

A CRITICAL SITUATION.

According to recent news from Madrid, the situation in Portugal is becoming daily more critical. Through private sources one hears of general uneasiness. A great number of arrests have been made in connection with supposed plots against the Government.

GENERAL

MANY A MICKLE MAKES A MUCKLE.

The editor of the Report of the Society of the Propagation of the Faith in the Archdiocese of New York (says the *Catholic Weekly*) has some remarks which tell quite as forcibly for Catholics this side of the Atlantic as for their American brethren. The one hundred thousand dollars collected in New York represents, we are told, but one per cent per annum for every Catholic in the diocese. Can Catholics not rise to their responsibilities, and, be it added, their privileges, by one and all helping home and foreign missions by each sparing some such little percentage off their income, whether large or small? Even the 'painless penny' that all could give and none would miss would go to swell the receipts which in England fail so lamentably short of what the needs of our foreign missions demand. As the American editor truly says, 'who would feel the giving' when it is the question of such a mite? But, on the contrary, how much the S.P.F. would 'feel' that giving' if all the faithful would exert their generosity even to this little extent!

MARIST MISSIONARIES IN TASMANIA

Under the heading, 'Patriotism,' a Tasmanian paper, the *Examiner*, had recently the following reference to the Marist missionaries, Rev. Fathers O'Connell and McCarthy:—

'We have at present in our midst two clergymen who intend conducting a series of missions at all the principal coastal centres. To other than Catholics this may be of little interest, but the rev. gentlemen, who are natives of New Zealand, are a credit to their country in so far that they regard the Dominion as an example to other parts of Australasia. It is not done in an egotistical spirit, only by way of encouragement, and then only in matters pertaining to the Church. Notwithstanding this, the congregation or those who follow closely the preachers' remarks, cannot fail to be struck with the patriotic spirit of our visitors. As one gentleman remarked, "they never seem to lose an opportunity of referring in complimentary terms to their native land." This is quite true, and their attitude in this respect is one worthy of adoption by Tasmanians to a man. In this island we have resources and possibilities equal to those of New Zealand, though, unfortunately, not quite so extensive. It should be the duty, then, of every one of us to praise our own State. Quite enough discredit comes from outsiders, and it is to be regretted that Tasmania is condemned by several of her own residents, and by men who should know better. Love of country does not exist in the hearts of these particular individuals, as is the case of our New Zealand friends. No matter how varied opinions may be in politics and other important questions, we should all be united in endeavoring to uphold the prestige of the State, which, after all is said and done, is our home. No man will go into the street and scatter broadcast any little shortcomings that may exist in his home. The same disposition should be observed in regard to the State, because if we refuse to speak well of our possessions we cannot expect strangers to do so. Apart from spiritual education, the New Zealand priests referred to are setting an example which unpatriotic Tasmanians would do well to adopt.'

The Westmore correspondent of the *Wanganui Chronicle* writes:—"The most of us have gathered our apples and stored our potatoes, and some settlers have started hand-feeding their cows. Frosts have visited certain parts, but as far as I can gather, have not stopped the autumnal growth of old or springing of young grass."

Mr. Redmond received recently from the Irish Nationalists in the Transvaal a substantial subscription towards the Irish Parliamentary fund. Accompanying the remittance comes a letter saying that the Nationalists in Pretoria are a comparatively small body, but they desire to join their countrymen in other parts of the world in showing their sympathy with the Irish Party in its strenuous fight for Ireland's freedom.

Just a little illness,
Just a little pain;
Just an awful, racking cough,
Which goes and comes again.
Just an age of suffering,
That's the price you pay,
Unless you get Wood's Peppermint
Cure without delay.

Domestic

BY MAUREEN

Use for Towels.

A simple and useful combing jacket may be made from a good large towel. Divide it into four even parts; cut off the two of these nearest the ends and sew them at right angles to the central portion. Sew tape where the pieces join, to tie the jacket on. From three crash dish towels you can make a sewing apron, turning up the bottom and stitching it into pockets. Ribbon strings complete the apron.

