

Trouble ensued. Protestants as well as Catholics were angered and disgusted by the exhibition. In the interests of public tranquillity the police removed the offensive placards. The offender was haled before the local Police Court and ordered to find a surety in £50 to keep the peace for six months. In the course of an editorial article on this 'curious proof of the noxious influence of extreme sectarianism,' the 'Auckland Star' said: 'It is not surprising that the outrageous language employed by the offender who figured in the Court this week should have stirred indignation among the members of the Church attacked. It will be an evil day for us all if ever our professors of religion come to believe that they can best illustrate the merits of Christianity by reviling the faith and outraging the most sacred feelings of all and sundry with whom they do not happen to agree.'

New Guinea

In referring last week to the Catholic missions in New Guinea we should have given the following figures: In the Vicariate-Apostolic of New Guinea (including British New Guinea and some of the adjoining islands) there were, in 1902, 25 missionary districts, 25 churches, 18 priests, 19 religious Brothers, 28 nuns, one superior day-school, 27 primary schools, two institutes of charity, and 1227 children in the Catholic schools. In the recently established Prefecture-Apostolic of Northern New Guinea there were at the same time seven priests, six religious Brothers, and four nuns. The activity and energy thrown of late years into this difficult mission-field has, no doubt, borne abundant fruit, and the little flock of 2000 native converts credited to our faith in 1897 must now, to judge from some of the figures given above, be a considerable number. And yet 'the organising secretary of the Anglican mission in New Guinea,' when speaking recently at Christchurch, mentioned only 'three missions' as being at work in New Guinea—the Congregational, the Wesleyan, and the Anglican.

About that 'Ruction'

Some weeks ago the cableman announced what somebody has described as 'a rare party bit of a fight' at a Nationalist meeting in Dublin. The facts of the case have at last lumbered along in the hold of a tramp on passenger steamer. And the facts are sufficiently unpleasant. Briefly: A meeting was being held in the Rotunda, Dublin, in furtherance of the Irish Parliamentary Fund. The Lord Mayor (Mr Harrington) presided, and Mr Redmond, the leader of the Irish Party, was present as the principal speaker. The ringleader of the disturbing element was Mrs. Major McBride, better known by her maiden name of Miss Maud Gonne. This lady, aided and abetted by a nondescript following, endeavored to take charge of the meeting and resolve it into an assembly to prevent the Lord Mayor, in his official capacity, presenting an address of welcome to the King on the occasion of his Majesty's approaching visit to Dublin. After a brief and strenuous period, the combative dame was politely but firmly shown out through the back door, her awkward squad of unconquerables were 'fired' with considerable emphasis, and the interrupted meeting pursued once more the even tenor of its way.

Mrs McBride (Miss Maud Gonne) is an English-woman, the daughter of an English officer, the sister-in-law of another, and all her relatives are connected with the Government service. She has herself travelled extensively on the Continent, but in what capacity we are unable to state. For several years she has posed as an extreme Irish revolutionist, and an unpaternal Government has permitted—if it has not encouraged—her to shriek all sorts of fiery stuff to such audiences as would tolerate her, while at the same time the elected representatives of the people were having their crowns cracked by the police for daring to attempt to address their constituents at legal, peaceful, and constitutional gatherings, and were sent time after time to the plank, bed and durance vile for the 'crime' for referring, even in the mildest way, to the open, notorious, and admitted fact of jury-packing. We do not say that this obstreperous Englishwoman is, like Le Caron, Talbot, and others, an 'agent-provocateur' of the Government to encourage revolutionary movements in Ireland. But her connection with the small and extreme set in the country is a puzzle to many, and the lady herself has never, so far as we are aware, given a satisfactory explanation of it.

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DIocese of DUNEDIN

His Lordship Bishop Verdon administered the Sacrament of Confirmation to several candidates at St. Ann's Church, Waikouaiti, on Wednesday of last week.

The Ladies' Dramatic Club met at St. Joseph's Hall on Monday evening. The attendance was very good. The members seem most anxious for the work, and if they do as well every Monday evening as on last they will have some practical proof of their progress to show in about two months. It is acknowledged that the dramatic class are at their best in operetta.

