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Current Topics

AT HOME AND ABROAD.

SOME PRIZE BLUNDERS. MR. MORLEY in his *Aphorisms*, has said that "excessive anger against human stupidity is itself one of the most provoking of all forms of that stupidity."

It is, happily, sometimes easier to laugh at it than to be angry with it. When *English as She is Written* and *English as She is Spoken* first appeared, many people were disposed to look at their miraculous stupidities as the conscious work of designing authors. Some of the school-boy and school-girl blunders might indeed have been manufactured with malice prepense by a man in his right mind; but—as Mark Twain says of another prize blunder book, *A Guide of the Conversation in English*—there are others which "no pretended ignorance could ever achieve, nor yet even the most genuine and comprehensive ignorance, when unbacked by inspiration." A similar remark may be made on the enchanting imbecilities to which reference is made in Inspector Spencer's recent report on scholarship examinations, at the Education Board meeting, Dunedin. "In science and history," says Mr. Spencer, "the results of confusion of ideas were often somewhat ludicrous. 'A gas presses down, for if we were to go up in a balloon and get out of it we should fall to the ground. This would happen if we were not up too high.' (Class A.) 'A piece of iron is porous, because if a piece was put in a bowl of water it would soak up all the water.' (A.) 'The thermometer falls if the air is cold and damp and goes up if it is light.' (B.) 'Capillary attraction is the force that draws all things up.' (A.) In the history of Class A, it was stated that 'Blenheim was fought between Wellington and Napoleon, was a battle in the civil war in the time of Charles I, and was an English admiral;' 'the Glencoes got William (III) to sing an order of destruction,' and were then made responsible for the murder of themselves. Moreover, 'Columbos' was a famous soldier and Drake discovered America. In the history of Class B we find that 'the chief ways of laying taxation are the wheel tax and the dog tax.' Writing about the South Sea Bubble, one stated that 'the bank of N.Z. which was then a very rich bank in those days paid nine million pounds sterling' (to relieve the distress). 'Customs' (revenue) were explained by a senior candidate: 'A custom is a thing which all the people of a nation do. For instance, it is the custom of the Scotts to eat porridge; it is his habit of coming late. To eat porridge is a custom.'

A friend of ours, who has had a wide experience as inspector of schools in Australia, has furnished us with a series of sublime replies received by him from time to time. They go to prove that the average boy or girl is as little of a ruminating animal in Australia as in England or New Zealand. We give the answers which most readily occur to our mind. The first two were elicited at oral, the remainder at written examinations:—

"What are the uses of a table?" Answer (after a very long pause): "To salt pigs on."

"What is an epicure?" "A great smoker."

"What is a circle?" "A round straight line with a hole in the middle."

"How would you calculate the area of a room?" "Multiply the room by the number of feet, and the product will be the result."

"What are the functions of the gastric juice?" "Gastric juice is a thing that is put in your inside to prevent your bones creaking."

A large percentage of such schoolroom blunders are fairly traceable to the system which trains the memory of our boys and girls at the expense of their intellect. The gulping down of pellets of facts and figures and formulæ no more constitutes knowledge

than the swallowing of certain quantities of pork and vegetables constitutes health and strength. In both instances there must needs be assimilation—in the case of learning, by the process of thought. In this respect man is a ruminating animal, and the boy or girl who has acquired the habit of thinking will be the least likely to fall headlong into the colossal tomfooleries which we have quoted above. The highest function of mere instruction is to teach young John and Patrick and Alexander and their sisters to think.

SOMEBODY has said that blunders are "like the ghost of Tomlinson in Rudyard Kipling's poem: neither good enough for Heaven, nor bad enough for hell." Your schoolboy blunders have no moral status. But there are those who consciously or unconsciously flounder in serenely upon our sentiments, beliefs, and aspirations as Catholics—mostly through that ignorance of our doctrines, and usages, which, according to Newman, is the protection of the traditional Protestant view regarding the Catholic Church. We smile at the honest and upright, though idiotic, follies committed in non-Catholic reports or other descriptions of our ecclesiastical functions. Not long ago, according to the *Rochester Catholic Journal*, a Chicago daily paper described Archbishop Feehan's entrance into the sanctuary with a "tonsure on his arm." To another western bishop was attributed the feat of carrying "a Cossack on his shoulders." Then another paper spoke of an acolyte who "advanced bearing in his hands a thurifer and chasuble." It is not alone in the American press that such absurdities creep in. They are also to be found in the English papers, so widely advertised as pluperfect. The *London Standard* described a chaplain in a "black" surplice, and the *Times* described the "cathedral chapters in ermine-trimmed copes of purple." The name of the perpetrator of the worst blunder of all is unfortunately lost to posterity. He was "writing up" the recent St. Augustine centenary celebrations at Ebbs Fleet, and would have it that "Cardinal Vaughan conducted the Mass, but the Consecration and Elevation were performed by Cardinal Perraud." We are all familiar with the "evening Mass" and "morning Vespers" with the priest who reads his office out of a missal, or celebrates a "Pontifical High Mass" all alone, or "celebrates the sacrament" on a cope and baldaquin. Those of our readers who are curious in this matter will find abundant scope for a melancholy kind of enjoyment in the pages of Mr. Britten's *Protestant Fiction*.

But the most distressing feature in this matter is the ignorance of even educated non-Catholics regarding our beliefs and practices. It is dense to an astonishing degree. Froude, in his *English in Ireland*, tells us that the Wexford insurgents on their march to Arklow, "halted at every mile to hear Mass." But perhaps it would be unfair to expect accuracy from the man who, as the *Athenæum* said, "leaves us hopelessly struggling to distinguish between his history and his hysteria." We were entitled to expect better from the late Poet Laureate (Lord Tennyson); yet he asked Mr. Britten (secretary of the Catholic Truth Society), in all seriousness, if he were a Jesuit. On receiving a reply in the negative, he remarked: "You are a Roman Catholic, though." A few years ago one of the series of Irish Readers contained—and perhaps still retains—a footnote to the *Friar of Orders Grey*, which gave the valuable information that beads are "something used by Catholics in confession, when a bead is to'd off for every sin confessed." It would be easy to multiply such instances.

But the most lamentable ignorance of all, on the part of our non-Catholic friends, is that which prevails regarding the teachings of the Catholic Church. A number of expositions of our doctrines, by Protestant clergymen, were long since collected and sent forth in pamphlet form under the title: *Things Catholics do not Believe*. When such things happen in the green wood what are we to expect in the dry—to wit, the masses of the people whose ideas of us are imparted by such unenlightened guides?

HINTS FOR THE FOOLISH SEASON. DESPITE the successful ascent of Mt. Cook, New Zealanders have not been seized to any great extent by the all-absorbing mania of mountain climbing—an occupation which affords people a great variety of ways of breaking their foolish necks with reasonable neatness and despatch.

But, like our neighbours over the water, we have our silly seasons. The New Year's holidays are gone by. The callow city youths who could not distinguish the breech of a gun from the muzzle, and "didn't know it was loaded," have been abroad as usual, and have shed as little of each other's gore as could reasonably be expected. But we are in the height of the bathing and boating seasons, and our seaside or lakeside friends may relish the homely advice which our genial friend, "Flaneur," of the Sydney *Freeman*, thus gives to all whom it may concern:—

"Most persons are drowned through the foolish attempts they make to climb out of the water into which they have fallen, and hang on to the air overhead, while they yell for help loud enough to wake the dead in Lapland. That is as great a mistake as it is for a man to dress himself for the day in an ice-cream hawker's suit of white calico clothes and canvas boots, simply because the official head of our Weather Department has prophesied that the day will be 'fine and sultry.' Let everybody and his wife and his children remember that the human body weighs but 11b in the water, and a piece of board a foot square held in one hand is quite sufficient to keep the head above water, while the other hand and two feet used as paddles will propel the body to a place of safety. The first care of a man dumped suddenly into the harbour should be to keep cool. The water will help him to do that—if he stays long enough in it—and then let him throw his head well back, keep his lungs inflated, his hands below the surface of the water, and move his feet up and down just the same though he were pedalling round the park on his bicycle. This is known as 'treading water,' and it is as easy to tread water as it is to tread upstairs to a Minister's room to receive a Government billet worth £500 a year."

A DEAD DONKEY. THAT genial exhibitor of live snakes and "moral wax figgers," Artemus Ward, once asked himself in a retrospective mood: "Where are the friends of my youth?" And he answered: "Some are dead—some are in gaol." His reply would form a fitting epitaph to the now happily defunct "A.P.A.," or so-called "American Protective Association." The society has been in existence for the past few years. As an organisation it is now dead, and a sprinkling of its standard-bearers are, where the rest might well be, safe under lock and key in United States prisons. Others succeeded in escaping to Canada. The A.P.A. was a revival of the Know-nothing organisation which raised such a loud no-Popery cry in the fifties, and in one year (1856) wielded such influence that Fillmore, its nominee for the Presidency, polled close on 875,000 votes. Soon afterwards, it fell to pieces through its own rottenness. The A.P.A. inherited all its worst traditions. Mr. W. T. Stead, in his book, *If Christ Came to Chicago*, says that this association counted within its ranks "far more Canadians and Orangemen from Ulster and Glasgow than native-born citizens of the United States," who were trying to "scare old women of both sexes with the bogey of impending massacre, and of the domination of sixty millions by six." It opposed, with all the force of teeth and claws, the presence of Catholics in any position in the State; scattered broad-cast no-Popery literature, bogus Papal encyclicals and pastorals, and sent around the country itinerant "lecturers"—so-called "ex-priests" and "ex-nuns"—to stir up public feeling against the Catholic body. The action of the American law-courts thinned the ranks of this class of foul-mouthed adventurers. They were convicted of various gross crimes and relegated to private life and the sweets of solitary meditation. These incidents cast such discredit on the association that orders were sent out by the ringleaders of the organisation against their further employment. The free air of America did the rest. Their organ, the *Boston Daily Standard*, suffered unlamented shipwreck. The last blow came when the supreme headquarters of the association at Washington were closed. The office furniture was sold to satisfy a printing claim by the firm of Hartman and Cady. And the A.P.A. and its anti-Catholic propagananda are as dead as Julius Cæsar.

There is one curious circumstance worth mentioning in connection with this revival of the old no-Popery cry of the A.P.A.'s predecessor, the Know-nothings. Mr. Henry J. Gardner was Governor of Massachusetts and a Know-nothing. He issued orders for the disbandment of the Irish-American military companies in the State. In due time, however, the disbanded soldiers took up arms to defend the Union. Gardner stayed comfortably at home. So did the great body of the leaders and rank and file of the association. Their cowardice supplied the theme for the following poem

by Mr. Whitcombe Reilly, which recently appeared in an American paper. It is addressed to the now defunct A.P.A.:

"Ye were mighty still when Sumter's guns went shakin' up the land,
An' I had my Irish regiments march in an' take a hand!
Great strappin' fellows, shot right deown, with a shamrock on their breasts,
The Stars and Stripes above 'em, and a cross inside their vests!

"The last guard of M'Clellan, and Burnsides's farthest dead!
No, I guess not, stranger,—jest yit; I ain't goin' to lose my head!
Like 'nuff in goin' to heaven our roads may be apart,
But in pintin' to the gineral end we're all the same at heart.

"Some of my folks were Catholics as far back's '76!
An' thirty-six years later helped me out uv a nasty fix!
An' as for Irish—in Mexico—of all Zach's bloodiest fields,
He found at Cerro Gordo his biggest hoss was Shields!

"But the way that you've been talkin', St. Peter raves and swears,
When comes along an Irishman that kneels and says his prayers.
But now I come to think on't, and look ye in the face,
I'll be hanged if you ain't Irish—an' no credit to the race!"

THE summer of 1897-1798 will long be remembered A BAD MASTER. in the Australasian colonies as the season of big fires. Victoria and Tasmania have had their innings; and now our fellow-colonists of the Manawatu district have learned by bitter experience the truth of the old proverb that fire, like water, is a good servant, but a bad master. In tendering our cordial sympathy to the sufferers, of every class and creed, we gladly acknowledge that our deep regret for their misfortune is mingled with a feeling of satisfaction that they have displayed, in a time of sore trial, a degree of pluck and patience which is beyond all praise; that the disaster has evoked not a few acts of heroic devotion; and that steps are being taken to afford a measure of relief which will be a practical and tangible expression of the sympathy and goodwill of their fellow-colonists.

The devastation wrought in Manawatu recalls the famous bush fires which took place in Victoria on "Black Thursday," February 6, 1851. Bush fires are a usual summer sensation among our neighbours on "the other side." But the fires of Black Thursday still hold the record for Australasia. They arose out of conditions somewhat akin to those which have inflicted such awful damage in New Zealand. For a long period a heat-wave had settled down upon the colony, accompanied by scorching winds from the north. The parched, yellow grass became as inflammable as tow, and the gum-leaves became dry and hard, and gave out a sort of metallic click as they beat against each other in the wind. When Black Thursday came, the thermometer stood at 112 in the shade. The country took fire in many places, the flames were fanned by a hot, high wind, and swept along with incredible speed. Where the grass was long there came a wall of flame many feet high. In the timbered country the main body of the fire was preceded by pieces of burning bark and leaves, which went far ahead—*avant-couriers* of the conflagration—and carried the flames across roads, streams, and rivers. A great part of the colony was on fire, and many people fancied that the end of the world had at last come. Attempts at fighting the fire with branches of trees and wet bags were useless. People fled for their lives. Many lost their lives; and homesteads, huts, bridges, stacks, and crops were destroyed. Horses, sheep, cattle, and wild animals were burned alive in incredible numbers. Even birds fell from the trees, and Labilliere, an eye-witness, tells how great numbers of them were subsequently found dead. The smoke was driven rapidly southward by the gale, and created in Melbourne and Geelong the darkness which has caused the day to be known in history as Black Thursday. The smoke drifted over Tasmania, and the historians of Victoria tell how burnt leaves were carried to vessels far off the coast, while the ashes borne aloft by the northern gale were deposited on the decks of ships forty miles out at sea.

We naturally do not relish paying too much for our whistles. Still, experience keeps a dear school. And such calamities teach a homely lesson of every-day prudence which, in prolonged periods of safety, people are all too liable to forget. The lesson of wise provision was brought home with especial force to Londoners by the recent great fire in Cripplegate. It resulted in crowds of applicants—many of whom had never insured before—trooping into the offices of the various insurance companies. "The great fire," says one of our contemporaries, "so far from being an unmitigated disaster for the insurance offices, is proving for the bulk of them which were not affected, or only slightly affected, a boon of no small magnitude."

THE stories of Arctic voyagers have led most educated English-speaking people to look upon PATRIOTISM UNDER DIFFICULTIES, the Esquimaux as a half-savage, blubber-eating, skin-clad race. The Danes formerly called them "Skroellingar," which, being interpreted, meaneth "wretches." Their weakness for raw flesh, rancid oil, and evil-

TIGER BLEND TEAS HAVE NO EQUAL.

smelling dens, is calculated—like O. W. Holmes's music-grinders—"to pluck the eyes of sentiment." But an incident recently occurred in New York which goes to show that a well-developed sentiment of patriotism may burn brightly even in a half-developed Esquimaux; and that the sight of what he deemed his native ice may arouse feelings as strong as those with which a Scot views a sprig of his native heather, and an Irishman a bunch of "the dear little, sweet little shamrock of Erin." The *New York Freeman's Journal* thus describes the incident:—

"Menney, the little Esquimaux who came here with Lieutenant Peary from the icy regions, is in Bellevue Hospital, New York city. The attendants carry ice in pans into the wards for patients, and the little Esquimaux was deeply interested as to how they got it. He was brought to the icehouse in the basement. In it were eight or ten tons of ice. As soon as he spied the blocks of ice he rushed in, threw himself upon the ice, patted the big blocks with his hands, caressed them with his cheeks, flattened his nose against them, kissed them and stuck out his tongue and licked them. When the attendant called Menney to go with him Menney understood, but preferred the ice to the hot ward. He lay down and refused to move. John had to lead him out by force. This is a fine example of love of country. Menney is a patriot, for sure."

SOME years ago the *New York Tribune* made the following remarks:—"Almost any candid Protestant will acknowledge that Catholicism has shown much more wisdom than Protestantism in utilising for religious work men of every kind of capacity and ability. Until within recent years, Protestantism has been able or willing to offer the ministry alone as a permanent form of religious activity. The young man who felt called to give his life to the service of mankind was compelled in some way or other to fit himself for the technical and conventional duties of a parish clergyman. As for the young woman who felt a special call to evangelistic work, Protestantism, until recently, offered her nothing except the work of volunteer visiting and Sunday-school teaching—vocations that, at best, offer only a limited field of usefulness to one who desires to give a whole life to God. No wonder that Catholicism, with its multitude of Orders, clerical and lay, employing men and women of many gifts, grows as it does."

One of the first acts of the Reformers was to suppress the monasteries—for the sake of their revenues—and to banish the monks. The Widow Carey says in Disraeli's *Sybil*: "Calling your neighbour names doesn't settle a question." But since the Reformation the name of monk has been pelted with mud and spat upon by an interminable host of ill-informed scribblers, whose writings have helped to swell the great current of Protestant tradition. Happily, the history of the Reformation is being reconstructed. The Church and the monks are the gainers thereby. Father Gasquet's great work, *Henry VIII. and the English Monasteries*, has marked an epoch in the history of English monasticism, and even such strongly Protestant organs as the *Quarterly Review* have published highly appreciative articles on the learning and industry of the monks, and on the services rendered by them to science and agriculture. We are in a fair way towards hearing the last of the "lazy" and "ignorant" monks. The High Church party are helping the crusade of History's Muse in favour of the monks. They have formed sundry "brotherhoods" and founded divers "monasteries." Our readers have all heard of "Father" Ignatius of Llanthony Abbey, in Wales, and of the Cowley Fathers. The Protestant Episcopalians in America have not been less advanced than their English confères. In 1886 the Order of the Brothers of Nazareth was founded in New York. Eight years later—in 1894—another such association, the Brothers of the Church, was established in the same city by the Protestant Bishop Potter—the real founder and first superior being Mr. Russell Whitcombe, a successful young business man of New York. They take perpetual vows of poverty, celibacy, and obedience, and now claim the title of Benedictine monks. One of the latest developments of these Protestant brotherhoods is known as the Order of the Good Samaritan—an association of medical "monks," founded by Mr. George W. Davidson, who was recently received into the Church. They bind themselves to vows of poverty, celibacy, and obedience, in imitation of the genuine monks. From a letter which appeared recently in the *Guardian* we learn of the existence of an Order of St. Paul, of which a "Father" Hopkins is Superior-General. The future may bring us such associations as Anglican Franciscans, Dominicans, and—why not Jesuits also? The confusion of Protestant and Catholic designations may—as they do already—give rise to situations that will be bewildering to the members of both religious bodies. In the meantime, the Protestant brotherhoods have been for many the stepping-stone to the true Church. Three members of the Order of the Good Samaritan, several of "Father" Ignatius monks, and a great part of his nuns left the shadow of religious life to find its substance in the bosom of the One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church.

CARDINAL NEWMAN said truly that ignorance of "NAIL IT DOWN," our doctrines and practices is the protection of the traditional Protestant view of the Catholic Church. This is particularly exemplified in the doctrine regarding indulgences. There is, perhaps, no other dogma of the Catholic Church regarding which even educated Protestants entertain such sublimely puzzle-headed notions. We fear that their ignorance is, in this case, a voluntary misfortune. A few minutes' perusal of a Catholic manual of instruction would lift from the mind of individual Protestants a mouldy mass of misconception on this subject. The *South African Magazine* told a few years ago how the *Cape Mercury* interpreted three hundred days' indulgence to mean three hundred days' furlough out of Purgatory. The comment of the *Magazine* was a characteristic one: "If our Protestant friend were to see a fifty-horse-power engine, he should look inside it for the fifty horses." Our latest copy of the *Boston Pilot*, commenting on a meeting of the Presbyterian Ministers' Association of Philadelphia, tells how, after a prayer had been offered for "charity to all," a Rev. T. L. Gulick told the meeting that "while he and his wife were in Minneapolis, speaking publicly on the sale of indulgences in Spain, a priest named McGolrick offered to give money enough to support two missions in Spain if he could prove the sale of indulgences. They sent and got two indulgences, one of which had an outline of the sole of the shoe of the Virgin Mary, which gave an indulgence from all sin for three hundred years. Father McGolrick backed out of his offer, and in his reply to the paper showed that he knew all the time they were doing this in Spain. This man, the Rev. Mr. Gulick added, is now a bishop." In reply to a letter from the *Catholic Standard and Times*, Bishop McGolrick wrote:—

"Dear sir.—You may state most emphatically that I never had any discussion with the Presbyterian Minister Gulick. I don't know him and if he showed me his wonderful indulgence I would be very glad to set him right. Gulick is of the usual style of controversial romancers, and has evolved the wonderful story of his triumph from his inner consciousness. It will be a good thing in behalf of truth to nail the lie as they used to do with counterfeit coin in the past. You are doing a good work. I am, yours sincerely, JAMES M'GOLRICK." We like the good old custom of nailing spurious coins to the counter.

THE GREAT MISSIONARY FAILURE.

THERE are few people so optimistic, at least on paper, as the average Protestant missionary. He is a Mark Tapley brought up to date. The first Napoleon said that the word "impossible" was to be found only in the dictionary of fools. The vocabulary of the average non-Catholic missionary's report contains no such words as "error," "misconduct," or "failure." The people among whom he is set are ever either "hearing gladly" or being "gathered into the fold." A rose-coloured glow pervades the atmosphere of the mission: "the sun shines always there." The only shadows in the report are those cast by an occasional triumphant tilt at Rome, or the Ritualists, or the opium traffic, or the few unspeakable heathens who set their faces unsuccessfully against "the people of God." For Catholics, his proceedings must ever possess a melancholy interest, inasmuch as they throw a side-light on one of the chief difficulties which beset our missionaries in heathen lands.

Zimmerman says that optimism arises either "from stagnation of intellect or insuperable indolence." In the present instance, it would appear to be the creature of external circumstance—partly a question of mere policy, partly a matter of supply and demand. The report of the Established Church of Scotland Missionary Society for 1878 complained that "missionaries are discouraged by the notion that their friends crave for exciting and novel narrative; that the plain record of daily duties, petty disappointments, and serious hindrances would be unacceptable." A Protestant clergyman, Rev. H. Hensley Henson, writing on the subject of foreign missions in the *National Review* for last December, thus accounts for the rosate hue of the typical Protestant missionary's report:—"He (the Protestant missionary) is ignorant almost always, and by necessary consequence he is prejudiced. He is generally in a thoroughly false position—the reporter and judge of his own achievements. He works under thoroughly bad conditions, for his reports are the advertisements of a money-raising society, and they are addressed to constituents—the rank and file of the denominations—who are as greedy of sensation as they are credulous of prodigies."

Here is the demand for pious fiction of a certain kind. It is duly supplied from over the sea. A Chinese proverb has it that "falsehood will travel over half the earth while truth is pulling on her shoes." Nevertheless, truth sometimes overtakes and trips up the heels of falsehood. Other versions of facts likewise come over the seas and stand in comparison with those of the missionary. "The audience he can count on," says Rev. H. Hensley Henson,

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"is not so receptive as was once the case: nay, so far has the critical process now proceeded, that uncorroborated missionary's evidence is scarcely considered evidence at all. It would be an error to interpret this scepticism of missionary statements as an indication of anti-religious prejudice. It has its explanation in the discovered errors of the past and the suspected conditions of the present. Compared with the civil servant, with the independent traveller, with the army officer, even with the higher type of merchant, the average missionary does not command confidence." In one of his sermons in Westminster Abbey on Christian Missions in 1873, Dean Stanley spoke of "the necessity of a vigilant endeavour to repress the exaggeration, to denounce the fallacies and inaccuracies" of the reports. Dr. Cust—the greatest living authority on the subject—says in his *Missionary Methods* that "it requires great determination and a strong stomach" to get through them. Among the other serious imputations which he makes against them are "unreal exaggerated statements as to numerical success." One of the Church Missionary Society's reports, quoted by Cust in his *Missionary Methods*, has the following plaint: "How hard it is for the missionary to be patient, when his friends at home are so impatient, and how great is the temptation to embellish the account of his annual labours! I fear there are grave scandals connected with our missionary reports," which, says the same writer, are "positively grotesque in their optimism, [and] in which Scripture-texts jostle strangely with palpably exaggerated retrospects and forecasts."

"There can be no reasonable doubt," says the writer of the article on Protestant missions in the *National Review*, "that the results of missionary endeavour are inadequate to the exertions made." Dr. Cust states that "of the amounts collected from the supporters of missionary societies, a far too great percentage never gets beyond the shores of England." According to the same authority, the Church Missionary Society retained in one year £35,000 for the cost of administration, etc., and the other societies in like proportion. Even the money that reaches the mission field is singularly barren of result. In the missions to the Jews in Palestine each "convert" is said to cost the societies about £10,000, and it is whispered that some knowing Israelites have made a living by frequent changes of religion. According to Canon Taylor (in a letter to the *Times* in 1887), £48,000 was spent in North-West and Central India in one year. The result was somewhat meagre: 279 converts, some of them "not altogether free from suspicion." According to Dr. Merri-ion—a Protestant traveller—3127 converts—of a kind—were made in China in 1893 at a cost of £350,000. In a letter to the *Argus* (September 19, 1895), traversing this statement, Rev. E. G. Veal, on the strength of a very visionary rough calculation, was prepared to admit that some 6000 may have "found salvation" in that year of grace, at a cost of £250,000. Even this could not be regarded as a conspicuous success. It must be classed as a dismal failure when we find Catholic missionaries, on the slenderest resources, ministering in the Flowery Land and Tonquin to a population of close on two million co-religionists; and in India, to 1,315,263—or more than half of all the Christians in the country combined. A Protestant author, Mr. Mitchie, in his *Missionaries in China* (1891) estimates the total number of Protestants in China proper at 37,287. A vast body of non-Catholic testimony as to the failure of the Protestant missions will be found in Marshall's *Christian Missions*, in Cardinal Moran's *Mission Field*, and in various works of travel to which we may recur at some future period.

