the rains fall.'

The tour is arranged for weeks when, in these Western Pacific seas, the climate is at its most gracious mellowness and the winds and waves are asleep. It will, altogether, be a memorable event in the history of the Church in the islands. One of the results we may look forward to is the full official confirmation of the already published facts which will consign to a final and decent burial, a hundred fathoms deep, some of the anti-Catholic romance which has been reaching our shores of late from the Fiji group.

The Servian Tragedy

Five hundred years of injustice, serfdom, and barbarous repression by fanatical and coarse-grained Turkish pashas and their ruthless soldiery made a bad training in ways that are gentle and civilised. This has been Serbia's lot. Its history has been chiefly a long-drawn chronicle of thrust and parry with the unspeakable Turk. The conquered, but fierce and unsubdued, people first felt their feet on firm ground when Kara George the swine-owner chased the ancient enemy out of the country in 1804. The good work was completed by the dashing herdsman, Milosh Obrenovich, in 1815. Since then the Government of the country has changed hands with almost as much frequency and storm and bloodshed as that of a South American republic. In 1868—when Serbia was still a dingy little Principality—its ruler, Prince Michael, was waylaid and shot 'fatally dead' by a rival faction whose leader was a lineal descendant of the Kara George, who first swept the Turkish janissaries out of his native mountains. But last week's dread tragedy—or rather massacre—finds no counterpart in later European history except in the Great Terror of the French Revolution. It adds two more to the long list of the heads of States that have fallen to the assassin's knife and bullet since the dawning year of the nineteenth century. No fewer than thirty-two attempts were made since then upon the lives of rulers. Fifteen of these were happily unsuccessful. Of the seventeen victims that died by the assassin's hand ten were royalties: Paul I., Tsar of Russia (in 1801); Prince Daniel of Montenegro (1860); Prince Michael of Serbia (1868); Abdul Aziz, Sultan of Turkey (1876); Alexander II., Tsar of Russia (1881); Nasr-ed-Din, Shah of Persia (1896); Empress Elizabeth of Austria (1898); King Humbert of Italy (1900). The hapless King Alexander and Queen Draga of Serbia complete the half-score of crowned heads that have met with violent deaths since 1801. The list of rulers murdered in the same period comprises one Prime Minister (Canovas del Castillo, of Spain, stabbed to death by Rinaldi in 1897) and six Presidents of Republics: President Lincoln (1865), President Garfield (1881); President Carnot (1894); General Borda, President of Uruguay (1897); President Barrios of Guatemala (1898); and President McKinley (1901).

In the meantime, the Servian military assassins, 'with twenty mortal murders on their crowns,' hold, unabashed, the reins of power and gloss over the foulness of their cowardly crime with lying excuses and fine-spun phrases. The common murderer goes to the headsman's block or the hangman's halter. The successful political assassin of yesterday is often, especially among Eastern or semi-Eastern peoples, the crowned king of to-day. And thus Juvenal's words come true: 'Ille cruce, pretium scelens, tulit; hic diadema.' Which, being freely interpreted, meaneth: 'Crime sometimes

Hancock's "BISMARK" LAGER BEER.

NEW ZEALAND'S
NEW INDUSTRY