

like friends. Thus, in the heart of the most prosperous and developed Irish county lay a land of day-dreams such as you might seek in vain all the world over. Some day, in a free Ireland, we hope a pen worthy of the task will make the past live again and perpetuate the dreams that never came near enough for us to grasp them.

Shane Leslie's Lough Derg

That brilliant writer, Shane Leslie, has done for Lough Derg what we want done for Wexford. He has gathered together from the spirit of the old Celtic monasteries and from books in old libraries half a dozen tales that are like day-dreams of the Celtic past, wistful things, drenched with tears, arousing old memories of forgotten saints and kings, and old visions of the prayerful, mortified lives of the blessed ones who sowed so well the seed of the faith in Erin. As a foreword he has this:—

*Hark, amid the prayers of pilgrims plying
Round the isles of shrine and bed,
How the wind is sadder for the crying
Of the unremembered dead.*

*When the hunger scourged across the breakers,
When the ships of exile sped,
Hear them crying, "Will ye all forsake us
To the seas that sweep the dead?"*

*"Brothers, where your footsteps pass unheeding
Once our paths and lifeways led,
Brothers, pray ere ye be gone and needing
Mass and dirges for the dead."*

*"Pray for us where Patrick's lips were praying;
Pray for us by Brendan's bed.
Soon in turn your children may be laying
You among the watchful dead."*

*Almost may you hear the wan half-sleepers
From their purgatorial bed
Crying unto God—"O Reaper, reap us"
Lest we droop for ever dead."*

St. Patrick's Purgatory

That little lake amid the hills of Tir-conail, which was the scene of strange pagan rites in the days of the Druids, has a history that is now lost in the twilight of the past, and of which only the cairns on the hills and some stray charms and legends remain. When St. Patrick came to Lough Derg he sanctified it by prayer and fasting, and made of this place of awe and dread unspeakable a shrine in which his memory lives to-day. There is no other place in Ireland like it. There still the austerities of the old saints are practised by the pious pilgrims; there alone can you get a true idea of how they did fast and pray in ancient times. The cave where the Saint saw the vision of Purgatory, the little lake, the church, the stony shores that sacred feet once pressed are still associated with the strong penitential exercises and the long vigils and prayers of Ireland's early saints. There you will be near the spirit of St. Ciaran, who would immerse himself in a vat of cold water for the love of God; of St. Fintan, who ate but barely bread and drank but cold water; of Cormac, Bishop King and Martyr, who sang three times fifty psalms in the fountain of Lough Tarb. In the Middle Ages and later Lough Derg was famous all over Europe. You will find its name on the pages of the Spanish poet, Calderon, and of the Italian poet, Ariosto. Princes, Prelates, pilgrims of high and low degree, came to the shrine from all parts of Europe in order to do penance and sanctify themselves. And many are the legends preserved in old libraries concerning the comings and goings of men and women now long dead and forgotten of all save God, whom they came hither to propitiate and to adore in the way marked out by God's "Love-friend, Patrick." In Lough Derg you will recognise why it is that the Irish faith could not be destroyed and why the love of God among the Irish is stronger than death.

DIocese OF DUNEDIN

At St. Joseph's Cathedral on last Sunday evening six aspirants were received in the Sodality of the Children of Mary. The Very Rev. J. Coffey, Diocesan Administrator, officiated, and a large number of members of the sodality, in their regalia, were present.

During the absence of the Very Rev. P. Murphy, pastor of Riverton, who leaves next week on a visit to Ireland, the Rev. D. P. Buckley, who replaced Father P. J. O'Neill at Riversdale during the latter's term of several years at the Front as chaplain, will take charge of the Riverton parish.

The Christian Brothers of Dunedin desire to be furnished with a list of all past pupils of their school who made the supreme sacrifice during the late war. It is intended, towards the end of June, to have a special Requiem Mass and general Holy Communion offered for the repose of their souls, and to have their names inscribed on a School Roll of Honor. The Brothers earnestly trust that the friends or relatives of those past pupils will supply the information sought, as early as possible.

Messrs. Kingsland and Ferguson, Invercargill, have just placed in the Queenstown Cemetery, to the order of the priests of the diocese, an impressive monument over the grave of the late lamented Father J. F. O'Donnell. It is of granite, and takes the form of a cross surmounting a granite base, which in turn rests on a solid block of concrete. The inscription it bears is as follows:—"Erected by the priests of the diocese in loving memory of Father John Francis O'Donnell, native of Glenroe, Limerick, for 20 years the zealous, devoted, and patriotic priest of Wakatipu. Died 3rd May, 1917; aged 65 years. R.I.P." On the base is this Irish inscription:—"Beannact Oe le n-anma. Sagart Arun."

ST. JOSEPH'S LADIES' CLUB, DUNEDIN.

There was a large attendance of ladies of St. Joseph's Cathedral parish at a meeting, held in the club-rooms on Wednesday evening, May 21, to reorganise St. Joseph's Ladies' Club. Father Kaveney (chaplain) presided, and explained the object of the meeting. Much enthusiasm was shown in the proceedings, and the following office-bearers were elected:—President, Miss E. Knott; vice-president, Mrs. M. Coughlan; secretary and treasurer, Miss A. McCready; committee—Misses J. Hartstonge, E. Kennedy, A. Quinn, M. Carter, and E. Ryan. The committee subsequently met to arrange for the formal opening of the club, to take place on Wednesday, June 4.

N.Z. CATHOLIC FEDERATION

CHRISTCHURCH DIOCESAN COUNCIL.

The annual visit to the Darfield parish was made on Sunday, May 18, under very pleasant weather conditions. The party consisted of the Rev. Brother Justin, Messrs. W. Hayward and F. J. Doolan (diocesan secretary). The genial pastor of the parish (Rev. J. Hanrahan) and Mr. P. Morrison, the energetic secretary of the parish committee, welcomed the visitors, and arrangements were made to address the congregation immediately after the 11 o'clock Mass. Speaking to a crowded congregation, Mr. Hayward explained the working of the Federation, and the necessity of all becoming members if the work is to be successfully carried on; and stated that the promoters purposely made the annual subscription a modest shilling, anticipating that every Catholic man, woman, and child throughout the Dominion would join up, and thereby secure sufficient finances for our organisation. Referring to the work of the hostels, he eulogised the good work they were doing, and warmly commended the Christchurch hostel to the generosity of the people, as although a