Zeal for missionary work arises naturally and necessarily from one of the four marks of the True Church—its Catholicity. It was born with her; it grew up with her life; and through her, and through her alone, have whole heathen nations come into the one fold. The enthusiasm of our non-Catholic friends in the missionary cause is, says Rev. H. H. Henson, "of very recent growth." It has undoubtedly drawn into the mission field many earnest and plucky men, such as William Carey. The work must, however, ever labour under the radical disadvantage of owing its origin, its motives, and its methods, to denominations that are purely human in their origin. Referring in particular to English missionary societies, the Protestant writer just quoted says that their zeal "is but the ecclesiastical aspect of Imperialism."

The hopeless divisions of the rival sects, lack of zeal, and the marriage question are the human instruments which must ever combine to render Protestant missionary work comparatively barren of substantial results. "The unprejudiced enquirer," says Rev. H. H. Henson, "is startled to discover that no attempt is made to mitigate, in the face of the heathen, the monstrous anarchy of Christendom. The competition of Churches and sects would be ludicrous, were it not so deplorable. The scandal is gross; the stumbling block great. From the purely evangelistic point of view this over-lapping and mutual hostility are serious matters, involving

large waste of income, and much hindrance to work; but, even from the civic standpoint, they are no trifles. The rival evangelists have been known to carry their polemical ardour to such lengths as to endanger the public peace. Thus, in Madras a few years ago, the Government found it necessary to issue regulations prohibiting rival preachers from coming within two hundred yards of each other." This war of creeds and interests has helped to make all Christianity ridiculous in the eyes of the pagan, and has thereby proved a clog even to Catholic missionary work. Here is one ground of melancholy interest for Catholics in the unseemly bickerings which the principle of private judgment has carried into missionary lands.

The Rev. Hensley Henson tells us, in the *National Review*, that the average Englishman insists on viewing foreign missions "merely as a branch of the clerical profession, into which men enter on the normal professional motives, and in which they seek the normal professional success." The professional missionary makes his work "a private venture," and is "truly a repulsive spectacle." The same writer, together with Dr. Cust and a host of others, condemns the trading instincts by which missionaries amassed vast wealth in the Pacific Islands, and (like ex-missionary Mr. Stokes) in West Africa. He contrasts the missionary with the soldier or the civil servant, and "concludes that the balance of self-denial is against the missionary," and that, especially "in the crucial matter of matrimony, which, in the secular sphere, is the synonym of settled position the missionary cuts a very poor figure beside his lay contemporaries." Dr. Cust inveighs strongly against the early and "reckless marrying" of the missionaries. It indicates, he maintains, a lack of "self-denial" and of "self-consecration." He would "let no male missionary marry till he has had 10 years' service in the field," and he would "encourage Brotherhoods and Sisterhoods." Your married missionary could not, says the rev. writer in the *National Review*, "save in the rarest instances, be conceived in the heroic category. The true missionary is normally unmarried, unprofessional, heroic." "Nowhere," says the same Protestant writer, "does the Roman Church wear so noble and Christian an aspect as in the mission field. This is the reluctant admission of her foes, as well as the legitimate pride of her members."

Diocesan News.

ARCHDIOCESE OF WELLINGTON.

An interesting and varied concert programme was recently given at the Princess Theatre, Westport. In spite of the rival attraction of a professional company at the Victoria Theatre, there was a decidedly satisfactory attendance. The first numbers on each part of the programme were quartette's from "Sonnambula" and "Lucresia Borgia" for piano, two violins and cello, played in fine style by Misas Pain and Messrs. A. F. Robertshaw and A. P. O'Leary. The other items on the programme were solos by Mr. Pain ("The Romany lass"), Miss Kiely (who sang "Daddy"), Mr. Jackson ("Woodland serenade," with cello obbligato by Mr. Robertshaw), Mrs. W. Wright ("A day dream," with obbligato by Miss Kerr), Mr. Robertshaw ("The King's Own"), Mrs. Willis ("The harp in the air" and "The old folks," with chorus), Mrs. Sontgen ("Annie Laurie," also "Inflammatus," with chorus behind the scenes). This brought the first part of the programme to a close. The soloists in the second part were Miss Sontgen ("Waiting"), Miss Ferguson ("Vashti"), Miss Hale ("In happy moments"), and Mr. Coughlan ("The dear little shamrock"), Mr. Rosenberg ("Sunshine above"). Three duets were finely sung—one by Miss Ferguson and Mrs. Wright ("A night in Venice"); another by Mrs. Willis and Mr. Robertshaw ("O' fairy wand"); the third by Messrs. Coughlan and Robertshaw (the old favourite, "Larboard watch"). Mr. O'Neill's band did valuable service outside the hall. The limits of our space forbid a detailed criticism of the various items. Suffice it to say that both the solos and the harmonised music were throughout well above the average level, and that the concert was an artistic success and thoroughly enjoyable. At its close the Very Rev. Father Walshe returned thanks both to the audience and the performers.

DIOCESE OF CHRISTCHURCH.

(From our own correspondent.)

On Sunday week, after Mass, at Hawarden, the Catholics made a presentation to Mrs. J. D. Lance, previous to her departure for the Old Country. Mr. Cyril T. White read an address from the people expressing regret at Mrs. Lance's departure, with the best wishes for a pleasant voyage, a happy time at Home, and an early return. The Rev. Father Treacy, on behalf of the people, then presented Mrs. Lance with a costly present, in the shape of a very handsome lady's companion, richly mounted.

On last Sunday morning and evening the Rev. Father Fay, who has only recently been invested with the order of priesthood was presented with tokens of respect from the congregations of the Leeston and Southbridge Churches. The presentation at Leeston took place in the morning after Mass, when a beautifully designed illuminated address, together with a chalice, was, on behalf of the congregation and former schoolfellows, formally handed to the Rev. Father Fay by Mr. P. F. O'Boyle. The address, which was read by

CLOSE YOUR EYES to Quality and the world is full of Cheap Things. Low Prices get Customer, but it is Quality that keeps them. This is proved by the Enormous Sale of **TIGER BLEND TEAS**. They are old in popularity, but ever young in memory. If you do not use them begin at once.

Mr. F. J. Holley, congratulated the young Levite on the successful completion of his arduous studies. It spoke in affectionate terms of the early days which he spent side by side with his schoolfellows in the parish school, and told with what interest the people of that congregation had watched the progress of his course in Manly College. It referred in feeling terms to the decease of his father, at a time when the son was almost at the eve of his ordination. The address bore the signatures of a large number of Father Fay's schoolfellows and friends. Father Chervier also spoke a few words of congratulation to the recipient, who is one of his old pupils. The Rev. Father Fay, in his reply, thanked all concerned most sincerely for their address and accompanying handsome present. He referred briefly to his course, now completed, and attributed his success, in a great measure, to the unceasing prayers of his devoted friends in Leiston. For this favour he assured them of his eternal gratitude and ardent prayers, promising, moreover, to remember them especially when exercising the most august of his priestly privileges—the celebration of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

The Southbridge friends of the Rev. Father Fay also made him a presentation at Vespers of the same day, when a beautiful illuminated address and a jewel-encrusted altar cruet were presented to him. Mr. Thomas McEvedy (a former college companion of the guest) formally handed the gift to the Rev. Father, who most touchingly thanked the donors for their kindly action, not so much for the intrinsic value—which was considerable—of the gift, but especially for the sentiments which prompted their action.

On Thursday evening last the ladies of St. John the Baptist's female branch of the H.A.C.B.S. held a meeting in the Hibernian Hall. The president, Sister M. Courtney, occupied the chair, and all the officers and a good attendance of members were present. Brothers Gresham, Courtney (2), and J. McCormick were also present, and the Vicar-General presided at the meeting for a short time. Correspondence was read from Brother Dobbs re hiring the hall, also the following letter from the secretary of the Auckland male branch:—"Dear Miss and Sister,—I have very great pleasure, on behalf of the district executive, in congratulating you on your election to the important office of secretary of the newly-formed branch of Christchurch, and in asking you to convey to your members and to the members of the Christchurch branch (male) our appreciation of the steps they have taken in furthering the cause of the only Catholic benefit Society in the Colony. You will no doubt receive from the officers and members of the male branch all the assistance that is necessary for the time being, and I can assure you, on behalf of the district officers, that nothing will be left undone on their part to make your branch the success, which such a body of Catholic ladies, associated for the betterment of their fellow-Catholic adherents, justly deserves. With regard to rule books, there have been so many amendments, and the first edition of these books so distributed, that we are unable to forward any. As, however, the rules for the female branches will be embodied in the general laws, which have now nearly undergone a revision, you will, in a short time (circumstances favouring), be supplied. Wishing your members and yourself a successful future for the good cause, and may the seed, which has just been set, bring forth fruit alike for our holy Church and for that country from which most of us have sprung. Believe me to be, yours fraternally, P. KEARNEY." At a previous meeting a well known and very popular member of the male branch offered to the members of the ladies' branch a donation of three guineas, on condition that they should be expended by the sisters either in a social or in a picnic, or an excursion to some seaside or rural place. The donation was received with thanks, and on the question as to whether the money should be expended in a social or a picnic a long discussion ensued, and it was finally decided to hold over the matter till the next meeting. The branch at present numbers thirty members, and three more were nominated. This is a very fair beginning, and it is expected that many more ladies will shortly give in their names for membership.

On Sunday last the Very Rev. Dr. Watters, principal of St. Patrick's College, Wellington, sang the High Mass at the Pro-Cathedral, and preached in the evening at Vespers to a large congregation. At the Gospel of the Mass the Vicar-General feelingly requested his people to pray for the complete restoration of the Rev. Father Hegarty, who had met with a serious accident, which resulted in the fracture of one of his legs. The Rev. Father Hegarty had commenced a mission at Grey-mouth on Sunday, 16th inst. The accident occurred to the rev. gentleman on the following afternoon. In company with Father Hickson, Father Hegarty was walking in the presbytery grounds when he had the misfortune to fall and break his leg above the ankle. The news of the accident caused profound sorrow throughout the district. Father Bingham arrived the same afternoon from Ahaura, where he had been conducting a most successful mission. The loss of Father Hegarty's services is a severe blow, but Father Bingham, single-handed, is doing herculean labour from daylight till near midnight. At all the services the church is thronged to hear the eloquent discourses of this zealous missionary. Father Bingham announced that he had tried to secure the services of Father Mangan. The latter, however, could not come. Father Bingham thereupon telegraphed to their head house, and Father Burke is on his way to the West Coast to assist in the arduous work. The numerous friends of Father Hegarty will be pleased to learn that he is doing as well as can be expected, and is in very comfortable quarters, under the hospitable roof of Father Carew. The Rev. Father is cheerful, but deeply grieved that, owing to his accident, he cannot carry on the work of the mission. The Presbytery is besieged with callers every day. Before proceeding with his sermon on Thursday, the 20th, on the Real Presence, Father Bingham spoke on the evils of bad books, and the necessity of good reading in the family circle, paying a high compliment to the N.Z. TABLET, which he truly described as a first-class newspaper. Speaking from his personal knowledge, he said that the new editor, the Rev. Father Cleary, was one of the ablest

priests in the colonies and a writer of great power. The Catholics of Victoria were very sorry to lose Father Cleary.

The members of the Catholic choir (Shand's Track) sprung a surprise on Miss Kealy last week, when they assembled to thank her for her services as organist during the past year, and also as mistress of the Catholic school there. They presented her with a beautiful hand-bag, which Miss Kealy received in a very graceful manner. On behalf of the recipient a gentleman friend returned thanks to the company present, after which they spent a very enjoyable evening.

SOME STRANGE VOCATIONS.

THE ways of grace are oftentimes mysterious—"The Spirit breatheth where He willeth"—but circumstances occasionally occur in connection with vocations to the priestly or religious life which plainly indicate the presence and touch of God's finger in the affairs of men. Instances of this form of special Providence will perhaps occur to the minds of some of our readers. Our own personal experience has neither been wide nor varied. It has nevertheless brought us into personal touch with several remarkable calls to the priesthood. One of these was the case of a distinguished Parisian lawyer, who, a widower, at the age of 54 years, quietly relinquished a lucrative practice and a luxurious home, and entered the Theological Seminary of St. Sulprice, where in due course he was ordained to the priesthood. In the same class was a son of General D'Hédonville—Captain D'Hédonville, a dashing cavalry officer, some 50 years of age. He had served with great distinction throughout the Franco-German war, and gave up the promise of a brilliant military career to devote himself to the labours, trials, and dangers of the life of a missionary in far Tonquin. Both were men of great talent and of singular piety. The same may be said of a friend of the present writer's, Signor —, now Father — Gambarelli. As a boy, in his home in northern Italy, he developed a fine voice and a remarkable musical talent. His own tastes and feelings drew him powerfully towards the priestly life. His mother, however, was dead, and his father had so set his heart on his following a musical career, that young Gambarelli reluctantly consented. While still a young man, he took to the operatic stage. His success was sudden and pronounced. For several years he created a furore in London, Paris, Brussels, St. Petersburg, and the other capitals of Europe. God's blossoms bloom in every land, and His graces and gifts are not withheld from any occupation in life that is not itself vicious or forbidden. Like "our" Mary Anderson, young Gambarelli retained, in the midst of his greatest operatic triumphs, the simple faith that he had learned in his Lombard home, and a virtue which neither the flattery of success, nor the allurements of vice could sully. He was, we believe, playing the leading rôle in *Ernani* at St. Petersburg, when news reached him of his father's death. As soon as the opportunity offered he cancelled his engagements, and left the stage forever. Soon after this we find him in Rome, in student's garb, in the Collegio degli Abbati of the Seminario Pio, studying for the priesthood, to which dignity he finally attained.

The Paris *Figaro*, in one of its recent issues, gives the following account of another remarkable call to the priestly life:—

The new-papers announced the other day that one of our confrères, M. Gabriel de Combes, for a long time connected with the *Petit Journal*, had entered the novitiate of the Fathers of the Assumption of Livry-sur-Seine.

Resolutions of this sort interest the public. People always love to build up some romance around them. To leave the world voluntarily and shut oneself up in a cloister appears to many persons such an extraordinary thing that they can only explain it by one of those family dramas or one of those hard blows of fate that knock a man down forever and drive him with a broken heart to suicide or to the cell of a monastery.

The truth is often far more simple, and this is the case with our esteemed confrère whom we have just lost. In his life there was no love romance and no catastrophe. But if his history is not very complicated, none the less it merits attention, for it is always interesting to discover the secrets of vocation. Moreover, it is rarely that a journalist becomes a monk. It is not from the Press that the personnel of monasteries is recruited. Belonging to a very good family in Tarbes, grand-nephew of the bright musician, Dalayrac, M. Gabriel de Combes, having finished his studies, served in a regiment of dragoons. He remained five years in the regiment. He was a perfect D'Artagman in appearance, thin, dry, and sinewy. In character he was energetic, brave, straightforward, and generous. He would have become a splendid officer; but he left the army to enter journalism, attracted, perhaps, by the hope of finding occasions to do some fighting, which was his nature. De Combes was at first employed by a Royalist sheet in Lyons. Then he came to Paris, and for two years was engaged in Parliamentary reporting for an agency. At the same time he edited the *Gazette de Parme*, a little local paper started by a Parisian journalist. But it lived a little more than a season. Finally he came on the *Petit Journal*, where for 10 years I worked side by side with him, appreciating him and esteeming him every day more and more, but suspecting all the time that journalism was not his vocation.

Rearing by very religious parents, my friend certainly could pass for a good Catholic, but his faith did not reach the point of devotion, and whether he was a practitioner or not I could not say. One fortuitous circumstance developed in his mind the sentiment that was lying dormant. About three years ago his editor-in-chief sent him to Palestine to be present at the inauguration of the railroad from Jaffa to Jerusalem. That railroad line was for him the road to Damas. His visit to the Holy Land impressed him to such an extent that he came back to us completely transformed. For months he would remain silent and reserved with his collaborators. He deserted the salle d'armes, where he used to fence and foil interminably. He abandoned bicycling, for which he had a passion, and we saw him no more in the clubs and cafés.

One evening, about six months ago, he said to me suddenly: "I have just handed in my resignation. I leave the paper to-morrow."

Three months passed on when the news came to our ears that our comrade was about to enter Holy Orders. The story was at first denied, but we could not tell whether or not there was really any truth in it. I asked the romance writer, Pierre Sales, who is a second cousin of De Combes, if there was any truth in the story. He replied to me in a mysterious sort of way that really told me nothing.

On Saturday last I received from De Combes this laconic note:

"If you would like to bid me farewell, come and breakfast with me to-morrow morning at the Café—"

The letter caused me a certain anxiety, and I was almost broken up when the next day I went to the café mentioned. In a few seconds my friend arrived with a joyous expression of countenance. He took my hand.

"My letter must have puzzled you," he said. "But I will tell you my story in a few words. It is simple enough. But we had better sit down and have breakfast first." Then he added, laughing: "This is the last breakfast that I will take in a boulevard café." At the table he commenced his story as follows:

"I am thirty-nine years old and thoroughly aware of the fact that I have done nothing useful in my life. Consequently, I am trying to make up for lost time. I am a bachelor, and have nobody to whom my presence might be indispensable, and I am still energetic. I did think of marrying, but the chance never presented itself to me, and, indeed, I didn't seek it very eagerly. I have, therefore, decided to consecrate the rest of my life to the service of God and my fellows. You have doubtless noticed that my religious sentiments were aroused after my trip to the Holy Land. It is from that period that my resolution to enter Holy Orders was formed. Nevertheless, I determined to let some time elapse, to see if I would persevere in my resolution. Several months passed, and at last, sure of myself, I left journalism and went on a retreat to the Grande Trappe.

"My intention was to enter that monastery, but the superior dissuaded me. 'You would have too much difficulty,' said he, 'in supporting the rigours of our rules.' It was impossible for me to become a Dominican, on account of my age and the long studies of the order. At last I met the Rev. Father des Courrières, the superior of the Assumptionists, at Toulouse. By a strange coincidence I found in him a former confrère who edited a journal at Limoges, where he was also the correspondent of the *Petit Journal*. The similarity of our stations created a sympathy between him and me. He questioned me at length, and finally advised me to see the Rev. Father Picard, the superior-general of the Assumption. A visit to Father Picard decided my fate, and that is why in two hours from now I will throw off completely the man of the world and become a simple novice in the convent at Livry-sur-Seine."

My friend finished his cup of coffee, lighted a cigarette, and watched the rings of smoke that mounted toward the ceiling. "This is the last cigarette that I will smoke," said he, laughing. Notwithstanding his apparent good humour, I became sad while thinking of our parting for ever, and for some moments we remained silent. "But, you know," said he, "that I will be obliged to work hard. I will be compelled to re-study my Latin, learn theology, etc. I will remain a year at Livry. At the end of that time I will go to Rome to finish my studies, and in three years I will be ordained a priest."

"And after that?" said I.

"After that," he replied, "I will go wherever my superiors may choose to send me."

Again there was a silence.

"I have sent all my belongings to my family," he added. "I have nothing now except the clothes I wear."

The conversation languished more and more, when suddenly De Combes looked at the clock and jumped up.

"I must be off," said he. "Farewell!"

We went out. He hailed a cab and grasped my hand firmly. "Farewell again," said he.

I was all broken up. "De Combes," said I, "do you regret nothing, nobody, not even your old-time friends?"

"Nothing," he replied, in a tone that was almost gruff. Then, smiling, fearing no doubt that he had wounded my feelings, and moved himself by my emotion, he added: "Yes, my dear fellow. I do regret my true friends."

Then he signalled the driver, and started for the terminus of the Eastern Railroad.—MAXIME SERPELLE, in the *Figaro*.

ARCHDIOCESE OF WELLINGTON.

OWING to the non-arrival of the mails from Wellington and Auckland, the letters of our esteemed correspondents from those quarters did not reach us until we were going to press. The following *resumé* of their contents will, however, be of interest to our readers:—

Particulars are just to hand of the passes in the local examinations in music held here under the auspices of Trinity College, London, in October last. There were 38 passes in all divisions credited to Wellington, of which 18—or almost 50 per cent of all—were secured by the pupils of St. Mary's Convent. In the senior division for singing and pianoforte playing, out of 25 who obtained honours and passes, 13 were convent pupils. In the honours (senior division) for singing, the only successful candidates were three convent pupils—Miss A. Cimino, Miss Lottie McDonald, and Miss May Sullivan. In the honours (senior division) for pianoforte playing, two candidates were successful, one of whom—Miss R. Falconer—received her musical tuition at the convent. Six pupils from the convent out of eight from the city were successful in obtaining pass certificates in the senior division for singing. The good Sisters are to be warmly congratulated on their success. Appended are the details—Singing—Senior honours, Annie Cimino, 91; Lottie McDonald, 87; May Sullivan, 83. Senior pass—Mary Tracy, 77; Alice Grace, 73; Mary

Maxwell, 70; Alice Stevens, 68; Florence Stafford, 68; Dora Heywood, 60. Junior pass—Ida Blundell, 77. Pianoforte.—Senior honours—Rose Falconer, 82. Senior pass—Eva Blake, 62; Mamie Waldegrave, 62; Chrissie Smith, 60. Junior honours—Catherine Segrief (any age), 81. Junior pass—Jane Gallagher, 76; Grace Riley, 67. Primary—Irene Nathan, 60.

Depressing accounts still continue to arrive from the country districts regarding the ravages of the bush fires. In many places the settlers lost their all—dwellings, outhouses, fencing, cattle, and sheep. The outlook is disheartening for many, who laboured hard for years and denied themselves almost the necessities of life, so as to provide a home for their old age. Unless timely assistance is rendered by the Government and the public, very great hardship and suffering will result. The Government can do their share by remitting rents on Crown lands and supplying grass seed, whilst the generous public can assist by subscribing to the funds which are now being collected to supply the immediate wants of those who are homeless and probably penniless. The settlers, generally, have displayed the greatest heroism and patience during a most trying time, and it is to be earnestly desired that the response to the appeal now made for aid on their behalf will be prompt and generous.

A representative meeting of ladies of the parish of Te Aro was held in St. Patrick's Hall, on Thursday afternoon in connection with the bazaar, which was originally intended to be held some time during next month. A considerable quantity of work was reported to be on hand, and excellent progress is being made, but it was deemed impossible to have everything in readiness for next month. It was, therefore, decided to postpone the opening date until Easter week. The Very Rev. Father Devoy, S.M., V.G., who was present, incidentally mentioned that the Hibernian Society intended to hold a grand sports carnival on St. Patrick's Day, and that they had decided to devote the receipts to the Catholic schools of the city.

DIOCESE OF AUCKLAND.

January 20, 1898.

THE annual retreat of the diocesan clergy took place last week at the Bishop's palace, Ponsonby. It was conducted by the Very Rev. Father Vincent Grogan, Provincial of the Passionists in Australia. His Lordship Dr. Leuinan was present. The guest masters were the Very Rev. Monsignor McDonald and Father Mulvihill; master of ceremonies, Father Gillan, P.P., Ponsonby. The retreat was commenced on Monday, 16th, and continued throughout the week.

The Very Rev. Father Grogan left for Sydney by the Mararoa on Monday evening last.

St. Benedict's Hall is in rapid course of erection, and will supply a want in the parish.

From the Sisters of Mercy's schools and those of the Marist Brothers several pupils have, during last week, gone up for the Civil Service examinations, and it is to be hoped that they may all prove successful.

The Rev. Father Ginaty, S.M., conducted a retreat at St. Mary's Convent, Ponsonby, for the Sisters of Mercy. Father Ginaty, at the conclusion of his labours, journeyed off to Hamilton, Waikato, where he is now prosecuting his great and good work.

Rev. Father Mulvihill, who has for some months acted as private secretary to the Bishop, left last Tuesday by the Waihora to take charge of the Gisborne parish. In the city this good and exemplary priest made hosts of friends, who parted from him with deep regret. Gisborne is to be congratulated in securing such a sterling spiritual head as Father Mulvihill.

The Guard of Honour held their annual picnic yesterday at Northcote. As usual with this Society, their annual outing was most enjoyable. The officers worked zealously to promote the enjoyment of all present.

St. Patrick's Day celebration committee is now engaged with the task of commemorating the national festival. The usual procession and sports are to be held. In the evening a national entertainment will be given. It is thought that the drama "Robert Emmet" will be included in the programme.

St. Patrick's presbytery debt has, by means of the late collection, been reduced from £1,400 to £1,150. The sum of £267 was paid off last December. The committee, and in particular Father Croke, are to be highly congratulated upon this great result.

In the Mangere district, about ten miles outside the city, a farm of 300 acres was sold for cash to a Queensland gentleman this week for the princely sum of £12,350.

