

CORRESPONDENCE.

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

THE DUNRAVEN FAMILY.

TO THE EDITOR.

Sir,—In a recent issue you allude to the perversion of the representatives of the chief old Gaelic families in Ireland, from the Catholic faith, by the action of the Court of Wards, in the time of Elizabeth and James I. Among the families you mention are those of Dunraven and Donoghmore. The Earl of Dunraven does not claim to represent the O'Quinns, who by the way were never a very important clan in Thomond. He derives from a certain Thady Quinn (temp. Elizabeth), who held lands in Limerick and Clare. This gentleman was a Catholic. His successors in the property fought on the Irish side during the sieges of Limerick (Ireton's and William's). The family lands were saved under the Civil Articles of Limerick (1691). It was the pressure of the Penal Laws that caused the Quinns to become Protestant, so they have not the excuse of the Court of Wards working on an infant mind. The family was ennobled at the passing of the Act of Union, but not for disgraceful reasons. The title was Viscount Adare, from the well-known family seat, purchased about 1740 from the Leinster family (the Earl of Kildare). The Earldom of Dunraven is a more recent title from a Welsh property, Dunraven Castle. The present earl's father died a Catholic, being influenced by the Oxford Movement. The O'Healys of Donoghmore-O'Healy were even less important than the Quinns. They were an unfree clan (*daor clann*) under McCarthy of Muskerry. I cannot find any of their chiefs ever enjoyed the advantages of the protection of the Court of Wards. The case of the ancestor of the Earl of Donoghmore (Hely-Hutchison) was, in all probability, one of perversion pure and simple. A very interesting case connected with the Penal Times occurred in the O'Connor Don family. A younger son became a pervert and succeeded to the estates to the exclusion of his elder brother. The impoverished chief lived on a little farm at some distance from Clonalis, the family seat. He and his descendants (one of whom was the well-known writer, Dr. Charles O'Connor, of Belangare), were fervent Catholics. The Protestant branch, as the old people say "never had any luck" and died out just when the Penal Laws were relaxed and the Catholic chief came to his own again.

Mise le meas mor,

C. UA LAOGHAIRE.

Motueka

(From our own correspondent.)

July 7.

The annual meeting of the Motueka branch of the Catholic Federation took place on Sunday last. Officers were elected as follows:—Local president, Mr. John McCarthy; secretary and treasurer, Miss Hagen; committee—Messdames Bate and Kirwin, Miss G. McCarthy, Messrs. Buist, McGlen, and Rogers.

The Catholic social, held in the Institute Hall on Friday evening last, proved one of the most successful functions held in the district. Father McGrath welcomed the public, of whom there was a large number, and expressed pleasure at the representative nature of the gathering. He thanked the Mayor (Mr. Wallace) for his attendance, and congratulated him on the recent honor conferred upon him by the King. In his lead could largely be attributed the excellent spirit existing in the community. Mr. Wallace suitably returned thanks. The music, supplied by Mr. H. Williams, of Takaka, materially assisted in making the social a pronounced success. Messrs. Buist and McCarthy acted as joint secretaries, and Mr. Vosper ably carried out the duties of M.C. The social netted the highly satisfactory sum of £21.

The Sisters of Compassion are visiting this district with the kindly encouragement of the Mayor (Mr. J. A. Wallace).

Oamaru

(From our own correspondent.)

July 14.

Owing to the energy of the *Tablet* representative (Mr. Beard) in his recent canvass, nearly 80 new subscribers to the *Tablet* have been secured. This excellent weekly paper is now read in over 200 Catholic homes throughout the Oamaru parish—a fine record indeed, and one that compares favorably with that of any parish in New Zealand.

Readers will kindly note that the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will be celebrated at Windsor Park and Kurow on July 20, and at Duntroon and Georgetown on July 27.

St. Thomas' Academy is rapidly becoming a popular centre of training for Catholic boys. Fifty boarders have been enrolled for the new term, which begins on Tuesday, July 22. To provide increased accommodation it is the intention of the Dominican Nuns to build a new community chapel, leaving the present chapel free for use as a classroom. With this object in view, a

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