

kitchens, for example. These wretched substitutes, moreover, are employed at an immense increase of cost. But, as to the effects on the patients, they are proved by the fact that mortality has increased among adults from one to five per cent., but has become five times as great among children. The doctor's protest, nevertheless, is disregarded, and the expulsion of the remaining nuns is now announced to take place as soon as possible. The nuns are the Augustinian Sisters, who are in charge of the Hotel Dieu and the hospital of Saint-Louis. In their case, besides, the measure must prove especially harsh, as they possess no refuge into which they can withdraw, but will be completely destitute. A body, like the municipality of Paris, however, that outrages the rights of the people whom it professes to love and reverence, is not likely to bestow much thought on the rights of a religious Order whom it openly upbraids and detests. If there is no thought given to the patients the nuns can hardly expect their case to be taken into consideration.

Royal progresses with the royalty left out would seem to be rather heavy affairs. This is the conclusion derived from watching a tour just made by President Carnot in the provinces. The whole thing has been dull and dreary in the extreme—out of character altogether with the reputation of France as a land of *Pleasantness par excellence*. A little more of this kind of thing and the people of the provincial towns at least will be vociferously calling out *Vive le roi*.

M. Floquet may claim the honour of giving a word to the French, as Captain Boycott has given one to the English language. In either case the surname of the individual is taken to form a verb. The words have a different signification, however, as "Floquetier" means to make a great and fussy show of important action but to perform nothing of the kind. All the world knows what the meaning is of the verb "to Boycott." We may doubt if the new French word will ever obtain an equivalent circulation.

Ladies' dress must always be an interesting subject to those who are interested in the sex, and they, of course, include everyone of civilisation or refinement, in proportion as he is civilised or refined. It should be of thrilling interest, therefore, that an agitation is on foot for the introduction of a dress that will give women the free use of their limbs, and not encumber them as hitherto with petticoats—or, in other words, to array them in some sort of trousers with a suitable tunic. A committee of the House of Representatives has actually pronounced upon the matter, in response to the petition of a certain Madame Arlie de Valsayre, who has taken the matter up ardently. The committee declares that the law permits women to dress themselves in men's clothes if they please. Madame de Valsayre is, therefore, calling on the modistes to come to her aid and devise something likely to suit the occasion. Crazes like this, however, are of constant occurrence, and always end in failure.

Now that the details of the railway accident which took place on September 5 near Dijon are fully known, it is evident that nothing more appalling has occurred for many years. A train which had been thrown off the line was run into by an express going at full speed, with the result that in both trains several carriages were shattered to pieces, and their occupants either killed or severely injured,—those hair breath's escapes, nevertheless, in some instances happening, which seem to be a feature of every event of the kind. Twelve people were killed outright, and some forty or fifty were hurt, several of them very seriously. Among the killed was a young English lady named Marriott, and among those hurt, though fortunately slightly, was Lady Bowen, wife of Sir George Bowen, a late colonial Governor and formerly of New Zealand. An ugly incident of the case was the length of time that elapsed before any assistance was given, the sufferers being left to linger out nearly the whole night in darkness, which added to the terror and confusion. A circumstance that is hardly reassuring, besides, is the admission that the loosening of sleepers at the foot of an incline, which, in the first place, caused the accident to the train thrown off the line, is inevitable. It arises from the increase of speed in trains coming down a hill.

The disclosures made in the case of a swindler named Allmeyer have recently formed the astonishment of the world in general. He carried on his proceedings on an enormous scale, and with an almost regal magnificence in his particular line. His accomplices extended all the way to Tunis, whence they forwarded him formidable-looking documents written in Arabic, and by which he imposed upon his dupes in Paris to the amount of several thousand pounds. As a dexterous thief he seems to be quite unequalled, having even on one occasion stolen the seal of the magistrate before whom he was being tried, of which he afterwards made use to secure his release from prison. People generally seem impressed by the conviction that no prison is strong enough to hold him, and his immediate escape is a matter on which bets are freely offered.

Cardinal Lavignera is still busily pursuing his crusade against the African slave-trade. He seeks for aid in all civilised countries, but his chief reliance is on France. A society for the purpose of furthering his object is being formed in Paris, and he has received a promise of two hundred men to act as volunteers, and with one hundred others to be furnished by Belgium, to form the nucleus of an army. The Cardinal bears testimony to the noble generosity of the French people to his African missions, and expresses his reliance on their not failing him in his new undertaking.

