

erected, dominating all the scene. With shield advanced, body tensely stretching forward, and the unvanquished sword in his sinewy right hand, it was the true embodiment of the nation's ideals of force and might. By these, and by the skill and craft of statesmanship had the great empire been created. Written over all was the motto of the modern superman, the same in business as in politics and war: "Let him take who can." But now the sword-hand of that soldier-image was broken at the wrist; the head, with cold, relentless, and imperious eyes, lay shattered on the pavement; and the edge of the protecting shield was broken by the missiles of a crushing defeat. Human power, glory, art, and riches had over-reached themselves. A purely materialistic development, losing sight of the things of the spirit, defying the restraints of religion, creating its own gods after the conceits of its own heart: Mars, Mammon, Venus, had produced the authentic superman, the apex, as we are proudly told in our own material days, of materialistic evolution. But the day of vengeance was not far off, as it must come to every nation that sinks to this decline, no matter what may be its material triumphs in war, in commerce, or in art.

Desolation

And then, last scene of all "Desolation." A solitude far other than that of primal wildernesses, the solitude of Babylon, and Nineveh and Tyre. The moon is silently looking down, half veiled in clouds. Its light falls on the jutting hill with its lone boulder, still resting firmly balanced as when man first looked on it. Masses of carved stones show where the proud palaces had once stood and the white city lay sunk in luxury, vice, and greed, and in all that this same pagan materialism has taught anew in our day, as if it were some unheard of acquisition, that is proudly conned in schools and universities, practised in high places and made the common argument among the masses. It matters not whether we call it by the name of Dagon or Astarte worship, a monist creed or a humanitarian cult, eugenism or birth-control, a proletarian dictatorship or an orgy of profiteering. It is always the same dull thing, under different names, and adapted to different times, which the Scripture calls "the world," that world for which Christ said that he would not pray, the world of the three concupiscences, which must first be idolised, under the title of some godhead or some science, that it can thus be suitably dignified before it is proposed for our worship.

But the pride of "the world" passes while the Word of God remains. Merely an arch is left as we turn to our picture, to show where stood the massive bridge across which poured the mighty pageant in the day of triumph when all ambitions had been achieved. Stray pillars, here and there, stand out from the bare landscape and white stones project from the brown earth. In a broken basin the fountain gurgles, as it flowed of old at the dawn of human life, and close before us, in desolate magnificence, a solitary column stands, last mournful token of the vanished splendors. On its broken capital a black heron broods over her nest of straws, while amid the fragments at its base wild shrubs and ferns are growing, and the venturous ivy climbs up to the broken acanthus leaves that crowned it in the day of glory that has passed away.

And what of the descendants of those men and women who had once populated this solitude, of the few who in that night of horrors sought safety in the hills or were dragged away into barbarian slavery? Who knows but some archeologist may discover them in our day and class them with the "primitives," the supposed original undeveloped savages.

Redemptorist Order in New Zealand

The following appointments among the Missioners of the Redemptorist Order in New Zealand have recently been made:—Very Rev. Father Whelan has been re-appointed Rector of St. Gerard's. The other members of the community are: Rev. Father Thomas Walsh, Rev. Father Campbell, Rev. Father Mitchell, Rev. Father Duffy. Fathers Mangan and Hannigan leave for Australia; the former is transferred to Ballarat and the latter to Waratah.

Diocesan News

ARCHDIOCESE OF WELLINGTON

(From our own correspondent.)

October 21.

On Thursday evening last the first of a series of monthly reunions of members of the Catholic Ladies' Club was held at the clubrooms, Willis Street, and proved most successful. An interesting lecturette on "Microbes" was given by Dr. Roche Kelly, who was cordially thanked by the president at the conclusion of his address. An enjoyable programme was contributed to by the Misses K. Jansen, Doherty, Corby, Redican, and Flan. It is intended to continue these re-unions on the second Thursday of each month.

On last Sunday the members of the local branch of the Hibernian Society attended in large numbers at their quarterly Communion at the 7.30 o'clock Mass, celebrated by Rev. Father MacDermott at St. Joseph's Church, Buckle Street. After Mass the Communion breakfast was held at the Marble Bar, Manners Street, the members headed by their Pipe band marching thereto. Bro. J. F. Taylor presided, and apologies for unavoidable absence were received from his Grace Archbishop O'Shea and the Rev. Father Mahony, S.M. The usual loyal toasts were duly honored. Advantage was taken of the occasion to mark the forty-seventh anniversary of St. Patrick's branch, by making a presentation of a secretary's collar and framed emblem certificate to Bro. P. D. Hoskins, who has occupied the position of secretary for the past thirteen years. The presentation was made by Bro. Taylor, who eulogised Bro. Hoskins' services in the cause of Hibernianism. Bro. J. J. L. Bourke also spoke in complimentary terms regarding the services rendered by the secretary, and expressed the hope that Bro. Hoskins would long be spared to continue to occupy the office which he had so ably filled during the past thirteen years. Bro. Hoskins suitably replied. His only regret (he said) was that he was not able to bestow more time on the work of the Society. He detailed the work of the members in promoting St. Patrick's Day and Boxing Day celebrations for the benefit of Catholic Primary Education, and as a result of their efforts the Education Fund now stood with the handsome sum of over £10,000. During his period of secretaryship the branch had paid out in sick benefits £3840, in medical benefits £3466, and £1090 in death benefits, which showed that the branch is doing good work in the city. Cheers were given for Bro. Hoskins and the proceedings terminated with the singing of "Faith of Our Fathers."

Misses Theo and Lesley Halpin, daughters of Major Halpin, were successful at the recent musical examinations conducted by the Trinity College of Music with the result that they have attained both the A.T.C.L. and L.T.C.L. degrees. They were also successful in the singing and violin examinations. Both are pupils of the Sacred Heart Convent, Lower Hutt, conducted by the Sisters of the Missions.

A very promising young lady and an exemplary Catholic, in the person of Miss Elsie Strickland, passed away last week at her mother's residence, Newtown, after a long illness patiently borne. The deceased was a member of the Sodality of Children of Mary, and a member of the University Registrar's clerical staff. The sympathy of a wide circle of friends is extended to Mrs. Strickland and her family in their sad bereavement.—R.I.P.

Much sympathy is felt for Mr. Dibley and family, Island Bay, in the loss they have sustained through the death of Mrs. Dibley.—R.I.P.

Another very successful function to provide funds for Rev. Mother Aubert's charitable activities took place at His Majesty's Theatre last Wednesday afternoon. The large theatre was crowded, and as a result a handsome sum was raised. Miss M. Gleeson was secretary, and Miss Mary Butler organised the entertainment, whilst the Fuller Proprietary provided the theatre free of charge.

Rev. Father Gondringer, S.M., of St. Patrick's College, will leave New Zealand early in December on a visit to his relatives in Europe. Father Gondringer has been 19 years in New Zealand, of which three were spent as a