

was again responsible for a very small attendance of parishioners. Rev. Father Ainsworth, S.M., introduced the lecturer, and the chair was occupied by Mr. M. Friel. The address was similar to that given at Temuka, and at the conclusion the usual compliment to the speaker was carried by acclamation. Mr. Girling-Butcher left for Rakaia on Thursday.

OBITUARY

MR. THOMAS SHORTALL, COLYTON.

The parish of Feilding and the district of Colyton mourn the loss of one of the oldest identities in the person of Mr. Thomas Shortall, whose death released on May 3 from a long and painful illness. He was a native of Kilkenny, but left his home at the early age of 16 years to try his fortune first in Australia and later in New Zealand. The vicissitudes of a long life of over 73 years were more varied and thrilling than fall to the lot of most pioneers. His tales were of gold-digging in the Dunstan, of engagements in the Maori war, of bush-felling in the Turakina and Colyton districts, and of bridge-building and road constructing in the same localities. He made his home on his farm, 'West End,' Colyton, an eloquent monument to the pastoral abilities and love of home in the deceased. He is mourned by all sections of the community, but perhaps the highest testimony comes from the little children who flocked round him always, sure of sympathy and entertainment. Elder folk will miss his witty and engrossing conversation, and the generous advice always forthcoming at either public or private demand. His character was almost paradoxical in his keen love of a business deal, and in the utter absence of self-seeking when he could benefit either his district or lend a helping hand to striving youth. A touching tribute to Mr. Shortall's memory was the large funeral cortege, friends coming from far and near to take a last farewell. Mrs. Shortall predeceased her husband by seven years, and of his children there remain—Mr. James Shortall, 'West End,' Colyton; Mr. Robert Shortall, of 'Ardath,' Colyton; Mrs. C. Millen, of 'Glenburnie,' Colyton; Miss Mary Shortall, headmistress of the Colyton School; Miss Elizabeth Shortall, at home, and Miss Margaret Shortall, better known as Sister Isidore, of the Home of Compassion. Mr. Shortall had the happiness to receive the last rites of the Church in his dying moments from Rev. Father Cushman. R.I.P.

DESTRUCTION OF THE LUSITANIA

HEAVY LOSS OF LIFE.

A sensation was created in Dunedin on Saturday morning when news came to hand that the mammoth Cunard liner, Lusitania, had been torpedoed off the Old Head of Kinsale, on Friday afternoon. When the steamer was about to leave New York, numerous anonymous telegrams were received by wealthy Americans on board warning them that the liner would be torpedoed. Relatives of the passengers beseeched them to abandon the voyage, but the majority decided to remain on board, as they felt that the threat was an idle one. It is stated that there were on board 290 first-class passengers, 652 second, 361 third, with 665 officers and crew. The first class passengers were having lunch at the time of the disaster.

It appears that the Lusitania was torpedoed without warning, at about 2 p.m. The signalman at Kinsale Head observed the liner in difficulties at 2.12 p.m. Apparently the first wireless appeal for help was picked up at Queenstown three minutes later. Twenty boats were counted on the scene immediately after.

A later message states that the Lusitania was struck forward. There was a loud explosion, and portions of the splintered hull were sent flying in the air. A few seconds later another torpedo struck her. The crew immediately got the passengers into the boats. Everything was done in an orderly manner. Some of the boats could not be launched, and had to be cut away as the vessel was sinking. There were a large number of women in the second-class, and about 40 babies.

A cable received on Tuesday stated that 105 first saloon, 93 second, and eight third were saved. The Cunard Company reports that the survivors number 487 passengers, and 274 of the crew.

Among the passengers was the Rev. Father Maturin, the distinguished writer and preacher, who was received into the Church in 1897, and ordained priest in the following year by Cardinal Vaughan.

O'LEARY, V.C.

I was reading in Homer last night about Troy,
How Hector was slain by Minerva's decoy,
And I thought to myself what the story would be
If Achilles had met with O'Leary, V.C.

For the guns were well manned, so, too, were the trees,
And the German can shoot, let them say what they please;

So true was their aim, from each gun and each tree—
But here comes the hero, O'Leary, V.C.

'Irish Guards, rush the guns!' was received with a cheer;

The order was waited, or so 'twould appear,
For away swept the Guards like a wave of the sea,
And in front of them all was O'Leary, V.C.

The first gun wheeled round, but before it could sight—
What a change in the scene! How I wish I could write!
Bang! bang! and he sprang over two and then three,
And loud was the cheer for O'Leary, V.C.

Now gun Number Two was all thunder and fire,
But on rushed the Guards, still nigher and nigher,
Till the foremost, like lightning, dropped down on his knee.

'I'll soon stop that row,' said O'Leary, V.C.

Three Prussians tripped into the holes they had made,
So that out of ten marksmen, full eight missed parade;
The snipers had fled, when they saw from each tree
The mortal hall-marks of O'Leary, V.C.

The machines were secured and made ready for use,
And the Guardsmen leapt round like school boys let loose;

When two gunners marched up, looking anxious to flee,
But behind, with his gun, came O'Leary, V.C.

'Just think,' said Von Klick, 'we were told by Von Kluck,

The contemptible Guards had no practice or pluck—
After all our manoeuvres, on the banks of the Spree,
To be caught and marched off by O'Leary, V.C.'

'Twas the Kaiser misled him,' said Hans, 'but don't tell,

For himself is approaching to sound their death-knell.'

'If you e'er see the Kaiser, go tell him from me,
That we'll meet in Berlin,' said O'Leary, V.C.

May 7.

W. F.

Winton

May 10.

The Winton branch of the Catholic Federation held the first of a series of socials, which they propose to hold during the winter months, on the evening of April 22. There was a good attendance, and an enjoyable evening was spent in euchre and social intercourse. The gentleman's prize was won by Mr. Jas. Halpin, and the lady's (kindly presented by Mr. W. Hill) by Miss McCoy.

It is with deep regret I have to record the death of an old Catholic pioneer in the person of Mr. Edmund Rielly. The deceased was a native of Tipperary, and had been resident in Winton for the last 39 years. He was highly respected for his many sterling qualities and sound Catholic faith. A tribute to the worth of the deceased was paid by the Rev. Father O'Neill at the 9 o'clock Mass on Sunday morning. The respect in which he was held was testified to by the large number of people who attended the funeral on Tuesday afternoon.—R.I.P.