The Grand Orange Lodge of New Zealand held a meeting last Friday evening in this city in a hall not many degrees above the size of a packing case, and into which a small number were fitted, the majority of whom were designated "grand" fellows. They passed themselves of a resolution emphatically protesting against the Hon. R. J. Seddon's recent Technical Education Bill. In order to stiffen the backs of our legislators a copy of the resolution was ordered to be sent to each of them. Another resolution was passed protesting against any alteration of the present Education Act in the direction of justice to Catholics. Upon the very day in which this production saw the light, the *New Zealand Herald*, treating of the alarming increase of juvenile crime, said: "All over the colonies the neglected children, who very soon become the criminal children are increasing in spite of our system of national education. And it is melancholy to see that all those who have to do with the subject confess that the legislative measures which have been passed have been failures, and yet have no remedy to suggest, but simply further legislative measures." The Catholic Church suggests a remedy. They will not accept it. In Bismarck's words, "let them stew in their own juice."

Love labor: for if thou dost not want it for food, thou mayst for physic. It is wholesome for the body and good for the mind.—Penn.

"BLUE BELL" OATMEAL is again in the Market and may be obtained from all Grocers.

WHOLESALE FROM

J. H. HANCOCK & CO'S (Late Hood & Davidson) CALEDONIAN MILLS DUNEDIN

CROWN LANDS FOR SETTLEMENT

AUCKLAND.

Friday, 18th February. For sale by public auction for cash. 1 section, Opuawhanga Survey District, 230 acres; upset price, £540. Contains 1,160,000 feet kauri timber, easily worked. Distant nine miles from Otonga or Whakapara Railway Stations. 1 section, Ararimu Parish, 40 acres, 3 roods; upset price, £41. Land of fair quality, about four miles from Helensville. 1 section, Waiatahi Parish, 27 acres, 3 roods; upset price, £28. Open and swamp land of good quality at head of Ohiwa Harbour. 15 sections, Taupiri Village, about 2 roods each; upset price, from £9 to £12 per section.

Wednesday, 23rd February. For application for cash, for occupation, with right of purchase or for lease in perpetuity. First and second class surveyed land. 23 sections, Maungaru Survey District, Hobson County, from 34 acres to 386 acres; cash price, from 12s 6d to £1 2s 6d per acre. These sections are near Wairoa River and Tangiteroria wharf; soil good and well watered. Second class unsurveyed land. — 4,480 acres, Herikeri Survey District; cash price, 5s per acre. Open land at head of Kerikeri Inlet, Bay of Islands.

Friday, 25th February. For sale by public auction for cash. 1 section, town of Opaia, 1 rood; upset price, £5. 3 sections, village of Taupiri, 2 roods each; upset price, £10 a section. 12 sections, suburbs of Weymouth, from 1 rood to 22 acres; upset price from £1 to £45 per section. For sale by public auction. 589 kauri trees in Maungaru Survey District containing 1,903,654 sup feet; upset price, £952; 57 kauri trees, containing 154,829 feet, and 14 totara trees containing 20,559 feet; upset price, £88. 517 green kauri trees (1,430,799 feet), 40 dead kauri trees (79,290 feet), 18 totara trees (14,000 feet), in Pekapekaran, State Forest, Mangakahia district; upset price, £824 19s 5d. 806 green kauri trees (2,108,165 feet), 288 singed kauri trees (602,951 feet), Tutamoe and Mangakahia districts; upset price, £1129 12s 6d. Run No. 61, West Taupo County, area 50300 acres, term 21 years; upset rental, £40 per annum. Situated about 13 miles from Te Ateamuri and about 5 miles from Kihikihii.

Wednesday, 2nd March. For application for cash, for occupation with right of purchase or for lease in perpetuity. First and second class surveyed land. 25 sections: Opaheke, Puniu, Kerikeri, Whangape, Mangamuka, Punakitere, Maungataniwha, Matakohe, Waipu, and Awitu districts, from 9 acres to 434 acres; cash price, from 5s to £3 per acre.

TARANAKI.

Friday, 25th February. For sale by public auction for cash. 15 sections, Pukearuhe village, 1 acre each; upset price, from £5 to £8 per section. 2 sections, Matapouri village, 1 acre 2 roods 2 poles, and 1 acre, 1 rood, 35 poles; upset price, £5 per section.

Wednesday, 2nd March. For application, for cash, for occupation with right of purchase for lease in perpetuity. First and second class surveyed land. 11 sections, Omona and Ngatimaru districts, Stratford County, 200 to 600 acres; cash price, from 12s 6d to £1 5s per acre. 12 sections, Pouatu District, Stratford County, from 210 to 319 acres; cash price, from £1 to £1 5s per acre.

WELLINGTON

Wednesday, 2nd March. For sale by public auction, at Pahiatua, for cash. 4 sections, Pongaroa township, from 1 rood to 2 roods 26 perches; upset price, from £7 10s to £13 10s per section. 12 sections, Rakaunui village, from 30 perches to 1 acre; upset price, from £3 to £5 per section. 8 sections, Pahiatua village settlement, from 1 rood to 1 acre; upset price, from £5 6s to £13 per section.

Paparangi Settlement, 313 acres, about March next; rent, about 16s per acre. Paparangi is situated at Johnsonville, about a quarter of a mile from the Johnsonville Railway Station. The land will be divided into sections of from 1 to 10 acres.

CANTERBURY.

Tuesday 27th January. For lease in perpetuity. 1 section, Rakitairi Settlement, Geraldine County, 29 acres; annual rent, 9s 6d per acre.

Wednesday 23rd February. For application, for cash, for occupation with right of purchase, or for lease in perpetuity. Second class surveyed land. 1 section, Waitohi and Waipara Districts, 540 acres; cash price, £1 per acre. 1 section, Hind District, 579 acres; cash price, £1 per acre. 1 section, Alford and Shepherd's Bush Districts, 191 acres; cash price, £1 2s 6d per acre.

OTAGO.

Wednesday, 23rd February. For application, for cash, for occupation, with right of purchase or for lease in perpetuity. Second class surveyed land. 28 sections, Akatore, Catlins, Glenomaru, Tarras, Upper Wakatipu and Woodland Districts, from 40 to 295 acres; cash price, from 7s 6d to 17s 6d per acre. For sale by public auction for cash. Section 22, block XIV, Maniototo Survey District, 10 acres; upset price, £10. Small grazing run for lease. Section 7, block VIII, Waipori, S.D., 1268 acres; annual rent, 4d per acre.

SOUTHLAND.

Wednesday, January 25. Beaumont E-state. Wairaki Survey District. For lease in perpetuity. 13 sections of first class land, ranging from 222 acres to 115 acres. Annual rent from 1s 4d to 3s 5d per acre.

Wednesday, 23rd February. Small grazing run for lease. Sections 64 to 75 Takitimo District, 3192 acres; annual rent, 3d per acre.

Friday, 25th February. For sale by public auction for cash. Block XLVI, Wallacetown, 1 rood 13 perches; upset price, £6 12s 6d.

Wednesday, 2nd March. For application, for cash, for occupation with right of purchase or for lease in perpetuity. First and second class surveyed lands. 22 sections: Hokonui, Taringatua Eyre, Longwood, New River, Oteramika, Waikawa, Alton and Takitimo districts, from 25 to 501 acres; cash price, from 5s to £1 10s per acre.

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Said Mrs. Smith one day,
Unto her neighbour Mrs. Jones,
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And buy for ready cash
Just nothing but the best of goods.
And never worthless trash.

They last as long again as mine,
And always look so neat;
They seem to fit you like a glove,
So nice they suit your feet."

I used to buy from other shops,
But found it did not pay;
The soles too quickly did wear out,
Or else the tops gave way."

I always buy from Loft and Co,"
Mrs. Jones did then reply.
There as on that I buy from them
I now will tell you why.

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Irish News.

BELFAST.—The Railway Servants.—The long-drawn difficulty of the Irish railway servants seems to be as far as ever from a settlement. A Mass meeting of the Belfast Branch of the Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants was held recently in the Engineer's Hall, to receive the report of the deputation sent to Dublin to wait upon the directors of the Great Northern Railway Company with a view to induce that company to adopt the Irish national programme drawn up by the society. Previous to the arrival of the train conveying the deputation home, for signals were placed upon the line, and, as the train entered the station, the deputation got a royal salute. At the station they were received by over 400 of the servants of the company. The Great Northern directors agreed to discuss the programme with the deputation, but declined to allow any of the officials of the society to be present, and the deputation withdrew without holding any discussion. At the meeting the following resolution was unanimously passed:—"That we, in mass meeting assembled, do hereby tender our warmest thanks to our delegates on the Great Northern Railway for their action in refusing to discuss the Irish national programme with the directors unless they concede to us free representation through the officers of our society."

CORK.—The Distress.—Our latest Irish exchanges are very melancholy reading, owing to the pinch of the prevailing distress. It has already begun to make itself acutely felt in West Cork. A large and representative meeting of the inhabitants of Ballydehob and the surrounding districts, presided over by the Rev. Father Murphy, was held in Ballydehob in connection with the outlook for the winter, and for the purpose of considering the best means to be adopted for tiding over the acute distress with which the people of that place are at present face to face. The potato crop in West Cork, particularly in the seaport districts, is stated this year to be almost a total failure. Resolutions were adopted calling on the Government for assistance, and in furtherance of the execution of some much-needed works in the district.

Further south, in beautiful Glengariff—"the rugged glen"—the outlook for the winter is quite as discouraging. A very large open-air demonstration was held at Glengariff on Sunday after Mass for the purpose of directing the attention of the Government and the public to the distress which is being already felt there, and which will be intensified in a very large degree as the winter advances. The Rev. Father Quill, P.P. of the district, was moved to the chair. The Rev. chairman having addressed the meeting, resolutions *in globo* bearing on this urgent subject were adopted.

DUBLIN.—The Manchester Martyrs.—The imposing demonstration made by the Nationalists of Dublin in the streets of the city on Sunday, November 28, showed that the spirit which animated Allen, Larkin, and O'Brien, when they gave their lives for Ireland is as intense at the present moment as it was 30 years since. An interesting item in the celebration was the decorating of the grave of Patrick Kearney, one of the rescuers of James Stephens, by William Brophy, an old '65-'67 man. No fewer than 16 bands took part in the proceedings, and the following '98 clubs were represented:—Wexfordmen's '98 Club, the Old Guard '98 Club, the Wolfe Tone '98 Club, the William Orr '98 Club, the Emerald '98 Club, the Inchicore '98 Club, and the Irish Social Republican '98 Club.

The Irish University Question.—His Grace Archbishop Walsh gives wise and seasonable advice in a letter read the other day at a meeting in Dublin before which Mr. Charles Dawson delivered an admirable lecture on the subject, "Irish Catholics and University Education." Catholics, the Archbishop urges, must concentrate their energies on forcing the question upon the attention of the Government and pressing with vigour for a speedy settlement of it. This policy is all the more necessary because the matter is one upon which the Government have, it is said, been wavering. Whilst in some quarters they have been credited with the intention of bringing in a comprehensive Bill dealing with the problem, we have read in certain organs of the Press, who are supposed to be well informed, that they purpose shelving the project. We cannot believe this report, for though there is an Orange outcry against bringing forward a scheme, the best educationists on both sides of the House, including men such as Mr. Morley and Mr. Lecky, are in favour of it. Even Mr. T. W. Russell, who, as a rule, is a strong opponent of Catholic claims, has admitted that justice demands a measure placing Irish Catholics on a footing with Irish Protestants in respect to University education. But, like other corporate bodies Governments have no consciences, and the Cabinet will, it is to be feared, forget all their promises unless Catholics give them good reason to remember them.

GALWAY.—The Distress.—The troubles arising from the two successive failures of the Irish harvest, are being felt with unusual sharpness throughout the county of Galway. Our New Zealand readers will be interested to learn that active efforts are being made to arouse the Government to a sense of the magnitude of the disaster with which the people are being threatened. A public meeting was held at the Court House, Clonbur, to consider the state of the district (the eastern division of the barony of Ross) and to pass resolutions in view of the impending distress. On the motion of Mr. John Hegarty, M.D., J.P., the chair was taken by the Rev. Martin Millett, P.P. The first resolution was proposed by Mr. Patrick Kyne, seconded by Mr. Ed. Jennings (both of Clonbur), and carried unanimously:—"That, in view of the undoubtedly impending grave distress in some of the more mountainous parts of this extensive district, some 17 miles long by one to three broad, with a population of over 5000, and probably the most congested district in all Connemara—distress due to the failure of the potato crop and the ravages caused by swine fever, some of the population being already on the verge of starvation—this meeting respectfully would repre-

sent to the Chief Secretary and Government the absolute necessity of giving speedy relief." The second resolution ran as follows:—"That in the opinion of this meeting, any relief given should be in the form of public works and the employment of labour, such as the construction of piers (for Clonbur and Connemara on Lough Corrib, and for Finney and Kilbride on Lough Mask) and the repair of a few mountain roads; works much needed and that would prove of permanent and inestimable benefit to the entire district." The third resolution was couched in the following terms:—"That the Government be earnestly requested to supply gratuitously good seed potatoes in small quantities and under proper local supervision early in the coming spring, as very few are left or can be spared for seed, and those that are kept for that purpose are virtually worthless." These resolutions were sent to the Chief Secretary for Ireland, the Congested Districts Board, Wm. O'Malley, Esq., M.P. for the Connemara Division, and the principal Dublin and County Galway papers."

Another representative meeting was held at Rosslonbur, presided over by Father Millett, P.P.

In the Woodford district matters are rapidly approaching a crisis of great gravity. Mr. Roche, M.P., plainly states that many people there are in a state bordering on starvation. "Hot indignation," says the Dublin *Freeman*, "is smouldering in so many districts in Ireland at the utter callousness with which the misfortunes and miseries of Ireland are regarded by the Government, anxious only that the rent collecting operations should not be interfered with by any embarrassing questions of distress. There can be no doubt, as was made plain by Mr. Roche, that Irish indignation at the Government's inaction is increased by the revelations of the Financial Relations Commission that, at least, two and three quarter millions over taxation are plundered annually from this poverty-stricken, famine-afflicted country by the rich and generous partner, who grudges even from Ireland's own fund the slightest modicum of relief."

Settlement with an Evicted Tenant.—After Mass on a Sunday at the close of last November, at Clonfad, four miles from Ballinasloe, the Rev. Father Begley announced that a settlement had been come to by arbitration between Thomas Kenny, evicted tenant, of Clonfad, and Dan Kenny, of the same place, who took the former's farm nine years ago. The money compensation, £15, was in the hands of James Kenny, who, with Pat Glynn, arbitrated for Thomas Kenny, the evicted tenant: Peter Kenny and Pat Carty arbitrated for Dan Kenny. They were all neighbours, and not biased one way or another. He (Father Begley) was in favour of the reinstatement of the evicted tenant, who, however, himself preferred the money. The money would be paid over that day, and that would settle the matter for ever. Though Father Begley took no credit to himself for this settlement, it was well-known that he was mainly instrumental in bringing it about.

KING'S COUNTY.—A Land Agent dies in Prison.—The unexpected death in prison of James Sweeney, a well-known land agent, caused some surprise in Birr, where he was for years regarded as one of the most influential and cleverest land agents. He managed, amongst other properties, the Mount Fresco property. He practically ruled that side of the country, and was in the zenith of his power, when he killed a man at Templemore and was tried for murder. The jury brought in a manslaughter verdict, and he was sentenced to ten years' penal servitude. Released after seven years he returned to the scenes of his early life in the beginning of the present year, and, on being convicted of attempting to force Mrs. Lloyd to sign a document, was sent to complete his penal servitude term.

LIMERICK.—Importation of German Potatoes.—We have often heard of bringing coals to Newcastle, but we had to wait till now to hear of the bringing of potatoes to Ireland for the purpose of food. Yet it is a fact that a steamer arrived at Limerick recently with 2,000 bags of potatoes from Hamburg. And, what is more, the importers—the Limerick Steamship Company—are selling them at lower prices than those charged for the home-grown article. The partial failure of the Irish crop this year may give a special opportunity for the success of such an enterprise at the present time, but for all that the incident brings home to us the danger that even in the production of the staple food of the country the foreigners must in the future be seriously reckoned with. We trust that, in fixing the future rents, the Land Commission will consider that the value in product of Irish land is now threatened with German competition.

The Seventh Centenary of the City.—The proposals for the celebration of the 700th anniversary of the incorporation of Limerick as a city have not awakened much enthusiasm in the City of the Violated Treaty. A recent meeting to consider what form the celebration should take was poorly attended, and an adjournment of the proceedings was inevitable. Limerick people take a fair share of pride in the circumstances that the charter of their city dates back seven hundred years, and hence their desire to honour the anniversary with some suitable ceremony. It was thought desirable to make the function a colourless one in order to win the support of the Unionist section, but they stood aloof from the gathering entirely. Under the circumstances (says the *Freeman's Journal*) it might be suggested that the best form of celebration they could now take should have reference to the progress the city has made since it threw off the Unionist yoke, and since its fortunes have been given into the popular charge.

Decline of the Shannon Oyster Fisheries.—The fishery industry on the Lower Shannon is panning out very badly for the fishermen this year. The oyster season is, up to the present, a very poor one, and many fishermen are abandoning dredging altogether. In many cases the crews were not earning enough to live on. At this time last year oysters were fairly plentiful, and a good price ruling. The law is very stringent as to removing oysters under a

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certain size, but there is great difficulty in enforcing it, and to this fact may be attributed the failure of the fishing this year.

Bishop O'Dwyer on Nationalisation of the Land.—The Most Rev. Dr. O'Dwyer presided at a lecture on "The Life and Times of Henry George," by Rev. Dr. O'Riordan, D.D., in the Catholic Literary Institute, Limerick, on Friday last. In putting a vote of thanks, his Lordship said: Henry George had a character of transparent honesty, and thorough sympathy with his fellow-worker throughout the world. Such a man must touch a chord in all their hearts. At the same time, as Dr. O'Riordan had pointed out, his theories were utterly revolutionary and utterly subversive of the very foundations on which society rests. Individual ownership of property, of the parts of the world that men acquire legitimately for themselves, is the foundation on which civilised society rests. Mr. George came to Ireland and fascinated people at a time of great excitement. It was only by the destructive part of his theory he did it, and not by the constructive. People here were engaged at the time in a struggle against what they called landlordism, and were ready to accept the co-operation of anyone who helped to pull that down, but no one in the country would ever dream of accepting the constructive part of Mr. George's theory that would substitute the State as universal landlord in place of individual landlords.

MAYO.—Distress in Swinford.—The following resolution appealing for urgent help for the small tenant farmers appears in the latest of our Irish exchanges:—"That we, the magistrates and assembled cesspayers of the barony of Gallen, wish to direct the particular attention of the Right Hon. Gerald Balfour, M.P., Chief Secretary for Ireland, to the urgent and immediate need of public works to ward off the distress which threatens this barony owing to the failure of the potato crop and the general all round depression. Unless relief is immediate there is the greatest danger that no seed will be available for the sowing season next spring, as pressing wants will compel the poor people to dispose of the little they possess. We avail ourselves of the present opportunity of respectfully suggesting that the Government alone can adequately meet the impending distress."

The Castlebar Board of Guardians are making vigorous efforts to induce the Government to take proper steps for the immediate relief of the distress in their Union. Mr. Davitt, who is associated

WEXFORD.—The '98 Centenary.—Active steps are being taken to celebrate in a fitting manner the great struggle in which the men of "gallant Wexford" took so notable a part. The Ninety-eight Association is forming branches throughout the county. Meetings have been held in New Ross and elsewhere, one of the most enthusiastic of them having taken place in the Wexford Town Hall at the close of November. We learn from the Wexford Press that all sections of the National community joined in making the meeting a great success. Fully a thousand people were present, but the hall was so crowded that many could not get admission. St. Bridget's Fife and Drum Band attended, and played a selection of National airs. The chair was occupied by Alderman Hugh McGuire, who pointed out that it was necessary for the people of Wexford to take some steps to provide accommodation for the 50,000 Irish Americans who it was expected would visit Wexford next year to view her historic battlefields. It was decided to form an association the object of which should be: (1) To honour the heroes of '98; (2) to make suitable arrangements for the reception of the exiled Gaels who will revisit Ireland in '98 to commemorate the centenary; to take every means of providing for the comfort and convenience of the visitors; (3) to urge the erection of a memorial in the town of Wexford; to collect the relics of '98 and to preserve the existing monuments which up to this have been utterly neglected. It was unanimously decided that "The association will not further or promote the interests of any present political party, and shall endeavour to create and foster the harmonious and brotherly feeling which should exist amongst Wexfordmen, and which is so necessary for the welfare of our borough." It was decided that Father Kavanagh, O.S.F., Cork, the author of the *History of '98*, should be requested to give a lecture in Wexford on the Insurrection. Mr. McGuire said that they had been very slow in Wexford whilst the movement for commemorating '98 had spread amongst the Irish race all over the world like wild-fire, and it was a strange and unaccountable thing that Wexford, which was the centre of the glorious insurrection, should be the last place to be infused with the enthusiasm which was stirring up their countrymen all the world. A Voice: We are slow but sure. It was the same in '98, but we got there all the same (laughter and prolonged applause). Several hundred members were then enrolled and paid 1s for their membership cards. The meeting then terminated.

THE MASSIVE PLATE

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with them, places little reliance on the good intentions of the Government. From what we can judge of its action, or rather inaction, his distrust is not a matter of surprise.

WATERFORD.—Sunday Closing.—One of the pleasantest and most hopeful features of later Irish life is the steady strides that the cause of temperance is making among the people. Official returns show that for several years past the Irish drink bill is less per head of the population than that of either Scotland or England. Speaking at Waterford on the subject of temperance, the Bishop of Waterford and Lismore said: "Just now we are, I believe, on the opening of a new campaign on the subject of Saturday evening and Sunday closing. Now, I wish to be very frank and very dispassionate in my view with regard to this matter. From the day, I believe, when this Saturday evening and Sunday closing movement was started, I for one became its supporter. I have remained its supporter ever since. I have never regretted for one moment anything that came in my way to say or do in favour of the Saturday evening and Sunday closing movement, and I believe to-day—as far as that part of the country is concerned, both in Waterford and in the rural districts—the Sunday Closing Act has been an unmixed blessing. I should like, however, to see Saturday evening closing carried in connection with it, for I believe that Sunday closing will never be able to do the amount of good which its promoters desire unless public-houses are closed earlier on Saturday evening, for it is impossible when a man can get drink to excess up to a late hour on Saturday evening—it is impossible, with such a state of thing existing—that Sunday closing could be carried out with the efficiency and with the success which it deserves." The Bishop then mentioned the fact that there were 200 licensed houses in Waterford in proportion to a population of 20,000, and condemned those who were responsible for multiplying public houses in the city. This increase was only a source of temptation, particularly to the working classes. His Lordship also complimented the Corporation for erecting houses for the working classes, which would meet a long-felt want, but said some methods should be devised for the purpose of housing the poorest of the poor, and while the Corporation could hardly provide for this class, he thought the question might be dealt with by charity. Those having abundance of means might come forward to aid in the solution of this pressing difficulty. His Lordship then dwelt on the advantages of such an association as the one he was addressing, and the benefits it conferred on the community.

WESTMEATH.—A New "Father Mathew Hall."

The centenary celebrations of the great Irish Apostle of Temperance have been the occasion of adorning the town of Athlone with a lasting memorial of one of the most remarkable men of our century. A very generous gift has been made to the town by Mr. William Smith, J.P., Mount Rose, one of the proprietors of the Shannon Woollen Mills Company, Limited. The hall, which is erected of cut stone, is a very handsome structure, and a credit alike to the town and the donor. It was opened for the first time on Friday evening, and the occasion was marked by great enthusiasm. It is under the joint management of the Protestant and Catholic communities, the Catholics having three-fourths of the representation, in proportion to the population of the town.

GENERAL.

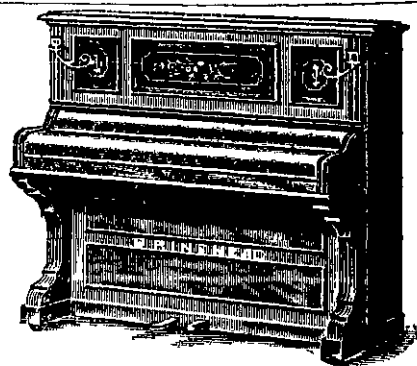
The Irish Language.—A useful and interesting phase in the growth of national feeling in Ireland is the movement for the preservation of the Irish language. Such a movement has been in existence for a long period, and useful manuals were published under their auspices by the eminent firm of M. H. Gill and Son. Of late years new life and vigour have been thrown into the movement. The old Society for the Preservation of the Irish Language has developed into the Gaelic League, which has established its branches all over Ireland, and extended its operations into England and Scotland. Nothing can be a more decided indication of the advance which the study of Gaelic has made during the last few years than the intention of Mr. Bernard Doyle, who makes a speciality of Gaelic printing, to publish weekly in the Irish language an eight-page paper of twenty-four columns, which will be sold at one penny. Only a few years ago to undertake the publication of such a paper would have been considered equivalent to courting failure, yet at present it is anticipated that *Fáinne an Lúe* (the *Dawn of Day*), as it will be named, will prove a success. The first number was to appear on New Year's Day. *Fáinne an Lúe* will be a genuine newspaper, though non-political and non-sectarian, and it is not expected that it will interfere with the *Gaelic Journal* in any way. The English in the paper will be confined to recording current events in the progress of the movement. Over fifty years ago Thomas Davis justly said that "the establishment of a newspaper partly or wholly in Irish would be the most rapid and sure way of serving the language," and we trust to see this statement verified.

