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Current Topics

AT HOME AND ABROAD

A SHORT time ago we drew the attention of our readers to the importance of saving cancelled postage stamps and to the way in which these NORTH ISLAND, unconsidered trifles might be made to contribute to the support of foreign missions. Our remarks were made in connection with a mission on the banks of the Congo, but we are reminded that there is a mission much nearer home which is in urgent need of help, and which can be assisted in precisely the same way. The Maori mission in the North Island which is carried on with earnest and self-sacrificing zeal by the Rev. Father Kreymborg, is very largely supported by the revenue derived from the sale of old stamps. The work of the mission is sufficiently arduous in itself, but when it is accompanied, as at present it is, by a most grievous want of means, it must require a spirit of heroic courage and patience to carry on the good work. Father Kreymborg enjoys the princely income of forty pounds a year. He does not complain of that, however, nor of his own personal hardships, but he does feel it hard—and no wonder—that he is unable to erect the most necessary church buildings for want of what is, comparatively speaking, a very small sum. We will let Father Kreymborg tell his own tale in the simple but touching letter in which he acknowledges the receipt of a parcel of stamps from our office. Tokaanu, Taupo, July 9, 1897. Dear sir,—This is to acknowledge with best thanks the receipt of your used postage stamps. This is the second time I received a parcel of stamps from your office. Several persons have forwarded used stamps to me, but it would be hard to acknowledge them all separately, especially since they are sometimes not worth the postage of a letter. I had hoped that the response to my appeal would have been taken up more largely and that there would have been more foreign stamps amongst the parcels and those of former issues. In such case they might be considered a great help. Indeed I do not think that the Maori mission receives the assistance it really deserves. I do not complain; I do not want to. I receive the royal income of £40 odd pounds a year, sufficient, with the help of the natives in matters of food, not to starve. But I ask any man with a bit of common sense whether one can with this amount keep a decent horse, to travel from settlement to settlement, and still keep a balance in hand to build here and there a humble little shanty to say Mass in, and which the natives would style a house of prayer? Undoubtedly we would make much more headway if we had a little more funds. Now I am very anxious to build a little chapel, say about 30 feet long, in Tokaanu. I would build it myself with the help of some natives and in this way about £40 would cover nearly all the costs. However, I do not yet see how I can become the happy possessor of this sum. If our Lady of the Immaculate Conception, to whom I intend to dedicate the little chapel, does not soften the hearts of some kind people towards this good end, I suppose my plan will simply remain a plan and nothing more. Till now I had to celebrate Mass there in a large native hut, musty and dirty. The natives here in the middle of the island are the very poorest and little help do I expect from them. The white people in this extremely large district are very few and far between, so their assistance, whatever it may be, will not amount to anything much. Anyhow I will have a good try for it; perhaps I may succeed. Thanking you, dear Mr. Editor, for your kindness, I am, yours very faithfully,—C. KREYMBORG. A new church for forty pounds! Surely such a truly charitable project will not be allowed to fall to the ground for want of so small a sum. This is emphatically a work in which every little will help, and to the support of which all, even the poorest, can contribute. Stamps may be forwarded to the Rev. Father Kreymborg, Tokaanu, Taupo, or we ourselves will gladly take charge of either stamps or contributions if our readers find it more convenient to forward them to us. We are sure the good Father's faith will be rewarded and that

before long the Maoris of Tokaanu will have a decent and respectable, though it may be homely, building in which to meet and worship God.

VERY general regret will be felt throughout the Catholic world at the news of the death of the REV. FATHER Rev. Father Kneipp, who passed away at Woerishofen about the middle of last month. Father Kneipp had been ailing for some time past, his illness being due to a chill caught when recovering from an attack of influenza. Strangely enough, the good father looked upon the chill as a trifling matter, and went about his ordinary duties without taking any of those precautions which he would have been the first to advise in the case of any of his own patients. The result was that the illness soon became very severe and ultimately ended in the good pastor's death. Father Kneipp has made his name famous throughout the world as the great apostle of the water cure, which has brought health and happiness to so many thousands of invalids. He was born in the Bavarian village of Ottobeuern about seventy-five years ago. He was the son of a weaver and was himself for a time an apprentice at the spinning factory. He was educated at the Catholic hospital in the neighbouring town of Augustberg, where he attracted the attention of the bishop, who obtained permission to educate him for the priesthood. Young Kneipp was then sixteen years of age, and after a few years of hard study he was attacked with nervous prostration and returned to the hospital. While there he read in an old book an article on the efficacy of cold water as a cure for diseases. He began a series of experiments in his own case and eventually succeeded in effecting a complete cure. When twenty-five years of age he entered the priesthood, and was sent to the church of his native town, where he remained for nine years. In addition to his priestly duties he taught the doctrine of the water cure and met with considerable success. He was transferred from Ottobeuern to Woerishofen, a town of about 1,500 inhabitants, near Munich, where he continued to heal the sick by his system of cold water cures. He very quickly made a name for himself, and so many of the sick and ailing flocked to the little village to seek his aid that it became necessary to provide a large and elaborate establishment for the reception and treatment of his patients. Of late years patients have crowded to the establishment literally in thousands and it is estimated that last year alone, 30,000 people were treated by Father Kneipp and his assistants. Father Kneipp has treated a great many distinguished patients, among whom are included the Emperor of Austria, the Archduke Joseph of Austria, the Archduke Augustin of Austria, and several members of the Rothschild family. A few years ago the Pope invited Father Kneipp to Rome and tried the water treatment for a time. His Holiness afterwards honoured the good priest by making him a Domestic Prelate. Father Kneipp has explained the principles of his system in various works, the principal being, "My Water Cure," and "Thus shalt thou live." The remedies and treatment are of the very simplest character, a walk for a few minutes every morning bare-footed in the snow in winter and on the wet grass in summer being often all that is required to effect a cure. Thousands of people who have never been near Woerishofen are now enjoying increased health and strength as the result of following Father Kneipp's treatment, and amongst Catholics everywhere there will be a sincere feeling of regret that the kind-hearted prelate has passed away.

THE St. Augustine centenary celebrations, which are being held in England by the Anglican Church, AND ST. place the members of that body in rather an awkward dilemma. They have to admit, though AUGUSTINE. they do it grudgingly enough, that they received their Christianity through St. Augustine, and they are they are then put upon their defence to explain their present position of schism from the Mother Church. They endeavour to escape from the dilemma by maintaining that Pope Gregory did not claim supremacy over the English Church, of which he was the founder, and that, in fact, he did not hold the doctrine of the Papal supremacy

Smoke T. C. Williams' JUNO TOBACCO.
COMPARE SIZE AND WEIGHT OF STICKS.