

Bamory, who commands the right bank of the Niger. They are recruited from all the tribes in the regions round about—their practice being, when a town or district is conquered, to enlist all the men belonging to it who are fit for their purposes. The others are sold as slaves. The correspondent in question compares them to the desperadoes of mediæval times:—"They represent, indeed, nothing else than those bands of marauders, mercenaries, and *reiters* who devastated Europe before the 16th century, and under pretext of religious wars pillaged and killed Papists and Huguenots alike. Foreigners belonging to no country, they dashed impetuously along the high-roads, sowing terror and desolation—pitiless conquerors. . . . Religion assuredly counts for nothing in the calculations of these terrible conquerors. They are Mussulmans, it is true, but very lukewarm; in none of the villages through which we passed had the mosque remained standing. Nevertheless the Sofa chiefs feel certain hypocrisies incumbent upon them. They do not omit the morning and evening salaams, and when anyone offers them a glass of rum or absinthe in public they decline it with horrified gestures, but it is to ask for it with all the more insistence in secret—under a pretext of sickness, or for their horse, which 'has the colic'!" "Such," concludes the correspondent, "are the black *reiters* whom the English soldiers are about to fight on the borders of Sierra Leone. They have perpetrated the same crimes on the territory of this colony as in French territory, and they are about to be unearthed by the English troops with the same energy that our Senegal troops have displayed against them. That is a piece of intelligence which can only be received with the greatest satisfaction alike in France, in Senegal, and in the French Soudan. England will have deserved well of civilisation and of humanity when, in her turn, she shall have rid the regions of the Upper Niger of this scourge which ruins them."

A writer in the *Dublin Review* who reviews a book recently published, entitled "The Australian Commonwealth," writes as follows referring to the godless schools:—"We remark that the secular instruction is supposed to include general religious teaching as distinguished from dogmatic or polemical theology. We should much like to know how much actual Christianity that 'general religious teaching' represents." Why, of course, none at all. Not a single morsel.

The *Sydney Bulletin* has been dealing with the education question. Here is a sample of our gay contemporary's arguments:—"As earth comes before Heaven, the State must have first call on the citizen. It aims to make him a good man while he lives, and the Church has quite enough to do to make him a good angel when he dies. If the Roman Catholic Hierarchy would only accept this logical theory of the division of labour, the citizen would make the best of both worlds, which is admittedly the object of both religion and philosophy." There is, nevertheless, nothing logical in the matter. Our flippant friend argues from false premises, and his conditions also are necessarily false. This stuff, however, though more foolish in expression, is as sound and sensible as the arguments to a similar effect urged in graver quarters.

This year, 1894, occurs the golden jubilee of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. It was fifty years ago, in the year 1844, that the Apostleship of Prayer, by which the devotion has been spread abroad all over the world, was founded in the Jesuit College of Vals in France. "Working energetically under the Apostleship' there are at the present moment," says the *Irish Messenger*, "51,437 'Local Centres,' and 43 'Central National Directorates,' of which 16 are situated in Europe, 4 in Asia, 4 in Oceania, 2 in Africa, 6 in North America, and 11 in South America. The whole work is hallowed with the special blessings of the Holy See, urgently recommended by our Holy Father Leo XIII, enriched with endless indulgences, guarded by a Cardinal Protector in Rome, directed by a Director-General, and approved by the Bishops of the Universal Church."

The crime of infanticide, of which also we have recently heard a good deal from Melbourne, appears to be universal among English speaking communities at the present day. A letter under date January 5 from the Anglican Dean of Cape Town, published in the *Cape Times*, gives a shocking account of things in the colony referred to. The Dean quotes the testimony lately given officially by the Medical Officer of Health, from which the *Cape Times* had inferred that, of numerous deaths of infants recorded, infanticide was probably the explanation. "At this Christmastide," adds the Dean, "the hearts of most of our fellow-citizens yearn for the joys of young children, and thrill with profound pity for the woes of the little ones. I am verily persuaded that besides and beyond the horrible revelation of the appalling percentage of known and recorded infantile deaths, there are scores of babes born whose births are concealed, and whose deaths are not revealed. Magistrates, policemen, medical men, nurses, midwives, undertakers, night men, and many others could prove whether I am right or wrong. When the sea gives up its dead, when the earth yields up her slain, thousands upon thousands of murdered holy innocents shall arise from hidden graves, and I feel sure that a frightful percentage of slaughtered babes is going on in our near neighbourhood."