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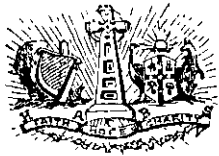
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A FULL Benefit Member, on payment of a weekly contribution of from 1s to 1s 3d (graduated according to age), is entitled to Medical Attendance and Medicine for himself and family (children to be under the age of 18 years) immediately on joining. Also 20s per week for 26 weeks, 15s per week for the next 13 weeks, and 10s week for a further period of 13 weeks, in case of sickness, and should there be a continuance of illness, 5s per week is allowed during incapacity as superannuation, provided he has been a member of the Society for 7 years previous to the commencement of such incapacity. On the death of wife, £10; at his own death relatives receive £20.

A Reduced Benefit Member, on payment of a weekly contribution of from 7d to 8d (graduated according to age), is entitled to Medical Attendance and Medicine for himself immediately on joining and a Sick Allowance of 10s per week for 26 weeks, 5s per week for the succeeding 13 weeks, when, if he be still unable to follow any employment, he shall be entitled to 2s 6d per week for another 13 weeks, and in case of additional illness, 2s 6d during incapacity, under the same proviso as in the case of full benefit members. On the death of a reduced benefit member his representative is entitled to the sum of £10.

Members of female branches contribute weekly (graduated according to age) from 7d to 9½d, and receive benefits as follows:—Medical Attendance and Medicine immediately on joining, in case of sickness 10s per week for 26 weeks, 7s 6d for the succeeding 13 weeks, and 5s per week for another 13 weeks if still unable to follow any employment. On the death of a female benefit member her representative is entitled (if single) to £20, (if married) on the death of her husband she is entitled to £10. Should she die before him her representative is entitled to £20. Provided in all cases the Rules of the Society and the requirements of the Friendly Societies' Act are adhered to.

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Manufacturers of Pumping and Winding Machinery, Hydraulic Mining Plant—including Hydraulic Giants, Sluice Valves, Elevator Castings, Iron and Steel Fluming, etc., etc., Dredge Tumblers Buckets, Links, Windmills, Waterwheels, Turbines, Brick and Drain Pipe Making and Wood-working Machinery, Horse Powers, Chaff Cutters, Turnip Pulpers, and all kinds of Machinery and Gearing.

A VERY LARGE STOCK OF PATTERNS TO SELECT FROM

ESTIMATES GIVEN.

CORRESPONDENCE INVITED

Repairs and Every Description of Engineering and Blacksmith Work Promptly Executed.

NEW GRAPHIC COPY BOOKS.

(Civil Service style.)

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This entirely new series of Writing Copies consists of Thirteen Numbers, containing Text, Half-Text and Small-Hand. Of the Small-Hand, introduced in No. 6, there are four sizes, decreasing by almost imperceptible degrees, the smallest size being one-eighth of an inch, a size large enough to render uniformity of good penmanship possible in higher classes, while the repetition of Text and Half-Text at intervals in the Small-Hand Copies aids in securing steady progress towards improved accuracy of letter-formation, and thus contributes towards the same result.

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COLLINS BROS. & CO., LTD.

Publishers and Wholesale Stationers,
AUCKLAND.

TWO WELLERS TOBACCO

Made from Extra Choice MATURED SUN-CURED LEAF.
Gives a pleasant, cool smoke. Try it and it will give you satisfaction.

NOONDAY OIL

BRIGHT, CLEAR, STEADY LIGHT.

Insist upon having NOONDAY.

USE ONLY

SHAG POINT COAL

The Premier Otago Coal.
IT CANNOT BE EQUALLED
For

HOUSEHOLD AND STEAM PURPOSES.

PRICE: 22s 6d delivered in Dunedin and Suburbs.

ALL ORDERS for TOWN delivery or for Trucks for COUNTRY STATION should be Addressed to

THE SHAG POINT COAL COMPANY,

VOGEL STREET, DUNEDIN. TELEPHONE, No. 602.

GEO. R. CHEESEMAN, MANAGER.

DUNEDIN WOOL SALES.

SEASON 1897-98.

TO THE WOOL GROWERS OF OTAGO AND SOUTHLAND.

GENTLEMEN,—The near approach of another Wool Season induces us to again tender you our services as Brokers for the sale of your Clip in this market, or for shipment thereof to our London agents, making Liberal Cash Advances thereon, if required.

Our Wool Exchange is now being cleared and prepared for the reception of the ensuing Clip, and being commodious, brilliantly lighted, and specially designed and arranged for the best display of the wool, it offers unequalled advantages to growers. Ample space being available, there is room for the fullest display of ample bales, and in the case of small lots, the entire Clip is shown.

As our Exchange is connected by private siding to rail and wharves, we are enabled to give buyers special facilities in getting their purchases rapidly cleared and shipped, and trucks containing growers' consignments are delivered direct into store without unloading.

The Dunedin Market is now fully accredited as the best selling centre. There is a strong force of Local and Provincial Buyers, and also a large number of buyers from England, the Continent, and America, who regularly attend our Sales, and in addition to the healthy competition thus secured, the yearly increasing requirements of our local Woollen Factories, which have to be supplied here, have an important effect in regulating and maintaining values at our Dunedin Sales. We can, therefore, strongly recommend growers to submit their wools at our Dunedin Sales, as we feel convinced in will be to their advantage to do so. The yearly increasing quantity sold here proves that this is the best selling market, and we feel assured that if a comparison were made, it would be found that better results have been secured by selling here than by shipping to London.

Our Sales will be held as usual at the auction rooms of the Wool Broker' Association, where (as large catalogues will be offered) a full attendance of buyers, and the best competition will be assured. The Sales have been fixed to be held as follows:—

- First Sale, Tuesday, 21st December, 1897.
- Second Sale, Monday, 10th January, 1898.
- Third Sale, Friday, 4th February, 1898.
- Fourth Sale, Thursday, 24th February, 1898.

DONALD REID AND CO.

YOURS HEALTHFULLY

WALKER'S VEGETABLE SYRUP

TRADE MARK

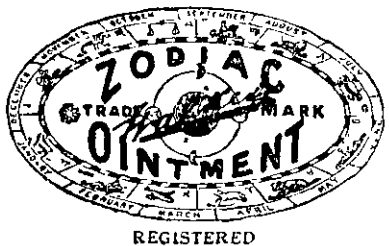
GIVE IT A TURN

STIMULATE THE LIVER
REGULATE THE STOMACH
PURIFY THE BLOOD
ASSIST DIGESTION

PREPARED SOLELY BY THE PROPRIETOR
HIGH PRIZES AWARDED AT THE N.Z. EXHIBITION
SOLD BY CHEMISTS & STORES
PRICE 1/6 PER BOTTLE

HEALTHFULNESS
SPEEDILY CURES
INDIGESTION
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SICK HEADACHE
FLATULENCE
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HEARTBURN
LASSITUDE

A WONDERFUL HEALER



"It rubs them all out"

Specific for Sore Eyes, Ulcers, Wounds, Cuts, Burns, Scalds, Sprains, Bruises, Ringworm, Cracked Hands, Chilblains Eczema, Skin Disease etc.

Price, One Shilling per Pot.

N.B.—Should your chemist or store not stock these Medicines, send direct to the Proprietor—

J. J. F. WALKER,
HIGH AND TUAM STREETS,
CHRISTCHURCH, N.Z.,

And they will be sent to you by mail, securely packed, postage paid, on receipt of stamps or P.O. order.

VICTORIA IRON WORKS

RATRAY STREET WHARF, DUNEDIN.

JOSEPH SPARROW,
Engineer, Boilermaker, Shipsmith, etc.

Wrought Iron Flaming and all kinds of Mining Plant manufactured by Special Machinery. Agent for Hadfield's Manganese Steel (a large quantity always on hand); special for Dredge Pins, Bushes and Lips.

A Variety of Machinery always on hand. Repairs Done by Experienced Workmen.

Sole Maker of Donald's Patent Rabbit-Poison Mixing Machines.

Packering Governors, Simple Boiler Injector.

Sole Agent for Wormald's Non-conducting Boiler Composition.

OPENING ANNOUNCEMENT.

J. T. CARTER,
IRONMONGER, CROCKERY AND GLASSWARE MERCHANT,
45 GEORGE STREET (late Little Dust Pan).

The Proprietor has pleasure in announcing that he has opened this day (Saturday) with a well-assorted stock of the above goods.

As Mr. A. B. DAVIE has full charge of the Crockery Department, the public may rest assured that they will receive every courtesy and prompt attention.

MONUMENTAL WORKS, STAFFORD ST., TIMARU.

W. H. GAIN, having purchased the late James Jones, is prepared to execute in First-Class Style all work entrusted to him at very greatly reduced rates and guarantees satisfaction.

All Kinds of Cemetery Railings and Kerbing Supplied, and Inscriptions cut in Cemeteries.

The Finest Stock in South Canterbury to select from. Designs and Estimates forwarded on application.

HUGH GOURLEY

desires to inform the public he still continues the Undertaking Business as formerly at the Establishment, corner Clarke and MacLaggan streets, Dunedin.

Funerals attended in Town or Country with promptness and economy.

THE BEST CEMENT EXHIBITED—MAORI BRAND.

vide Jurors' Report N.Z. Exhibition. The above was given, with TWO FIRST-CLASS AWARDS, after most thorough tests by experts, proving our Cement to be equal to the best the world can produce.

Having recently erected extensive works, supplied with the most modern plant obtainable, which is supervised by a Skilled Cement Maker from England, with confidence we request Engineers, Architects, and others to test our Cement side by side with the best English obtainable.

Milburn Lime at Lowest Rates.
MILBURN LIME AND CEMENT COMPANY (LIMITED), DUNEDIN.

FRANK OAKDEN, Manager.

W. GREGG AND CO DUNEDIN.

Established 1861.

Proprietors of the Celebrated CLUB BRAND COFFEE.

also ARABIAN, EXHIBITION, ELEPHANT, and other Brands, Unsurpassed for Value

MANUFACTURERS of EAGLE BRAND STARCH (equal to, and rapidly displacing, the best imported), also ECRU PINK, HELIOTROPE, and other COLOURED STARCHES; SODA CRYSTALS, FLAVOURING ESSENCES, GENUINE MADRAS CURRY POWDER, PURE PEPPERS AND SPICES, GUARANTEED.

Ask your Grocer for above Brands, and you will get Good Value for your money.

W. GREGG & CO., DUNEDIN.

ODONTALGIC Extract gives instant relief from Toothache. Is bottle.

NEURANODYNE cures most virulent Neuralgia or Faceache. 2s 6d per bottle. Kempson, Chemist, 99 George street.

SPRING BLOSSOM OINTMENT.

FOUND.—Worth its weight in gold for healing everything it touches. "SPRING BLOSSOM OINTMENT." Sold everywhere.

FOUND.—"Spring Blossom Ointment" cures cracked or sore nipples and broken breasts; 6d and 1s everywhere.

LOST.—Irritating eruptions, sunburns, chapped hands and chilblains by using "Spring Blossom Ointment"; 6d and 1s. Sold everywhere.

FOUND.—"Spring Blossom Ointment" cures sore legs, sore eyes, old wounds; only 6d and 1s everywhere.

LOST.—Burns, bruises, boils, cuts and chapped hands and chilblains by using "Spring Blossom Ointment"; 6d and 1s everywhere.

FOUND.—The great Twin Remedies; used by all in search of health; "SPRING BLOSSOM OINTMENT AND PILLS." Sold by Chemists and Storekeepers.

ONLY 6^D AND 1^S
Storekeepers and Chemists Order from KEMPTHORNE, PROSSER & CO., Dunedin, Christchurch, Wellington and Auckland.



FIRST.
Boots with this Brand on the heel are Guaranteed to Fit and Wear Well.

SECOND.
On this Brand only the Very Best of Workmen are employed.

THIRD.
Only the Very Best of Materials are used in this Brand of Boots and Shoes.

FOURTH.
Farmers, Miners, and all who want to keep their feet dry, try this Brand.

FIFTH.
The "STANDARD" Brand Boots and Shoes are known from Auckland to the Bluff for sterling quality.

Irish Priests for Trinidad.—Fathers Coveney (of Galway), Sutherland (of Newry), and Walsh (of Cork) Dominicans; and Father Corcoran (of Galway), secular, left Southampton recently by the steamship Medway for Trinidad. The Trinidad mission will in future be supplied exclusively from the Irish Dominican Province, the Very Rev. Father Hickey, Provincial, having been appointed Visitor by the Master-General, to whom the missionary Fathers are subject. There will be eight Irish priests there when these Fathers arrive.

The Irish Police.—The constabulary force in Ireland is being rapidly reduced. Six hundred men have been already paid off, and recruiting has been stopped. There are 250 district inspectors. The number will be reduced to 80. When the retirement of Sir Owen Slacke, under the sixty-fifth rule, was announced, it was stated his position would not be filled up. In a few more years two more divisional commissioners will retire, and their positions will not be filled up. These changes will be accompanied by a large reduction in the rank and file, and the Treasury calculate to save by that means about half a million yearly; but it is only the beginning of the end of overtaxation in Ireland.

Decrease of Emigration.—The following brief statistics will be of interest to our Irish readers in so far as they indicate a falling off in the tide of emigration which has steadily gone forth from the Old Land ever since the great agony of "Black Forty-seven." The return shows that there has been a large falling off in emigration during the ten months ended October 31, as compared with the corresponding period of last year. The passengers who left the United Kingdom for places out of Europe up to the end of last October numbered 191,113, as against 219,107 in the corresponding ten months of last year. The English numbered 83,773, the Scotch 113,89, and the Irish 33,720, the remainder being foreigners or persons whose nationality had not been distinguished. Of the total, no fewer than 120,673 sailed for the United States, 21,151 for British North America, 10,096 for Australasia, 21,912 for South Africa, the remainder going to other places. Last month 23,751 persons emigrated, as against 25,580 in October, 1895. The English numbered 11,123, the Scotch 1,729, and the Irish 3,263, the remainder being foreigners or persons whose nationality had not been distinguished.

The Land Acts Commission.—The commissioners, appointed to administer the Land Acts have long since, by their actions, forfeited the confidence of the Irish people. The Dublin *Freeman's Journal* has the following in point:—"Mr. A. J. Kettle's emphatic protest against the exclusion by the President of the Land Acts Commission of the evidence prepared by the Tenant Farmer's Organisation, is thoroughly justified. But, perhaps, it was just as well. The Commission is now thoroughly discredited. There will be no land legislation of the kind desired by the Landlord Executive next session, according to Mr. Balfour. Not in the session after, no matter what Sir Edward Fry reports, if the tenant farmers of Ireland know how to defend their own interests."

The Distress.—America to the Rescue.—While the Government is calmly watching the rapid progress of the West of Ireland peasantry towards the verge of famine, our American brothers have been once again organising to keep the wolf from the Irish cabin door. The work has been started by the Ancient Order of Hibernians of Austin, Texas, who have sent the following letter to the Dublin *Freeman*:—"Gentlemen,—Moved by the reported sad condition of the people in certain portions of Ireland, the local members of the Ancient Order of Hibernians and their friends in the city have raised a sum which enables us, their committee, to hand you herewith a draft on the Provincial Bank of Ireland for £10 sterling. The knowledge possessed by every man familiar with the subject of the unswerving loyalty of the *Freeman's Journal* to the cause and interests of our people leaves no room for hesitancy in laying upon your shoulders a fresh task in their behalf. Therefore, we urgently request that you distribute this money according to the dictates of your own best judgment and (should the same be not already done) that you open with the next issue a fund for American contri-

butions towards the relief of the famine sufferers in Ireland. No man has a larger, more generous heart than the American. Many a dollar has been sent to Ireland for political purposes, and for that matter, in hours of famine, too. And he will do it again, for were the Irish people, robbed as they are of the surplus that would enable them to take care of themselves when crops might fail them, allowed to die of starvation, how empty indeed would be the prayer—"God save Ireland!" Committee: Joseph A. O'Reilly, James L. McCarty, James Byrne, and John J. Butler.

Commercial.

NEW ZEALAND LOAN AND MERCANTILE AGENCY COMPANY report for week ending 25th January, as follows:

Wheat—Millers are open to purchase prime velvet for mixing, but show no desire to increase their stock with any other sort. Shippers and local dealers operate freely in medium and fowl feed at the price of the latter. Quotations for prime milling velvet, 4s 6d to 4s 8d; medium and best Tuscan, 4s 3d to 4s 5d; best red wheat, 4s 2d to 4s 5d; medium nominally, 3s 8d to 4s; inferior 2s 9d to 3s 8d (sack in, ex-store, terms).

Oats—A very fair demand continues to exist, but while buyers can secure their requirements at the Bluff at prices as a rule a shade below those demanded here; most of the shipping is done from there. The market here, however, is very firm and has a tendency towards higher prices. Quotations for prime feed and milling, 2s 0½d to 2s 1½d; medium feed, 1s 11½d to 2s; inferior, 1s 9d to 1s 10½d (ex-store, sacks extra, net).

Barley—None offering.

Grass Seeds.—Best ryegrass seed is in demand, but big seed, though saleable, is more difficult to place at a price satisfactory to the grower. Quotations for best machine dressed, 3s 9d to 4s 3d; extra prime, 1s 6d; medium, 2s 9d to 3s 6d (ex store, sacks extra, net). Cocksfoot in retail lots. Best dressed, 1½d to 3½d; medium, 1d to 1½d per lb.

Chaff.—The market being heavily supplied during the week prices have receded considerably. Prices at auction on Monday for best, L3 10s to L3 17s 6d; extra, L1; medium to good, L2 10s to L3 5s per ton (ex truck, sacks extra, net).

Potatoes.—The market being fairly well supplied, prices are receding. Quotations for best kidneys, L5 10s to L6; medium, L1 10s to L5 per ton (ex store, sacks in, net).

Sheepskins.—A very fair demand exists at late rates. Best dry crossbreds fetch 1d to 1½d; medium, 2d to 3½d; dry merinos, 2d to 4½d per lb; green crossbred pelts, 6d to 1s; green lambskins, 9d to 1s 9d each.

Rabbit-skins.—A good demand exists for all coming forward, but the quantity is now small and skins inferior, which sell at from 2d to 9d per lb.

Hides.—Market firm; best fetching 3d to 3½d; medium, 2d to 2½d; inferior, 1d to 1½d per lb.

Tallow and Fat.—Best country rendered, 13s 6d to 14s 6d; medium, 10s 6d to 13s; rough fat (best mutton caul), 9s 6d to 10s; medium, 8s 9d to 9s 3d; inferior, 8s to 8s 6d per cwt (ex-store, net).

MESSERS. STRONACH BROS. AND MORRIS report for week ending 25th January, as follows:

Fat cattle—221 head yarded. This number being in excess of requirements there was a very dull sale and prices were slightly lower. Best bullocks sold at L8 to L9; medium, L6 to L7 15s; best cows, L6 to L7; medium, L4 to L5 15s.

Fat sheep—1610 penned. Bidding was very dull and prices showed a decline of 1s to 1s 6d a head compared with last week. Best crossbred wethers sold at 10s 6d to 11s 6d; good, 9s to 10s; light, 7s 6d to 8s 6d; best ewes, 8s 6d to 10s; others, 5s to 8s.

Lambs—831 penned; all selling readily at a slight advance on last week's rates. Best lambs sold at 10s to 11s; good, 9s to 9s 6d; medium, 7s 6d to 8s 9d; inferior, 6s to 7s.



THE FIRST SIGN OF A COLD

SHOULD remind you that the best time to commence taking something is at the beginning. It should also remind you that the best remedy to head off a spell of sneezing, coughing and general unpleasantness is

Benjamin Gum.



Men start at my statements about
BENJAMIN GUM!

Thousands of bottles have been sold, and universal praise of its curative qualities is the result.

Note the Name:

SPENCER VINCENT'S Great
BENJAMIN GUM EXTRACT.
PRICE 1s 6d.

Take no other Remedy, but insist on having
BENJAMIN GUM.
DON'T TAKE "JUST AS GOOD."

TESTIMONIALS.

Woolston, August 10, 1897.

To SPENCER VINCENT, Christchurch.

Dear Sir,—For some time past I have been suffering from a most painful cough. I had quite given up hope of its ever leaving me. At least for the remainder of the winter, and feared that it had become chronic seeing that other remedies failed to give me relief, much less cure. The pain became so intense that I was afraid of injuring my throat and head, especially the latter. I procured one bottle of your BENJAMIN GUM, and I may say that I hadn't an atom of faith in its curative properties, but felt that I must take something to ease the pain. I drank contents of first bottle very freely, and am thankful to say in less than twelve hours I was wholly free from cough.

E. W. SEARS.

28th April, 1897.

MR. SPENCER VINCENT.

Dear Sir,—I have pleasure in testifying to the merits of your Cough Cure with the strange name BENJAMIN GUM. I caught a very severe cold in Wellington whilst we were there on a tour, and had tried a dozen different cures with very little good. BENJAMIN GUM, I am glad to say, has succeeded where all the others failed. Several members of our Company have been very much benefited by its use, as it dispels hoarseness and huskiness very quickly. Thanking you, am, faithfully yours,

W. O'SULLIVAN,

Treasurer Pollard's Opera Company.

JAMES NISBET,
PAINTER AND PAPERHANGER,
Begs to intimate to the General Public that he has just landed a new stock of
PAINTS, OILS AND WALL PAPERS
Of the
VERY LATEST PATTERNS.
Estimates given for all classes of Painting Works etc.

Note Address:—
ST. ANDREW STREET (near George street)
DUNEDIN.

Telephone No. 467.

SUTTON'S
SEEDS,
TOTHILL, WATSON AND CO.,
CRAWFORD STREET,
DUNEDIN
SOLE AGENTS.



10 YEARS!

With an increasing demand PROVES beyond the possibility of a DOUBT that we have the ONLY genuine Electric Belts, which will cure all NERVOUS WEAKNESSES in all stages, however caused, and restore the wearer to ROBUST HEALTH.

Our Marvellous Electric Belts give a steady soothing current that can be felt by the wearer through all WEAK PARTS. REMEMBER, we give a written guarantee with each Electric Belt that it will permanently cure you. If it does not we will promptly return the full amount paid. We mean exactly what we say, and do precisely what we promise.

Address:—

GERMAN ELECTRIC APPLIANCE AGENCY,

63, Elizabeth street, Sydney.

NOTICE.—Before purchasing we prefer that you send for our ELECTRIC ERA and Price List (post free), giving illustrations of different appliances for BOTH SEXES, also TESTIMONY which will convince the most sceptical.

HOTELS FOR SALE.

Hotel, Wellington: trade, £70; rent, after sublets, £4; cash required, £1000.
Hotel, trechold, country: trade averages £90 weekly. Five House. Cash required, £2500. splendid property.
Hotel, country district, income, £250; trade averages £31 weekly. Rent, £5 per week.
Hotel, country, rent, £2; trade averages £29; cash required, £250.
Hotel, Napier district, rent, after sublets, £2 2s 6d; trade, £35 to £40; cash required, £600.
Also hotels in different parts of the district. Easy terms.

DWAN BROS.,

WILLIS STREET, WELLINGTON.

UNION STEAMSHIP COMPANY OF NEW ZEALAND LIMITED.

SPECIALY REDUCED FARES
IN FORCE BY ALL STEAMERS
OVER ALL THE COMPANY'S
LINES.

Steamers will be despatched as under:
LYTTELTON and WELLINGTON—

Rotomahana	Thurs., Feb. 3	2 p.m. D'din
Te Anau	Sun., Feb. 6	4 p.m. D'din
Mararoa	Tues., Feb. 8	2.30 p.m. trn
NAPIER, GISBORNE and AUCKLAND—		
Te Anau	Sun., Feb. 6	4 p.m. D'din
Mararoa	Tues., Feb. 8	2.30 p.m. trn
Flora	Frid., Feb. 11	3 p.m. D'din

SYDNEY, via WELLINGTON—

Rotomahana	Thurs., Feb. 3	2 p.m. D'din
SYDNEY via AUCKLAND—		
Mararoa	Tues., Feb. 8	3 p.m. D'din
Waihora	Tues., Feb. 22	4 p.m. D'din

MELBOURNE via BLUFF and HOBART—
Monowai Mon., Jan. 31 3.35 p.m. trn
Waikare Mon., Feb. 7 4 p.m. D'din
WESTPORT, via TIMARU, AKAROA,
LYTTELTON WELLINGTON, PICTON
and NELSON—

Brunner *	Thurs., Feb. 3	5 p.m. D'din
	Frid., Feb. 11	5 p.m. D'din

* Tranship Wellington for Picton and Nelson.
And calls New Plymouth and Greymouth.

GREYMOUTH, via OAMARU, TIMARU,
LYTTELTON, WELLINGTON, and
NEW PLYMOUTH—

Herald	Wed., Feb. 9	5 p.m. D'din
TONGA, SAMOA, FIJI and SYDNEY—		
Tavuni	Wed., Feb. 9	From Auckland
FIJI (SUVA and LEVUKA)—		
Hauroto	Wed., Feb. 23	From Auckland
TAHITI and RAROTONGA—		
Upolu	Wed., Feb. 15	From Auckland

F. POBAR AND SON (from Cashel street Christchurch), Umbrella Manufacturers, have opened a Branch Shop, 113 GEORGE STREET, DUNEDIN. Numerous designs in Handles and Fittings. All work guaranteed. Pobars' Price List: Strong Italian Cloth from 2s 6d; Satin de Chine (Italian), 4s 6d; Levantine from 5s 6d; best Twill Silk, 6s 6d; Sticks from 1s; Scissors ground and set, 3s.

