

## CATHOLIC NEWS.

THE Ven. Archdeacon Cavanagh, P.P., Knock, recently received the, subjoined letter from the Most Rev. Dr. Lynch, Archbishop of Toronto:—St. Michael's Palace, Toronto, Canada, July 2, 1887.—My Dear Archdeacon Cavanagh—How often I have thought of you since I had the pleasure of visiting the holy shrine of Knock. We are using the plaster of Knock constantly, and it has never failed to work a miracle. No wonder, considering the faith of our dear people at home and abroad. The last of these wonders to come under our notice, was the case of one of our brothers of the Christian Schools in Toronto. An excellent young man, one of our best teachers, very pious, and devoted to his work—he had become subject to epileptic fits, which, besides causing him great pain, deranged the Community, for his place in the school had frequently to be filled by one of the others. He came to me some time ago, and with great faith asked me to cure him. I gave him a piece of the plaster of Knock to put in water of which he should take some three times a day, with pious invocations of the Holy Mother of God and other prayers. Since the first time he took the water he has not had a fit. The other day he came to me quite a changed man of fine, healthy appearance, and full of gratitude to the Mother of God for the cure. Of course I came in for some of his prayers. Our good Lady of Knock, my dear Archdeacon, is the same as Our Lady of Lourdes or our Lady of Montsalet and we would be surprised if the loving Mother of our dear Redeemer would neglect to visit poor Ireland in her awful struggle to preserve the faith and the lives of the people. With the highest respect for you and your blessed mission, I am, my dear Archdeacon, yours very faithfully in Christ, † JOHN JOSEPH LYNCH, Archbishop of Toronto.

Rev. John B. Slatery, of Richmond Va., is coming to England, to consult Bishop Vaughan, of Salford, about the details of a new church work which is about to be instituted in Baltimore—the establishment of a seminary for the special instruction of priests for the coloured missions in the South. The missions also maintain schools which are under the care of various sisterhoods. The missions have been so successful that it becomes desirable to have priests specially prepared for the extension of the work, and it is for the purpose of educating young men for the missions that the new seminary will be opened. The Rev. John K. Slatery is rector of the new institution.

Two of the oldest priests in the world reside in Pennsylvania. One is the Benedictine Archabbot Wimmer, of St. Vincent's Monastery, Westmoreland County, and the other Rev. Anthony Schwarze pastor of the Church of our Lady of Mount Carmel, Minersville. They were both ordained in 1831, in Germany.

The clergy of Pueblo, Mexico, have collected over 200,000 dols for the coronation of the Virgin of Guadalupe next December.

The Church is acquiring much valuable property in Rome. The Congregation de Propaganda Fide has purchased the Mignanelli Palace, at a cost of a million francs; the Christian Brothers have bought and fitted up Hotel Serney, at an expenditure of half a million francs; a similar sum has been invested by the Sisters of the Holy Cross; and the Hotel Costanzi has been bought by the German Hungarian College for two million francs. All these properties are being used as schools.

A monument to the eminent astronomer, Father Secchi, is to be erected in the Rigio Emilia, Rome. Fifty thousand lire have already been subscribed.

The Little Sisters of the Poor have just received their first mission in Canada.

Nine thousand pilgrims from Northern Spain and Western France have arrived at Lourdes. The Bishop of Luchon headed the Vendean. Sixteen thousand Catalans have sent as their offering to the shrine a handsome banner to the Sacred Heart.

On August 7 the Ursuline nuns celebrated the one hundred and sixteenth anniversary of their arrival in New Orleans, La.

The Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster on July 15 celebrated the seventy-ninth anniversary of his birthday.

The Jesuit Father Ferrari, a pupil of the renowned Father Secchi of the same Order, has been sent by Pope Leo XIII. on a scientific mission to Moscow—to observe the solar eclipse visible from that city. He is the bearer of an autograph letter from the Pope to the Czar.

In a population of 250,000, Buffalo, N.Y., has 90,000 Catholics. The Provincial of the German Franciscans of America has been summoned by the Father-General of his Order to return to Fulda, to negotiate the return to Germany of the religious under his sway.

Madame O'Rorke, the new Mother Superior of the Convent of the Sacred Heart, Elmhurst, Providence, R.I., is the widow of the brave Colonel O'Rorke, of Rochester, N.Y., who fell on the battlefield in the war for the Union.

The Catholic people of New York and Brooklyn will celebrate the Pope's jubilee by a procession and public meeting.

Over ninety bishops have sent relics to be placed on the altar to be offered to the Pope for his Jubilee Mass.

Queen Victoria was much interested during her recent visit to the monastery of La Grande Chartreuse to find no fewer than four English monks there, all of whom had been well known in London society as the very fastest of the fast.

Close upon 40,000 persons took part in the annual festival of the League of the Cross, of which Cardinal Manning is the founder and president, held at the London Crystal Palace recently. Most of the members of the League wore its insignia, and the 5,000 to 6,000 children present had green roses or small crosses on their dresses. The great majority were people of the labouring classes as distinguished from the artisan classes, with a large number of young women from factories.

