

Armida, Wilcannia, Maitland, Grafton, and Sale. The Cardinal of course must not be forgotten.

The Passionist Fathers brought a most successful mission to a termination at St. Patrick's church, Sydney, on Sunday, January 8th. During the course of the mission over 3000 people received Holy Communion, and some 1200 took the temperance pledge.

One wing of a new orphanage at Nudgee, near Brisbane, was blessed and opened by his Grace Archbishop Dunne, on January 8th. The new building replaces with brick and stone one of wood, which under the charge of the Sisters of Mercy, had done in its day good service. Nudgee is situated on the Sandgate line and enjoys a comparatively cool, as well as a most salubrious atmosphere.

The Legislative Council of Mauritius have passed a decree legalising the practice of cremation. The measure is condemned by the Catholics of the Island as most offensive to them. There is one small Indian sect alone who are likely to hail the ordinance as a boon.

American Notes.

A GOOD deal of surprise has been caused in Lowell, Mass., by the arrest in London on an accusation of being engaged in a dynamite plot of Thomas Callan a man very well known in the town alluded to. Callan has been arrested in company with a man named Harkins of Philadelphia, and has been committed for trial, it is alleged, for having a quantity of dynamite in his possession. The man who served bravely in the war, bears a very good reputation in Lowell, where people know him as sober, hard-working, and in every way respectable. He was not connected with any secret society, and had only left the town for a short time with the permission of his employers as work was slack. The Mayor of the town has written on his behalf to Secretary Bayard, who, however, replies that his department would have no right to interfere, beyond that of preventing arbitrary treatment or a denial of justice to any American citizen.

A match for the hand-ball championship of the world was played at Brooklyn on November 30th between an American who is a native of Ireland and an Irishman who is a native of America. The antagonists had played against each other at Cork last year, the Irishman winning 6 games out of 10. The men are respectively John Lawlor, who was born in America and taken in his infancy to Ireland, and Philip Casey who was born in Ireland and brought in his childhood to America.—Casey on this occasion was the victor, showing splendid play during the two hours and a half during which the contest lasted.

A strike of negroes on the sugar plantations in Louisiana has resulted in riots in which a number of the strikers have been shot.—It is said that the negroes had no just cause of complaint, and their conduct is attributed to designing men interested in exciting prejudice against the labour organisations of the country. Besides the deplorable loss of life, the planters have been heavy losers in the matter, and the whole affair has been lamentable in the extreme.

A monument is about to be erected in Portland, Maine, to the memory of the soldiers who fell in the war. It will be of granite supporting an armed figure, and 72 feet in height. Among the names of the soldiers engraved upon this monument many owned by Irishmen will occur.

Some indignation has been caused by the discovery that in the factories at Cohoes, New York, children are commonly employed who have not reached the age of 13, prescribed by the law. As in the case of every child employed, an affidavit is required as to its age, it is evident that a good deal of false swearing has been the rule. The notary public, one of the prominent mill-owners, and several parents have been served with warrants and a full exposure is looked for. As some of the parties concerned are leaders in the religious world a little scandal is also expected.

The bridge across the Mississippi at Dubuque, Iowa, has been opened with great rejoicings. In the principal speech made on the occasion, the speaker alluded to the fact that persons were present who had rowed across the river in canoes, and witnessed the Indian life of the country, long before the city of Dubuque came into existence. The chief success of the work was ascribed to Mr. Bernard J. O'Neill, the president of the Bridge Company. The bridge, whose total length is 2,800ft. and which is built on seven piers supported on piles, is the only one of its kind on the Mississippi.

The movement among the slaves of Brazil to obtain their freedom, is one that gains general sympathy. Indeed, even in the country concerned, but little resistance is shown to it, and it has the warm support of the Catholic Church there. There was a law passed in 1871, that the children of slaves, born thence forward, after an apprenticeship of 21 years to the owners of their mothers, should be free. But the condition now bids fair to be set aside, and the absolute freedom of the whole population to be declared without much further delay.

A statue has been unveiled at Lexington, Kentucky, to General John Cabell Breckenridge, who was Secretary of War in the Cabinet of Jefferson Davis. He had served as Major of the 3rd Kentucky regiment in the Mexican War, and had been elected Vice-President of the United States in 1856. He was a member of the Senate, but withdrew from that body and took part with the Confederate States on the outbreak of the rebellion. He distinguished himself in that cause on several battle fields, escaping to Canada when it failed,

A case which has been tried in one of the New York courts, shows to what a state of destitution the poor are often reduced. It was that in which a sewing woman sued her employer for 20 cents which she claimed as due to her. The evidence brought out the fact that the woman was paid one cent and a half for making a pair of trousers, and that it would take her two or three days to make thirteen pairs, the price of which she claimed. Nothing that has been exposed in connection with the miseries of the London seamstress could surpass this.