JAMES SAMSON AND CO.

Auctioneers, Commission, House and Land Agents, Valuers,
DOWLING STREET, DUNEDIN.

GEO. M. CARTER, JUN.,

ACCOUNTANT AND AGENT,
MUTUAL LIFE CHAMBERS,
79 PRINCES STREET.

Telephone No. 666.

All descriptions of ACCOUNTANCY WORK undertaken.

TRADESMEN'S BOOKS opened, written up, and audited.

Accounts and Balance Sheets prepared Book Debts, Rents, and Interest collected Property purchased, sold, let, and managed Loans negotiated. Insurances effected. Agencies accepted.

Sub-Agent

ROYAL EXCHANGE ASSURANCE
(Accumulated Funds exceed £4,000,000)

MONEY TO LEND ON FREEHOLD SECURITY

From 4½ per cent.

Pigs—225 forward; all selling well under keen competition at prices in favour of sellers. Suckers sold at 8s 6d to 14s; slips, 15s to 18s; stores, 19s to 23s 6d; porkers, 31s to 37s; baconers, 38s to 48s.

Rabbittskins—We offered a fair catalogue yesterday and sold the lot at up to 10½d for springs, with others in proportion. We would remind farmers and others than now is the best time of the year for using Toxa, as the rabbits take it readily in warm dry weather. There has been a great demand for this poison lately and good reports continue to reach us as to its effectiveness.

Sheepskins—The demand continues good, and all offering to-day were keenly competed for at slightly higher values. Best green crossbreds fetched 4s 3d to 5s 6d; pelts, 9d to 1s 4d; lambskins, 9d to 1s 6d; best dry crossbreds, 4s to 5s 5d; medium, 2s 6d to 3s 9d; dry merinos, 3s to 4s 4d; medium, 2s to 2s 10d; pelts, 4d to 1s 6d.

Hides—No change to report. Prime heavy ox 3½d to 3½d; medium, 2½d to 3d; light and inferior, 1½d to 2½d per lb.

Tallow—Market unchanged. Best rendered, 12s to 13s; medium, 10s to 11s 6d; rough fat, 8s to 10s per cwt.

Wool—Nothing doing locally. Next sale Friday, 4th February.

Wheat—Market unchanged. Prime milling—Prime milling velvet, 1s 6d to 4s 8d; prime Tuscan, etc., 4s 3d to 4s 5d; medium, 4s 1d to 4s 2d; fowl wheat, 3s to 3s 8d per bushel (sacks in).

Oats—There has been a fair demand during the week and prices remain firm. Quotations—Prime milling, 2s 1d to 2s 3d; good to best feed, 2s to 2s 1d; medium, 1s 10½d to 1s 11½d; inferior and discoloured, 1s 8d to 1s 10d per bushel (sacks extra).

Barley—Nothing to report. Quotations unaltered.

Chaff—Owing to heavy supplies coming forward, prices have declined 2s 6d to 5s per ton during the week. Prime oatens sheaf, L3 17s 6d to L4; extra prime, L4 2s 6d; medium to good, L3 10s to L3 15s per ton (bags extra).

Potatoes—Prices easier. Kidneys, 5s to 6s per cwt.

MESSRS. DONALD REID AND Co. report that prices ruled as under at their weekly auction sale:—

Oats—We offered a fair quantity of medium to good feed. Competition was good, and prices ruled on a par with those of last week. We quote prime milling, 2s 1½d to 2s 3d; good to best feed, 2s to 2s 1d; medium, 1s 10½d to 1s 11½d per bushel (sacks extra).

Wheat—Prime milling quality is in good demand at late rates. Fowl wheat, whole, 3s 4d to 3s 8d; broken, 2s 6d to 3s per bushel (sacks in).

Potatoes—Prices to-day were a shade easier, good kidney realising 5s to 6s per cwt (sacks in).

Chaff—To-day's supply was heavier than usual, and prices receded about 5s per ton. Best oatens sheaf sold at L3 15s to L4; extra choice and heavy, to L4 2s 6d; good, L3 12s 6d to L3 15s per ton (bags extra).

DUNEDIN HORSE SALEYARDS.

MESSRS WRIGHT, STEPHENSON, AND Co. report as follows for Saturday, January 22:—

The entries for Saturday's sale were mostly made up of light harness horses on account of town vendors. Very few draughts were forward, and these only of medium quality, consequently there was not much business transacted. Although the demand is not very good at present for draught horses, it is certain to improve as the harvest approaches, and we hope to be able to report inquiries from all quarters for good young draughts ere long. Spring van and young light harness horses meet with a lot of attention whenever they are forthcoming, and consignments of these sorts will sell well in this market. Light, weedy sorts are dull of sale and very hard to place even at reduced prices. We quote: First-class young draught mares and geldings, £35 to £40; good do, £28 to £33; medium draught mares and geldings, £20 to £25; aged do, £12 to £18; first-class hack and light harness horses, £18 to £25; good do, £12 to £17; medium do, £7 to £10; aged and inferior, £2 to £5.

MR. F. MLENAN, King street, reports:—Wholesale price only—Oats: Good demand, feed, medium to good, 1s 10d to 2s; milling, 2s to 2s 2d; fowls' wheat, 2s 6d to 3s 6d; milling, 4s 3d to 4s 6d; chaff, L3 to L4. Ryegrass, hay, L2 10s to L3. Straw, 24s per ton; loose, 28s. Potatoes, L1 per ton, old; new Auckland, none in market; Peninsula, L6 10s. Flour: Roller, L11 to L11 10s; Oatmeal: L11 10s in 25lbs. Butter: Dairy, 5d to 8d; factory, 10d. Eggs, 8d. Bran, L3. Pollard, L3 15s. Onions, Melbourne, L5 10s per ton.

THE WOOL SALES.

Napier, January 19.

The second wool sale of the season was held on Tuesday January 18. A total of 6686 bales were offered. The bidding for bright clean parcels was animated, and up to within ½d of last sale's rates. Pieces maintained their values, and sold freely; bright, free, lustrous crossbreds, rather heavy in grease, 7d to 7½d; medium do, slightly dinged, 6½d to 6½d; inferior rough kinds, 5d to 5½d; lamb (required low), 5½d to 6½d for best, and 4½d to 5½d low grade quality; pieces, 4½d to 5½d for good and 3½d to 4d inferior; locks, 1½d to 2½d. Merino, being of poor quality, realised low figures.

Auckland, January 19.

The second wool sales of the season were held on Wednesday, January 19, the catalogues being: Hunter and Nolan, 931 bales; G. W. Binney, 838; Loan and Mercantile Company, 1583; Buckland and Sons, 1352,—total, 4704. Twelve hundred bales were passed, but the majority were subsequently disposed of after the public sale. The wool was not as good as at the previous sale, being inferior all round. Best crossbred wool was equal in price to last sales, but inferior wool was easier by at least a ½d, and lambs' wool was down 1d to 1½d from last year, the highest prices being 6½d. Best crossbreds did not average more than 6½d, and medium from 6½d to 6½d. Inferior did not average above 5½d.

Wellington, January 20.

The third of the season's wool sales was held to-day, when about 2,500 bales were catalogued. There was a good attendance of buyers, and prices showed an improvement on last sales. The top price for good greasy crossbred was 7½d per lb. Rough wools brought from 5½d to 6d. Lambs' wool was sought after, but at low prices. Locks and pieces were also competed for at prices equal to those at the last sales.

ADDINGTON MARKET

Entries of all classes of stock were below the average at Addington. The attendance was small, the bulk of farmers being busy harvesting, and business throughout lacked animation.

Fat Cattle—Of 157 head of fat cattle which formed the beef supply about a third were dealers' cattle. Those offered at auction included fair to good steers, but the heifers were all lightweights and the cows were very inferior. There was little or no competition, pen after pen being passed and only a small proportion changed hands. Steers brought L4 15s to L7 12s 6d; heifers, L3 10s to L5 5s; cows, L2 10s to L5. Prime beef (per 100lb) ran from 15s to 17s; fair to good, 13s to 14s 6d; cow and inferior, 10s to 12s 6d.

Fat Sheep—A medium yarding of fat sheep contained a fair proportion of good wethers, but the majority were again ewes. If anything there was slight improvement in the better classes of sheep for export, buyers competing for any suitable lines, while there was a better tone in the ewe market. Crossbred wethers brought from 9s 6d to 12s 3d; maiden ewes, 9s to 9s 11d; good young ewes, 7s to 9s; other sorts, 4s 9d to 6s; merino ewes, 3s to 3s 6d.

Fat Lambs.—There was a considerable falling off in the yarding of fat lambs, only about 2000 against nearly 7000 last week. Again there were far too many unfinished lambs in the fat pens, and a noticeable feature of several lots, otherwise good sorts, was that they contained ram lambs, which spoiled their sale for export. Freezing buyers only operated sparingly, being particular in their selection, and even for best lines a decided decline was noticeable. Lambs, fit for factories, brought from 9s to 11s 3d; butchers' sorts, 7s to 8s 9d; stores, 4s 9d to 6s 6d.

Pigs—The heavier classes of pigs were rather better represented, but stores did not come forward in such large numbers. Baconers and porkers were slightly easier, the former selling at 3½d and the latter at 3½d to 3½d per lb. Per head baconers ran from 32s to 45s; porkers, 22s 6d to 30s; good stores, 14s to 22s 6d; weaners, 7s 9d to 12s 6d.

DUNEDIN STOCK EXCHANGE.

QUOTATIONS—FRIDAY, JANUARY, 21.

BANKS.—National (ex div.), Buyers, 2/2/9; Sellers, 2/3/9. New South Wales, B., 34/-; S., 34/10/-. Union of Australia, Ltd., B., 27/-; S., 28/-.

INSURANCE.—National, B., 16/3; S., 16/9. New Zealand, B., 3/9/-; S., 3/10/-. South British, B., 2/9/-; S., 2/10/-. Standard, B., 13/-; S., 13/6.

SHIPPING.—New Zealand Shipping, B., 4/-; S., 4/6/-. Union Steam, B., 8/17/6; S., 9/2/6.

COAL.—Kaitangata (old), B., 19/-; S., 19/10/-. Kaitangata (new), B., 1/12/-; S., 1/13/-. Westport, B., 2/15/6; S., 2/16/6.

LOAN AND AGENCY.—Commercial Property Company (10/-), B., 4/9; S., 5/6. National Mortgage, B., 10/6; S., 11/-. Perpetual Trustees, B., 10/6; S., 11/-. Trustees and Executors, B., 1/12/-; S., 1/13/-.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Kaiapoi Woollen Co., B., 6/-; S., 6/5/-. Milburn Lime and Cement, B., 1/8/-; S., 1/9/-. Mornington Tramway, B., 15/-; S., 15/6. Mosgiel Woollen, B., 4/5/-; S., 4/7/-. New Zealand Drug (2/- paid), B., 2/7/-; S., 2/7/6. New Zealand Drug (30/- paid), B., 1/11/6; S., 1/15/6. Otago Daily Times, B., 10/17/6; S., 11/2/6. Emu Bay Railway, B., 9/6; S., 10/-.

GOLDFIELDS.—Reefton: Big River Extended, B., 12/-; S., 13/6. Cumberland Extended, B., 1/9; S., 2/3; Keep-it-Dark, B., 16/-; S., 17/-. Alpine Extended, B., 6/-; S., 7/6. Crocus (Paparoa), B., 10/6; S., 11/6. Otago, (contrib.), B., 2/-; S., premium. Morning Star (A issue), B., 17/-; S., 18/-.

DREDGING COMPANIES.—Buller, B., 3/-; S., 4/-. Clyde, B., 2/11/0; S., 2/15/-. Enterprise, B., 2/5/-; S., 2/10/-. Ettrick (contrib.), B., 19/-; S., 1/-/-. Golden Beach (par.), B., —; S., —. Golden Gate, B., 1/7/-; S., 1/8/-. Golden Run, B., 1/1/-; S., 1/3/-. Golden Treasure, B., 2/15/6; S., 2/16/-. Golden Terrace, B., 11/6; S., 12/-. Jutland Flat (paid), B., 6/-; S., 6/6. Magnetic, B., 7/-; S., 8/-. Molyneux Hydraulic Co. Dredge (B issue), B., 1/5/-; S., 1/7/-. Otago, B., 1/9/6; S., 1/11/-. Upper Waipori (contrib.), B., 2/6; S., 3/-.

SLUICING COMPANIES.—Moonlight Sluicing, B., 1/16/-; S., 2/-/-. Roxburgh Amalgamated (contrib.), B., 6/6; S., 6/9. Waipori Deep Lead, B., 1/-; S., 1/3. Deep Stream, B., 1/0/9; S., 1/2/-. Bakery Flat, B., 14/-; S., 16/-.

AUSTRALIAN COMMERCIAL.

Sydney.

Wheat—Chick, 2s 10d to 3s; milling, 4s. Flour—Roller brands, L10 10s. Oats—Medium feed, 2s 4d; prime, 2s 5d; Tartarian seed, 2s 6d. Maize—Prime, 3s 4d to 3s 5d. Barley—Cape, 2s 7d to 2s 8d; English (nominally), 3s 3d. Bran, 7½d to 8d. Pollard, 9d. Potatoes—Local, L6 to L6 10s; Circular Heads, L9. Onions—Prime Victorian, L2 14s to L3. Butter—Dairy, 5d to 6½d; factory, 6½d to 7d. Cheese—New Zealand, large, 4½d; medium, 6d; loaf, 5½d. Bacon, 6½d to 7½d.

Melbourne.

Wheat (firm), 4s 7d. Oats—Algerian, strong, 1s 6d to 1s 9d; stout white, 2s, 2d. Maize, 3s 1d. Barley—Cape, 2s 9d; malting, 4s 6d to 5s. Bran, 9½d. Pollard, 10½d. Potatoes, L4 5s to L4 10s. Onions, L2 10s to L2 15s.

Adelaide.

Wheat, 1s 5d. Flour—New, L10 10s to L11; old, L12 10s. Oats—Algerian, 1s 9d to 2s; white, 2s 4d. Bran and pollard, 1s,

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(No. 3).

By the REV. J. DICKSON, M.A.,
Presbyterian Minister, Temuka.

—By the—

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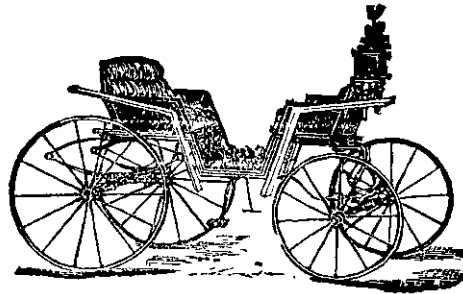
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V.



R.

CROWN LANDS OPEN FOR APPLICATION.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Crown Lands in the under-mentioned Districts will be Open For Sale or Selection in terms of Section 136 of "The Land Act, 1892" either for Cash, for Occupation-with-Right-of-Purchase or for Lease-in-Perpetuity, at the option of the selector, on WEDNESDAY, the 23rd day of FEBRUARY, 1898:—

AKATORE, Block I.

UPPER WAKATIPU, Block I.

GLENOAMARU, Blocks V. and X.

WOODLAND, Blocks I., VI., VIII.

TARRAS, Block VII.

CATLINS, Block I.

Posters containing plans and particulars will shortly be ready for distribution, and will be exhibited at the various Post Offices, Railway Stations, etc.

Rentals, Lease and Registration Fees, and valuation for improvement (if any) must be lodged with applications or paid immediately after the result of the ballot is declared.

Forms of application and full particulars can be obtained at this office.

J. P. MAITLAND,

Commissioner of Crown Lands.

Crown Lands Office,

Dunedin, December 31, 1897.

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CLASSES will be formed on MONDAY, 7th FEBRUARY.

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TENDERS are invited for the CONSTRUCTION (in Brick) of an ASSEMBLY HALL, LIBRARY, and GYMNASIUM in Rattray street, Dunedin.

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MARY GALWAY, who left Drumkalkine or Lockeurry in the Parish of Hannah, County Cavan, in Ireland, in or about the year 1862 for Dunedin, in New Zealand, where she stayed for some time with a Mrs. Duncan. is requested to communicate at once with the undersigned, from whom she will hear of something greatly to her advantage.

Anyone giving information to the undersigned of the whereabouts of the above-named MARY GALWAY will be rewarded.

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SATURDAY, MARCH 19, 1898.

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NOTICE.

All communications connected with the Commercial Department of the N.Z. TABLET Newspaper are to be addressed to Fohn Murray, Secretary, to whom also Post Office Orders and Cheques are in all instances to be made payable.

All communications connected with the literary department, reports, correspondence, newspaper cuttings, etc., should be addressed to the Editor.

Correspondents are particularly requested to bear in mind that to insure publication in any particular issue of the paper communications must reach this Office not later than Tuesday morning.

Correspondents forwarding obituary and marriage notices are particularly requested to be as concise as possible.

ANSWER TO CORRESPONDENT.

SR. F. X. (Wellington).—News two old. Other matter too late for insertion last week. You will see that your two last requests have been attended to.

The New Zealand Tablet.

FIAT JUSTITIA.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 28, 1898.

A WHIFF OF PAGANISM.

SINCE our last issue went to press the submarine wires flashed a pitiful tale of the self-destruction of a number of the daughters of leading residents of New York. The whole affair was highly suggestive of such a diabolical combination as that of the Suicide Club, whose doings were published some time ago, under scare headings, by the New York Press. In the eager rush of money-getting, such news furnishes nothing more than a passing sensation. But the real grief is in that which lies in the background of all this grim question of suicide. The bibliography of self-destruction is, in all reason, sufficiently vast and varied. A study of the works of BAKER, MULLALL, MORSELLI, and the rest, will sufficiently indicate the fact that it is steadily on the increase. It has, in fact, long since reached dimensions which make it one of the crying evils of our day and a scandal to our civilisation. The present feverish mode of human life, the keenness of competition, the unsatisfied cravings of ever increasing needs, may, indeed, be contributing causes to that recklessness of life which seeks relief in rope, razor or arsenic. But physical pain or mental misery, *by themselves alone*, are not determining causes. Such ideas have been ruthlessly swept aside by the hard evidence of statistics. The causes lie deeper. Italy, Ireland, and Spain—three of the poorest countries in Europe—show the smallest percentage of suicide. "Without exception," says Dr. LEFFINGWELL, "that period of the year when the suicidal impulse is least felt occurs (in Europe) during the winter, when cold, hunger, and destitution are generally most severely felt." Readers of the history of the great Irish famine of 1846-47 will remember that suicide was unknown among the suffering Irish poor during that long and agonising period of concentrated woe. The classes who live in comparative comfort seem, in fact, to furnish an undue proportion of those who lay down life's sacred burden before the appointed time. But one of the most deplorable features of this melancholy business is the apparently increasing number of mere youths and maidens—sometimes mere school-children—who fling aside God's precious gift of life—sometimes on pleas as frivolous as that of CONDE'S cook VATEL, who killed himself in 1671, because, forsooth, the lobster for his turbot-sauce had not arrived in time to be served up at dinner.

As a matter of fact, the extreme prevalence of suicide is but a revival—like the high-heeled boot and the leg-of-mutton sleeve. Even your suicide clubs do not possess the slender merit of novelty. The school of HEGESIAS, at Alexandria, was, to all intents and purposes, an association for self-destruction, on a large scale. The contagion of suicide became so great that PTOLEMY was compelled to banish HEGESIAS from the city. And does not the recent epidemic of suicide among young girls in New York find its counterpart in a similar one which has found a record in the chronicles of AULUS GELLICUS? The spread of this contagion usually accompanies epochs when faith in the world beyond the grave is failing, or has lost its practical hold upon the public mind. It thus serves, in a way, as a thermometer of religious feeling. Dr. LEFFINGWELL—a noted member of the International Congress of Hygiene and Demography—writes: "Whether or not we assume self-destruction as the evidence of unsound mind, it is certain that nearly always it results from a temporarily distorted estimate of the value of further existence." Even LECKY, the Rationalist historian, says in his *History of European Morals*, that one determining cause of the increase of suicide in our day is "the advance of religious scepticism and the relaxation of religious discipline."

* * * * *

The prevalence of self-destruction among the Greeks and Romans arose from the uncertainty with which even the best and most enlightened Pagans regarded death and what lies beyond the grave. Their highest philosophers permitted or encouraged suicide: PLATO, CICERO, EPICURETUS, PLINY. SENECA declared that the man who awaited extreme old age was "not far removed from a coward." The Stoicism of Pagan Rome was the glorification of self-destruction. Their ideal was CATO, who stabbed himself to death at Utica. "Even to those who condemned suicide," says LECKY, "it seems never to have assumed its present aspect of extreme enormity." Death was regarded, not as the door of another mode of existence, but as a remedy for the evils of the present life. Society approved of suicide; a false philosophy encouraged it; the law expressly permitted it, and thereby removed from it the stigma of criminality; and throughout the Roman Empire the practice reached the most serious proportions. It was, according to LECKY, prevalent in every pagan land, from the Baltic to the Mediterranean. The suttee, or self-immolation of Hindu widows, was ordered by their sacred books. Hari-karis, or official suicides, were carried out in Japan to the tune of about five hundred per annum, by formal order of the courts. The author of *Old New Zealand* tells how the Maoris formerly committed suicide under such slight pretexts as that of a passing toothache. And generally speaking, modern pagan nations and tribes have either, on occasion, commanded or commended suicide, or looked upon it with benevolent tolerance.

* * * * *

Suicide is, briefly, a product of pagan modes of thought and action. Christianity gave a new and sublime meaning to life when it taught that it is a sacred gift of the Creator; that it is lent to us, under high responsibilities, to make the most of it; that suicide is a crime akin to wilful murder; that it is not ours to take life away; and that death is but the door which leads to everlasting happiness or everlasting woe. As Miss KEMBLE happily puts it:—

"A sacred burden is this life ye bear;
Look on it, lift it, bear it solemnly;
Stand up and walk beneath it steadfastly:
Fail not for sorrow, falter not for sin,
But onward, upward, till the goal you win."

The Catholic doctrine wrought a moral revolution in the world. "Direct and deliberate suicide," says LECKY, "almost absolutely disappeared within the Church." It arose again in periods when faith grew feeble, as in Spain during the corrupt Gothic period, and in England during the Black Death. It came in with a rush when religious scepticism advanced, as during the French Revolution, when it was taught by MONTAIGNE, ROUSSEAU, VOLTAIRE, and all the leading philosophers, so-called, of the period.

* * * * *

The Reformation, despite its principle of private judgment (which, in the end, means free thought and action), seems to have produced no marked results in the matter of

suicide so long as the old Catholic sentiments survived. But from the seventeenth century onwards the crime became more common. At the present time Protestant populations, taken as a whole, enjoy an unenviable pre-eminence in the readiness of their resort to self-destruction. The great authority, MULHALL, says: "Suicide is much more frequent in Protestant than in Catholic countries. LEGOYT and other writers show that, even in countries where both religions exist, the tendency of Protestants to suicide is greater." This he shows by quoting the rates of Catholic and Protestant suicides per million inhabitants in the British Isles, Prussia, Bavaria, Austria-Hungary, and Switzerland. Similar figures for Prussia, with a similar comment, were published by the *Deutsche Criminal Zeitung* in 1884, and by Dr SPITZKA for the United States. Saxony, "the very shrine of modern culture, the fortress of free-thought," as Rev. D. HAYMAN calls it in the *Fortnightly Review* (October 1886), enjoys a portentous pre-eminence for suicide: over 400 persons per million inhabitants doing themselves to death annually. Thuringia follows close at the heels of Saxony. Catholic France, with its godless schools, has leaped high up on the list; while Spain and Ireland hold the cleanest record of all. He that runs can read the lesson which is written broad upon the history of suicide. It is told by a distinguished French writer, Viscount MELCHIOR DE VOGUE, in *Harper's Magazine* for January, 1892. It is briefly this: That the remedy for the present lamentable prevalence of suicide is, to roll back the tide of scepticism, to return once more to Christian principles—and to begin this work at the school; for criminal statistics loudly proclaim the insufficiency of any system of education which is severed from religion.

DUNEDIN AND DISTRICT.

THE annual synod of the clergy of the diocese of Dunedin will be held in the Cathedral on Tuesday, February 8th. The Synodal Mass will begin at 7 o'clock, after which the synod will be opened in due form by the Bishop of the diocese. The retreat for the clergy will be opened by Father Buckeridge, S.J., on the same evening and will close on the following Saturday morning.

THE Catholic Primary schools of St. Joseph's and N. E. Valley, under the charge of the Dominican Nuns, will resume work on Monday next, January 31. Studies will be resumed at St. Dominick's College on the following day. This latter arrangement has been specially made in order that intending students may be able, even if living at a distance, to reach Dunedin in time for the opening of classes. The occasion is a favourable one for inculcating two virtues which are important factors in all successful educational work—whether at Dunedin or elsewhere—punctuality and steady attendance on the part of the pupils. To the average child, holidays possess a perennial charm such as is never experienced by the weary children of a larger growth who throw off the harness for a period, and, so to speak, turn mind and body out to grass. Educationalists have long learned to dread the success of pupils' pleadings for "just the few days more," that spoil the good beginning, which, says the wise old saw, is half the work.