We learn from our excellent contemporary, the *W.A. Record*, that the Christian Brothers have arrived in Perth. On Wednesday afternoon, January 31, the Most Rev Dr Gibney blessed and handed over their college to them. His Lordship informed those present that he had handed the place over entirely to the Brothers and was no longer the owner of it. He was sure he echoed the sentiments of all present in wishing success to the new undertaking, and he was confident that the Brothers would not disappoint their most sanguine expectations. He referred to the fact that it would be three years on the morrow that St Bridget's was first opened with only 13 children and placed under patronage of the Patroness of Ireland. To-day the Sisters have an attendance of nearly 300 children, and the school obtained the highest merit grant at the recent Government examinations. The Rev Bro T. A. O'Brien thanked his Lordship and all present for their attendance. He would thank his Lordship in a special manner for having attended to give his own blessing, and the blessing of the Holy Church to the good work which they were about to start, and he hoped that at some not distant date, the Brothers would prove themselves worthy of some small share of the many kind things said of them by his Lordship and the gentlemen who had spoken. He referred to the successes of the Brothers elsewhere, and hoped that in the near future their new establishment in this rising city of Perth, would add new laurels to the successes of the Institute to which it was his privilege to belong.

Our contemporary the *Wellington Press* has changed hands and sides. Our contemporary is now going in for everything connected with the people, who are to profit immensely by its support and advocacy. Some room for improvement there undoubtedly was in our contemporary. Let us hope it bids fair to be well supplied.

But it would seem that there is division among the "unco guid," themselves concerning this matter—that is, street preaching in Dunedin. The Gospel, it would appear, preached or sung on Sunday by the Rev Mr Ready outside the City Hall, is not in harmony with the Gospel similarly treated by the Rev Mr Floyd inside the hall. Hence Mr Floyd calls out and denounces the crying in the streets as a "nuisance." What then can we expect of the common mob or even of the City Council? Men of celestial minds themselves have ears to be offended by the preaching of the "Word." What would you have of the ungodly?

The row at the capping ceremonies every year in Dunedin has, we learn, cost £50. That is the figure by which the difference was split the other day at the meeting in Dunedin of the University Senate. The extremes mentioned were respectively £30 and £20 but the decision of the Chancellor was quoted as £50. Meantime the row in the Senate was probably a matter of love and not of money. It began with Professor Sale who accused Dr Salmond of doing something which we were not permitted completely to hear. Dr Salmond, in fact flared up at once and said he didn't, but that it was a concoction of Professor Sale's own "conscience." That, we conclude, is the latest philosophy of the lie. It proceeds from the conscience. Dr Fitchett attempted to intervene as a peace maker—nobly taking the blame on his own shoulders. But it was in vain. Dr Salmond again dared Professor Sale to repeat his remark in public, and vowed he would not tolerate it. We remain, however, in a state of uncertainty. Professor Sale did not accept the challenge, and the doubt is as to whether it would have been an affair of gloves, or a round or two "without a muffle." The Hon Dr Grace by the way, subsequently referred to the inferior feeling and freedom of students in the old country, where, nevertheless, we have seen some cantrips also played by such—as preserving them from excesses like those under consideration. We should like to know whether done at Home are likewise under-fed and sparsely exercised. A motion, meantime, has been passed to prevent undue fun and frolic in future, and the expense, indeed, was excessive. The authorities of the local colleges are henceforth to make arrangements for the ceremonies.

In political and financial circles in Rome, it is generally anticipated that there will be an enforced reduction of the interest on Italian loans, although it is probable that the foreign bond-holders will be exempt from the reduction. Should the contemplated plan be carried out, it will furnish the Government with three or four million lire, or from £120,000, to £160,000.

Glasgow is likely to see an innovation shortly in the shape of a Sunday Parliamentary Debating Society, and after the style of the Parliamentary Associations popular all over the country. Mr George Kay is taking up the matter. Business people, not to mention many Nationalists, would be glad of this pleasant and educative means of ending the Sabbath day.

M. Dupuy is a man whom fortune has singularly favoured. It is not many years ago since the President of the Chamber of Deputies was a village schoolmaster. Having vacated the desk for the platform his rise has been rapid. He is not a brilliant orator nor a demagogue of the Clemenceau type, but he holds an irreproachable name, has a hard head, and is a master of routine which will serve him admirably as President of the Republic one of these days.

Professor Marshall, of Owen's College, after climbing Scaw Fell, on Sunday, December 31, tumbled over a precipice about fifty feet high and was killed. By his death science is bereft of one of her most illustrious sons.

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