

The Sisters to take charge of it, who may be expected at Timaru earlier than imagined, as this rev. gentleman, once he begins, accelerates his work with all the expedition of an experienced campaigner. His character as a holy priest and polished gentleman is well known to the Christchurch people, in the midst of whom he laboured many years, not only to his own but everyone who came in contact with him. He may be justly called the pioneer priest of Canterbury, where he had to commence with nothing and reside in a "swamp," for the site of the Catholic Mission was nothing better fifteen years ago. He succeeded, nevertheless, in making the swamp a valuable property to the Catholics, built schools, convent, and churches, after which he repaired to Timaru, where it would seem he intends doing likewise. I wish him God-speed and plenty of support from his friends in his laudable exertions to benefit them and their offspring.

I fancy I read in your columns some time ago of bouquets interspersed with "tracts" being sent to the Hospital at Dunedin for the benefit (spiritual, I suppose) of the inmates. It would appear from the following, which I read in the columns of the *Star* lately, that Dunedin is not the only place blest with such *disinterested* propagators of the Divine word, and considering the nature of their present they evidently don't feel warm by times notwithstanding their ardour. Perhaps experience has taught them that, in order to be successful, something more substantial than scent or sweet smell is necessary, and, like the "Connemara Soupers," they try what bodily comforts will do:—"A Nice Present.—A charitable society of ladies has kindly offered to present to the Christchurch Hospital several very nicely worked counterpanes—one for each ward. The counterpanes are white, with a blue border, and have embroidered upon them a number of *Scriptural texts*. A specimen was shown yesterday to the Hospital Board by Mr. Booth." I have not heard that they were accepted. I shouldn't wonder though.

Owing to the absence of a Catholic Church at Oxford, Divine services are obliged to be conducted in buildings entirely inadequate for the requirements of the district. I understand that a suitable building is about being erected by Rev. Father Binsfeld, who has already done a great deal towards raising the tone of Catholics in the northern district, and the sooner it is built the better. Rev. F. Gruenholzer said mass there last Sunday week, and all the Poles and Catholic Germans for miles round attended to hear him preach. During the day he was busily engaged in hearing confessions, &c., and the following day he offered up the Holy Sacrifice for their special protection.

Two years ago no one thought of seeing a Catholic Church erected at Papanui, the centre of Protestantism and Wesleyanism, much less did they imagine it possible to witness what they had last Sunday, the 14th inst. This day will be long remembered by the Catholics of that locality as a memorable one, and must not be less remarkable to all true Catholics, as showing the rapid progress of their holy religion, notwithstanding the great obstacles it has to contend with. From early morning the Catholics in and around the district flocked to St. Joseph's Church in order to be present at the anniversary services about to be commenced. Everything seemingly was favourable for so important an event, the weather, considering the season of the year, being more than ordinarily fine. At early Mass the church was crowded, but the afternoon devotions were still better attended. The Blessed Sacrament was exposed for the veneration of the faithful all day, who thronged the sacred edifice, prostrating themselves in devout adoration at the foot of the altar; indeed, the touching scene alluded to by me some time ago was surpassed by this day's solemn devotions. There were two sermons, one on the power of the "Name of Mary," and another on the Gospel of the day in Polish. This being the first time for Exposition, Vespers, and Benediction in Papanui, the people were happy beyond expression, and joy beamed from every eye. The twelve months training under the care of a devoted young lady as teacher, and the deep interest taken in the children by a pious lady in the locality was visible to-day in the creditable manner in which Vespers were sung by the school children, who apparently were delighted at being able to add to the joy felt all around.

The new organ is being erected, and will, it is hoped, be in its proper place in the parish church, Barbadoes street, ere long. His Lordship Dr. Redwood is to preach on the occasion of the opening, as well as another distinguished prelate, who I believe will be invited to be present.

Next Sunday another Conference for the domestic servants of the parish will be given in one of the school-rooms of the Convent. Though no date as yet has been fixed for commencing the erection of the Home for Servants, yet that eventually it will be built is settled without doubt.

Messrs. MERCER and McDONALD report for the week ending Sept. 17th:—Wholesale prices.—Fresh butter, in $\frac{1}{2}$ and 1lb prints, best and favourite brands, 1s 6d to 1s 7d; do., ordinary butter, 1s 3d to 1s 5d per lb. Fresh butter is now very plentiful, some of the grocers having to salt down. Salt butter is at present very scarce, and selling at 1s 3d per lb. Cheese, 8d per lb; side and roll bacon, 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ d per lb; colonial hams, 10d per lb. Eggs plentiful, and in demand at 1s 2d per doz.

Mr. J. Fleming reports for the week ending Sept. 17 1879:—Wholesale prices, oats, 2s to 2s 3d per bushel; milling wheat, 1s 6d to 4s 9d per bushel; clucks, 3s to 3s 6d; barley, malting, 3s 6d per bushel; feed, 3s to 3s 6d; pollard, £5 10s per ton; bran, £1 5s per ton; flour, £10 10s to £11 per ton; oatmeal, £13 10s per ton; potatoes, £5 per ton; hay, £1 per ton; chaff, £4 to £4 10s per ton; straw, £2s 5s per ton; onions, 11s per cart.

Messrs. Barningham & Co., of the Victoria Foundry, Great King Street North, Dunedin, supply all manner of ornamental castings, tomb railings, columns, grates, and everything connected with their trade. Persons interested in building, furnishing, or decorating the graves of their friends will do well to visit the establishment in question.

