

of Catholic faith we have revealed to us an interior disposition of mind throughout the Catholic world which is specifically different from the mental habits that hold together *telles qu'elles* all the associations of men upon the face of the earth." The writer strengthens his conclusion by pointing out the results produced by the disposition of mind in question. He claims that there is a peculiar opportuneness to study this line of argument now when many earnest minds outside the Church are bewildered by a multitude of theories. The article, which is very carefully and ably written, and with much clearness and force of style as well as of reasoning, proposes a road to Rome, which, if not pointed out for the first time, would seem, at least, hardly as yet well trodden. The right rev writer may possibly lay just claim to an original strain of thought as well as to boldness and candour—which, indeed, are excellent qualities. To profit by his argument would, perhaps, require a depth of mind not commonly to be found, but it is easy to fancy that the superficial would lightly regard it. To a slip of the pen we may probably attribute an admission made by the writer that the Catholic Church has in the non-Catholic bodies "half-sisters"; as well as his ascribing to such bodies under any circumstances, in their spiritual aspect, a "true vitality." Wesleyanism, no doubt, may flourish more than Anglicanism, but where does the "true vitality" show itself? The writer, too, had spoken of the branches lopped off. While we are in the critical vein, again, we feel inclined to call to account a writer so richly endowed with treasure from the "well of English undefiled," as Dr Delany for fishing in a turbid source for, if not for coining, such a word as "amissible." The article, nevertheless, on the whole is excellently written and, though possibly caviars to the vulgar, admirable in matter as in argument. The Cardinal Archbishop of Sydney contributes the first portion of an article headed "The Sisters of Mercy and the Catholic Chaplains during the Crimean War." His Eminence gives a graphic description of the services rendered by the Sisters of Mercy and the need that there was for the work done by them. To those of us who personally remember the war the article will recall the distress and indignation that the events and

the foundation of the mission was celebrated, Archbishop Redwood opening the festivities by inaugurating at La Conception a memorial statue of the Blessed Virgin. The Rev J. Milne Curran F.G.S., contributes an article entitled "Australian Gold-Fields." Here we have the experience of the adventurous pioneer and the practical man-of-science combined—the whole forming a chapter of intense interest. A subject commonplace and dry in itself takes liveliness, and even beauty, from the touch of a rarely gifted pen. The Rev C. O'Connell S.J., in "The Ascent of Man," criticises with ability and learning the Lowell lectures of Professor Drummond, a book, says the reviewer, that produced a conviction that was "not conviction but persuasion, because it was produced not by Logic but by Rhetoric." The Very Rev P.A. Slattery, in "The Cradle and the Cross," gives some personal memories of the Holy Land—matter always of interest to the Catholic reader, and all the more so when recalled as picturesquely and feelingly as in the present instance. The Right Rev Monsignor O'Brien, D.D., in "The Church and Hypnotism," gives the first part of a keen and able examination into a question of great current importance. An article of which the authorship is not stated, tellingly reviews, also in a first instalment, the condition of the Catholics of Ireland under the penal laws. The ecclesiastical documents given are the Encyclical on the Rosary and the Decree on Church Mus.c. There are besides "Liturgical Questions," and "Contemporary Literature." The periodical in a word is well filled with articles of great ability, and general interest. Even in its deepest investigations or arguments it is free from heaviness. It is well printed and in every respect neatly turned out. In one or two instances, nevertheless, a printer's error that might as well have been corrected is to be found. Thus in Dr Delany's article one sentence is turned into nonsense, and another is made to throw doubts on the writer's employment of his singulars and plurals. But this perhaps, is to cavil. The misprints are apparent. If the *Australasian Catholic Record* fulfils the promise of its first number, as we may safely conclude it will, it will be not only a credit to the Church in these colonies, but a valuable addition to Catholic literature everywhere.

