

Notes

What We are Coming to

'Fifth grade this year, Tommy?'
'Yes, sir.'
'You're in decimals or fractions now, no doubt?'
'No, sir. I'm in crochet-work and clay-modelling now.'

Amongst the Announcements

The many admirers of Mrs. Meynell will be glad to learn that the gifted authoress has gathered together her poetry for publication in a single volume. The contents include the early *Poems*, which have passed through ten editions; the *Later Poems*, now out of print; and an important section containing more recent compositions. This Collected Edition, prefaced by Mr. Sargeant's drawing of Mrs. Meynell, is about to be issued by Messrs Burns and Oates. Mrs. Meynell is a sister of Lady Butler, and, like the gifted painter of 'The Roll Call,' is a convert to the Catholic Church. It has been the luck of this lady and her sister to convert two men of genius to a recognition of woman's ability, for Ruskin unsaid for the one 'what I have always said—that no woman could paint'—and Coventry Patmore referred to the other as one who—I am bound to confess—has falsified the assertion that I made some time ago that no female writer of our time has attained to true distinction.

Fooling the Experts

Under this heading the *Sacred Heart Review* quotes some good things from the Rev. C. Meli, S.J., who, writing in the *Dublin Review* of the Louvain Conference, a yearly gathering instituted in 1911 to discuss, both theoretically and practically, the whole question of the study of religions, tells of the presence at that conference and at the one held a year later, of a number of Catholic foreign missionaries who brought with them a knowledge of the religious beliefs and practices of the primitive people among whom they had labored.

Father Meli in a footnote says:—"Ex-missionaries had many tales to tell of the scientific expert who sails serenely from Europe to catechize—often through interpreters—natives of savage countries. "What is the name of this mountain and of this river?" inquires the expert. He notes down the answer and, soon afterwards, an elaborate chart is produced full of native names. In time this chart reaches the missionary, who finds with glee that the river has been dubbed "You-are-a- nuisance," and the mountain "Go-and-see-for-yourself." Even the missionaries cannot control the native's peculiar sense of humor. "You answered the white man correctly?" inquired a missionary of a native who had just been interviewed by a distinguished ethnographer. "O Father," he cried, "the things I told him!" Infinite patience; years of close association; fellowship in life and language—these may in time win the confidence of the negro, whose major premise is nearly always, that sacred things are secret."

DIOCESE OF DUNEDIN

To-day (Ascension Thursday) Masses were celebrated at St. Joseph's Cathedral at 6.30, 7, 8, and 11 o'clock.

His Lordship Bishop Verdon will make a visitation of Wrey's Bush on Sunday, when he will solemnly bless the new convent and administer the Sacrament of Confirmation.

A meeting of all interested in the lecture on the Bible-in-schools question by his Lordship Bishop Cleary, which is to be delivered in the Garrison Hall on Friday evening, May 16, will be held in the Board Room of His Majesty's Theatre on Friday evening. The object of the meeting is to make the necessary arrangements for the lecture.

The programme at the meeting of the Catholic Men's Club on Monday evening consisted of songs, recitations, and impromptu addresses on current topics. Rev. Father Buckley (president) was in the chair, and there was an attendance of about thirty members. The president's inaugural address, to which the members of the congregation are invited, will be delivered on next Monday evening in St. Joseph's Hall. The subject of the address will be 'Dante and the *Divina Commedia*,' which will be illustrated by limelight views. Judging by last year's inaugural address, which was most instructive, that on Monday night should prove a literary treat.

Lieutenant McKeefrey, who paraded as an officer for the first time on Monday evening with A Company (writes 'Skirmisher' in the *Evening Star*), is a young man of much promise. He has shown conspicuous ability since joining the Territorial force. He served for some considerable time as a sergeant of the Hibernian Cadets before joining A Company as a private. He has by hard work gradually worked himself up to the position of sergeant, and was lately recommended for a commission, and has now been gazetted. Though working hard all day and studying for his professional examinations, Mr. McKeefrey has always carried out his military duties thoroughly, and is an example to those who complain of want of time for training that 'where there's a will there's a way.'

A very successful production of the drama 'A Web of Fate,' in aid of the furnishing of one of the stalls at the forthcoming bazaar, was given in St. Joseph's Hall on Wednesday evening of last week. The play was staged by the Dunedin Dramatic Company under the direction of Mr. P. L. Davies, and, judging by the frequent applause, it met with the full appreciation of the large audience. The following was the cast of the principal characters:—Gerald Arkwright, Mr. Bradey; Reuben Tredgold, Mr. W. Sutherland; Frederick Larkins, Mr. Bastings; Anthony Arkwright, Mr. F. W. Moore; Kate Arkwright, Miss Elsa Otto; Meg Tredgold, Miss Ethel Lees, and Norah Arkwright, Miss Helen Lees. The following also took part in the play:—Misses W. Manning, R. Alexander, Isabella McKechnie, and Moura Otto, and Messrs. C. Crane, G. R. Wilson, H. Carr, and F. Northcote. The performers were letter-perfect in their parts, and where opportunity offered displayed very good dramatic power, a feature of the production being the excellent enunciation of all the performers. The scenery, which was very appropriate, was painted by Mr. C. A. Abbot, who also discharged the duties of stage manager. The piece was well staged, and the performers showed that they had a true conception of the requirements of their respective parts. It was an ambitious undertaking, and the management is to be congratulated on the successful result.

RONALD STEWART TESTIMONIAL FUND

We have received 5s for the above fund from Mrs. Stamp, 547 Colombo street, Christchurch. In forwarding a sum of 10s for the same object, Mr. J. B. Crowley, Waipori, writes:—"I am very sorry to hear of Mr. Stewart's illness, and sincerely hope that, by the grace of God, he may soon recover. I have read many of his works in the A.C.T.S. pamphlets."

ANSWER TO CORRESPONDENT

ONE IN DOUBT.—1. Allen Doone was born in Ireland, but went to America when very young. He is a Catholic. 2. The Prime Minister of England and his wife and family are not Catholics. 3. The canonical age required for ordination to the priesthood is 25; but in very rare and exceptional cases—as, for example, where there is urgent need for and extreme dearth of priests—ordination may take place at any earlier age. In such cases a special dispensation from Rome is required, which is in practice never given for a less age than 22 years and 6 months.



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