The *Central Catholic Advocate* informs us that a gentleman of the Hebrew race, the son of a rabbi in Prussia, who became a convert to our holy religion and was driven from his father's house in consequence, was for some time past an ecclesiastical student at St. Menard's, Indiana. Since the conflagration took place there, he has gone as a student to the Seminary at Preston Park.

## Correspondence.

[We are not responsible for the opinions expressed by our Correspondents.]

H. A. C. B. S.

TO THE EDITOR N.Z. TABLET.

SIR,—Your sub-leader on the above Society in your issue of 7th inst. is worthy of the attention of every Catholic in the Colony. This attention and support are necessary, although the Society is well established for a number of years, and has branches in all the principal towns and many of the smaller towns, yet nowhere, except perhaps in Auckland, do its numbers approach anything like what they ought to number. There must be some cause for this, which ought to be sought and removed. The Society, as you point out, comes clearly within the recommendations of the Holy Father to join and support Catholic societies. That it is a benefit society is another reason why it should be joined. That it is Hibernian is a reason why some, who are not Irish by birth or descent, may not join it, but this ought to be a powerful motive to those who are such to join it. Various causes may be assigned for this. The fact, however, remains that many do not. The Society is either good or bad. If the latter, matters ought not to be minced, but it should be shown that it is so and a remedy applied; while if, on the contrary, which is, I contend, a fact, the former is the case, every encouragement should be given, and as the Society is recognised by the Church in Australasia, it ought to receive a general active and consistent support here. If, in the interests of Catholicity, the Society ever accomplishes much, it is only by a systematic organisation it can be done. But while matters are allowed to shift for themselves the Society will never develop into the power for good of which it is capable. The question of establishing any other society or sodality is not likely to achieve much success if the H.A.C.B.S. fail.

The majority of Catholics in the Colony are unfortunately in a social scale, which cannot boast of much worldly possessions, and but comparatively few of them practise the Scotch virtue—thrift; and therefore when accident or illness befalls them they have nothing to fall back on. If no other reason than this alone existed every single man, and more especially every married man, ought to belong to the H.A.C.B.S.

There are many most amiable-minded persons who object to the title Hibernian, seeing in it Fenianism, dynamite, and such kindred elements. Among men schooled to such ideas, one can smile at the hard death of national prejudices, but it is lamentable to find among men of Irish birth many who are ashamed to belong to a society, and that the only Irish one in the Colony.

The rules of the Society debar it from discussing politics. The wisdom of this decree is debatable, but, however, until it is altered there it is, and none can charge it truthfully as a body with taking part in local or national politics. Of course, like any other body, its individual members may hold any political views they like, although what is an inconsistency appears in the initiation ceremony: the candidate is asked to cherish, etc., the memory of Ireland. It is scarcely fair to ask this question indiscriminately, but these are minor matters, easily remedied. The exclusion of politics and the cherishing the memory of Erin are not in harmony, and one ought to give way. There are many, the writer among the number, who would much prefer to retain the politics, as a society bearing the title of Hibernian is unworthy of its name, if, during the crisis that Ireland is now passing through it does not rise to the occasion and in some way manifest that their people in New Zealand are in sympathy and active co-operation with O'Brien and Dillon to resist that vilest of Coercion Acts.

Thanking you for your advocacy, which, I trust, will in future be sustained.—I am, etc.,

MEMBER.

## TIMARU HANDBALL CLUB.

A MEETING of the above Club took place on Thursday, October 13, the Vice-President (Mr T. O'Driscoll) in the chair. A letter was read from Invercargill stating that a handball club had been formed there. This announcement was received with general satisfaction, and hopes were entertained of clubs being formed in other centres throughout the Colony.

The President (Mr. Thomas Howley) and the Vice-President presented £5 each to the funds of the Club. The arranging of matches was also considered, and after several local ones were arranged (one for two new hats presented by the Vice-President, to be played for by J. O'Dowd and P. Scott v. E. Egan and J. Irwin), the following were decided on:—Timaru v. Oamaru, £10 aside; Timaru v. New Zealand, £30 a-side. The first match to be played on November 9th, and the latter to commence on 26th December next. Both matches to be played on the Club's handball court, Timaru. Some were of opinion that the prize for the challenge for New Zealand should be a general subscription from the different towns that would be represented in the match, but it was decided to offer the £30 aside, and if more than two non-local players accept the challenge subsequent arrangements will be made.

After a hearty vote of thanks to the President and Vice-President for their generosity to the Club, the usual compliment to the chair brought the meeting to a termination.

One of the wealthiest women in Chicago is Mrs. Muncel Talcott, a childless widow of three-score years. When her husband was dying a few years ago he requested her never to board a dollar. Her income is 50,000 dols: per annum, and of this sum she devotes 45,000 dols. to local charity.