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conditions narrated spread throughout the United Kingdom. The hand of the *vates sacer*, nevertheless, was necessary to give to the Catholic Sisters the meed of fame so devotedly and ardently earned by them. In the world at large, at the time, the chief, almost the sole, credit of the relief afforded by the accounts of the tender care bestowed in the hospitals on the wounded and sick soldiers was given to another, and, if we understand aright, such even now remains the case;—a noble woman, no doubt, and one of whom hardly any degree of praise could be too high, who herself was ready to acknowledge her full indebtedness. Stronger or more affecting testimony could scarcely be expressed in the English language than that, for example, contained in these sentences, quoted by the Cardinal:—"My love and gratitude will be yours wherever you go. I do not presume to give you any tribute but my tears." Without robbing Florence Nightingale of her due the writer vividly places before his readers the merits of the Sisters of Mercy. The writer necessarily deals with much that is painful, much also that is grave and pathetic. But his pen is not without its lighter touches. "We have many of the Connaught Rangers and the 18th Royal Irish, and wild brave fellows they are," writes one of the nuns. Again, who can withhold his sympathy from the Protestant chaplain, as a reward for whose kindness to them the Sisters washed his neck-ties? "a process performed under difficulties, for the teapot filled with boiling water had to do duty as a smoothing iron." The great interest of the subject dealt with in this instalment and the masterly manner of its treatment will make its readers impatient for the next, in which the part played by the Catholic chaplains is to be narrated. The Very Rev A. Aubrey S.M., Superior of the Marist Fathers in Australia, contributes an article on "Missionary Results in New Caledonia." In this we are given a well-painted picture of the terrible state of things found in the island by the first missionaries, one of whom was Father Viard, afterwards Bishop of Wellington. Cannibalism in a form than which none could be worse or more revolting prevailed there—and alone, and at the mercy of such a people, the missionaries—more than 12,000 miles from their native land, were left. Need we, *par exemple*, wonder at what is related of the bravery of those fathers of the Order who passed through the Maori war? The writer contrasts the dangerous and difficult beginnings with the happy results seen last year when the 50th anniversary of

CATHOLIC ENTERTAINMENTS.

PANMURE

(Auckland Herald, December 19)

A VERY pleasant function took place in St Patrick's Hall, Panmure, on Monday evening last, the occasion being the winding-up of scholastic duties for the year now about to close. The spacious hall was taxed to its utmost capacity by the pupils, parents, and friends, a considerable amount of taste being displayed by the teachers, Miss McDonald and Miss Fleming, in its decoration. Miss Lottie Finerty announced in a distinct and very pleasing manner the items of the evening's programme. Encores were prevalent, and the demand on the part of the audience was well merited. The faithful rendering of the familiar and very touching songs "Home, Sweet Home," and "Auld Lang Syne," pleased the audience very much. Monsignor McDonald, as usual, presided, and in a few well chosen sentences expressed the very great pleasure which the evening's proceedings had afforded him, and concluded his remarks by wishing one and all a happy Christmas and a bright New Year. The programme was as follows:—Song, "Skipping," pupils; solo, pianoforte, N. Gavin; song, "Minstrel Boy," school boys; recitation, "Little Miss Ray," E. Gavin; song, "Mother's last letter to me," N. Gavin and M. Kenealey; song, "Four-eaf Shamrock," pupils; solo, pianoforte, M. Kenealey; song, "In Happy Moments," T. Wilkinson; song, "Home, Sweet Home," pupils; recitation, "Grandma's Talk," M. Kenealey; song, "The Fisherman and his Child," L. Finerty; solo, pianoforte, T. Wilkinson; song, "Gleaners," pupils; song, "Auld Lang Syne," pupils; drama, "Revengeful Fairy."

KUMARA.

(Kumara Times, December 20)

A PLEASANT evening's amusement was tendered by the Sisters of St Brigid's Convent last night in the form of a children's concert. The schoolroom was prettily decorated and the Catholic Brass Band under Mr Bromond assisted in filling in the intervals in a pleasant manner. The Rev Father O'Hallahan presided. The following programme was excellently rendered:—"Hearts and Homes," chorus; "Song of the Sky Lark," piano duet, Misses M. Watson and A. Milson; "Oh, Ever Thus," M. Moynihan, J. Brown, S. Caldwell, A. Coll

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