The announcement that the Emperor William II. has commanded the cessation of the annual Sedan celebration in Germany has given some satisfaction, although it will be long before the memory of his Majesty's Frankfort speech is erased from the minds of the French people. By the way, it is reported that the Emperor is highly incensed at the Prince of Wales, who, in the course of a private conversation the other day, is said to have again alluded to

the possibility of an agreement between France and Germany as to Alsace-Lorraine. His Royal Highness also spoke of the restitution to Denmark of North Schleswig, and of an amicable settlement of the dispute with the Duke of Cumberland. All this, they say, being repeated by some busy-body to his Majesty, has roused his wrath to boiling pitch. The Emperor, however, shows some good feeling, as well as common sense, in this matter of Sedan.

An American company has been playing with great success to Parisian audiences. This is an advance made by the New World that is significant indeed. Hitherto we had been accustomed to look upon the tide of civilisation and culture as setting from the East Westward. But, lo, it bids fair to return upon its course, bearing with it fresh and invigorating elements. What would the men of Molière's time, for example, have said had they been told that French playgoers were one day to witness such a strange phenomenon. We have heard of the Orontes flowing into the Tiber, but that the Hudson or the Mississippi was one day to flow, and with acceptable eddies, into the Seine no one could have believed. But so it is. Day's American Company has been the rage. And, what is more, its manager is evidently an Irish-American.

WESTPORT.

(From an occasional Correspondent.)

It is again my painful duty to record the loss of an old and respected resident by the death of Mrs. Easton sen., at her residence, on the morning of the 23rd inst. Her death was painfully sudden, as she was apparently in her usual state of health when bidding her grandchildren and their parents—Mr. and Mrs. Simon—good-night. Mr. and Mrs. Sprule, her next-door neighbours, were aroused about 4 o'clock by one of their children hearing a noise in Mrs. Easton's room, and upon entering they found her suffering severely and asking for the priest. Both priest and doctor were sent for, and her family—that is, those of them who lived in Westport—gathered around to hear her last words. She died in half an hour afterwards, full of confidence in God's divine mercy. Mr. and Mrs. Easton lived for many years, previous to coming to Westport in 1866, at Waunganui and Nelson, and were highly esteemed by all who knew them, which was evidenced by the numerous telegrams of sympathy received from those places, and the large number of mourners who followed the deceased lady's remains to the church and cemetery. Her family includes Mrs. Jules Simon, Westport; Mrs. Garth, Ahaura; and Mr. F. M. Easton, Cape Foulwind.

Our new church is now completed and Mass will be celebrated there next Sunday. Unfortunately Bishop Grimes cannot attend the opening, and as the Archbishop is still in Europe, we shall have to dispense with any demonstration.

Our school is progressing satisfactorily. There are now 135 on the roll. As it was reported to the committee that some of the parents were dissatisfied with the progress made by their children at school, it was decided to call a meeting by circular of all parents whose children were attending the school, and give them an opportunity of explaining their grievances. Thirty-three responded, when it was found that only three were dissatisfied with the instruction their children had received. The others were perfectly satisfied and spoke in terms of praise of both teachers—Mr. Kegan and Miss Heffernan—and particularly of Miss Heffernan, the assistant teacher, upon it becoming known that her resignation, which she had tendered some time ago, had been withdrawn. As long as we are compelled to charge school fees there are sure to be some parents who will try and find fault, and they are generally those who contribute least to wards the support of the school, and who, at the slightest imaginary provocation, threaten to, and very often do, send their children to the State school. An entertainment in aid of the school funds takes place on the 9th November, in which the school children take part.

H. A. C. B. SOCIETY.

At the eleven o'clock Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral on Sunday, October 21, the Very Rev. Father Hackett (administrator) announced "that a meeting would be held that afternoon for the purpose of reorganising the juvenile contingent of the Auckland branch of the Hibernian Society." This contingent was at one time in a flourishing condition, and a great many of its members came into the senior branch. The charge for entering the senior branch is in such cases paid from the funds of the contingent, and is of course one of the advantages derived through membership. For some years past, however, the contingent has been going to the bad, and would doubtless be a thing of the past before long but for the kindness and determination of Father Hackett not to let it die. During the course of an eloquent address on the Hibernian Society in general, in which he dealt with its manifold advantages, Father Hackett earnestly urged all that were eligible for membership to join one or other of the two branches in Auckland, and parents to send their boys to the meeting that day to have them enrolled as members of the juvenile contingent. The rev. gentleman stated that the "Church approved of the formation of societies of this kind, and pointed out the need of re-establishing the juvenile contingent, wherein the boys of the city could from an early age associate with their fellow-Catholics, and as they grew up in years be induced to keep away from societies condemned by the Church."

Father Hackett's address had the desired effect, for, notwithstanding the rain that continued to pour down during the afternoon, the meeting was well attended and over 50 boys joined the contingent. A mother who was unable to attend wrote as follows:—"Dear Father Hackett,—Will you kindly enroll my two boys in the Hibernian Society this afternoon. They are not able to be present at your meeting, but I would like their names to be put down—Francis Joseph,