

CORRESPONDENCE

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by our correspondents.]

CEASE HUMBUG.

TO THE EDITOR.

Sir,—I suggest that in our poor mutilated country the sum of £2000 cash be paid by letter of credit on a government bank to every person who has lost a relative in the war, and the same sum be paid to every person who has facial deformities, loss of arm or leg. The sum to be paid out of a tax, ranging up to 20/- in the pound on incomes over £5000. And a stipulation be arrived at that each person in the community be not interfered with after this. Let each take his place in society. Will a petition be circulated throughout New Zealand?—I am, etc.,

Christchurch.

JOHN DOLAN.

SOLDIER PILGRIMAGES TO LOURDES.

TO THE EDITOR.

Sir,—May I, as one who saw the Lourdes scheme of soldier pilgrimages in operation as applied to British and American troops, strongly recommend this excellent object to the charitable action of your readers. Though personally deprived of the opportunity, it has been my pleasure to meet many officers and men in Britain who had availed themselves of the splendid privilege of visiting Lourdes. In their soldier way, they quietly but in happy phrases expressed the joy of their pilgrimage: they spoke of the bracing effect of such a manifestation of faith upon their religious fervor—an incalculable benefit to men at war and exposed to strong temptation:—of the extreme kindness of their patrons; and of the correct insight that Lourdes gave into the Catholic spirit of the French people.

To visit Lourdes has been the ambition of many of our boys when inspired at school by the recital of the wondrous miracles. To have these men return with their desire fulfilled would have a wonderful spiritual effect on many a New Zealand home.

I would strongly urge that this occasion of subscribing to the Catholic Federation fund to help the New Zealand boys to visit Lourdes before they come home should be worthily utilised as a means of expressing the proud gratitude of Catholic New Zealand towards her soldier sons.—I am, etc.,

JOHN DUGGAN,

Lieut. New Zealand Field Artillery.

SCOTLAND'S DEBT TO ERIN.

In the *Western Catholic Calendar* for 1919, there appears a most interesting and instructive article dealing with Catholicity in Scotland subsequent to the revolution of 1560. The writer points out that for almost forty years after that date the majority of the nation remained Catholic, and he maintains that Catholicity could never have been reduced to the low level which it eventually reached had there been a succession of bishops to maintain within the country a constant succession of priests. It was the lack of priests and the absence of Catholic teaching which left the people an easy prey to the designs of an "insolent minority."

It is gratifying to Irishmen to find that in the hour of Scotland's trial, the sister nation helped her largely in maintaining the faith alive. Notwithstanding her own extreme need, Ireland contributed during the seventeenth century, with only two exceptions, all the priests working in the highlands and isles. This fact is a remarkable tribute to Irish missionary zeal, particularly when it is borne in mind that the torch of faith which was kept aflame by Irish priests in those distant days had been handed down by an uninterrupted succession of Irish missionaries until our own time; and to-day, as then, the Irish priest is the mainstay of the faith in Scotland.

THE SORROW-TUNE

(For the N.Z. Tablet.)

A vagrant sang it in the limes,
He did not sing it tenderly;
For he was travel-worn and sore,
And weary utterly.

It was a savage little song
About a peasant of the snows
Who sent her lover to his death
To find for her a rose.

A boy sat by his mother dead
And shuddered at the little lay:
He felt that it was linked for him
With some great sorrow-day.

When he grew up he flowered in grace,
And yet he dreamed upon a rune,
And always feared to hear again
The ugly, wistful tune.

Then came the day he lost his sight,
And dumb and bitter 'neath the blow,
He heard behind him some one sing
The little rant of woe.

And yet uncowed he struggled on,
And, striving for his country's good,
He gave his heart into her hand
To be by her misunderstood.

Until at last for her sweet sake
He did a thing he counted high,
For recompense he was condemned,
And blind and bound he passed to die.

And just before his shameful death
He heard the sorrow-song again,
Across the angry multitude
A beggar crooned it in the rain.

It was a savage, wistful thing,
It was not of his race or day,
Yet was it ever linked for him
With some great sorrow-day.

—E. D.

SISTERS OF MERCY, AUCKLAND.

The solemn ceremony of profession took place at St. Mary's Convent, Ponsonby, Auckland, on Monday, March 31. Early Mass was celebrated at 6 a.m. by Father Bradley, and his Lordship Dr. Cleary received the vows of the youthful candidates during Mass at 7 a.m. The names of the two Sisters are: Miss Alice Clowry, Bagenalstown, Co. Carlow, Ireland (in religion Sister M. Cecilia Joseph), and Miss Mary Flanagan, King's County, Ireland (in religion Sister M. Emanuel Joseph). The music incidental to the ceremony was artistically rendered by the convent choir, and the altar was beautifully decorated for the ceremony. Among the clergy present in the sanctuary were:—Very Rev. J. Golden, Very Rev. Chancellor Holbrook, Very Rev. J. Carran, and Rev. Father Colgan. The Very Rev. Dean Cahill directed the retreat. The ceremony concluded, the visitors were entertained in the convent by the Rev. Mother and community.

Tears which have bitterness in them are not the tears which God preserves (Ps. lvi. 8), and complaints which forget God are unworthy of God's children.

LADIES!

A new style of dressing the hair is quite in order, but the purchase of a delicious appetiser, like MILITARY PICKLE is sound judgment. Sold by all grocers. Buy it now.

TRY

Dom McCarthy

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