

unity; and presents the curious spectacle of the retention of a title which was granted for the defence of doctrines which, from the days of William III., till less than a year ago, British Sovereigns were compelled, at their accession, to denounce as 'superstitious and idolatrous.' The sovereign, bearing this Catholic and Papal title, has still to declare himself a 'member of the Protestant Reformed Church'; but the graver anomaly—of express repudiation and denunciation of the Catholic faith—which constituted such a galling grievance to his Catholic subjects, has now happily been done away.

Notes

Significant

It was a noteworthy feature in connection with the dozen divorce cases heard [last week] at the Christchurch Supreme Court (says the *Lyttelton Times*) that all but two of the marriages had taken place in registry offices.

The Modern Test

A Japanese diplomatist is said to have exclaimed:— 'For two thousand years we kept peace with the rest of the world, and were known to it but by the marvels of our delicate ethereal art, and the finely wrought productions of our ingenious handicrafts, and we were accounted barbarians! But from the day on which we made war on other nations and killed many thousands of our adversaries, you at once admit our claim to rank among civilised nations.'

Our Premier

The first of the Colonial Premiers to arrive in England for the Imperial Conference was Sir Joseph Ward; and the *Daily Mail* gives the following thumb-nail sketch of the New Zealand Premier's career. 'Irishmen, like Scots,' it says, 'have the habit of success when they are caught young and transplanted. Sir Joseph Ward was born in Australia of Irish parents, and settled in New Zealand when three years old, so that, like Mr. Gladstone, he may claim three nationalities. At the age of twelve he was a telegraph messenger, and at fourteen he was earning £136 a year. From the telegraph office he passed into a store, where, among other duties, he incidentally looked after the business side of three newspapers! At seventeen he left the store and the newspapers and took to the railway. At twenty-one he abandoned the railway to start an export and general business of his own. At twenty-two he was Mayor of Campbelltown, and held the post for five years in succession. At thirty he entered Parliament, and in six years he was responsible for the direction of the Post Office where he had been a boy messenger. When Mr. Richard Seddon died in 1906 his natural successor was Sir Joseph Ward.'

The Priest in the Camorra Trial

Dom Caro Vitozzi, who is on trial for complicity in the celebrated Camorrist case, which for the last five years has been postponed and deferred for one reason or another, is a priest belonging to the diocese of Naples (says the Rome correspondent of the *Catholic News*). He is neither excommunicated nor suspended, and the ecclesiastical authorities will take no action in his regard till the trial is over. Notwithstanding the charges brought against him of calumny and of giving false evidence in order to mislead the officers of justice, Dom Vitozzi protests his innocence, and has done so ever since his arrest. The trial was deferred for some time on account of his illness, and during that period he continued to lament the delay, because he was certain that his innocence would be proved. Dom Vitozzi suffers from angina pectoris, as well as other ailments, and for a long time it was very doubtful as to whether he would stand the journey from Naples, where the trial is taking place.

The 'Asino'

Some few months ago we had the satisfaction of chronicling the fact that Signor Podrecca's paper—the filthy *Asino*—had been barred from New Zealand as an indecent and blasphemous publication. The Rome correspondent of the *Philadelphia Catholic Standard and Times* makes

the following comment on New Zealand's action: 'It is with a sense of deep satisfaction the news of the suppression of the *Asino* in New Zealand has been learned in Rome. The decision of those told off by the postal authorities to examine the production, before its exclusion from New Zealand was decided upon, was that there could not be a more indecent or more vile journal than the *Asino*, nothing more vulgar or irreverent. And this is the sheet in which the Procuratore in Rome, whose word is law in the matter, has declared himself unable to see anything immoral! Though the foul sheet dare not caricature Victor Emmanuel—not because it does not hate him heartily, for it does, but through fear of confiscation—each week the Holy Father or one of the Cardinals is shamefully insulted in its pages and flaring pictures.'

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And then the correspondent goes on to make a pertinent and practical suggestion. 'The *Asino*,' he says, 'is now forbidden in the United States of America, in Australia, in New Zealand, and, I fancy, in Russia and Spain. There is just one step more to be gained, viz., the prevention of its reproduction in the first-named country. That a few hundred thousand Italians in America should be able to set at defiance the Government and twenty million Catholics so far as to reprint the *Asino* is not a matter on which many can congratulate themselves. For the most part, the Italian emigrants to America are from Sicily and the southern States, which means the most neglected, the most ignorant, and the most primitive part of Italy. . . . One wonders where are the O'Flahertys and the Ryans when he sees in the Italian quarter in Philadelphia the head of the Church caricatured in a copy of the vile Roman sheet reproduced in the "City of Brotherly Love."'

DIOCESE OF DUNEDIN

His Lordship the Bishop left for Wellington on Monday.

A number of children will make their First Communion at the 9 o'clock Mass at St. Joseph's Cathedral on Sunday.

A Triduum in honor of the Blessed Sacrament will commence in St. Joseph's Cathedral on Friday evening.

Mr. J. C. Scanlon, who is in charge of the Dunedin Gaol, has left for Wellington, in order to assume temporary charge of the Wellington Gaol.

Mr. J. O'Reilly, who has been an officer in the Dunedin Gaol for six years, has, on his own application, been transferred to Lyttelton.

The St. Patrick's Young Men's Club, South Dunedin, held their weekly meeting in the schoolroom on Monday evening. Rev. Father Delany presided over a small attendance of members. The evening was devoted to a debate—'Should immigration to New Zealand be encouraged?' The affirmative side was taken by Mr. Carr (leader), supported by Messrs. Shiel, Keys, and Rev. Father O'Neill, and the negative by Messrs. McAllan (leader), Fitzgerald, Gaffaney, and Dougherty. After some very good speeches the chairman gave his verdict in favor of the affirmative side.

There was a very large attendance at the usual weekly meeting of the St. Joseph's Men's Club on Monday evening, when a debate on the question—'Is Prohibition a blunder?' was held. Mr. M. Rossbotham led in the affirmative, and had the support of Messrs. E. W. Spain, T. P. Laffey, H. Moynihan, and O'Donoghue, while Mr. Gallagher for the negative was assisted by Messrs. J. Atwill, H. Salmon, A. J. Ryan, P. Gorman, and H. Poppelwell. The speeches were in every instance admirable, and gave evidence of a deep interest on the part of the young men in this question, while the energy and general keenness displayed in advancing and refuting arguments gave a zest, from a listeners' point of view, to the whole discussion. The speakers in the affirmative kept closer to the point in their arguments than their opponents, and this probably, in some measure, accounted for the very large majority of votes accorded them on the question being put to the meeting. At the conclusion of the debate, Rev. P. O'Neill, who presided, criticised some of the speeches, pointing out their weak points, and expressed his pleasure at the success of the debate.

The work of organising the Cadet Corps for Catholic youths in Dunedin is progressing favorably. The two senior corps have a full complement of nominated officers, three of whom are attending a school of instruction under the permanent staff officers. This class will last until next January, and is providing for a very thorough grounding in all branches of work. A separate class for non-commissioned officers is also being formed. The Defence Department, in order to facilitate the efforts of the com-

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