

at all. Getting nervy he was, like some blamed female. All *that* was past and done with; he would make a new start entirely.

He had money put by, enough to live on for a year or two, after which—well, let the future look after itself. He might marry. Well, and why not? Might find some decent woman with a stocking of her own. There were plenty of women who would be glad to have him look after them. Some widow, possibly. He toyed with the idea, which, vaguely, had already attracted him. *This* widow for instance; why should he not make up to her? Again, why not?

He pondered over a pleasant vision of himself as head of this trim household, living down what had gone before by being a good, dutiful husband. Saw himself spending all the long evenings that were left to him in that cosy kitchen. It was a consummation that would have to be gradually effected, of course. So far, in their very brief acquaintance, she had shown no wish to be more than merely polite to him. But doubtless she was amenable to—well, friendliness. And, after it, perhaps a wooing.

The front door jarred just then. Jacob Cruden heard the landlady's steps in the passage. It occurred to him, as he glanced at the remains of the supper, that he would offer to wash-up for her. The thought gave him a curious glow of satisfaction, symbolical of his newly-found hopes. Heavier footsteps obtruded on his mental activity; one of the other lodgers, no doubt.

The landlady came into the room, followed by two men who lowered their heads as the light met their eyes, then looked up to meet Jacob Cruden's. The foremost of the two held a faded photograph near the lamp. Jacob Cruden glimpsed on it rows of faces against a background that seemed to be composed of a ship's mainmast and rigging. Sudden terror gripped him.

"You see—there," said the landlady, with a catch in her breath. She laid a finger on the photograph. "Next but one to my husband."

"Jacob Cruden," said the first detective, stepping forward, "I have a warrant here for your arrest on a charge of murdering Captain Septimus Triggs on the high seas. It is my duty to warn you that anything you say may be used in evidence against you."

"And there's the parrot—poor Sep's parrot," said the landlady, pressing a handkerchief nervously to her lips. "It knew me the moment I opened the door! Polly! Polly!"

"What ho, she bumps, ma," said the parrot, stirring sleepily on its perch.

Jacob Cruden swore horribly and held out his wrists.

AFTER EATING ONIONS.

Spring onions are wholesome, but are avoided by many on account of the unpleasant after-effects. The use of Fluenzol as a mouthwash, however, is cleansing and cooling, and purifies the breath. A teaspoonful of Fluenzol should be retained in the mouth for half a minute or so, and worked round the gums and palate.

Wellington Catholic Education Board

REPORT AND STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS—1924-25.

In presenting the thirteenth annual report, the Board has much pleasure in announcing another successful year and, as a result, the sum of £638 18s 7d has been added to the accumulated fund, notwithstanding the extra liability of £260 per annum undertaken by the Board to meet the deficiencies in the school fees at Convent Schools.

The receipts totalled £2093 9s 9d, the principal items being the Sunday Penny Collections, £856; interest from investments, £591; donations, £220; St. Patrick's Night Concert, £137; annual art union, £127; annual school social, £161.

The expenditure totalled £1454, the main items being payment to Marist Brothers towards deficiencies in school fees, £602; payment to the Sisters for the same purpose, £260; maintenance and repairs of school buildings, £174; interest on mortgages on school buildings, £313; Board expenses, £104.

The Board records its gratitude to the following for donations, and trusts that their excellent example of generosity will be followed by many others:—Mr. and Mrs. M. Dennehy, Mr. Geo. Lambert, J.P., Mr. J. P. Corcoran, Miss C. Sullivan, Mr. A. B. Boake, and Mrs. A. Schmidt.

Through the generosity of the late Miss Alice Bourke, who died recently, the Board will receive the sum of £200 from her estate.

The Sunday Penny Collections are, of course, the main source of revenue for the Board, and the total this year shows a noticeable improvement. Although this collection totals a large sum for the year, yet the amount is not what it should be, as it represents a weekly contribution by 4000 persons. This number is approximately only half of those who attend Mass on Sundays. The collection could, therefore, be doubled if all contributed, and the Board exhorts those who are not contributing this small sum to do so from now on. Children should also be encouraged to make this small sacrifice.

The Accumulated Fund is well invested in freehold security, the sum invested now standing at £9165, and earning interest averaging £591 per annum.

Of the total amount to the credit of the fund the sum of £4370 15s 11d has been donated by the following:—Mrs. H. Sullivan and family, £500; the late Mr. Maurice O'Connor, £1000; the late Mr. J. P. Bourke, £250; the late Very Rev. Dean McKenna, £10; the late Mrs. Mary Kennedy, £2000; the late Mr. Martin Kennedy, K.S.G., £100; the late Mr. Michael J. Morrison, £13; whilst the balance, £497 15s 11d, is the aggregate of other smaller sums.

In addition to this the late Mr. Louis Tasman Reichel bequeathed 50 shares in the Reichel Automatic Fire Alarm, and Mr. J. J. L. Burke donated 50 shares in the New Zealand Tablet Company.

The Board appeals to those who can afford to do so to remember the Education Fund when preparing their wills. If this important matter has already been attended to, and the Fund has been omitted, please have a codicil

prepared to rectify the omission. Already eight bequests have been made to the Fund by the wills of the late Messrs. W. E. Keefe, J. P. Bourke, Patrick Lyne, Louis Tasman Reichel, Maurice O'Connor, Michael J. Morrison, the late Mrs. Mary Kennedy, the late Miss Alice Bourke, and by a gentleman whose identity for the present is not to be disclosed.

Catholics are exhorted to assist the Fund by contributing an annual donation. Even if it is only half-a-crown per year, send it along; every little helps. It is not the few large gifts that count, but the multiplicity of small donations. This is the means whereby those who are not blessed with children, or whose children are above the school age, or those who are unmarried, can assist in promoting God's work, and their meritorious acts will not go unrewarded.

There are many calls upon the generosity of Catholics, but it is our bounden duty to support our Catholic Schools, and, consequently, we should make the sacrifice without demur, remembering that we are assisting the greatest of causes—the training of the innocent and the young for the Kingdom of God.

The efficiency of our schools in secular training is again highly commended in the reports furnished by the Government Inspectors, the percentage of proficiency passes being above the average. The sound spiritual training which the children receive in no way interferes with their material studies, but proves to be an aid rather than a hindrance.

Through the efforts of the Very Rev. Father Connolly and the Rev. Father Mahony, S.M., two very fine and up-to-date schools have been built in Kilbirnie and Aro Street respectively, involving an expenditure for land and buildings of approximately £20,000. These schools were solemnly blessed and formally opened during the year by his Grace Archbishop Redwood, and are now being used for the parishes of Kilbirnie and St. Mary's. These are further instances of the sacrifices which the Catholic community is making to advance the great cause of Catholic education.

Our report would not be complete if we did not express our gratitude and appreciation of the self-sacrificing work of the devoted Sisters and Brothers who are responsible for the spiritual and secular training of our children. On behalf of the Catholics of Wellington we desire, therefore, to thank the Sisters of Mercy, the Sisters of the Sacred Heart, and the Marist Brothers, for their devoted work.

Their grand and noble calling is carried on unostentatiously, year in and year out, without the blare of trumpets or the plaudits of the world. All they desire is to serve God, through the children placed under their control, for their own personal sanctification, and to fit both themselves and the tender young souls entrusted to them for a better and more lasting world.

Our gratitude to our splendid teachers should therefore assume a practical form, and

Leonard Coakley, Ltd.,

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