The discharge of Land Commissioner Sparks is looked upon as a victory for land-grabbers and monopolists. Mr. Sparks during his term of office has been most resolute in opposing everything of the kind. His resistance to the abuses existing in the Land Office was found displeasing to higher authorities and has resulted in their dispensing with his services. The worst consequences are expected as a result.

Mr. Paul Blouet more commonly known as Max O'Rell, his *nom de plume*, has been lecturing in New York. He professes an ardent desire to see the English and French nations understand each other, and forsake their prejudices for mutual love and respect. He has given a glowing picture of peasant life in France, and describes the peasant woman especially as the chief strength of the country. Her industry is incessant and it is equalled by her common sense. France he says with her 6,000,000 landed proprietors is the richest nation in Europe. Unfortunately there is another side to the picture.

The Rev. J. T. Duryea of the Central Congregational church at Boston is a man of large views, and who is not afraid to express them. Here is a passage from a sermon preached by him on Sunday November 27th :—"It is alleged, also, that our public school system is in danger from attacks from Roman Catholics. Let no man say the Catholics are hypocrites. We have invited the Roman Catholic Church here and given it a fair field. Let it beat us if it can; it ought to." The speaker argued that he was more secure to-day in his property, and his daughters were safer because of the Catholic Church. So much in the way of fairness. If he was in the Roman directory he would urge the same measures they do. He wished we had in our American Government anything like such magnificent statesmanship as is exhibited in the papacy. We should have order, prosperity, happiness."

CHRISTCHURCH.

(From our own Correspondent.)

I WAS very much surprised to hear that at eleven o'clock Mass last Sunday week Father Le Menant took exception to some remarks contained in my last letter to the TABLET. I should regret exceedingly to, in any way, cause the smallest annoyance to Father Le Menant. In common with all his parishioners I have the greatest admiration and respect for Father Le Menant as an able and learned gentleman and a most earnest, devout, and energetic priest. Father Le Menant is an indefatigable missionary, an ornament to religion, and a highly-valued and faithful member of his Order. To know him either privately or in connection with his sacred office is to love him. But why a generous-minded man, such as I have always supposed Father Le Menant to be, should take exception to the content of my last letter is to me utterly incomprehensible. He explained that his allusions to "party spirit" to which I referred did not mean the love of Irish people for their native land but referred to certain feelings which are supposed to exist in some quarters in regard to recent ecclesiastical appointments in New Zealand. That is precisely the subject to which I supposed Father Le Menant did allude. However the matter may present itself to some minds it certainly seems to me that my own definition of the "party spirit" to which Father Le Menant referred and Father Le Menant's definition of it amount to very much the same thing. The sentiments which Father Le Menant deprecates are most certainly the outcome of the refusal of Irish people to meekly acquiesce in their own national extinction. If Father Le Menant professes to laud the existence of patriotic feelings among Irish people he cannot consistently quarrel with the natural result of these feelings. I have not the slightest doubt but that Father Le Menant meant every word of his generous outbreak of love for Ireland, and I am pleased at having called forth the expression of his ardent attachment to our country, but I am afraid that he is incapable of entering into an Irishman's feelings in regard to the power that has so long crushed the life and soul out of Ireland and scattered its people to the four corners of the earth. Only an Irishman who has suffered with his country and felt his heart throb with indignation at the cruel injustice of the oppressor can do that. If Father Le Menant, in coolly reviewing the matter, would for Ireland read Alsace, and were himself an Alsatian, and for England read Germany, and then suppose that the Catholics of New Zealand were Alsations, to whom German prelates, at the instigation of Germany, were being sent, perhaps he would not find it so very difficult to understand why the feeling which so much irritates him should exist, I imagine he would not, under the circumstances, see in the affectionate interest of his country's enemy, no matter how suavely their interest might be expressed, a desire to encourage in the hearts of the exiled Alsations a burning love for France and for the conquered Rhine province. If Father Le Menant would look at the matter through the spectacles which I have suggested, perhaps he too would see, as Irish people do, no result of mere chance in the late appointment, but rather the effect of a deep and sinister design on the part of the ancient enemy which even across the sea and in this new land seeks to forward its long cherished plan—the national extinction of Ireland. Almost daily fresh evidence comes to light confirmatory of the fact that at the present time the whole power of England, represented by the Duke of Norfolk, is moving heaven and earth to win from the Pope some kind of condemnation of the national movement in Ireland. This condemnation is sought in order