It will be seen by advertisement in another column that John Carroll, of George Street, continues to act as hotel-keeper. Mr. Carroll is too well-known to the citizens of Dunedin to need saying that we could say in praise of his qualifications.

OUR MELBOURNE LETTER.

11th September, 1879.

NOTWITHSTANDING that men's minds are much exercised at present by the discussion going on simultaneously in Parliament of the Reform Bill and Tariff, the Education question crops up as fresh as ever. Bishop Moorhouse headed a deputation of clergymen to the Minister of Public Instruction on the subject the other day. The Anglican Bishop asked whether the Government was disposed to modify the Education Act, so as to admit of selections from the Bible being taught in State schools by the teachers. Dr. Moorhouse, to the general surprise, took this occasion to give a dig to the Catholics. "My action," he said, "has been called in question, and I desire to tell you that I feel that to make the Education question a trial question at the next election would be to confuse a most important political issue, and I strongly deprecate any such measure." This statement naturally caused a great deal of astonishment coming from a man who, up to this, appeared heart and soul with the Catholic movement, and the Bishop was interviewed by a reporter of the *Herald* the next day to ascertain exactly what he did say. I append the *Herald* report:—

"The reporter said that the editor had requested him to call because of the deep importance of the matter, and the weight attached to anything His Lordship might say in further explanation. More particularly had His Lordship's concluding remark, that the deputation did not sympathise with political agitation, at this juncture, called forth great discussion; and it was, in fact, the principal topic of conversation in Melbourne this forenoon. Did His Lordship mean by this to disclaim sympathy altogether with the Roman Catholics? The Bishop: No. Reporter: I can assure you, sir, that the general impression is otherwise. The Bishop: If people will find more in my words than I actually say, I cannot help it. Reporter: Then we had the Dean, at an Orangemen's meeting, or something of that kind, fully reported in the *Argus* to-day, making observations which appear to confirm the view commonly taken of what you said, or meant. The Bishop: Really, I cannot be responsible for what the Dean says. He speaks on his own head, only for himself. Reporter: He says he believes you have never been in communication with Archbishop Goold. The Bishop: There he is correct, I have never spoken to Archbishop Goold in my life. Whatever action I have taken has been quite independent. I have not consulted with any member of the Roman Catholic denomination. I speak now freely, and authorise the editor of *The Herald* to make this explanation. I do not recede in the least from what I have before stated. I approve of the Catholics being allowed separate schools, to be assisted by grants from the State. Mind you, this is my individual opinion. At the deputation yesterday I spoke as the mouthpiece of Protestant denominations which were represented. Reporter: Only the Church of England and Presbyterians, I think, and a Swedenborgian. The Bishop: And two clergymen of the Independent denomination. Reporter: The Wesleyans and Baptists—The Bishop: Ah! they are not with us. Reporter: Does it not look hopeless for you to be able to carry out those views in which you are at variance even with Protestant ministers? The Bishop: No, no. I look to the future—distant perhaps. With regard to Catholic agitation at present, I say it is the right thing at the wrong time. The question of Reform of the Constitution must be pre-eminent at the next general election, and it is a mistake to introduce that of religious education. Reporter: Then the deputation of yesterday only urged a scheme for the Protestant bodies, and not one of which the Catholics were expected to take advantage? The Bishop: I think it would only be found to apply to Protestants. Reporter: But the Rev. Mr. Strong said, as I remember, having been there, that the deputation did not represent merely Protestant opinion. The Bishop: It was, nevertheless, a deputation of Protestant clergymen. I have stated in public what I regard as the only solution of the Catholic difficulty, and do not withdraw one iota. But the Catholic political movement just now is a herring drawn across the trail, and most inadvisable."

The Catholics gained a great victory in returning Mr. Harper as member for West Bourke. This is the first election since the establishment of the Catholic Defence Association, branches of which have sprung up all over the colony with the object of returning to Parliament only those candidates who will pledge themselves to amend the Education Act. In this election both parties worked with a will. The Ministry and the *Age*, which bosses the Ministry, and of which the defeated candidate, Mr. Deakin was representative (he is a journalist on that paper), strained every nerve for success. The Ministers, it was thought, had secured the seat by pledges of railway construction, schools, and other bribes, nevertheless the Constitutional-cum-Catholic candidate came in winner. That defeat gave a blow to the Berry prestige that shook off much of its gilding. It incensed the *Age* newspaper, which by way of vengeance has been doing its best since to raise the "no Popery" cry, with some success too, for societies called the Education Defence Associations (they are in truth Orange societies), are now being formed by the ultra-Protestant sects.

The erection of our Exhibition buildings has been considerably advanced. The machinery annexes have been commenced, and masons are now engaged on the blue stone foundation. The roof of the eastern nave and transept of the main hall is now finished. The dome will take a long time to finish, but the contractor is sanguine on having it completed by the time specified, May, 1880. Does it not seem strange for a Government to be spending the money of the community, already in debt, in the erection of an edifice—no matter how magnificent—constructed solely for the display of exhibits the majority of which the same Government have taken so much pains to exclude from our ports by the imposition of heavy protective duties?

The election of four surgeons and four physicians for the Melbourne Hospital caused considerable excitement—nearly every medical man of repute in Melbourne was a candidate. Two Irish Roman Catholics headed the poll, Mr. Fitzgerald, the skilful and far-famed surgeon, and Dr. Moloney, a rising young man here, who made his professional studies at the Melbourne University.