

ART UNION

A Magnificent Flounce of REAL BRUSSELS APPLIQUE LACE, two and a-half yards in length, and valued at £8/8/- has been given, to be raffled for the benefit of the Redemptoristine Nuns, who have been obliged to leave their Convents in Belgium, and are now refugees in England. As these Nuns belong to a strictly enclosed Order, they have now no means of support, and depend exclusively on the offerings of the charitable. Those anxious to help them can do so by applying for Tickets (1/- each) for this beautiful lace, from—

MRS. T. J. BOURKE,

Hon. Secretary,

115 Hamilton Road, Wellington.

The Raffle will take place on May 1.

MARRIAGES

CAVANAGH—RYAN.—On January 29, 1915, at Sacred Heart Church, Ponsonby, by Very Rev. Father Cahill, John, son of J. Cavanagh, Ngaurua-wahia, to May, daughter of Mrs. Ryan, Remuera.

OLD—GLEESON.—On February 10, 1915, at St. Patrick's Church, Palmerston North, by the Rev. Father Kelly, John Malcolm, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. W. Old, of Feilding, to Kathleen Agnes, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. Gleeson, Palmerston North.

DEATHS

WALSH.—On January 26, 1915, at her residence, Woodbury, Annie, the wife of James Walsh, and second daughter of the late Michael Hoare, Kerrytown: aged 46 years: deeply regretted. R.I.P.

WHITTY.—On February 22, 1915, at 27 Young street, St. Kilda, Mary, beloved wife of Richard Whitty: aged 64 years: deeply mourned. R.I.P.

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CRUSADE OF RESCUE

We have received 7s for Father Baus' Crusade of Rescue, London, from Mr. A. Lucas, Glenaven House, Rangataua.

MESSAGE OF POPE LEO XIII. TO THE N.Z. TABLET.

Pergant Directores et Scriptores New Zealand Tablet, Apostolica Benedictione confortati, Religionis et Justitiae causam promovere per vias Veritatis et Pacis.

Die 4 Aprilis, 1900.

LEO XIII., P.M.

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., Pope.



THURSDAY, MARCH 11, 1915.

THE CATHOLIC READER QUESTION



THE question at present under debate in our correspondence columns on the subject of a Catholic reader for our primary schools is one of greater interest and of greater practical importance than might at first sight appear. It is no mere literary or academic question, involving only the selection, on purely scholastic grounds, of a particular text-book out of a number of competing and almost equally suitable volumes. On the contrary, in the circumstances in which the suggestion is now being made, the proposal for a special reader for our New Zealand Catholic schools involves a question of wide and far-reaching principle. Exclusive of the religious instruction provided for in all Catholic schools, of all the general secular subjects in the curriculum the reading lesson is the most interesting, has the most directly formative influence, and is the most widely useful; and, with the exception just noted, is the most important educational instrument placed at the teacher's command. The primary object of the instruction in reading is to impart to the pupils the power of fluent and expressive reading: but incidentally it is the means of laying a foundation of literary, historical, and general knowledge which will remain with them all their days, and which will powerfully influence their mind, tastes, and character. The question raised by the proposal for a New Zealand Catholic reader is briefly this: Are the children in our Catholic schools in these early, plastic, and formative years, to be allowed to grow up without any introduction to the great literary classics of the Catholic world, without any real acquaintance with the fascinating history of the country in which they live, and without any adequate knowledge of the glorious story of the rise and progress of the Church in these southern lands?

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The proposal for a new series of special readers for our schools naturally falls to be considered under two aspects. (1) Are such readers ideally desirable? And (2), Is their introduction feasible—financially, and in other ways? Regarding the first point, there will, we take it, be no dissentient opinion, and we may safely record the answer as a hearty and unanimous affirmative. 'There is nothing,' says a thoughtful American writer, 'that solidifies and strengthens a nation like reading of the nation's history.' And as the patriotism of a people may be enlivened by the perusal of the secular annals, so may the faith of the young generation be developed and strengthened by the reading of the records of the

J. S. TINGEY

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