



NEW ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH AT PARAKAU, HOKIANGA. BUILT BY MAORIS.

**NEW CHURCH AT HOKIANGA**

On Sunday, April 2, a large crowd of settlers and Maoris assembled at Parakau, Hokianga, to witness the opening and consecration of the new Roman Catholic Church which has just been built by two Maoris named Pukepoto and Taonu. This church is built on the same spot where the oldest Catholic church in New Zealand was erected. The old one was built by Bishop Pompallier, who came here in 1836. Hokianga claims the honour of being the first place in New Zealand where mass was first said in a church. The new church is a nice-sized place, but on Sunday not over half the people could find room. Visitors came from all parts of the river. The s.s. Horeke was hired for the occasion, and had a large boat in tow bringing a lot of passengers from Kohukohu and Rawene. The ceremony commenced at 11 o'clock, and was conducted by the Very Rev. Father Allgheart, assisted by the Rev. Fathers J. Becker, R. Bressers, and E. Schoonof. After the service was over the people were asked to a hui (feast) given by the Maoris. There was abundance of clean, well-cooked food, including pastry and a good collection of fruit. It was one of the best huis I have seen, and did credit to all concerned. A white baby was christened on the following Sunday. It belonged to Mr and Mrs T. Enwright, of Kohukohu, Mr G. M. Bernard standing godfather, and Miss M. Enwright was its godmother.

I can't do it never did anything. I'll try has worked wonders, and I will do it has performed prodigies.

**CURIOUS FREAKS OF THE MEMORY.**

The queer freaks of memory are a constant puzzle to those who study psychological phenomena. Who has not been driven to the verge of distraction by the total inability to recall a name when an effort was made to do so, and when the occasion for such remembrance was past had the missing name flashed into the mind apparently of its own volition? The year 1898 recently closed, but how many of us can recall readily the chief incidents of the last twelve months, and say accurately in what month they occurred? Try it and see.

Great minds have wrestled to find an explanation for the pranks that memory plays, and have had to give up the effort. In the course of a systematic attempt to arrive at some understanding with regard to the wonders of memory a very valuable and unique body of testimony has been obtained. The following questions have been put to two hundred American university students and professional persons, 151 being men and 49 being women. The answers are here given with the questions:—

Question 1. When you cannot recall a name you want, does it seem to come back spontaneously without being suggested by any perceived association of ideas? To this eleven per cent. answered 'No' and eighty-one per cent. 'Yes.'

Q. 2. Does such recovery ever come during sleep? To this seventeen per cent. answered 'No,' and twenty-eight 'Yes.'

Some examples given:—

1. This morning I tried to recall the name of a character I had read of the night before in one of Scott's novels and failed. I taught a class, and walking home in the afternoon all the names recurred to me without effort.

2. I tried to recall the name of a book. Gave it up. Half an hour later, while talking of something else, blurted it out without conscious volition.

Q. 3. On seeing a light or hearing a sound for the first time have you ever felt that you had seen (or heard) the same before? Fifty-nine per cent. answered 'Yes.'

The action of unconscious memory during sleep is illustrated by further queries:—

Q. 4. Do you dream? Ninety-four per cent. answered 'Yes.'

Q. 5. Can you wake at a given hour determined before going to sleep without waking up many times before? Fifty-nine per cent. answered 'Yes.' Thirty-one per cent. answered 'No.'

Q. 6. If you can, how about failure? Sixty-nine per cent. seldom fail, twenty-five per cent. often.

Q. 7. Do you come direct from oblivion into consciousness? Sixty-four per cent. answered 'Yes' and sixteen per cent. 'Gradually.'

Examples:—

1. I had to give medicine exactly every two hours to my wife. I am a very sound sleeper, but for six weeks I woke up every two hours and never missed giving the medicine.

2. I am always awake five minutes before the hour I set the alarm.

3. I had had little sleep for ten days and went to bed at nine, asking to be called at midnight. I fell asleep at once. I rose and dressed as the clock

struck twelve, and could not believe I had not been called.

A strange phenomenon has come to light in the course of the inquiry into the mystery of memory. It has been discovered that by gazing steadily at a crystal consciousness is partly lost. Into the void thus produced those who have practised crystal gazing find that there enter, unbidden, forgotten incidents and lost memories. To give a few instances:—A lady in crystal gazing saw a bit of dark wall covered with white flowers. She was conscious she must have seen it somewhere, but had no recollection where. She walked over the ground she had just traversed, and found the wall, which she had passed unnoticed.

She took out her bank-book another day. Shortly afterward she was gazing at the crystal and saw nothing but the number one. She thought it was some hack number, but, taking up the bank-book, found, to her surprise, it was the number of the account.

At another time she destroyed a letter without noting the address; she could not remember the town. After gazing at the crystal some time she saw '321 Jefferson avenue.' She addressed the letter there, adding the town, and found it was right.

A lady sat in a room to write where she had sat eight years before. She felt her feet moving restlessly under the table and then remembered that eight years before she always had a footstool. It was this her feet were seeking.

Psychical research brings to light many cases of similar strange tricks of memory. It is easy to find instances that serve to deepen the mystery. It is not so easy to give an explanation. The cleverest men who have attempted to do so have had to admit defeat.

**WOMEN EXECUTIONERS.**

What do you think of a woman who voluntarily offered herself to the Government as the public executioner?

A few years ago the official public executioner at Brussels died, and a substitute was temporarily appointed. On one occasion this person was ill and unable to attend. But at the appointed hour a stout, middle-aged woman presented herself at the central police station, and quietly remarked to the assembled functionaries:

'I've come for the execution. My husband is not very well this morning and has asked me to take his place. Please let me get to business.'

The general stupefaction may be more easily imagined than described, which, being noticed by the would-be lady executioner, she added in a reassuring tone, 'Oh, this is not by any means the first time.'

It afterwards transpired that the woman, whose name was Marie Rege, had officiated on several occasions in lieu of her husband. Dressed up in his clothes and her face masked, she had been the public executioner at several executions, and never had the proceedings been interrupted by a single hitch. It is needless to add that the police authorities were unable to avail themselves of her offer on this occasion, however.

It will be a surprise to most people to learn that there has actually been a woman executioner in America. In olden times few cared to undertake the office of executioner, and occasionally death sentences were respited on condition that the criminal should perform this office. A case of this sort occurred in pre-Revolutionary days, when a woman was sentenced to death for a murder she had committed in Virginia. The death sentence was respited on her offering to become public executioner, and known as 'Lady Betty' she performed those duties for many years. She officiated on the scaffold without any mask or disguise, and floored criminals through the streets with enthusiastic vigour.

The olfactory kiss is Mongolian. The nutritive affair is European. The Mongolian kiss is with the nose. The European kiss is with the mouth. The Mongolian kiss indicates that the party sniffed would make an agreeable prey; the European variety indicates that the party embraced would make a delectable meal. They are but the different forms of the same instinct of preservation, the give and take of wild beasts.



Darwin, photos.

DISTANT VIEW OF PARAKAU, HOKIANGA, N.Z.