The Care of Nervous Children.

Nervousness in a child may be either inherited, or brought about by, or it may be derived from, causes purely physical or mental, or of those allied. But, however occasioned, it is a malady of a peculiarly sad kind, and one which makes it beholden on those having charge of the children so afflicted to treat them with special care. One of the commonest forms is fear of darkness, which, as time progresses, becomes tantamount to mental torture. In some cases this may be inherited; but it far oftener comes from stupid people talking in the hearing of very young children, of newspaper and other reports of horrors, or from brainless nurses telling the wondering and fearful child tales of bogeys, and goblins, and witches. It is no wonder that the active brain of the nervous child exaggerates all this nonsense in the loneliness of the darkened room. Timidity in the presence of strangers is, perhaps, the least serious symptom of the nervous child. It is rarely more than a sign of supersensitiveness, and can soon be cured by care and kindness, and the gradual accustoming of the child to the presence of those other than its relatives and friends.

Nerve Tonics.

The use of nerve tonics and foods may have an appreciable benefit, for undoubtedly the brain becomes weakened by the continued process of exhaustion, but in a large percentage of cases, moral measures are of more utility than physical. When the primary seat of mischief is the brain, the evil is seldom due to chemical or structural defects. More frequently there obtains that which may be expressed in the words—wrong action. The mental state of a child who is afraid of the darkness is a quite natural result of very wrong influence. It is to be a greater coward than the child to threaten it and leave it alone with conjured up horrors. Let it be played with in the dark and told tales to make it laugh before it settles down to sleep, and let the dulling ears hear known and beloved footsteps in and near the room. Never at any time of the day, by any chance talk of any horrifying happening which took place, in the hearing of a nervous child. Above all, make the hour before bedtime the jolliest of the day, and if tales are to be told, let them be fairy tales with the happiest ending.

Three Excellent Hints.

In ironing a blouse without a proper sleeve board, it is difficult for the amateur laundress to deal successfully with the upper part of the sleeve and the gathers therein. In an emergency the following plan, if adopted, will give pleasing results: Put the iron stand on the table, and on it stand the hot iron, upright; then take the blouse in both hands and pass the inside of the top of the sleeve over the tip of the iron. This method will give the top of the sleeve the finished appearance so desired.

The hem of lace collars, bands, and vests should be strengthened with a fold of net or lace laid at the back of the hems as a support to the hooks and eyes, or buttons and loops, used for fastenings, otherwise the strain on the lace will soon result in a tear.

If a blouse is to be kept in position at the waist, run a drawing all round. To commence, measure the length of back from collar to waist-line, and from the under arm to waist-line; also arrange the amount of fulness required in front. Then run a draw tape round and tie at the back. By this simple method an ordinary loose blouse will fit to the waist perfectly.

Maureen

At the end of March the Irish Parliamentary Fund stood at £3205 14s 7d. The week's list included subscriptions from seven Irish bishops, viz., Right Rev. Dr. Mangau, Kerry; Right Rev. Dr. Fogarty, Kilmore; Right Rev. Dr. Kelly, Ross (Cork), each of whom sent a cheque for £10; Right Rev. Dr. Sheehan, Waterford and Lismore; Right Rev. Dr. Gilmartin, Kilmore; Right Rev. Dr. O'Dea, Galway; and Right Rev. Dr. O'Neill, Dromore, each sent £5. The list also included £40 5s 4d from the U.I.L. of Great Britain, £25 4s 6d from Strabane, £19 6s 6d from Tulla (Clare) U.I.L., £20 from Killeagh, Ballingar and Rabeen, King's County, U.I.L., £10 each from B. H. O'Reilly and G. McSweeney, Dublin.

DEAR ME

Forgotten that SYMINGTON'S COFFEE ESSENCE! Whatever shall I do? Call at the nearest store and ask. They all keep it.