

schools and churches, and walk.' The State in New Zealand has taken the first fateful step, and has entered the domain of dogma by setting up a system which necessarily rests—as Dr. Cleary showed at length in his Pastoral—on a whole set of implied Secularist or Agnostic dogmas. Having thus taken the atheistic side in a religious controversy between Atheists and Christians it is not likely (as in France) to go still further, and, when the opportune time comes—through the weakening of religious faith or the growth of the materialistic spirit—to turn its school system into a positive propaganda of dogmatic atheism. France has trod that path; and—with University professors holding the Continent up for our admiration—why not New Zealand? Dr. Cleary's warning should be preached from the house tops.

Notes

A Vindication

In the course of the discussion which has arisen in the daily papers regarding the allegation of favoritism in the Railway Department made against the present Minister for Railways (the Hon. J. A. Millar) in the columns of the *N.Z. Railway Officers' Advocate*, the *Christchurch Evening News* appears to have introduced Sir J. G. Ward's name into the controversy, and to have hinted that the promotion to Palmerston North of the Premier's brother, Mr. W. T. Ward—a courteous, efficient, and universally respected officer in the Postal Department—was the result of Ministerial favoritism. The suggestion appears to be utterly unwarranted; and the *N.Z. Railway Officers' Advocate* meets it with the following broad-side: 'In introducing Sir J. G. Ward's name into the discussion the *Evening News* adopts the same course as it rebukes others for taking, but it is unfortunate for its contention that the promotion of Mr. Ward to Palmerston North and elsewhere was—

- (1) In accordance with the Post and Telegraph Classification Act.
- (2) To fill a vacancy; and
- (3) The person promoted was next in order for promotion.

(4) He was fully qualified for the position. 'If,' concludes the *Advocate*, 'the *Evening News* implies that Sir J. G. Ward granted all our requests irrespective of whether they were reasonable or otherwise it is not well-informed, for we are in a position to say that that gentleman did not concede anything without proper investigation.'

The Other Side

We refer elsewhere to the letter recently written to the *London Times* by the Rev. Dr. Hanson regarding 'Romish tyranny' in Ireland, a considerable extract from which appeared in last week's issue of the *Christian Outlook*. We gladly acknowledge the spirit of fairness which has prompted our contemporary to reproduce this week the following 'set-off' to Dr. Hanson's one-sided utterance. It is diverting to notice that while the Ulster true blues still stick to the 'Home Rule-Rome Rule' shibboleth, another section of Protestants are equally confident that Home Rule means 'death to the priests.'

Says the *Outlook*: 'There are always two sides to every question, and as revealing the other side of the Irish question to that given in Dr. Hanson's manifesto, from which we quoted last week, we append a note by the editor of the *Young Man* (Rev. W. Kingscote-Greensland), which, under the title, "Ireland and Ulster," appears in the January issue of that magazine:—"I wonder whether I dare say a word on the vexed question of the North of Ireland's attitude just now. I have lately spent ten days in Dublin, Portadown, Newry, and Belfast, lecturing and preaching, and have discussed the situation with all sorts and conditions of Methodists, Presbyterians, Irish Churchmen, Unionists, and Nationalists. And I am absolutely sure I am right in bringing back with me the conviction that things are a thousand times better than when Mr. Gladstone gave us his Home Rule Bill twenty years ago. Of course, you still have the old, cruel, intolerant Orange spirit; but it is dying, dying as all evil things must. I did not converse with one single minister or clergyman who showed the old intolerant spirit. And always remember one thing—the Roman Church does not desire Home Rule. If it comes, the priests' days are numbered, and they know it. I could say much more, but my space is gone. Protestantism has nothing to lose from a Parliament in Dublin, and religion—real religion, not Orangeism—has in the long run everything to gain." Our contemporary also prints this week a considerable portion of the *British Weekly* article on 'Mixed Marriages' to which reference was made in our last week's issue.

At the examinations held in January, the following successes were gained by two members of the teaching staff of the Sisters of Mercy, Lyttelton:—One Full C., and one partial D.

DIOCESE OF DUNEDIN

On Sunday the members of the H.A.C.B. Society will approach the Holy Table in a body at the 9 o'clock Mass in St. Patrick's Basilica, South Dunedin.

Mr. J. A. Scott, M.A., who has supplied the editorial matter for the *N.Z. Tablet* for the past sixteen months, has been offered, and has accepted, appointment as editor.