On Monday evening an interesting debate took place at the weekly meeting of the Catholic Social and Literary Club in South Dunedin. The chair was taken by Rev. Father Coffey, and the hall was crowded with an appreciative audience. The following took a leading and creditable part in the discussion: Messrs. D. McCurdy, P. Fitzgerald, E. O'Connell, W. Carr, C. Foley, T. Hall, F. Gaffaney, and J. J. Marlow.

The meeting on Friday evening of St. Joseph's Men's Club in St. Joseph's Hall was set apart for readings. As several who had promised contributions did not put in an appearance, those present were requested to give items. Mr. T. Hussey, who presided, succeeded in inducing many of the members to contribute, with the result that a very enjoyable and profitable evening was spent. Messrs. C. Sullivan and S. Whitty gave readings; H. Hungerford, a recitation; T. Hussey, a song; and C. Foley a few reminiscences. Messrs. Spain and C. Sullivan were appointed the leaders of next Friday's debate, to which all members of the congregation are cordially invited. An invitation has also been sent to the South Dunedin Club to take part in the debate, the subject being 'Should the trams run on Sundays.'

TIMARU

(From our own correspondent.)

June 29.

On Thursday last a most enjoyable evening was spent in the girls' parish school, when the different societies of the parish met to congratulate Rev. Father Tubman on his feast day, and make him some presentation. The different societies were well represented, and the guest of the evening was accompanied by Rev. Fathers Taylor (Timaru), and Kerly (Temuka). Mr. Mr. Nolan Knight (Hibernian Society) read the following address:—

Rev. Dear Father,—On your feast day, we, the members of the Children of Mary, Altar, and Hibernian Societies, unite in wishing you, 'the link that binds us,' a happy feast day and many pleasant returns. The traditional unity between priests and people of the Old Land you further have amply exemplified in Timaru by the deep interest and kindly regard you have taken in your parishioners individually, as well as in our different societies by sacrificing so much of your valuable time in attending our meetings, and by your kind words of advice and encouragement, and in promoting and stimulating the charitable purposes and Christian charity to one another, which are the main objects of our different sodalities. We cannot allow this occasion to pass without recording our admiration at your noble and successful efforts in erecting churches in South Canterbury, and we are pleased to note that your ready finance and forethought has caused those sacred edifices that have sprung up like mushrooms (at St. Andrews, Albury, and the contemplated one at Washdyke), to commence practically free from debt without making any exorbitant demands on your parishioners. As we understand you contemplate furnishing another room at the Priory we would ask you to accept the following gifts which we hope you may find useful, and which we ask you to accept as a small token of our gratitude and appreciation: From the Children of Mary, wicker chairs and towel horse; the Altar Society, a wardrobe and washstand; and the Hibernian Society, a duchess dressing table. In conclusion, we hope and pray that our own dear 'Soggaht Arroon' may long live to enjoy the fruition of his energetic and unselfish efforts in the noble cause of religion in this parish, and that Divine Providence will grant him many years to continue and carry out the good work he has in contemplation, and we subscribe ourselves, on behalf of the members of our various sodalities, your most obedient children—Alice Knight (Children of Mary), E. Dowling (Altar Society), J. O'Leary (H A C B S).

The Rev. Father Tubman made a suitable reply, in the course of which he was frequently applauded. The remainder of the evening was spent in cards and other games, enlivened by songs and musical items.

The quarterly meeting of the local branch of the Hibernian Society was held on last Monday evening, the president, Mr. J. O'Leary in the chair. Twenty-seven new members were initiated, and three nominated. With this accession the room was found barely sufficient to afford seating accommodation to those present. Great enthusiasm is shown in Hibernian matters here and it is the intention of the branch on next Monday evening, after the half-yearly meeting, to entertain the newly-joined members at a social, and arrangements are being made to secure a pleasant evening. During the week the officers and members of the branch wired congratulations to Bro William Beehan on his call to the Legislative Council.