THE result of the London Trinity College practical examination in music, held at St. Dominick's College by Dr. Vincent on October 5 of last year, are just to hand, and afford convincing proof of the thoroughness and efficiency of the musical training given by the Dominican Nuns. The following are the detailed results of the examination:—Music—Senior grade: M. Burke, 80, honours; M. Jones, 73, pass. Junior grade: A. Liston, 80, honours; A. Freed, 82, pass; F. Courtis, 72, pass; E. O'Connell, 71, pass; I. Seelye, 68, pass. Primary grade: E. Wood, 75, pass. Singing—Senior grade: A lady pupil, 80, honours—all Dunedin. Dominican Convent, Oamaru:—Music—Junior grade: Mary Duggan, 72, pass; Maud Ralph, 66, pass. Dominican Convent, Invercargill:—Primary grade: M. McKewan, 81, pass; E. Ward, 81, pass. This represents a cent. per cent. pass for each of these convents, all the pupils presented being successful. We heartily congratulate the good Sisters on such excellent results.

THE Retreat of the Dominican nuns was carried out this year in the picturesque home of Seaview. It lasted for 10 days, and was conducted by Father Buckeridge, S.J., of Melbourne. The religious of the Order from Oamaru, Invercargill, Milton, Lawrence, and Queenstown, came to Dunedin to take part in the various exercises of the Retreat. Several changes have been made in the staffs of the various houses in the diocese, and all the nuns for the outlying convents leave this week to resume their scholastic labours. The

"FLAG" BRAND Pickles and Sauces

Have gained 28 FIRST AWARDS. This is sufficient proof of the quality; to be

sure to mark this Brand on your order to the Grocer

HAYWARD BROS., Manufacturers.

Retreat of the Sisters of Mercy began on Tuesday and ends on Thursday next, February 3. At its close four of the Sisters will leave to take charge of the new foundation at Wrey's Bush, some particulars of which were given in our last week's issue. An account of the opening of the convent will, in due course, be laid before our readers.

A meeting of the Programme Committee of the St. Patrick's Day Sports was held at the Christian Brothers' School on Friday evening, the 21st. A draft programme was drawn up to be submitted to the general committee at its next meeting. The draft provides for athletic events, an international tug-of-war, a hurling match, and various cycling events, which have now come to be indispensable to every up-to-date sports carnival. We are glad to know that the various committees are putting their shoulders to the wheel, and can confidently promise the patrons of both the sports and concerts a great variety of solid enjoyment.

Mr. COUGHLAN, a visitor from Westport, is at present staying in Dunedin. As far back as twenty golden years ago Mr. Coughlan was a member of St. Joseph's choir—being, in fact, one of its early members. On Sunday last he sang the solo parts of Farmer's Mass, Miss Blaney rendering some of the others.

HERE is an item of interest to those who are living in coastal and other districts where the sand is encroaching upon the arable land. A few years ago Mr. Baird, of Victoria, accompanied his old friend, the late Mr. J. L. Gillies, to the Heads, on which occasion it occurred to the former gentleman that the introduction of marram grass would have the effect of stopping the drift of the sand in the neighbourhood of the Kaik and the Heads. The idea was at once seized on by Mr. Gillies, and the Board, at his suggestion, ordered a shipment of several tons of the grass, which through the influence of Mr. Baird, was kindly supplied by the authorities at Port Fairy, Victoria. On the arrival of the grass the Board carefully planted it, under the direction of Mr. Stephens, the Board's inspector of works, and the experiment has proved entirely satisfactory. The original plantation is now very vigorous and has seeded abundantly, and one of the most pleasing parts of the Board's visit on Saturday was to notice that not only were the original plants much enlarged—but that an extra area of the sand was covered with the grass from self-sowing, the seed having spread from the old plants. There is, therefore, every prospect of the grass completely arresting the progress of the sand drift in the neighbourhood of the Heads within a reasonable time. We may state the experiments of planting marram grass have been completely successful at Port Fairy, Victoria. Mr. Baird is now on a visit to Dunedin, and the Harbour Board took advantage of his presence to bring him to the Heads to examine the marram grass, which is promising to be as beneficial in New Zealand it has already proved itself to be in Victoria.

THE people of Dunedin can afford to congratulate themselves on the evidence of increased prosperity shown by the Post Office Savings Bank returns for their postal district. The amount at credit of depositors on December 31, 1897, exceeded that of 1896 by £90,276. The amount of Savings Bank deposits showed an increase of £10,914. New accounts opened in 1897 numbered 1,178, as against 1,134 for 1896, and the amount at credit of depositors was £721,866, as against £661,590 for 1896, £611,000 for 1895, £522,634 for 1894, £508,913 for 1893, and £405,731 for 1890. Things are evidently looking bright for Dunedin.

NEW ZEALAND: GENERAL.

THE school-holiday season is now drawing near its close, and the following school openings are announced:—By announcement in our advertising columns it will be seen that St. Francis Xavier's Academy for young ladies, High St., Wellington, re-opens on Tuesday, February 1st. The high degree of success which this school during the past year has attained will be, we trust, the best earnest of useful and prosperous work in the future. Elsewhere, in our advertising columns, the re-opening of St. Patrick's College, Wellington, is announced to take place on Saturday, February 5. The importance of a punctual attendance is pointed out, as classes will be formed on the following Monday, and a fresh start will be made for another term of that successful tuition for which the St. Patrick's College has earned such a well-deserved reputation.

DURING the week we have received the following parcels of stamps for Father Kreymborg's mission:—Miss L. M. Intyre (Arrow) and G. O. (Greymouth).

THE oldest living European born in New Zealand is Mrs. Lethbridge, now residing at the Bay of Islands. Her age is eighty years.

THE vital statistics for December, so far as relates to the four principal cities in the Colony, with their suburbs, are as follow:—

	Population.	Births.	Deaths.	Proportion of Deaths to 1000 Inhabitants.
Auckland	43,628	104	53	1.21
Wellington	41,758	107	36	0.86
Christchurch	41,229	87	40	0.97
Dunedin	47,280	79	32	0.68

Of the total deaths (161), males contributed 74 and females 87. There were 36 deaths of children under five years of age, 28 of these being children who had not lived for a year, and there were 38 deaths of persons of 65 years and upwards.

THINGS are evidently going full-steam ahead in Wellington. During last year no fewer than 400 new buildings were erected at a cost of £250,000. One architect alone did work to the pretty tune of £34,000.

MINING is looking up in the Reefton district. The Consolidated Goldfields Company is just completing the erection of a new forty-head battery on the site of the old Globe mine at Crushington. In connection therewith a ten-mile water-race is being constructed. When the company's properties are in full swing fully 300 more men will find payable employment.

THINGS are looking bright for, at least, some people in South Canterbury. We note with pleasure that the potato crops throughout the district are on the whole looking remarkably well, and the late showers will, we hear, make a first-class yield a practical certainty. The wheat and oat crops have also benefited greatly by the recent rains, which, though somewhat late in coming, were very welcome.

THE heart of at least one farmer in the Marlborough district has been rejoiced by a phenomenal yield of ryegrass. The news comes from Tuamarina. On being threshed, no less than 86 bushels to the acre were returned from a paddock of four acres. This district has long been famed for the richness of its soil. It is plainly living up to its reputation.

THE crops throughout the Taieri district bid fair to be very heavy this season. We hear, on the authority of a well-known agriculturist of long experience, that the Taieri Plain will give a better account of itself this year than any other part of Otago or Southland.

WASTE Not, Want Not.—A new use has been found for our farmers' straw. During last winter several settlers in the Oamaru district have been feeding their sheep on wheat chaff, mixed with molasses. The result was so satisfactory that several farmers are now doing the same owing to the dryness of the present season. They are cutting up last year's wheat straw, and, after salting it, they mix a certain amount of molasses with it. The sheep get very fond of it, and thrive remarkably well on it. Farmers can now, instead of burning their stacks use them as winter feed for their stock.

THE buyers for various meat works in the North Island are having an exceedingly busy time up country, so many settlers who have had their grass wholly or partly burnt off being anxious to sell their sheep. Both of the Wellington works are in full swing, and have more stock offering than they can conveniently treat. One inevitable result of the situation is that the price of sheep has fallen.

Messrs A. Briscoe and Co., general ironmongers and iron merchants, Princes street, Dunedin, have just opened a miscellaneous assortment of hardware of all kinds and of the very best quality. They have also a first-class line of guns, rifles, etc., for the sporting season of 1898. Their famous brands of teas are also of the finest quality and flavour.—[ADVT.]

At the Colac (Victoria) cycling carnival, the Massey-Harris wheels were in great evidence. From a cable received in Dunedin on January 17th, we learn that in the Colac cup Forbes was first and Reynolds 2nd; in the five mile handicap, Reynolds first; in the three mile handicap Reynolds was second and Hurst third. These three riders all rode Massey-Harris bicycles, which goes to prove once more that they are equal, if not superior, to all other makers now in the market.—[ADVT.]

Messrs. Louis Gille and Co., Sydney, the well-known Catholic book-sellers, have just published "The Australian Catholic Hymn Book," with music, for the Children's Mass. This book is the most complete yet published. As the price of the book is very moderate, every Catholic parent should purchase a copy.—[ADVT.]

In our advertising columns will be found a notification from the Crown Lands Department re sale of Crown lands in the Akatore, Glenoamaru, Tarras, Upper Wakatipu, Woodland and Catlin's districts. For full particulars apply to the Crown Lands Office, Dunedin.—[ADVT.]

CLOSE YOUR EYES to Quality and the world is full of Cheap Things. Low Prices get Customer, but it is Quality that keeps them. This is proved by the Enormous Sale of **TIGER BLEND TEAS**. They are old in popularity, but ever young in memory. If you do not use them begin at once.

MARRIAGE.

"HAPPY is the bride [the sun shines on," and surely no marriage was graced by a finer day than last Thursday, when Mr Alfred John O'Malley, the highly popular clerk and surveyor to the Amuri County Council, was united in marriage to Miss Cissie Maher, the only daughter of Mr. D. Maher, the well-known builder of Sydenham. The wedding ceremony was conducted by the Very Rev. Father Cummings, V.G., at the Pro-Cathedral, and is well described as being an exceedingly pretty one. The bride was given away by her father. She wore a cream manu dress trimmed with satin and pearls, with the orthodox veil and orange blossoms, and a gold bangle, the gift of the bridegroom, and had as bridesmaids her cousins, Miss M. O'Reilly and Miss M. Maher. The bridegroom had as best man his brother, Mr. Fred O'Malley. After the marriage ceremony Nuptial Mass was said, during which selections on the organ were played by Miss Funston, who also played the wedding march as the party were leaving the church. After the service, the wedding party adjourned to the house of the bride's father, where the wedding breakfast was partaken of by a large circle of friends. The cake was cut by the Rev. Father Cummings. Several toasts, including those of the "bride and bridegroom," "the ladies," "the clergy," "Mr. and Mrs. Maher," and "the Press," were duly honoured, after which the happy couple left for the West Coast and Wellington for their honeymoon. Before his departure for Christchurch Mr. O'Malley was presented with a purse of sovereigns by the residents of the Amuri district, and a magnificent marble clock from the Amuri County Council. The presents to the bride were numerous and costly, and made a very handsome display.

OBITUARY.

ONE of the few remaining "old West Coasters" of the days of 1865 passed away suddenly on the Feast of the Holy Name in the person of Mr. Thomas Ryan, late of Rangiwahia and Cheltenham. The deceased was about 60 years of age, and, at the inquest on his remains the medical evidence showed that his death was due to heart failure. The deceased was held in high esteem by people of all classes and creeds among whom he had lived. The attendance at the funeral was considerable, and a telegram of sympathy was received from the Right Hon. R. J. Seddon. Father Patterson accompanied the funeral procession and officiated at the Catholic Church, Feilding, and also at the grave.—R.I.P.

With much regret we record the death of Miss Ellen Deborah Courtney, on December 29, at the early age of 33 years. Miss Courtney, who was the eldest daughter of Mr. James John Courtney, East Belt, Christchurch, met about fourteen years ago with a serious accident which rendered her a confirmed invalid. But notwithstanding this misfortune she took active part in proclial matters the poor in her neighbourhood being the especial objects of her attention. The Rev. Father Rafferty said a *Requiem* Mass for the repose of her soul at the Pro-Cathedral, and the Vicar-General officiated at the grave where he delivered an address on the many good qualities of the deceased lady.—R.I.P.

Mr. John McBride, an old and respected resident of Frankton, Wakatipu, died there recently after a long and painful illness. Deceased was a brother of Messrs. Daniel, Francis and Alexander McBride, and was familiarly known by his many friends as "Uncle John." Deep sympathy is felt for his relations throughout the district.—R.I.P.

Mr Carroll Nash, of Upper Thames district, has passed away to his long home. He was a man of considerable means, and in his will he has not forgotten the needs of his parish, and of the diocese in general.—R.I.P.

Major Patrick Monaghan of Karori, an old soldier, an old settler, and a splendid type of colonist, passed away on January 16th, aged seventy-eight years. He came to Auckland in 1815 as a private of the 65th Regiment, and had some hair-breadth escapes in the Wangamui and Parihaka native troubles of 1815, 1847, and 1849. Later on in life he obtained the rank of major in the New Zealand volunteers. He settled down in 1819 to farming pursuits, and took an active interest in public affairs, being elected by his fellow-settlers to many important positions. He was interred on January 18th, with full military honours. The Very Rev. Father Dawson officiated at the grave.—R.I.P.

If once a man indulges himself in murder, in paradoxical mood wrote De Quincey, he comes to think little of robbing, and from robbing he comes next to drinking and Sabbath-breaking, and from that to incontinuity and procreantation. Once begin upon this downward path, you never know where you are to stop. Many a man has dated his ruin from some murder or other that, perhaps, he thought little of at the time.

We have received from Messrs S. Kilpatrick and Co., Nelson their handy calendar for 1898. Like everything else turned out by the firm, their calendar is up to date in every way.—[ADVT.]

Mr. Jas. Nesbitt, whole-sale painter and paperhanger, George street, has now on hand a large stock of new wall papers of very latest and choice designs and at very moderate prices. He is also prepared to give estimates for all classes of painting, etc.—ADVT.

Owing to intending extensive alterations in their warehouse, Messrs A and T. Inglis are compelled to hold an extensive sale of their large stock of general drapery, etc. All the goods will be for absolute sale and at tremendous reductions. The sale commences on Thursday, January 27th, and will last for 11 days.—ADVT.

The Ocean Beach Freezing Co. (Southland) paid last week the top price of the season for a line of 2500 lambs, the price being 9s. The lambs were of the Cheviot-Leicester cross and are considered one of the best breeds for freezing.

Correspondence.

[We are not responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.]

THE '98 CENTENARY.

TO THE EDITOR N.Z. TABLET.

SIR,—The letter of Mr. P. J. O'Regan in your issue of the 14th instant shows clearly that he regards Nationalism as "a trifle light as air" compared with "Nationalisation," the gospel which he never tires of advertising.

The fact that his countrymen, with rare exceptions, hold the opposite opinion, is doubtless to him but a trivial matter also. Be that as it may, Mr. O'Regan's peculiar views on the subject of which he writes are his own. He has a perfect right to hold and express them, but what is there in Mr. P. J. O'Regan to justify the "Daniel come to judgment" air he adopts in doing so?

It is not surprising that the bugbears conjured up by P. J. O'Regan and the dizzy attitude of his viewpoint have "flustered" him, and rendered a common-sense appreciation, on his part, of the proposed Ninety-eight celebrations impossible.

Mr. P. J. O'Regan knows, or should know, that so far as the said celebration is concerned, the Irishmen of New Zealand are as the fly on the wheel. The matter lies not with us. Our fellow-countrymen in Ireland have decided that the centenary of Ninety-eight be celebrated, and they are the best judges whether it is fitting so to do. To us is given to decide whether it is meet to assist in the celebration—whether we shall join our countrymen in other lands in honouring the memory of the men who "rose in dark and evil days," fought, and died nobly, in what they deemed our country's cause; or whether we shall hold coldly aloof, because forsooth we are colonists of New Zealand. Men like Mr. P. J. O'Regan think it expedient for us to do so. Expedient, forsooth! Expediency has ever been low down in the scale of human motives. Let us rather to ourselves and our traditions be true:

"When it follows as the night the day,
We cannot then be false to any man."

Mr. O'Regan also knows that the forthcoming celebration is in no sense a glorification of the insurrection of Ninety-eight—that event we regard as a deplorable blunder—but it is a tribute to the patriotism of those who died resisting intolerable tyranny during that red drama, and to the manner in which they played their parts. These are the attributes that give Ninety-eight a claim to reverence, and to Irishmen the *raison d'être* of its celebration; and whether it be the peasant dying for freedom on a Wexford hillside, or the legislator in the prosaic but safe field of a colonial Parliament, Mr. P. J. O'Regan may rest assured that his countrymen will honour fittingly their respective memories.—I am, etc.,

T. Mc.
Dunedin, January 18th, 1898.

BOOK NOTICES.

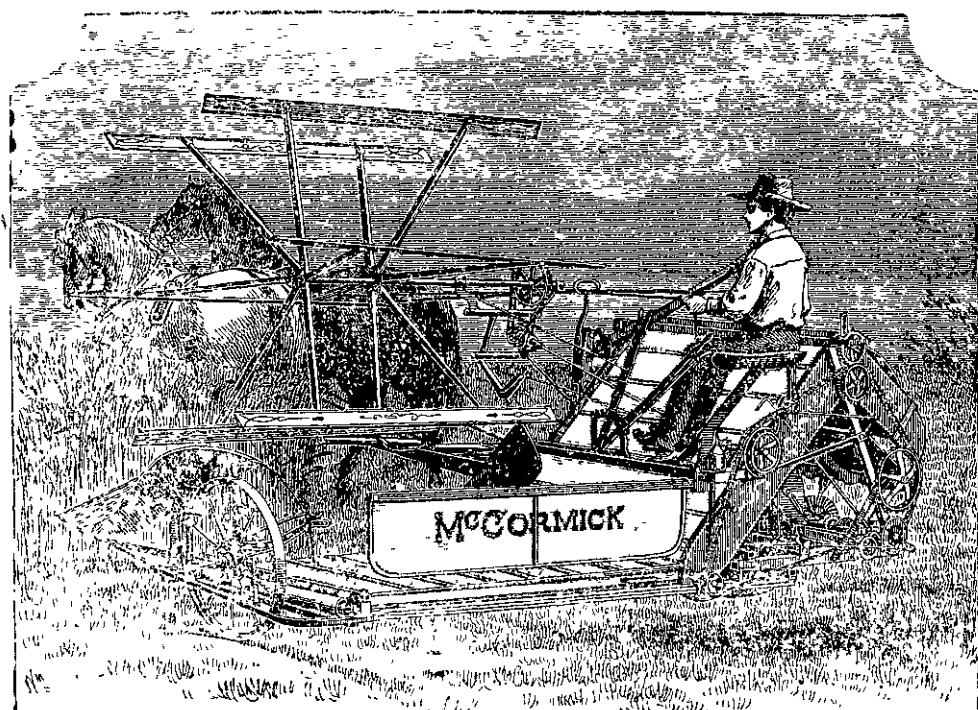
The Statutes of New Zealand. This book, which is handsomely printed, gives the various Acts passed by the New Zealand Parliament during the year 1897. We find that 30 public Acts were passed during the two sessions, 14 local and personal Acts, and one private Act (the Hawera Gasworks and Electric Lighting).

Our Alma Mater. This has grown into a handsome and interesting publication, containing a page for every week of the year, without counting the full-page illustrations, of which there are several. It is brought out by the boys of St. Ignatius' College, Riverview, Sydney, and abounds in illustrations, and in topics which will be found interesting not merely to the present students and the "old boys," but likewise to the general reader. The editors and the printer have alike done their work well, and *Our Alma Mater* reflects credit on everyone concerned in its publication. Such publications as issue from the Wellington and Riverview Catholic colleges should go far to cultivate among their students that literary taste and that habit of reading which should count among the best safeguards of young men in their after careers in the world.

The Wonder-Worker of Padua. By CHARLES WARREN STODDARD. *Arce Maria* Press.

We have learned to expect much of a book when we find on its title-page the imprint of the *Arce Maria*. Also do we look for every grace and charm of style when we find that our old favourite, Mr. Charles Warren Stoddard, is the author. The book before us is creditable alike to author and publisher. It is a reprint of a series of charming papers which appeared in the pages of that brightest and most captivating of all our exchanges, the *Arce Maria*, and its publication in more permanent form is sure to effect much good among its readers. We have seldom read such a happy presentment of the life of a saint in such brief compass, for the book runs into only 191 pages. And yet Mr. Warren Stoddard has contrived, within that space, to delineate, with his usual charm of style, practically every varied phase of the many-sided life of his sainted hero. He shows us St. Anthony in his sorrows, in his joys, and glory; Anthony as the novice, the Augustinian canon, the preacher, the lecturer, the mystic, the wonder-worker, the upholder of Catholic truth against heretical error. We have nothing but words of praise for the efforts made by the *Arce Maria* to supply Catholics with pure and wholesome and elevating literature, and cordially commend this unpretentious but interesting little volume to every Catholic household. Mr. Warren won his literary spurs in his fascinating but terrible book on the lepers of Molokai. We hope to see further issue from his prolific pen.

A FEW REASONS
WHY THE
McCORMICK
BINDER
IS THE
BEST IN THE WORLD.



IT HAS STOOD the test of years, and is used in ALMOST EVERY COUNTRY of the World, and has gained A REPUTATION as BROAD as its use is extensive.

IT IS the Machine generally adopted by all the Leading Farmers of this and other countries.

IT IS the CHEAPEST BINDER IN THE MARKET when Durability, Workmanship, and Material are considered.

IT IS made by skilled workmen, and only the best material is used in its construction, notwithstanding the sharp competition of late years.

IT HAS been awarded Highest Honours at all World's Fairs where exhibited.

IT IS THE

' STANDARD BINDER OF THE WORLD.'

IT EMBODIES SIMPLICITY, STRENGTH, POWER, AND DURABILITY TO A GREATER DEGREE THAN ANY MACHINE MADE.

If there is one Feature of the Machine of Steel which above all others has commended it to the Farmers it is THE McCORMICK SIMPLE KNOTTER.

MORROW, BASSETT & CO.,

CHRISTCHURCH, DUNEDIN, AND ASHBURTON

GLADSTONE HOTEL,
MACLAGGAN STREET, DUNEDIN.

MRS. LAVERTY (late of Commercial Hotel, Hyde), Proprietress.


MRS. LAVERTY desires to inform her many friends and the public that she has taken the above Spacious and Centrally Situated Hotel. The building has undergone a thorough renovating from cellar to roof, and all the Bedrooms, Sitting-rooms, and Parlours are now in first-class order. The Dining and Luncheon Rooms will be under Mrs. Laverty's special supervision, which is a guarantee that everything provided will be first-class. Best brands of liquors supplied. Hot, cold and shower baths. First-class billiard table. Travellers called in time for early trains.

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SANITARY PIPE
AND STONWARE FACTORY,
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The undersigned, having purchased the above Works, is prepared to sell at Lowest Current Rates.

J. H. LAMBERT,
NORTH-EAST VALLEY AND KENSINGTON.



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J. DAWSON
ELECTRICAL ENGINEER,
LAMBTON QUAY,
WELLINGTON.

Dynamos, Engines, and all kinds of Electric Light Accessories supplied.

Estimates given for Electric work in town and country.



THE GREATEST
WONDER OF MODERN TIMES!

HOLLOWAY'S PILLS

LONG experience has proved these famous remedies to be most effectual in curing either the dangerous and dangerous or the lighter complaints which are more particularly incidental to the life of a man, or to those living in the bush.

Occasional doses of these Pills will guard the system against those evils which so often beset the human race, viz.—coughs, colds, and all disorders of the liver and stomach—the frequent forerunners of fever, dysentery, diarrhoea, and cholera.

HOLLOWAY'S OINTMENT

Is the most effectual remedy for old sores, wounds, ulcers, rheumatism, and all skin diseases; in fact, when used according to the printed directions, it never fails to cure alike, deep and superficial ailments.

These Medicines may be obtained from all respectable Druggists and Store-keepers throughout the civilized world, with directions for use in almost every language.

They are prepared only by the Proprietor, Thomas Holloway, 533, Oxford Street, London.

Beware of counterfeits that may emanate from the United States

TERMINUS HOTEL,
DUNEDIN.

This Hotel is situated just opposite the Triangle Gardens, Railway Station, and Wharvos. It is one of the most beautiful positions in Dunedin. There is no pleasanter place at which to live. The Hotel is quite new, and the rooms are large and lofty. The Baths and Lavatories are all that could be desired.

TARIFF MODERATE.

THOS CORNISH ... Proprietor.



JOHN HISLOP

Watchmaker, Jeweller, and Optician,
74 PRINCES STREET.

Note Address—74 Princes street, Dunedin.

J. O'DEA,
ARCHITECT,

CORNER WILLIS & HARBOUR STS.,
WELLINGTON.

Complete designs furnished for Catholic Churches, Schools, Convents, and other institutions.

HANMER AND GRAVES.

Auctioneers, Valuators, Grain and Wool Brokers, Stock and Station Agents and General Merchants,
ASHBURTON.

Agents for

The New Zealand Insurance Company, Sutton and Sons' Seeds (Reading), Robson's Anthelmintic for Lung-worm in Sheep. Little's Dip. Hornsby and Son's Reapers and Binders. Saxelby's Stilton Cheeses. Shaw, Savill and Albion Company, Limited.

