

(b) For beatification, miracles as well as heroic virtues must be proven. Beatification is generally, but not always, a stage on the road to canonisation (or declaring a person a saint). (c) For canonisation at least two miracles must be rigorously proved to have been wrought through the prayers of the 'blessed' after his or her beatification. (In the case of martyrs for the faith, somewhat different conditions, which need not be specified here, are required for beatification and canonisation.) The honor allowed by the Church to the beatified is local, limited, and partial. Saints, on the other hand, are commended to the invocation of the faithful throughout the whole world.

(10) The Congregation of Rites did not 'announce their resolution' to deny canonisation to Joan of Arc. In the first place, such a proceeding would be quite irregular—their business is to examine the case and report to the Holy Father, and not to 'announce resolutions' as to what they will and will not 'deny' in such matters. In the second place, the reporting stage has not yet been reached, and may not be for many years to come. Such investigations sometimes run into generations; occasionally into centuries. For Rome is not merely of to-day and for to-day, but till the consummation of the world. It can, therefore, afford to take its time. Moreover, when a 'resolution' on the subject is arrived at by the proper authority, it will be published immediately to the world through the customary channels, and Catholics will not have to wait for some fat-witted penny-a-liner to 'discover' it when it is 'about three months' old. (11) Lastly: the Congregation of Rites cannot have declared that Joan of Arc was not a maid. In the first place, the whole question of her beatification is still, and will probably for many years remain, sub judice (or on trial). In the second place, the Congregation do not issue interim or partial reports, much less 'announce resolutions,' in the matter. In the third place, such a declaration would give the lie direct to the whole body of trustworthy evidence regarding her. The calumny as to a lapse on her part from virginity found diabolical expression in Voltaire's infamous 'Pucelle'—a disgusting work that had its origin, very appropriately, at a midnight orgy in 1730. Some author has well said that Paris and Berlin welcomed it, but that Sodom would have rejected it. We notice this senseless tale at some length, because it is an attempt, that many may have read, to asperse the fair fame of a great Catholic heroine, and to degrade the principle and method of the solemn ceremonies of beatification and canonisation to the level of a mere political expedient. Booby Bettsworth knew 'nor text nor margin' of law. And the mischievous wight of diluted intellect and little knowledge who concocted the story about the Maid of Orleans was equally ignorant of the judicial processes upon which he built up his scurvy fiction. And thus another Sampson-weapon against 'Rome' goes to the bone-mill.

TO OUR READERS.—You will find it to your advantage to deal with 'Tablet' advertisers. They are enterprising, up-to-date business men. They want your trade and are prepared to cater for it. Give them a trial. You will do us a service by kindly mentioning the 'Tablet.'—***

Messrs. W. Wright and Co., Great King street, Dunedin, have an established reputation, extending over many years of being makers of high-class biscuits, pure and wholesome bread, whilst their brands of coffee have been recognised by all housewives as being unequalled for quality and flavor. A trial will convince any unprejudiced person that the goods manufactured by this firm are all that is claimed for them—of the highest quality and purity....

Our readers in Otago will be interested in the announcement that the great annual sale at Messrs. A. and T. Inglis, Dunedin, will commence on August 1st, and will continue for about six weeks. During the whole of this period their immense stock, valued at £80,000, will be disposed of at very considerable reductions. As these sales in the past have been rushed by crowds to secure the undeniable bargains offered, country clients would do well to write for catalogues and send orders at their earliest convenience....

THE CARDINAL'S TOUR

Why It Has Been Postponed

For some time past there has been an epidemic of measles among the Fijian natives, which has given reason for great anxiety, as the last epidemic of the kind accounted for the loss of 40,000 lives. It was a melancholy and warning instance of the deadly effect of new epidemics when introduced into the favorable medium of native races among whom such scourges were unknown till the advent of the white man. The history of the red man in the United States and Canada also furnishes abundant instances—some of them of very recent date—of the decimation or extinction of whole tribes by epidemics of measles. The authorities in the various groups of Western Pacific islands find it, therefore, necessary to take practically the same precautions to preserve the native races under their care from the contagion of measles as our governments do to stave off small-pox or cholera or bubonic plague. All this interferes so seriously with the carrying out of the published programme that it has been decided to postpone it until conditions are more favorable. The following letter from Cardinal Moran to Mr. Spruson, the active and energetic secretary of the undertaking, explains itself:—

St. Mary's Cathedral,
Sydney, 16th June, 1903.

My dear Mr. Spruson,

The news which came to hand on yesterday regarding the spread of the measles epidemic in Fiji must seriously interfere with the proposed excursion to the Islands. I am informed that in consequence of the epidemic strict quarantine regulations are being enforced in some of the groups, and that passengers from Fiji are not allowed to land at the Tongan islands or in the New Hebrides or in New Caledonia. Were it a question only of myself and the clergy who had arranged to accompany me, we would not for a moment hesitate to face the difficulties that may thus arise; but when there is a question of some 250 friends from all parts of Australia and New Zealand, who have been communicating with you in regard to the projected excursion, a serious responsibility is involved, for which I confess I am not quite prepared. I fear very much that the quarantine regulations in the various groups of islands would entail a considerable amount of unpleasantness on the tourists, and would involve the whole excursion in manifold inconveniences for which it would not be possible to devise a remedy. This, I know, will be a disappointment to you and those associated with you who have devoted so much time to the matter, planning the whole excursion with incomparable skill and carrying out the necessary arrangements, even in regard to minutest details, with complete success. The respect, however, which is due to the interests and comfort of so large a party as is involved in the proposed excursion seems to allow no alternative save to defer the visit to the Islands to a more propitious time. Believe me to remain,

Your faithful and devoted servant,
PATRICK F. CARDINAL MORAN,
Archbishop of Sydney.

Correspondence

[We are not responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.]

'A Fiji Incident'

To the Editor.

Sir,—From the tenor of your article upon the above subject published in your issue of the 11th inst., some of your readers may conclude that the New Zealand Parliamentary party were blameable for the regrettable mismanagement which entailed the yet more regrettable discourtesy to Father Rougier and his confreres at Naitihiti. The explanation proving the New Zealanders blameless is a simple one, being as follows:—

The New Zealand party were invited by the citizens of Suva to a picnic up the Rewa River: as to what place or places on the river to be visited, we, New Zealanders, were entirely ignorant: that was entirely in the hands of our entertainers. When we reached Naitihiti (later in the day than had been anticipated) we expected we were to land and greet the Rev. Fathers and to explore this beautiful and interesting spot. We noted that extensive preparations had been made for our reception, and when the discovery was made that we were to pass on and stay upon our return I am certain the disappointment among most, if not all, of our party equalled the chagrin of the Rev. Fathers at their ready and generous hospitality being so flouted. The incident caused much comment among a number of us, but, as the guests of the Suvan citizens, our mouths were obviously closed. When returning from Nausosu the steamer called at the Mission Station and we were landed. This time there were no flags flying or band playing, the smiling faces of the Rev. Fathers and the na-