There will be Pontifical High Mass in St. Patrick's Basilica, South Dunedin, on St. Patrick's Day. His Lordship Bishop Verdon will be celebrant, and the music will be sung by the school children. The panegyric of St. Patrick will be preached by the Rev. Father Coffey, Adm. St. Joseph's Cathedral.

The following pupils of the Dominican Convent, Oamaru, were successful at the recent Trinity College musical examinations:—Art of Teaching: Maggie Twoomey, A.T.C.L. Advanced Grade: J. Pringle, 89 (honors); A. J. Lynch, 80 (honors); P. Sherries, 68; M. Hille, 64. Junior Grade: Tui McKinnon, 85 (honors). Preparatory Grade: M. Martin, 93.

The arrangements for the holding of the St. Patrick's night concert are now completed, and the committee is to be congratulated on the excellence of the programme it has prepared. The programme items are entirely national—a feature that is sure to meet with the warm approval of the audience. In the selection of performers the choice has been a particularly happy one, and the names should be a guarantee of a concert of more than ordinary merit. The sale of tickets has been very large, and in consequence it is anticipated that the attendance at the concert will be a record one.

In view of the coming into force of the compulsory military service regulations, representation was made to the Defence authorities to allow a corps being formed amongst Catholic young men from fourteen to nineteen years, to rank as senior cadets. Word has been received by Captain T. J. Hussey that permission has been granted. This means that the Hibernian Cadets may recruit up to 120 strong, a new corps may form at South Dunedin, and a corps may form at the Christian Brothers' School. It has now been notified that corps may be established in connection with clubs, colleges, and such institutions, for senior cadets. The advantage of lads being trained in their own corps instead of being mixed up over different areas is apparent to all Catholics.

The second annual meeting of St. Joseph's Ladies' Hockey Club, held in St. Joseph's Hall on Friday evening, March 10, and presided over by the Rev. Father Coffey, was very well attended. The members evinced a very keen interest in the business of the evening, and seemingly were very desirous for the commencement of the hockey season. The report and balance-sheet, presented by the secretary, were adopted. The election of officers for the present season was then proceeded with, and resulted as follows:—President, Miss A. Heley; vice-president, Miss B. Rodgers; committee—Misses G. Brennan, N. Murray, W. Power, and Heffernan; secretary and treasurer, Miss Marion Munro; delegates to O.L.H.A., Misses Ann Heffernan and Marion Munro. The Rev. Brother Brady has very kindly consented to become hon. auditor. Votes of thanks were accorded the Rev. Father Coffey, for kindness in presiding at club meetings, and to Miss Marion Munro for past services to the club. The Hockey Club extends a welcome to all intending members, and a meeting for the purpose of receiving new members will be held on Friday, March 24. The committee in their annual report, said:—In presenting the annual report, the committee desire to congratulate the members on the victories which have been gained on the playing field, and also on the harmonious manner in which the members have worked to bring about the present flourishing condition of the club. During the year remarkably good work was performed by the B. team, their success for novices being phenomenal. While the prowess of the C. team had not been so marked, its members are to be congratulated upon the measure of success which they obtained. The B. team were placed in a more advantageous position, owing to the fact of there being a greater number of competing teams in the B. than in the C. Grade, so that the B. team had better opportunities of securing both victory and practice. The club tenders its grateful thanks to all who have in any way assisted during the year, especially to Mr. C. B. Jarman for the lively interest he had evinced in, and assistance he had rendered to the club. To Captains G. Brennan and N. Murray the committee offer their sincere congratulations on the excellent manner in which they carried out their arduous work in connection with their respective teams. It is anticipated that during the coming season the club will be in a position to send three teams to take part in the competitions, thus having place in all grades. The results of matches played by the B. and C. teams are as follow:—B. v. St. Hilda's, won, 5 to nil; B. v. Mornington, lost, 2 to nil; B. v. Waitata, won, 5 to 3; B. v. Braemar, lost, 4 to nil; B. v. 'Varsity, won by default; B. v. Ravensbourne, won, 1 to nil; B. v. Albion, lost, 1 to nil; B. v. Otago, draw, 3 all; B. v. High School, won, 2 to nil. C. v. Momona, draw, 2 all; C. v. Dunedin, lost, 4 to 1; C. v. High School, draw, no score; C. v. Braemar, lost, 3 to nil.

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