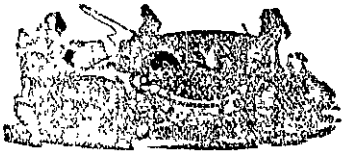
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Grain stored at moderate charges or bought at highest market values.

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DRAPERS, CLOTHIERS, MILLINERS
AND DRESSMAKERS,
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All Departments are now replete with the Newest and Most Fashionable for the present season.



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ASHBURTON.

Every requisite supplied. A well-selected stock of headstones on hand. Telephone No. 69.

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PRINCES STREET, DUNEDIN.

JAMES LISTON ... Proprietor
(Late of the Douglas Hotel).

Having purchased the lease and goodwill of the above popular and centrally-situated Hotel, J. L. hopes, by strict attention to the comfort of his boarders, travellers, and the public in general, and having made several necessary alterations, to meet with a fair share of the public patronage.

Suites of rooms for families. Terms strictly moderate.

A Special feature: Is LUNCHEON from 12 to 2 o'clock.

Hot, Cold, and Shower Baths.

The very best of Wines, Ales, and Spirits kept in stock.

Two of Alcock's best Billiard Tables. A Night Porter in attendance.

JAMES LISTON.

J. CORBETT AND CO.,

PLUMBERS, GASFITTERS, COPPER SMITHS AND BRASSFINISHERS.

Sanitary Work a Specialty, only first class workmen employed.

OCTAGON, DUNEDIN.

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A single article Plated with Silver, Gold, or Nickel at Wholesale Price, and made equal to new.

Piano Brackets, Fenders and Irons, Chandeliers, etc., Relacquered or Rebronzed



YOU
HAVE
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Get Rid of It!

It is a sign that you have Kidney Disease; Kidney Disease, if not checked, leads to Bright's Disease,

and Bright's Disease Kills!

Because the Kidneys break down and pass away with the urine.

Head the Danger Signal

and begin to cure your Kidneys to-day by taking

Warranted Safe Cure

Large bottle or new style smaller one at your druggist's.

The Storyteller.

THAT WHICH MONEY CANNOT BUY.

MR. WAKEFIELD was the proprietor of the fine farm of Stoke in the county of Somerset, and passed for the richest yeoman in the neighbourhood. He began life as a small farmer, and everything succeeded with him; the wind which blighted the harvest of his neighbours seemed to pass harmless over his fields; the distemper which decimated their flocks spared his; whenever he wanted to buy, the prices were sure to lower in the market; and if he wished to sell they generally rose as opportunely. In fact, he was one of those spoiled children of fortune whose numbers in the lottery of life always draw a prize, and who can afford to begin an undertaking, just as we plant a slip of osier, leaving the rain and sunshine the care of bringing it to maturity.

Deceived by this continued career of good fortune, he had ended by glorying in his success, as if it had been but the due reward of his own industry.

He himself attributed this easy conquest over every difficulty to the skilful employment of his money, to which he assigned all the wonderful powers with which the magic wand of fairies was in former days supposed to be endowed.

In other respects Mr. Wakefield, jovial, friendly, and kind-hearted, had not contracted any of those vices which are too often the attendants of prosperity, but his self-importance made him now and then appear a little ridiculous. One morning, as he was busily employed superintending the masons and carpenters who were employed in making some additions to his house, he was saluted, in passing, by one of his neighbours, an old retired schoolmaster, who had laboured hard in his vocation for forty years.

Old Allan, as this personage was called, lived in a small house of rather mean appearance, in which he had dwelt for many years, happy in the respect which was felt for him by all his neighbours on account of his excellent character, and thankful for the small share of this world's goods which had fallen to his lot.

The proprietor of Stoke warmly returned his salute, and exclaimed gaily:

"Well, neighbour, I suppose you are come to see my improvements. Come in, friend, come in; one is always in want of a little advice from such a philosopher as you."

This epithet of philosopher had been bestowed upon the old schoolmaster in the village partly from esteem and partly in badinage; it was, at the same time, a harmless criticism on his taste for wise saws and modern instances, and a homage which was rendered by all to his cheerful temper and the undisturbed serenity of his mind.

The old Man smiled good humouredly at the summons thus addressed to him by the wealthy farmer, and, pushing open the gate, entered his enclosure.

Mr. Wakefield then showed him, with the satisfied air of a proprietor, the new additions he was making to his already extensive buildings, by means of which he would now have an excellent lock-up coach-house, several spare rooms for his friends, and a small conservatory wherein his wife might indulge her taste for exotics.

"All this will cost a great deal," said Mr. Wakefield; "but one must never regret the expenditure of money when it really adds to one's comfort."

"You are in the right," replied Allan; "a man who has nothing to annoy him is worth two discontented men any day."

"Without reckoning, besides, that we shall gain in health by the change! And this reminds me, friend Allan—do you know that when I was passing your house yesterday an idea struck me all of a sudden?"

"That must happen to you more than once in a day, neighbour. I should suppose," replied the schoolmaster with a smile.

"No, but without joking," returned Wakefield, "I have found out the reason of your suffering as you do from rheumatism; it is the fault of that row of poplars which masks your windows and shuts out the air and light."

"Yes," replied the old man. "At first they formed only a little leafy wall, which was refreshing to the sight, attracted the birds as a nesting place, and allowed a free course to the sun's cheering rays. I used mentally to bless my neighbours the Ringtons, who had planted such a border to their garden; but since then the wall has risen in height, and that which at first lent a charm and gaiety to the scene, is now transformed into a source of gloom and of discomfort. Thus it is too often in life—that which seems graceful and amusing in the child is hateful and repelling in the man; but now the thing cannot be helped, so it is as well to make the best of it."

"Cannot be helped!" exclaimed the farmer, "and why not? Why should not the poplars be cut down?"

"To have a right to do that one must buy them first," objected the schoolmaster.

"Well, then, I will buy them," said Mr. Wakefield, "I shall not regret the price if your rheumatism will only leave you in peace."

Old Allan expressed the warmest gratitude to the proprietor of Stoke; but the latter laughingly exclaimed:

"Do not thank me; I only do it to prove that money is good for something."

"Say for a great deal," replied Allan.

"I should say for everything!" rejoined Wakefield.

The schoolmaster shook his head.

"Oh, I know your opinions, old philosopher," continued the farmer, "you look upon money with a sort of prejudice."

"No," replied Allan, "I look upon it as an instrument, which may be powerful in our hands either for good or evil, according to the spirit in which we use it; but there are things in the world which do not bow before its rule."

"And I say that it is the king of the world!" interrupted Wakefield. "I say that it is the source of all our enjoyment in life, and that to escape from its influence, one must become an angel in Paradise."

At this moment a letter was placed in his hand; he opened it, and had no sooner glanced his eye over it, than he uttered an exclamation of joy, and exclaimed triumphantly:

"Here is another proof of what I have been saying. Do you know what this letter contains?"

"Good news, I hope," replied Allan.

"My nomination as justice of the peace."

The schoolmaster offered his sincere congratulations to the proprietor of Stoke on his attainment of this little distinction, which he knew to have been long the object of his ambition, and which he felt that his friend justly merited.

"Merited!" repeated Wakefield. "And can you venture to say in what respect I have merited it, my good neighbour? Is it because I am the cleverest man in the neighbourhood? My next neighbour, Mr. Hodson, knows ten times more of the law than I do. Is it because I have rendered greater services to my neighbourhood than anybody else? Here is old Lawrence, who by his courage and presence of mind saved ever so many people from being burnt in the late conflagration, and who last year found out a means of curing the rot amongst the sheep. Is it because there is no other honest, right-minded man in the parish of Moreton? Are you not here, Father Allan, you who are Old Honesty himself, dressed up in a coat and pantaloons? It must, therefore, be quite clear to you that I have received the appointment simply as the most influential man in the parish, and that I am the most influential because I am the richest. Money, my friend, always money! A few minutes ago I was proving to you that it could purchase health and comfortable ease, now you see how it procures me an honourable appointment which I wished for; to-morrow it will satisfy some new desire. You see, therefore, that the world is a great shop whence everything is to be had for ready money."

"Has Peter sold you his dog?" inquired the schoolmaster, waiting a decided answer.

Wakefield looked at him with a smile, and then slapping him on the shoulder, exclaimed:

"Ah! you want to prove that my theory was at fault! You defied me to persuade Peter to give me up Growler for his weight in gold."

"His weight in gold!" said the schoolmaster; "that would be a great deal; but I know that the shepherd loves and values his dog as if he were his bosom friend."

"Well, this bosom friend is now in my possession!" triumphantly rejoined the farmer.

Allan started with surprise.

"Yes," replied Wakefield, "he has been mine since yesterday. Peter had signed a security for his sister; yesterday the bill fell due, and the money was not forthcoming; he came himself to offer to sell me Growler."

"And the dog is here?"

"Yes, chained up in the inner yard, where he has been supplied with everything which constitutes the happiness of a dog—namely, a well-filled trencher, and a kennel comfortably lined with straw; but come and see for yourself."

The farmer led the way into the yard, followed by the schoolmaster. They had no sooner entered it, however, than they descried the trencher upset, the chain broken, and the kennel empty. The dog had taken advantage of the night to break his chain and escape over the wall.

"Is it possible," exclaimed the astonished farmer, "he has actually made his escape?"

"To return to his old master," observed Allan.

"And what on earth has he gone in quest of down there? What can he have wanted?"

"That which you could not purchase with him," gently replied the old schoolmaster; "even the sight of the man who nourished and cherished him until now! Your kennel was warmer, your provision more abundant, and your chain lighter than that of Peter; but in Peter were centred all his recollections, as well as his habits of attachment; and for the best, as well as for the man, there are some things which can neither be bought nor sold. Money can purchase indeed almost every earthly good, except the one which lends its value to them all—affection. You are a wise man, my friend; do not forget the lesson which chance has just taught you; remember, henceforth, that though one may indeed purchase the dog for money, one can only acquire his faithful attachment by tenderness and care."

"Yes," replied the farmer thoughtfully, "I now see that there is something which money cannot buy."—*The Catholic Fireside.*

It is thou, O Almighty Paraclete, who hast been and art the strength, the vigour, and endurance of the martyr. Thou art the stay of the confessor; thou art the fire by which the preacher wins souls. By thee we wake up from the dark of sin, to exchange the idolatry of the creature for the love of the Creator.—Newman.

Every boy who loves his Walter Scott, knows that his beautiful home was named Abbotsford. Sir Walter devised the name from his belief that the abbots of Melrose Abbey passed over the fords of the Tweed River, on the south bank of which Abbotsford stands.

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The Catholic World.

CANADA.—The Manitoba Schools.—Those of our readers who perused Father Gillan's able discourse in our last week's issue are aware that the Manitoba schools trouble is still a very live question in the politics of the Dominion. It has recently been the source of much discussion, owing to the publication in English and Canadian newspapers of what purported to be the substance of the Pope's decision in the controversy. Undoubtedly the presence in Rome of Mgr. Bruchesi, Archbishop of Montreal, had some influence in reviving the question. It was reported a few weeks ago that the Holy Father had a document on the matter ready, and that he deferred publishing it only until he should have seen in person the Canadian dignitary, who was then on his way to Rome. It will easily be understood that no small sensation was afterwards caused by the announcement that previous to its publication in Rome the foreign Press had already cognisance of an alleged encyclical which the Holy Father proposed issuing. "I have had the favour," writes the Rome correspondent of the *Liverpool Catholic Times*, "of conversing more than once within these last days with the Archbishop of Montreal, and have learned from him that the reports on this matter were not founded on precise fact. The Archbishop's audience with the Holy Father was of the most satisfactory kind, but it brought him absolutely no information regarding the promulgation of a Pontifical decision. Furthermore, he was informed from the Vatican that, in spite of all journalistic assertion to the contrary, no Papal document had been given to the world. I may add that from other well-informed sources I was assured no such document has even been prepared. More than this it would be mere conjecture for the moment to assert."

The '98 Centenary.—The celebration of the centennial of the Insurrection of 1798 seems to have fairly "caught on" among our cousins in Canada. A meeting of delegates from the Irish societies of Montreal was held in Hibernia Hall recently, and organised to celebrate, in a patriotic spirit, the coming centenary of 1798, and to commemorate in a becoming manner the heroic efforts of the martyrs to the cause of Irish liberty of that sad but glorious period. Representatives were present from thirteen societies. A large and influential committee was elected, and the celebrations, no doubt, will be carried out in a manner befitting this great occasion.

ENGLAND.—The Clergy and Divorce.—The divorce question has long since assumed an acute stage in the Establishment. Our readers will recollect that several Anglican clergymen objected to marrying divorced persons, while others of them entered a solemn protest in public against the performance of the ceremony by brother clergy. Others are now coming forward to fight against the law of divorce. The vicar of St. Stephen's, South Kensington, has publicly proclaimed that he does not intend to assist at the marriage of any divorced persons, whether they be innocent or guilty. And a similar attitude was taken up some days previously by Canon Pennefather, vicar of Kensington. The gentlemen who act thus have our entire sympathy, and we should like much to be able to hope that they will succeed in leavening the Church of England with their opinions. But let us frankly say we see no good ground for entertaining such a hope. You cannot bring order out of chaos, and chaos is but another name for the Established Church. One vicar holds that the law of divorce is an intolerable evil; the neighbouring vicar is ready to marry as many divorced persons as will present themselves. The licence for the marriage by which Canon Pennefather has been so greatly scandalised bore the name, and was issued with the authority of, the Anglican Primate.

It's an Ill Wind, etc.—Some remarkable stories are being told in London of the effects of the great fire in Cripplegate on the insurance business. The manager of one of the largest offices on Wednesday declared that never within so short a space of time had so much business been transacted. Even on Saturday morning he said, there were crowds of applicants for policies, amongst them being persons who had never before insured. The great fire, in fact, so far from being an unmitigated disaster for the insurance offices, is proving for the bulk of them which were not affected, or only slightly affected, a boon of no small magnitude.

Barney and the Street Singer.—To the memoir of the late Barney Barnato, which Mr. Harry Raymond has written, and which has just been published by Messrs. Isbister, Mr. Louis Cohen contributes some reminiscences and anecdotes of his millionaire friend. Barney was ever mindful of the blind, and was particularly distressed at the exhibition of children in the streets. Mr. Cohen says—"One winter evening early in January, 1896, the streets were like glass, there was some fog, and he decided to walk with me home from the city instead of riding. In Oxford street we saw a woman carrying a child of perhaps two years old, and singing. He stepped up to her saying, 'There is a milk shop over there. Here is sixpence; get some hot milk for the child.' Barney and Mr. Cohen stood up in a doorway a little distance off to see that this was done. Then the usual thing in such cases happened. The woman, thinking her benefactor had gone, walked into a bar, had some gin, and gave the child nothing. "Barnato walked straight across and stood close up by the door-post, waiting for her to come out. When she appeared he caught hold of her arm, almost voiceless with anger—"You, you, you scoundrel! I gave you money to get hot milk—hot milk, d'ye understand!—for the child. You deserve to be given in charge. Here, come here!" Snatching the child away from her, he walked into the milk-shop, set it upon the counter, and fed the shivering little mite with hot milk and buns with his own hand. Then he gave it back to the woman with a further donation—"Now you go straight away home." This little incident—and by no means the only one of its kind—is altogether creditable to the late Barney.

FRANCE.—Catholic v. Godless Schools.—Things are apparently not looking gay for the godless schools of the French Republic. Despite the disadvantages under which they are labouring, the Catholic schools are making their influence more and more felt, and the good fight they make is going on as gaily as it is in England, Australia, and New Zealand. The report on Secondary Education presented to the Chamber quite recently points to a diminution during the past year of 675 in the number of scholars attending the State schools, and to an increase of 4,327 in the attendance at private or religious schools. Last year a sum of 20,225,596 francs was spent over 85,514 scholars, and yet it is now proposed to increase that sum by 775,250 francs. The Abbé Gayraud drove home the moral of this to the assembled Deputies. There seemed to be amazement at the shrinking attendance at the State-aided schools. The shrinkage would have been still greater were it not for unmistakable hostility of the State towards the religious schools, which were educating 96,000 scholars without a penny from the public purse. This hostility was vehemently disclaimed by the Left. The Abbé retorted smartly by begging that the two sets of schools might change places; Deputies would then soon see what amount of freedom was allowed to the *écoles libres*. He followed up his advantage by blandly proposing that these schools should be allowed their fair share of the education grant. The reply to this, shouted by the Left, was that the Republic would perish within a week. The Left, says the *London Tablet*, evidently persists in the wrong-headed notion that the Republic is nothing if not anti-religious.

Honours for Nuns.—The French Government, which has been banishing the nuns from hospitals and schools, has sufficient sanity left to decorate them for their heroic devotion to the sick in times of war and pestilence. A new list of honours has been recently published, and includes the names of four nuns whose official titles to distinction are also set forth. Sœur Alphonse, of the Order of St. Charles of Nancy, has served nine years in the military hospital at Toul, where she has distinguished herself by her devotedness during several epidemics of typhoid fever. Sœur Félix, of the same Order, gains her distinction for work at Verdun. Still another member of the same congregation, Sœur Marie-Augustine, has thirty-two years of devoted work behind her at Oran, Montélimar, and Vienne. The last of the four is Sœur Clémentine, of the Daughters of Charity, whose labours seem to have been confined to the military hospital at Marseilles.

A Centenarian Nun.—One of the Sisters of the Ursuline Convent at Boulogne will, towards the end of this year, attain her hundredth birthday. It is eighty years since she took the vows, and since then she has not left the convent. Some *TABLET* readers may recollect the story told of the Trappists whose vigorous rule one of the Popes wished to see relaxed to the extent of permitting the Fathers consumption of flesh meat. The holy men, wishing to preserve their ancient discipline intact, sent to the Pope a deputation of six of the Fathers, the youngest of whom had attained the patriarchal age of eighty-four years. Abstinence, after all, does not kill, and even medical men who do not recognise the spiritual side of the Catholic Church, admire the wisdom of her days and periods of fast and abstinence as an important aid to health and length of days.

A Panic Averted.—A serious panic was only averted at the charity theatrical performance in the Geographical Society's hall in the Boulevard St. Germain, Paris, recently, by the presence of mind of a priest, the Abbé Viallet. One of the performers, when rushing on the stage, knocked over a small lamp, which immediately flared up. Several of the audience, mostly ladies, sitting in the front seats, jumped up in great alarm, and some one shouted, "Run for your lives!" The whole audience thereupon rose to their feet and an ugly rush for the doors was beginning when the Abbé appeared on the stage, threw off his cassock and wrapped it round the blazing lamp, quickly smothering the flames. At the same time he cried, in stentorian tones, that there was no danger. Luckily he acted just in time, and the frightened spectators were induced to return.

HOLLAND.—Monument to Thomas a Kempis.—There was scarcely any need of a monument to the holy author of *The Imitation of Christ*. His book is a monument more lasting than any memorial in stone or bronze, and, next to the Sacred Scriptures, is perhaps the book which the world could least afford to lose. Our New Zealand readers will, however, be interested to learn that Holland has done itself honour in erecting at Zwolle, by means of a national subscription, a monument to the immortal monk. Dr. Schreppmann delivered a literary address and the Archbishop of Utrecht, as Metropolitan, officiated at the religious ceremonies, Mr. de Stuers, director of the Fine Arts, being present as a representative of the Government. In the name of the Queen-Regent Mr. de Stuers conferred the Order of Orange-Nassau on the parish priest of the Church of St. Michael, where it had been decided to raise the monument, which is in Caen stone and black marble, and to the cost of which the Pope, the Queen of Saxony and other eminent personages, as well as the Queen-Regent, have contributed. This is an age in which men delight to honour the great, and surely if Thomas à Kempis was the author of *The Imitation*, there never was a writer who better deserved a monument. The spirit it breathes is in the fullest sense apostolic, and after the inspired writings probably no other book has created so many saints.

PERSIA.—The Catholic Mission.—The Nestorian Church is the oldest sect still surviving. The Anglican and the American Presbyterian Missions have in late years spent enormous sums of money, and have used strenuous efforts to hinder these people from accepting the Catholic faith. The Americans, having laboured among the Nestorians for over sixty-five years without a satisfactory result, have now closed their magnificent college, their seminary for girls, their high schools, their hospital, and printing office. The majority of their native pastors and teachers are now no longer employed for want of funds; for the American Board cannot by

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its constitution continue to help any mission beyond a period of fifty years. As to the Anglican mission, notwithstanding its schools and publications, it is after all proving a failure. The first object of this mission is to educate the Nestorians, and thus to restore the fallen Church to its former self. But as the Anglicans in Urmi teach many Catholic doctrines, with regard, for example, to the Council of Ephesus and the title of the Blessed Virgin Mary, *i.e.*, the "Mother of God," they are not now trusted. As a consequence, Nestorians prefer to join with Rome rather than have intercommunion with Canterbury. Unfortunately the Catholic mission is too poor to supply the means to meet their educational and temporal wants; thus it is impossible, under present circumstances, to do much towards converting them. There are only about thirty village schools for 130 villages belonging to the Catholic mission. Besides this, there are now in Urmi over 15,000 Christian refugees from Kurdistan in a heartrending condition, without food, clothes, or shelter, on the verge of starvation. What is more, the Kurds often attack Christian villages in Ermi and Salmas, committing barbarous atrocities. Help must be looked for somewhere. It is to be feared that, unless immediate assistance is found to strengthen Mgr. Lesnè, the Apostolic Delegate, Nestorians may be induced to embrace the Russian orthodox faith. We understand from the *Tablet* that Father Benjamin, Archpriest of Urmi, has recently been in England soliciting subscriptions on behalf of his suffering flock.

ITALY.—The English and American Methodists have been long carrying on an active propaganda in Rome for the purpose of getting a hold upon the youth of that city, and thus undoing the curse of barrenness that has hitherto fallen upon their work in Italy. The nature of their efforts may be gauged from the counter-move which has been inaugurated against it, with successful results, by Father ne Mandato, S.J. Through his instrumentality, and that of Mr. W. O. Christmas, a Catholic committee has been formed and established, and with the aid of the Cardinal Vicar and the Vice-Gerent of Rome. The beginning of this useful work was privately announced as follows:—"To prevent Catholic young men frequenting, with serious danger to their faith, the free Protestant night schools in Rome for teaching foreign languages, it is proposed to open a free Catholic night school on the same lines, and all Catholics are earnestly begged to come forward generously with offerings to enable the committee to open this school at once. This Protestant propaganda having been started by English and Americans, it is incumbent on the Catholics of these nationalities to do their utmost to counteract this evil work." Meantime, a new foundation has been added to the number of English convents in Rome by the opening of an institute of Les Dames Anglaises at 87, Via Nazionale. These ladies give gratuitous lessons in English, French, and German, so that the girls and young women of Rome may enjoy the advantages produced for the young men and boys by the committed mentioned above. The religious have also opened an elementary Italian school, and schools of foreign languages, pianoforte, and singing.

Progress and Poverty.—Readers of our last week's issue will recollect the figures which we gave as to the heavy incidence of taxation on the Italian population. The steadily increasing burden is already threatening with extinction the far-famed marble industry of Carrara. The principal owners of the quarries recently held a meeting in which a resolution was adopted in favour of closing all the works in connection with them, in consequence of the enormous increase in the tax on personal property, unless measures can be adopted for diminishing the exactions under this head. A committee was appointed with powers to negotiate with the Government with a view to obtaining some redress. Last year the Government promised an alleviation or a more equable distribution of the burden of taxation. That promise has not been fulfilled. On the contrary, according to the *Tablet*, there has been an increase in many branches and there have been such contrasts as a tax-riot and a voting of funds for new ironclads. The *Adige*, of Verona, has enumerated the imposts placed upon the taxpayer. They are twenty-one in number, and they affect such different values, real or hypothetical, as revenue, buildings, movable wealth or chattels, the right of selling, animals, beasts of burden, the right or the power of letting, family condition, servants, succession or inheritance, alienation, transfer of chattels, judicial acts, enjoyment of the privilege of dispensing Government monopolies, manufacture of spirits, Customs dues, weights and measures, etc. The members of the clergy while obviously precluded from paying some of these imposts, have such special burdens as the tax of mortmain, while even the Cardinals in the Curia are obliged to pay the family tax. Finally, if any absolute proof of the interminable progression of taxation in Italy be needed, this is supplied by a table drawn up by the *Unita Catholica*, in which it is shown that the expenditure has gone on increasing till the excess of 1896 over 1875 stands at no less than 511 millions of lire. The statement of the Minister of the Treasury in the approaching discussion on the Budget will show how effectively the proportion of increase has been maintained during 1896-97. The rate of thirteen and a half per cent. added to the assessment of incomes in October last speaks well for the second half of 1897. The guarantees for the future are to be found in the euphemistic forecast of the Minister. To add to the misery of the situation, recent cables announce that bread riots have broken out in Ancona and the agitation is spreading in other cities in the peninsula.

