

ite burial ground of Christian Rome, and in the number of saints, martyrs, and illustrious dead laid to rest, and venerated in the underground galleries and crypts that lie along its route, it presents an obvious claim to the title, which has sometimes been given it, of Queen of Christian Roads.

Time spares few things. Great empires wither and fall. That of Rome was no exception to the common lot. Goth and Vandal swooped down in their day on the city, sparing little in their advance. The Christian cemeteries being all outside the city walls, became unsafe in course of time, and it was considered advisable in the ninth century to remove the bodies of the saints and illustrious dead from their resting-place outside the walls, where they had been long honored by the faithful, to the safer refuge afforded by the churches and shrines within the sheltering city.

For some time the places where the holy bodies of the champions of the faith had reposed continued to be visited and venerated by the devout. But gradually the cemeteries became abandoned. The heavy hand of time choked up the entrances to them and effaced all visible traces of them, until the very memory of them was forgotten and they became as if they had never been, till accident brought them back to memory and loving hearts faced the task of restoring them once more to the veneration they had enjoyed in happier days. It was a proud day for John Baptist De Rossi, and a memorable day in the history of the Catholic Church, when in 1852, after many years of patient persevering toil he was able to open up the cemetery of St. Calistus beside the Appian Way, and lay bare the crypt in which the sacred remains of the Popes of the third century, many of them martyrs, once reposed—St. Zepherinus, St. Pontianus, St. Antheros, St. Fabian, St. Lucius, St. Stephen, St. Sixtus, St. Dionysius, St. Eutychianus, and St. Caius, together with "the Holy Confessors who came from Greece, as well as youths and boys and old men and their chaste offspring," to use the words of an inscription set up on the spot in later years by Pope St. Damasus, the devoutest of all the admirers of the Christian cemeteries of Rome.

The work begun by De Rossi has never been allowed to flag. The greater part of the Christian cemeteries have been cleared of the refuse of centuries and made accessible to the public, so that one may now walk freely through the dark and silent streets of the dead, with feelings similar to those recorded by St. Jerome of himself nearly sixteen hundred years ago: "When I was being educated at Rome it was my custom on Sundays, accompanied by other boys of my own age and tastes, to visit the tombs of the Apostles and Martyrs, and to go down into the crypts excavated for them in the bowels of the earth. The walls on either side as you enter are full of the bodies of the dead, and the whole place is so dark that one almost seems to see verified the words of the prophet, 'Let them go down alive into Hades.' Here and there a little light from overhead affords a momentary relief to the horror of the darkness; but as you go forward, and find yourself again immersed in the utter blackness of the night, the words of the poet spring to your mind: 'The very silence fills the soul with dread.'"

(To be concluded next week.)

The design of Providence is a design of love, doubt it not. It is carrying out for some a work of justice; for others a work of mercy; but for all it is, in the Divine intention, a work of love.—*Cardinal Mercier.*

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WEDDING BELLS

MARLOW—COURTNEY.

A very pretty wedding was solemnised on Wednesday, April 23, at the Cathedral, Barbadoes Street, Christchurch, the contracting parties being Miss Eileen Courtney, elder daughter of Mrs. Courtney, Addington, and the late John R. Courtney, and Sergeant-Major James Marlow, second son of Mr. James J. Marlow, Musselburgh, Dunedin. The bride, who was given away by her brother (Mr. Leo Courtney), wore a charming gown of white crepe-de-chine and georgette. An embroidered tulle veil fell from a wreath of silver leaves and clusters of orange blossoms, and a lovely white bouquet was carried. Miss Moya Courtney, sister of the bride (chief), and Miss Brenda Marlow, sister of the bridegroom, were bridesmaids. They were attired alike in vieux rose silk dresses, with touches of black, black hatter's plush hats with touches of rose, and carried bouquets of roses and autumn foliage. Mr. Ronald Marlow was best man and Mr. Fred Murphy groomsman. Father Fogarty, assisted by Father Long, officiated. The ceremony was fully choral, Mr. H. Hiscocks presiding at the organ. After the ceremony, Mrs. Courtney entertained her guests at Broadway's, where a dainty breakfast was served. Sergeant-Major and Mrs. Marlow left by motor on their honeymoon. The bride going-away in a navy blue serge tailored costume, fox furs, and a fawn velour hat. The young couple received many valuable presents.

Palmerston North

(From our own correspondent.)

April 28.

Further meetings have been held to arrange for the bazaar which it has been decided to hold in December in aid of the new church. Among the stallholders will be the St. Vincent de Paul Society, Children of Mary, Mrs. H. N. Watson, Mrs. Sullivan, Mrs. Alf Mahon, Mr. and Mrs. P. Small, Mesdames Broad, Sim, and Trask. Other stalls are being arranged, and a complete list will be given later.

The Children of Mary held a very successful euchre social in the Empire Hall on Wednesday evening with the object of augmenting the new church fund. This is the first of a series of entertainments they are arranging during the winter for that object. The euchre prizes, which were presented by Mr. M. O'Connor and Mr. L. Wischnewsky, were won by Miss Cullinan (Christchurch), Miss Harty, Mr. Venn, and Private Killop. Messrs. C. McGrath and T. McAviney were M.C. and Smith's orchestra supplied the music. The door takings alone totalled £16.

Referring to the necessity of decentralising the control of State schools, and giving local committees greater powers, the local morning paper quoted as an example the Palmerston Convent School, which it stated was far superior to any school in the town, in regard to building, design, and equipment.

Father Power has returned from Taihape, where he has been relieving Father J. Minogue, who came to Palmerston on account of his father's death.

There were no local celebrations on Anzac Day, although it was observed as a close holiday by business people. The returned soldiers held their annual reunion in the evening.

No great interest is being taken in the municipal elections, although the mayoralty is being contested, and there are 19 candidates nominated for the council. The personnel of the council is likely to undergo a considerable change as the result of the election.

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