

hardly, we imagine, what so able a controversialist, in his more studious hours, would care to defend. There are some things and some domains where majorities must give place to justice, to reason, and to conscience. The address of Mr. Caughley last night should do much to clear the air.'

### A Referendum Parable

As intimated elsewhere in this issue, Mr. Caughley, at his meeting in connection with the Bible-in-Schools question, touched on the agitation for a referendum, and illustrated the absolute unfairness of such a proposal by an apt parable. The Bible Leaguers, he remarked, want a system introduced. 'We don't,' they say, 'compel anybody to take it; it is free to all to take or leave it. There is a conscience clause, and if a parent sends a written notice asking for his child to be exempt it is exempt.'

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'Once upon a time,' continued Mr. Caughley, 'there were a number of birds in a field, and all contributed to the food supply—being a chummy lot. One bird was appointed master of the flock. A peculiar thing about them, however, was that three-fourths of them had long beaks, long legs, and long necks, while one-fourth had short beaks, short legs, and short necks. All wanted food. They found a difficulty over the way in which the food ought to be served. Finally the three-quarters of long-necked birds decided to lay their heads together and ask the head bird to serve the food up in long-necked jars, "suitable to their build and disposition." The short-necked birds, of course, were opposed to this proposal, as it would debar them from taking nourishment. The long-necked majority affected virtuous surprise, and criticised the short-necked minority for preaching "a dog-in-the-manger policy." The master bird said: "If you long creatures get long-necked jars, what about flat plates for the others?" Thereupon the long-neckers said amongst themselves: "We are three to one; we will have a vote on this. It is a democratic way. We can think of nothing anyways fairer." The short-bills protested, nevertheless, that the proposition was grossly unfair. However, the astutely judicial long-bills arrived at this critical juncture with a conscience clause for the relief of the short-bills. They said, with complacent unction: "We do not compel you to take the food out of the long-necked jars. Oh, no: we have a beautiful conscience clause, specially provided for the occasion, which gives you the privilege of going without." That is a homely but accurate parallel to the principles embodied in the League's proposal for a referendum.'

### DIOCESE OF DUNEDIN

His Lordship Bishop Verdon will administer the Sacrament of Confirmation in St. Joseph's Cathedral on next Sunday afternoon.

Rev. Father Tuohy, C.S.S.R., is at present giving a renewal mission in the Riverton parish, where he will be engaged during the next few weeks.

A social, in aid of the furnishing of the North-East Valley stall at the forthcoming bazaar, will be held in the Sacred Heart School on Friday evening.

There was Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at St. Joseph's Cathedral on Sunday from the 11 o'clock Mass until after Vespers. In the evening there was the usual procession, followed by Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

A social gathering in aid of the liquidation of the debt on the Church of Mary Immaculate, Kaikorai, was held in the Wakari Hall on Friday evening. There was a large attendance. The first part of the evening was devoted to a euvre tournament, the lady's prize being won by Mrs. Dickson, and the gentleman's by Mr. Keyes. Musical items were given by Messrs. F. Perkins and T. Hughes. During the evening, Mr. Bevis, V.P., on behalf of the Hibernian Society, made a presenta-

tion to Mrs. T. Hill in recognition of her willing assistance at various functions of the society.

The arrangements in connection with the Christian Brothers' School bazaar are now well advanced, and everything points to a most successful opening on October 13. The returns in connection with the tickets sent out for the art union are now coming to hand, and the committee are very pleased with the generous support which they are receiving. Amongst the most popular stalls at the bazaar will be the Japanese Tea Rooms, which are to be conducted by Miss Staunton. In order to make the spectacular display more effective it is desirable that the number of those who take part in the marches, etc., should be largely increased, and the committee trust that children and young people who are willing to assist should attend the rehearsals under the direction of Miss Hamann.

On the evening of August 25, the Children of Mary, South Dunedin, assembled in St. Patrick's Schoolroom to bid farewell to two of their members, who were leaving Dunedin. The spiritual director (Rev. Father Delany), on behalf of the Children of Mary, presented Miss Jenny Cunningham, who is entering religion in the Order of St. Joseph of the Sacred Heart, with a neat writing case, and Miss Teresa McGowan, who is about to be married, with a handsome picture. Father Delany, in making the presentation, spoke of the good example the young ladies had always given as members of the sodality, and said that these little gifts would be a memento of the happy days spent amongst their friends in South Dunedin. A pleasant evening was brought to a close by a short programme of music.

On Monday, the Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin, an impressive ceremony of profession and reception was held in the chapel of the Convent of Mercy, South Dunedin. His Lordship the Bishop officiated, and was assisted by Rev. Fathers Delany (South Dunedin), Corcoran (St. Joseph's Cathedral), and Rev. B. Kaveney, brother of one of the newly professed. The novices who pronounced their final vows as members of the Order of Mercy were Miss Margaret Lynch (Sister M. Gerard), Miss Mary O'Malley (Sister M. Ita), and Miss Josephine Kaveney (Sister M. Josephia). The young ladies who received the holy habit were Miss Margaret O'Mahoney (in religion, Sister M. Paschal), Miss Ethel Clark (in religion, Sister M. Colombiere), and Miss Julia Martin (in religion, Sister Nolasco). The occasional music was beautifully rendered by the Sisters' choir. After the ceremony, the many relatives and friends of the young Sisters, who were present, were entertained at dejeuner by the Sisters of Mercy.

### Greymouth

To-day was the quarterly Communion Sunday of the Hibernian Society and St. Columba Club, and it is very pleasing to report that the temporary church, the club hall, was well filled with members, close on 300 men being present. The members and officers of the Hibernian Society were in regalia, whilst club members also wore their distinguishing badge.

The new presbytery is practically completed, but it will be some little time yet before it is ready for occupation. It is the intention of Very Rev. Dean Carew to hold the re-opening ceremony of the church and the opening of the new presbytery at the same time, and a number of visiting clergy are expected to be present.

The alterations and additions to the church are not yet completed, but it is expected that Mass will be celebrated there from next Sunday. It was thought last week that it would be necessary to take the roof right off, as the white pine grub had attacked the lining. As this would necessitate a very heavy expenditure, Very Rev. Dean Carew did not see fit to authorise such a huge undertaking at present. I understand that it was decided at a meeting of the church committee to spray the affected parts with some effective mixture, and if this is done it is expected to have the additions completed at an early date.



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