

subsequent elections to be most satisfactory. Sooner or later, the system will certainly be introduced into New Zealand; and, on the strength of its successful operation in other lands, we are inclined to hope that it may be sooner rather than later—for it offers a reasonable prospect of enabling us to secure by our own strength at the polls that electoral representation which under the present system we are unable to obtain.

Notes

A Pointed Epistle

There is pith and point in the following letter from 'A Farmer's Wife,' which found a place in 'Passing Notes' of a week ago.

'Your humble servant, and impulsive and most ridiculous "Farmer's Wife,"' writes 'Civis,' 'is the signature to a letter reaching me from somewhere in the Nelson region. It would fill a column and naturally predestinates itself to the waste-paper basket. A ten-line correspondent may hope; ten folios letter-post will usually mean a short shrift. In part I rescue the Farmer's Wife because of an ingenuous simplicity that touches me rather. Says she, 'I am a Catholic, and I object to be called "Roman" Catholic.'

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After dissenting from his correspondent's objection, 'Civis,' continues: 'However, let us proceed: "Dear Civis,"—I hope you will let me down lightly, being a woman. But I have been always intensely interested in matters theological or religious. How in the world was I, a Scotchwoman, born a Catholic? There are patches here and there in Scotland where the people stuck to that faith. I thought it was such a bother to be not amongst the majority. I say to myself, I'll read up, and see; and if I can possibly get to heaven as a Protestant I shall certainly become one; it's easier. But there were two or three kinds of each denomination. I could not bear that; some walked miles to go to the Established Church and passed the Free; the same with the High and Low English. How can thinking children like that? I didn't. And on coming back from Scotland, being at home on a visit, I went to Mass at Madeira; I felt the unity of the Catholic Church so wonderful: it appeared to me that I, a peasant Scotchwoman, could follow worship as well as I had in London, or away in our little chapel amongst the hills of Scotland.' Then comes a homily on the evils of Protestantism from the point of view of Church unity. "Says my guidman: They are as hard to follow up with their churches and their religions as the pedigree of a horse. The poor Chinaman must think we have more Gods than one." Upon which 'Civis' comments: 'And "my guidman" has very much the right of it.'

DIOCESE OF DUNEDIN

The annual euchar party of the Children of Mary takes place in St. Joseph's Hall on Friday evening.

The annual collection in aid of the funds of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, which was taken up at St. Joseph's Cathedral and the Sacred Heart Church, on Sunday, will be continued on next Sunday. A collection for the same object will be held at St. Patrick's Basilica, South Dunedin, on Sunday.

His Lordship the Bishop has announced that the faithful of this diocese may gain the Portiuncula Indulgence every time they visit a parochial church from midday on next Saturday until sunset on Sunday if they comply with the usual conditions, which are:—Confession and receive Holy Communion, and at each visit to the church to pray according to the intentions of the Holy Father.

'The Spectator,' the club's magazine, edited by Mr. E. W. Spain, was read at the usual weekly meeting of St. Joseph's Men's Club. As usual the articles were bright, interesting, and varied, and the humorous sketches of several of the members and their exploits in debate, at football, and on the billiard table were

excellently written. At the conclusion of the reading Rev. Fathers Coffey and O'Neill complimented the editor and contributors on the excellence of the articles, and expressed the thanks of the members for the pleasant evening provided.

A team from St. Joseph's Harriers tried their hand at hockey in a match with the St. Joseph's Ladies' Hockey Club on Saturday, and after a very fast and exciting game the cross-country runners managed to get home first by 2 goals to nil. The match proved a very amusing one; infringements of the rules were the order of the day, the referees being kept very busy. Towards the end of the game the ladies played with great spirit, and gave the harriers a busy time defending, and had hard luck in not scoring several times. For the runners C. Collins and A. Treacey played an excellent game, and Misses Murray and Perkins did very good work for the ladies.

Members and friends of St. Patrick's Men's Club, South Dunedin, had a great treat last Monday evening, when Brother Cusack and the Christian Brothers' choir furnished a musical entertainment which was listened to by the crowded audience with great pleasure. A splendid programme had been arranged, and every item passed off most successfully, the singing of the boys being greatly admired. On Monday next the representatives of the club meet those of St. Joseph's Club at South Dunedin to debate the question, 'Should women have the right to sit in Parliament?' St. Joseph's Club takes the negative side.

DECREE ON THE PORTIUNCULA INDULGENCE

The Sacred Congregation of the Holy Office in a plenary meeting held on May 24, by a general decree, to have force until a new disposition is made, decided to lay down that:—

1. Both for all the faithful living in the world and for pious communities, the concessions for the Portiuncula Indulgence which have hitherto been given by the Holy See and which have expired or are to expire in the future, are to be held as indefinitely extended, with the proviso that the clauses and conditions of the preceding Indult are to remain valid and taking into account, as regards the time fixed for making the sacred visits, the recent Decree of January 26 of the current year issued by this Supreme S. Congregation (*Acta Apostolicae Sedis an. III, vol. III, pag. 64*).

2. For new concessions both for the faithful living in the world and for pious communities the provision is also indefinitely committed to the respective Ordinaries with the necessary and opportune faculties, saving however the clauses and conditions prescribed in the *Motu proprio* of June 11 of last year (*Acta Apostolicae Sedis, an. II, vol. II, pag. 443*).

3. Finally, for the respective Ordinaries is indefinitely extended the faculty granted to them in the said *Motu proprio* of last year, of appointing for the gaining of the above-mentioned Indulgence, instead of August 2, the Sunday immediately following, with the observance of the clauses and conditions thereto attached.

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Electoral Law reform—a system that is worth understanding. Page 1469.

The misfortunes of France—a careful and accurate diagnosis of her present troubles and interesting outline of the Counter-revolution. Page 1457.

'God or No-God in the Schools'—the 'neutrality' and other fallacies. Page 1449.

The 'Outlook' on Catholic literature—a thoughtful and notable tribute. Page 1459.

A Catholic tribe in revolt—the situation in Albania. Page 1457.

Bishop Cleary in Victoria—demonstrative and enthusiastic welcome in Hamilton. Page 1483.

The Irish Envoys—enthusiastic send-off in Wellington. Page 1453.