

there were also present several vicars-general and other ecclesiastical dignitaries with some members of the religious Orders. The first important measure they proceeded to was the issuing of a manifesto calling on all Irish Catholics to take the Confederate oath, binding themselves to the relentless pursuit of the war. Their complete deliberations lasted for three days, and the result thereof was afterwards embodied in the synodal decrees. The total number of the synodal ordinances was 29. The reader may find more than a passing interest in the following haphazard quotations:—

"(a) We straightly command all our inferiors, as well churchmen as laymen, to make no alienation, comparison, or difference between provinces, cities, towns, or families; and lastly, not to begin or forward any emulations or comparisons whatsoever.

"(b) That in every province of Ireland there be a council made up, both of clergy and nobility, in which council shall be so many persons at least, as there are counties in the province, and out of every city or notable town, two persons.

"(c) Let one general council of the whole kingdom be made, both of the clergy, nobility, cities, and notable towns; in which council there shall be three out of every province, and out of every city one; or where cities are not, out of the chiefest towns. To this council the provincial councils shall have subordination; and from thence to it, may be appealed.

"(d) We do declare and judge all and every such as do forsake this union, fight for our enemies, accompany them in their war, defend or in any way assist them, to be excommunicated and by these presents do excommunicate them."

The Confederation met, therefore, on that wonderful 24th of October, 1642, in the old city of St. Canice. All through the winter the first session went on, and the assembly did not break up until the second week in the January of the succeeding year. It is impossible to describe adequately the wonderful change that came over the country in that one memorable year of '42. The Supreme Council practically took over the government of Ireland. A mint was struck at Kilkenny. Courts for the administration of justice were established in all the Confederate towns. Fiscal legislation was introduced, and the duty was taken off wheat and every description of grain imported from foreign countries. The same exemption was granted in the case of lead, iron, arms and ammunition. Letters of marque were issued and several light vessels chartered to cruise along the shores of Ireland, and these vessels bore the colors of the Confederacy. Besides all this, agents were appointed at foreign courts. The celebrated Franciscan, Father Luke Wadding, was appointed the Supreme Council's agent here at Rome. As a direct result of his activities a pro-Nuncio set out from the Vatican court within a couple of months and arrived in Wexford Harbor towards the end of July, 1643. This was Father Scarampo, an Oratorian priest. He brought not only a letter from the Pope, but besides Pontifical Blessing and other spiritual helps he carried from the Holy Father a goodly supply of ammunition. In addition to all this he was entrusted by Wadding with a sum of money of the value of 30,000 Roman crowns. In the succeeding year of 1644, Urban VIII., the Pontiff who had sent Scarampo, died, and Innocent X. was elected to the throne of Peter. To congratulate the new Pope the Supreme Council sent its secretary, Sir Richard Belling, as special envoy to Rome. Belling arrived here about the end of February, 1645. Within a few weeks, John Baptist Rinuccini, Archbishop of Fermo, was on his way to Ireland as Papal Nuncio to the Confederacy. A new chapter of Irish history had begun.

To invoke Christ's Mother, the ever-blessed Virgin Mary, is not mistrusting the Divine mercy, but conceiving a just fear of our own unworthiness.—St. Anselm.

The Defence Department of New Zealand has decided to adopt the "Dennis" Motor Lorry. Transport Officers say that in France the "Dennis" proved first for reliability.—The New Zealand Express Co., Ltd.

## CORRESPONDENCE

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by our correspondents.]

A DANTE TRANSLATION.

TO THE EDITOR

Sir,—I was looking through some of last year's *Tablets* and I was much interested in your remarks on "Dante." Especially when you wrote stating that that Italian work had not yet been successfully translated into English. Well, it may interest you to know that you do not require to look outside New Zealand, or your own Church, to find out the correct translator. The work, as you know, is composed of a multitude of verses in four-line Italian poetry. The late Francis Philip O'Reilly, the learned southern barrister and solicitor, translated the whole of the work into four-line English poetry and in rhyme. A copy of a portion of the translation was sent to that severe critic the editor of the *Sydney Bulletin*, and he pronounced it to be the best and only correct translation he had ever read. Another copy of a portion was taken to Canada by a Southland doctor. The whole translation was supposed to have been posted to the Old Country, as Mr. O'Reilly thought at that time that they could make a better job of it there. The ship carrying the mails was supposed to have been wrecked. However, so far as I know, nothing has since been heard of the translation. Mr. O'Reilly would have translated it just as well had it been written in Chinese: this language he read and wrote well and spoke fluently, and he was considered to be a linguist. He had a wonderful memory. The Southland papers stated that he narrowly escaped genius, and that his head contained a veritable storage of learning. This may interest you.—I am, etc.,

A. BURKE.

Pahiatua, August 12.

### Martinborough

The Catholics of Martinborough are making a laudable endeavor to raise sufficient funds to rebuild their church, which was destroyed by fire some three years ago (says the *Martinborough Star*). Towards this end several concerts and entertainments of various kinds have taken place, and an art union is now being promoted.

One of the brightest and best of those popular entertainments for children took place recently, when the annual children's fancy dress social was held in the Town Hall (says the *Star*). This year the Catholic church committee held the function as an aid to the church rebuilding fund, and one and all may be well pleased at the success financially and otherwise, which has rewarded their efforts. It was indeed a bright and happy scene which greeted the onlooker from the gallery, the children's costumes this year being much better than those of previous occasions, and were eloquent of the attention bestowed on them both for originality and prettiness. The task of judging for the various prizes was very difficult, and was entrusted to Miss K. Martin, whose decisions met with general approbation.

### Succession

The little clock upon the table ticking  
Tells of a world where measured moments pass.  
Outside, the grass  
Pursues its rhythm in undivided time,  
The trees move strangely to their secret rime.  
Sudden the dreamy cat has ceased his licking,  
And waits paw-poised upon the quiet air;  
Discerning there,  
As the sharp instants fast  
Fall from the dying present to the past,  
The grave pulsations of that greater flood  
Moving toward a bourn not understood,  
Wherefrom—as scudding waves on the sea's rest—  
Our life lifts up its crest.  
—EVELYN UNDERHILL, in the *Westminster Gazette*.

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