UNITED STATES.—**Decision re Bequests for Masses.**—In some ways the American Courts of Justice have thrown off happily the traditions they inherited from this country. The Supreme Court of Wisconsin, in a recent judgment upholding a bequest for Masses, said: "We know of no legal reason why any person of the Catholic faith, believing in the efficiency of Masses, may not make a direct gift or bequest to any bishop or priest of any sum out of his property or estate for Masses for the repose of his soul or the souls of others, as he may choose. Such gifts or bequests, when made in clear, direct and legal form, should be upheld, and

they are not to be considered as impeachable or invalid under the rule that prevailed in England, by which they were held void as gifts to superstitious uses. No such rule or principle obtains here. Had the testator made a plain, direct bequest of the sum in question to Bishop Messmer or to any other bishop or priest for Masses for the repose of the souls of the persons named in his will in that behalf, it would certainly be our duty to declare it valid and to give full effect to it."

Gift to the Pope.—A unique Christmas gift, the work of a New York jeweller, will be offered to his Holiness the Pope by a number of American Catholic societies. It is a magnificent crucifix of gold and diamonds, and is valued at £9,000. It is six inches in length, and the cross bars measure four inches each. Its framework of gold is filled with diamonds. There is a small opening at the back covered with a removable cap. In this receptacle it is believed the Pope will place a piece of the true cross. There are ninety diamonds in all, forty of which, each weighing two and a half carats, are set one above the other in the centre of the cross. The other fifty, each weighing one half carat, are set in the edges. The central diamond is one of rare brilliancy, and weighs thirty carats. All the stones are blue-white. They are absolutely without flaw and they have been cut to match one another exactly.

Celebration of the Close of the Century.—The Right Rev. Dr. McDonnell, Bishop of Brooklyn, has directed his clergy to abstain from the giving of missions in their several churches during the whole course of the year 1898. With the close of the coming December, therefore, these occasional periods of special interest in religious affairs, analogous in many ways to the so-called revival services in Protestant churches, in the administration of Catholic parishes, will be abandoned for a twelvemonth in the diocese of Brooklyn. Bishop McDonnell and his board of consulters determined upon this course at a recent meeting, in order that they might better prepare for a great spiritual awakening among their people in the year 1899, the last of the century, when the cause of religion will be presented from their pulpits, from January to December, by the most powerful and eloquent mission preachers in the land. In reaching the conclusion to make the year 1899 memorable in the history of the Catholic Church in America by this long series of missions, Bishop McDonnell becomes the first American bishop to take definite action with relation to the desire of the Pope on the question, as is evinced in a letter which was addressed to the bishops throughout the world a short time ago. Although the general plan of work has been decided upon, Bishop McDonnell has done little with the details of his proposed scheme for 1899. In England there has been for a time a custom of massing missionary forces on some particular city at the same time. Cardinal Vaughan, when Bishop of Salford, on several occasions summoned all of the missionary strength at his command to the city of Manchester, where he had the missionaries stationed at all the churches simultaneously and all preaching against the drink evil, Sunday desecration or some other subject which he wished to impress especially upon the minds of the people. In the diocese of Brooklyn the work will be much larger. There are 78 churches in the diocese, so that there will be as many as 78 missions going on at the same time. Each mission requires the services of four preachers to a parish, thus making the presence of a small army of missionaries necessary. Already the work of engaging the services of some of the most distinguished missionary preachers in the land has been begun. Later on Bishop McDonnell will instruct the missionaries and his clergy in the special work he wishes to accomplish in the course of the extended undertaking, and will arrange a schedule of topics upon which they will preach.

There is a good story told of two Englishmen who were travelling along a country road near a village in the north of Ireland. As they came near a field in which two Irishmen were sowing hemp, they resolved upon testing the worth of Irish humour. "Well, Pat," says one of the English wags, "you are sowing seed there, and we will reap the benefit of it." "I have no doubt you will," returned Pat, "I am sowing hemp."

Scene in a Cheshire Church.—An extraordinary incident occurred recently at a church in the Wilmslow district. A couple had arranged to be married, and the party duly arrived at the church, but the clergyman perceiving that the bridegroom was under the influence of drink, refused to perform the ceremony. The couple and their friends were naturally much disappointed, and they at once left the church and drove away.

Death from Laughter in a Music Hall.—An incident as remarkable as it was tragic occurred at the Empire Concert Hall, Birmingham recently, while Dan Leno was singing. A married woman who sat in the gallery laughed so immoderately that she went into an apoplectic fit, and died almost before a doctor who was in the audience could aid her in any way.

There is seldom a line of glory written upon the earth's face but a line of suffering runs parallel with it. They that read the lustrous syllables of the one and stoop not to decipher the other, get the least half of the lesson the earth has to give.—Faber.

How shall we know the good books from the bad? Just as you distinguish between persons—by reputation and acquaintance. You are cautious in regard to your company; you make no acquaintance except on the strength of a proper introduction or general reputation. Use the same rule with books.—Munger.

Mr. Gawne, of Dunedin (says the *Southland Times* of April 13, 1891), has just been on a visit to Invercargill to push business a little. Not that it wants much canvassing, for since he commenced the manufacture of his Worcestershire Sauce, the demand has kept pace with his capacity to supply it. He makes a really good thing, indistinguishable from the famous Lea and Perrin's, which he places upon one's table at a much lower price, and trusts to that to secure a steadily growing trade. Those who have not yet tried the colonial article should put their prejudice aside for a time and test the question with a bottle or two.—ADVT

THE ROMAN CURIA.

THE Curia Romana, or Court of Rome, is the assemblage of all the persons surrounding the Pope for the purpose of being used by him in the Government of the Church. In a wider sense the Curia includes also those persons who assist the Pope in mere political matters and in the administration of the diocese of Rome. In this article we shall speak of Curia Romana in so far as it is an instrument in the hand of the Pope to rule the Church Universal.

From the words of the definition, "for the purpose of being used by the Pope," the relation of the Curia Romana to the Pope is apparent. The will of the Pope, and his will alone, determines the legal status of the Curia in the Church. The Curia is not a barrier to check the Pope's activity; nor is the validity of the Papal decrees dependent on the Curia's co-operation, as is the case of constitutional monarchies, where the monarch is restrained by and dependent on responsible ministers. As Christ did not subject the Primacy He gave to St. Peter and his successors to conditions and limitations, the Curia's functions can only be of the nature of advice and assistance, and the power it exercises in the administration of the Catholic Church is derived from, and dependent on, the will of the Pope.

The Curia comprises eight categories of officials:—(1) The cardinals; (2) the prelates; (3) the judges that are not prelates; (4) the lawyers whose business it is to prepare the legal groundwork on which judicial decisions are based (they may also act as pleaders); (5) the procurators, whose main business consists in pleading in the ecclesiastical courts; (6) the notaries, who reduce authentic documents to the form prescribed by the ecclesiastical law; (7) the expeditors, who have to do the mechanical work of writing, despatching, etc., and are to be found in all departments; (8) the agents who are commissioned by bishops or parties to negotiate in their name. These are the live forces at the disposal of the Pope when he exercises the power of the Primacy.

The sections of the Curia are chiefly conditioned by the manner in which the cardinals are used by the Pope in the administration of the Church. The Pope makes use of the college of the cardinals as a whole; he also uses groups of them or only one of their number. The cardinals act as a body in the consistory, they appear in groups in the congregations, and individuals are at the head of departments. The consistory, the congregations, and departments are the three great sections into which the Curia is divided. We shall to-day speak of the consistory, reserving the congregation and departments for future consideration.

The consistory is the solemn assembly of all the cardinals (College of Cardinals) round the Pope, to assist him to arrive at a definite decision in important matters, and by the splendour of their appearance to enhance the brilliancy of Pontifical functions. The word consistory had originally a local meaning. At the time of the Roman Emperors it designated the place where the Emperor's council used to meet. Later on the council itself was called by that name. The Papal consistory is evidently an imitation of the Roman Imperial Council. It is in this consistory that the character of the Curia Romana, as an instrument in the hand of the Pope, is most vividly expressed, and the procedure observed in this meeting reminds us of the ancient custom observed by the Roman clergy to gather round the Pope on all solemn occasions. Up to the time of Innocent III. such gatherings were very frequent, and any matters whatsoever were discussed at these meetings, if the Pope choose to lay them before the assembly. But after that time, when the pressure of work increased and it became apparent that without establishing various departments for various subjects the amount of business could not be mastered, and consistories became less frequent and were restricted to the deliberation on certain matters of great importance.

The consistories are either secret or public. A secret consistory is also called ordinary, and a public one extraordinary. At a secret consistory only cardinals may assist; at a public one also other persons, e.g., ambassadors or other representatives of sovereigns may be present. In secret consistories only such matters are treated of as refer to favours to be granted, or such as have a political character. Of the first kind are the creation of cardinals, the nomination of bishops, the bestowing of the Pallium, divisions and combinations of dioceses, and the appointment of a *legatus a latere*. Of the second kind are all those matters which refer to the relation between Church and State, as the conclusion of the Concordats and the settlement of disputed questions referring to Concordats already concluded with the Governments of Europe. But as many of these questions cannot be decided without much previous deliberations and consultation, the Pope does not take the advice of the Cardinals in the consistory, but publishes only the result of all the previous deliberations, or solemnly passes sentence on far-reaching occurrences in the ecclesiastico-political world. Such utterances are called allocutions. Although these allocutions are primarily confidential, they are nevertheless intended to be made known to the world at large. Hence they are first sent to all the representatives of the sovereigns and then to all the official papers and periodicals. In former times the secret consistory was held first twice a week then twice a month, and on account of this regularity it was called the ordinary consistory in opposition to the public one, which was called extraordinary, because it was held only when occasion required it. But as nowadays neither the secret nor the public consistory is held at stated periods all consistories are extraordinary. The public consistory is also the assembly of all the cardinals round the Pope, yet not for the purposes above-mentioned. It has only a ceremonial character. The cardinals do not appear as advisers but only as dignitaries, the presence of whom sheds lustre on the Pope whilst performing imposing ecclesiastical or political functions. Such are the conferring of the red hat; the solemn publication of a canonisation, and the audience given at the arrival of reigning

princes or their ambassadors. The semi-public consistory is not of a distinct kind. It is nothing else but a public consistory immediately following a secret one, for the sake of saving time; hence in the beginning of such a consistory the cardinals only are admitted; and then the doors are opened to admit the ambassadors and other high personages that have a right to attend.—*Bombay Examiner*.

AT THE FALL OF THE LEAF.

WHY do the leaves fall? "Bless me, I don't know," you answer. "I suppose because it is one of nature's arrangements."

Precisely; but why did nature so arrange? Why not have summer time always, with perpetual foliage? What is the meaning of denuded branches, withered flowers, daylight fading in mid-afternoon, and winter's cold and desolation? When you find out why the leaves fall you will have discovered one of nature's deepest secrets—*why men die*.

Suppose we try an easier problem. Why should Mr. William Steel have written such a sentence as this?—"At the fall of the leaf every year I got into such a state that I took no pleasure in anything."

No doubt there are minds so highly strung as to feel keenly the influence of outward conditions, changes of the weather and of the seasons, and so on, but they are rare, and for practical purposes they ought to be rare. Our friend Mr. Steel, happily for him, was not one of them. All the same he was a miserable man every time the leaves began to rattle to the ground.

Here's the way he puts it: "At the fall of the leaf every year I felt languid, tired, and weary, and took no pleasure in anything. My appetite was poor, and after everything I ate I had pain and fulness at the chest and sides. There was a horrible pain at the pit of my stomach, which nothing relieved."

Now this sort of thing would spoil a man's pleasure any time of year, but the oddity in Mr. Steel's case is that it always coincided with what you may call nature's bedtime.

"After a few months," he says, "the pain and distress would be easier for a while, but as autumn approached I became as bad as ever. In September, 1890, I had an unusually bad time of it. I couldn't touch a morsel of food, and presently got so weak I was unable to stand on my legs. Every few hours I had to be poulticed, the pain was so bad. I went to bed and stayed there for a week, with a doctor attending me. He relieved me a little, but somehow he didn't succeed in getting to the bottom of my ailment."

That may be, but it doesn't quite follow that the doctor was in the dark as to Mr. Steel's ailment. He might have understood it right enough, yet failed to cure it because he had no remedy for it among his drugs. That happens all the while. Still, the reader may ask, What's the good of knowing the nature of a complaint if we possess no medicine to cure it? There you have us; no use at all, to be sure.

Well, Mr. Steel goes on to say: "For some time I continued very feeble, and was hardly able to walk across the floor. If I took a short walk I felt so tired and done up I didn't know where to put myself. This was year after year for six years."

"Finally, I read about the popular medicine called Mother Seigel's Curative Syrup, and made up my mind to try it. So I began and kept on with it for some time. The result was that the pain left me, and my appetite waked up, and my food tasted good and digested well; and presently I was strong and hearty as ever. That was three years ago, and the trouble has never returned. (Signed) William Steel, Hambleton, near Oakham, Rutlandshire, December 5th, 1893."

Mr. Steel is grocer and postmaster at Hambleton, and his case is well known there. His complaint isn't hard to see through; it was indigestion and dyspepsia. But why did it come on only in the autumn? What had the fall of the leaf to do with it? Let the reader study on that point.

Meanwhile it is a comfort to know that Mother Seigel's Syrup will cure it no matter when it comes on.

Up to the age of 30 we spend our years like change; but creeping up towards the forties, as fast as the old years fill and Time steps in for payment, we seem to change a bill.—Holmes.

O the power of necessity! We are not only indebted to it for most of our talents, but for many of our virtues.—Emile Souvestre.

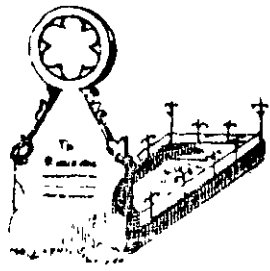
If I offer you money, you do not say to me, "I will come tomorrow." No; you accept it at once. No one delays, no one makes excuses. The salvation of the soul is offered, and no one hurries himself.—St. Ambrose.

Be the stern and sad truth spoken, that the breach which guilt has once made into the human soul is never, in this mortal state, repaired. It may be watched and guarded, so that the enemy shall not force his way again into the citadel; and might even, in his subsequent assaults, select some other avenue in preference to that where he had formerly succeeded. But there is still the ruined wall; and, near it, the stealthy tread of the foe that would win over again his unforgotten triumph.—Hawthorne.

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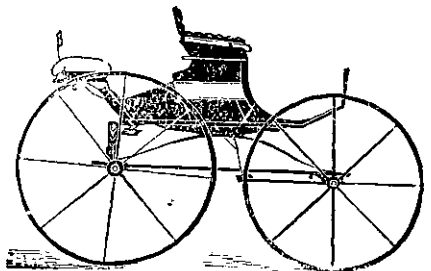
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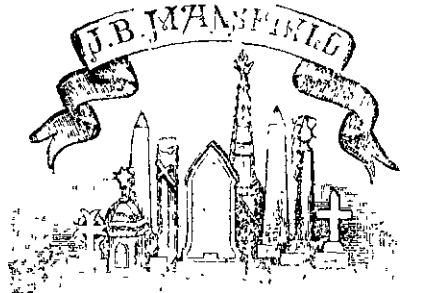
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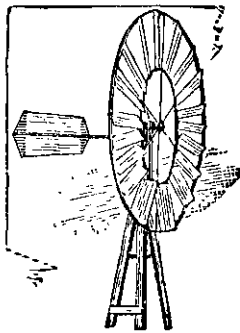
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I have had a large experience amongst Harvesting Machinery, and all work entrusted to me will have my most careful attention.

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The most valuable discovery in Medical Science. Destroys the morbid deposits of the Lungs. Overcomes the raking cough and spitting of blood.

READ the following extract from *The Weekly Press*:

"It has been clearly demonstrated that this new remedy is not only highly efficacious in the treatment of the more formidable disease of consumption, but that in all cases of coughs and colds, whatever may be their cause, it cures with astonishing rapidity. It acts against these lesser maladies as quinine acts against intermittent fever. It is equally efficacious in bronchitis and catarrh, and all inflammatory states of the respiratory organs. Expectoration and cough disappear like magic, and there can be no doubt that thousands of cures will be affected during the coming winter by this latest application of modern medical science."

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We have just received a supply of Patent Improved Venetian Blind Tape, very durable New and Old Blinds fitted with it without extra charge. To be had only from us. Every description of Calico and Festoon Blinds at Moderate Prices.

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Varieties.

A military correspondent with the troops in the Afridi country graphically describes the tactics of the tribes. They hardly ever expose themselves, except when they adopt rushing tactics on detached parties of their enemies. They never attempt to hold a place that does not afford a good and safe retreat. They never waste ammunition. On the 28th ult "every shot they fired went uncomfortably close to its target, and you could get no more idea of their whereabouts than the momentary glimpse of a dark turban gave you." In other words, they are first-rate guerilla warriors, and their enemies know it to their cost in lives and treasure. £13,000,000 will be the little bill for Lord Salisbury's policy on the Indian frontier

AN ELEPHANT'S TRICYCLE.

There is on view in the window of the Coventry Gas Fittings Company a novel tricycle built for an elephant. It will be remembered that some time ago three performing elephants visited Transfield's Circus in Coventry, and it is for the youngest of these. Trilby, that the machine is made. Mr. Sam Lockart, the well-known circus proprietor, is the owner of Trilby, who stands about 5ft 5in, weighs 38cwt, and is nearly five years old. The machine was built throughout by Messrs. Attenborough and Underwood, Ltd., of Stoney Stanton road, manufacturers of the Butterfly cycle. The front driving wheel is 30in, and the back wheels 20in; the spokes are of mild steel, and the wheels are fitted with Beeston two-inch motor car tyres. The main axle is 1½in solid Bessemer steel, and the tubes from the crown to the back wheels ten gauge 2in. The fork sides are steel forgings with a latest pattern double plate crown, and there is a long plated bar from the crown, which is for Trilby's trunk, and used for steering purposes. The pedals are eccentric, and nine inches in diameter. The weight of the tricycle all on is exactly 13cwt, and it is interesting to state that with a 12st man riding a 28lb cycle, the proportion of Trilby's 38cwt to the 1½cwt is nearly four to one more. The machine was taken over to Leamington on Monday for trial, and Trilby mounted it, and went round a 20ft circle at a rate of about four miles an hour.

HUMOUR AMONG THE POOR.

The Anglican Rev. Stewart F. L. Bernays contributes to the November *Cornhill* some interesting examples of the kind of humour which the average parson occasionally meets with. The extravagant waste of money at funerals is a well-known fact, and is very common among the poor. Mr. Bernays once remonstrated with a woman, whom he had been helping all through her husband's illness, on the money she was spending over his funeral. Her answer was curious: "My 'usband was allus a poor man, but I thinks to myself: My man, you shall 'ave one ride in a carriage and pair of 'osses, any'ow." So she had hired hearse, horses, plumes, and all the hideous trappings of woe.

The compliments paid by the poor are often put in a very amusing way. One old lady who was very fond of the rector said to Mr. Bernays: "You know, sir, us likes the rector, 'is ears are so clean." Surely an odd reason for parochial affection. Another admirer once declared with regard to the whole staff of clergy. "You are all so plain (a word of high commendation), but as for the vicar, 'e's beautiful." The greatest compliment, though at the same time the most curious Mr. Bernays ever heard, was paid by a working man to a certain bishop, famous for his simple kindness, "What I likes 'bout the bishop is 'e's not a gen'lman."

BLIND LARRY: HOW HE WAS LOVED.

Honor Molloy, when her little step-brother lay dying and nothing could ease his pain or soothe his weary hours but blind Larry's fiddle, learnt to love the man who made sweet music in the modest cottage. Larry was blind and nearly helpless—he was forty-five, he had no land, and to sit at the corner of the village street, and play in the hope of copper-, was his profession. He dreamed of Honor, and when the boy died he seemed to have lost his only friend. He grew shabby and forlorn and neglected; there was a dreary note in the tunes that he played, and there was no dancing to them any more. Then Honor came to him; there are few or no words; she sits beside him, and makes him take off his coat while she mends it.

Neither spoke. She had wound her thread once more when a little catch in her breath broke the stillness. Larry started and stretched out his hand towards her.

"What is it's troublin' ye?" he said, with a tender tone in his voice.

She laid her hand on his. Her touch flashed the message to him.

"Honor!" he cried, closing his trembling fingers over hers.

"Aye, Larry," she said softly. There was a little pause while her hand still lay in his.

"An' me a blind man?"

"Shure, all the more raison ye wants me."—Lewis Macnamara.

THE RETORT COUTEOUS.

"Aulus," in the *Australasian*, has a good story of the hard "hit back," which a justly exasperated Mick gave to an Orangeman. Thus:—"It may seem personal and severe, but the sufferer brought it on himself. He is a member of Parliament, a bookseller, and a light in the Orange lodges. To his place of business came a burly Irishman, who asked for a copy of the last week's *Advocate* (the Melbourne Catholic paper). "We don't keep such a rag here," said the indignant bookseller. "Deed'n you might do worse," said the Irishman quietly, as he turned away. The member seemed to realise that he had been unduly severe, so in a conciliatory tone said, "How are the potato crops looking out your way?" "Well, wid a nice dhrup o' rain, and the blessin' o' the Lord," said the grower, "we'll be havin' 'em as big as the hump on your own back. Good morning, sor."

A CRICKET STORY.

The following is told by a Lancashire professional:—A match was played in a country district, and in an emergency a local farmer's boy was put in to keep the score, the duties being carefully explained to him. When the last man on the side had been caught, the fielders darted in to see the score, and they found the book blank! That was the condition, too, of the scorer's face. "The truth is," he said deliberately, "I was sae centered in the wee sport that I quite forgot tae mak the crosses. But it disna matter—that wee laddie wi the red face is the smartest runner amang ye!"

A NOBLE SON.

A London paper tells this touching story of Professor Herkomer. His aged father who lives with him in his splendid home at Bushney used to model in clay in his early life. He has recently taken to it again, but his fear is that soon his hands will lose their skill and his work will show the marks of imperfections. It is his own sorrow. At night he goes to his early rest, and when he has gone his talented son goes into his studio, takes up his father's feeble attempts, and makes the work as beautiful as art can make it. When the old man comes down in the morning he takes the work and looks at it and rubs his hands and says: "Ha! I can do as well as ever I did."

HE BACKED OUT.

An amusing view of matrimony is that presented in a story told of two Scotsmen.

A country laird at his death left his property in equal shares to his two sons, who continued to live most contentedly together for many years. At last, however, one of them said to the other:

"Tam, we're getting to be auld men; you take a wife, and when I die you'll get my share o' the land."

"Na, na, Jeems," said the other, "you're the youngest and the maist lively; you take a wife, and when I die you'll get my share, mon."

"That's always the way wi' you, Tam," said the first brother, when there's any fash or trouble—I must take it all, you'll take naething."

A MARRIAGE CUSTOM.

A touching and poetical custom prevails in the Welsh-Tyrol. When a young maiden is about to be married, immediately before she steps across the threshold of her old home, on her way to the church, her mother solemnly gives her a new pocket handkerchief. The bride holds it in her hand throughout the marriage ceremony, using it to wipe away her tears. So soon as the marriage festivities are ended the young wife lays the handkerchief aside in her linen closet, and there it remains as long as she lives.

Nothing could induce a Tyrolese wife to use this sacred handkerchief. It may be half a century, or longer, before it is taken from its place to fulfil the second and last part of its mission. When the wife dies, perhaps as a grey-haired old grandmother, the loving hands of the next-of-kin place the bridal handkerchief over the face of the dead, and it is buried with her in the grave.

THE LATEST FAD.

We have all heard of hospitals for invalid cats and delicate dogs, but here is the latest phase of *fin de siècle* sentiment:—A wealthy lady who possesses a pet Maltese cat found recently that the cat's eye-sight began to fail, so she took him to an oculist. By means of a picture of a mouse the oculist quickly learned what was the matter and was able to fit the cat with glasses. The lenses were set in gold frames especially made, and now the cat's eyesight is as good as ever.

In every mile of railway there are 7ft. 4in. not covered by rails, the space left for expansion.

"TO JIM BYRNE."

When first I met you, short and stout,
You wore a velvet roundabout,
Yellow and red, and filled it out,
Jim Byrne.

You wore, likewise, a blissful smile,
The heart beneath it knew no guile;
You haven't yet forgot the style,
Jim Byrne.

One day to test our schoolboy grit
They set us fighting, and we fit,
And when 'twas over, I was "It,"
Jim Byrne.

I loved you then, I love you now,
Though forty years have tried to plough
In vain some furrows on your brow,
Jim Byrne.

But now you're getting old, J.B.,
The leaves are turning on the tree;
May autumn treat you tenderly,
Jim Byrne.

And when your latest day is done,
And all your deeds weighed one by one,
I'm sure the sentence will not run:
"Jim Byrne!"

J. J. R. in the *Boston Pilot*.

Modesty is bred in self-reverence. Fine manners are the mantle of fair minds. None are truly great without this ornament. Where the social conscience is awake, the triumph of the wicked is short, and the joy of the hypocrite but for a moment.

REID AND GRAY

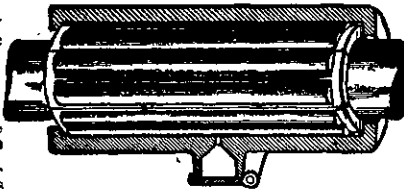
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WAI-RONGOA MINERAL WATER.

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We supply the Dunedin and Wellington Hospitals, the Union Company's entire fleet, and Bellamy's with our Pure Mineral Water. Specially-made Soda Water for Invalids. For Permit to visit Springs apply Dunedin Office. THOMSON AND CO., Office: Dunedin.

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GEORGE STREET. The regulation of Children's Teeth a speciality. All fees moderate.

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A Night Porter in Attendance

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Bedsteads and Bedding, all kinds fresh and new.

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