

The New Zealand Tablet.

FIAT JUSTITIA.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1899.

THE CHURCH IN THE UNITED STATES.



RUTH and strong feeling may wed and live together—for a time—on tolerably good terms. But as a matter of fact the union is seldom a happy one. Certain press and platform enthusiasts in Great Britain and America furnish melancholy instances in point. They see the horns and tail and cloven hooves of Pope and Jesuit peeping around every corner and out of every nook and cranny of public and social life, and find it necessary to organise and maintain great associations—such as the Protestant Alliance in England, the A.P.A. in the United States, and the Orange Society everywhere—to protect the world at large from being devoured by the giant Blunderbore of 'Romanist aggression.' Now and then they get a hold of the public ear. And then arise sundry philosophers of the great school of Pooh-pooh, who set about proving that the supposed ogre is—like the cadaverous Irish waiter of the story—in reality dead, but too lazy to shut its eyes, and merely waiting a decent interment. Such was, in effect, the attitude taken up in the cooked statistics of Dr. HORTON and Rev. HUGH PRICE HUGHES. Experienced people will, *a priori* hesitate to accept either the hysterical visions of the scared enthusiasts, or the pygmy images seen by the Pooh-poohs by looking through the wrong end of a telescope.

The American correspondent of the *Dunedin Evening Star* has tried his 'prentice hand at the work of minimising, to some extent, the proud position of pre-eminence attained by the Catholic Church in the Great Republic. The matter has been dealt with in a correspondence which appears elsewhere in this issue, and to which the attention of our readers is directed. The growth of the Catholic Church in the United States is one of the most conspicuous facts of the later history of North America. From half-a-million out of a total population of 13,000,000 in 1830, it has grown to probably 12,000,000 out of over 65,000,000 at the present time—comprising within its pale, according to Mr. RENE BACRE, about one-third of the total church-goers of the United States. This increase is due not to immigration alone, but to annexation of Catholic territories, such as Florida, Texas, and California, to conversions, and to the multiplying of families. The Hon D. CARROLL WRIGHT, of the National Bureau of Statistics, is reported to have declared that the marvellous increase in Catholicism in the country is largely due to conversions and to the excess of the birth-rate over the death-rate. This latter result he ascribes to the inculcation of right principles of morality through the agency of the confessional.

The *New York Herald* of August 2, 1891—referred to in the correspondence published elsewhere—says that 'the Catholic Church in the United States is a body of gigantic proportions. Its churches are scattered throughout the length and breadth of the land. The old New England of the Puritans is now the New England of the Catholics.' In the *Edinburgh Review* for April, 1890, Mr. BODLEY writes:—

In no part of the United States has the growth of the Roman Catholic Church been so remarkable as in New England, where, till after the Revolution, lingered the spirit which in the previous century had applauded the Puritan Governor Endicott, when he cut from the British flag the St. George's Cross 'as a Popish symbol savouring of superstition, and not to be countenanced by Christian men.'

The descendants of the Puritans have arrested their own development by a limitation of family. The Irish and French Canadians are possessing the land, rich in the Bible blessing of happiness promised to the man whose quiver is full. Is there not something in the nature of the prophetic in the words which the old New England Congregational

Minister, Rev. JOSHUA HOPEWELL, spoke to Sam Slick long ago? 'Sam,' said he, 'we're agoin' to have an established Church; it may be a very good Church, and it is a great deal better than many we have; but still it ain't the Church of the Pilgrim Fathers.' 'What Church, minister?' said Sam. 'Why,' said the minister, 'the Roman Catholic Church. Before long it will be the established Church of the United States.' An established Church will, we trust, never be an accomplished fact in the United States. None the less, the far-seeing old Congregationalist had a wondrous insight into the growth of that Church—how, from a small sect in a small corner of the land, it grew, in Bodley's words, 'into one of the most powerful and most democratic religious communities which the world has ever seen, and which is fated to leave a mark on the history of Christendom.'

DIOCESE OF DUNEDIN.

FATHER CLEARY, editor of the N.Z. TABLET, is paying a short visit to the Maniototo district, and, by kind arrangement with Father Sheehan, celebrates Mass at Naseby next Sunday at nine o'clock.

The Retreat conducted by the Very Rev. Father Vincent, C.P., during the past week at Port Chalmers, was brought to a close on Sunday last. The various services during the period of the Retreat were very well attended, and the church was crowded on the occasion of the closing ceremonies.

ON the list of successful candidates at the recent Junior Civil Service examination appear the names of the six pupils presented from the Christian Brothers' School—viz., N. J. Ryan, J. B. Callan, J. W. Wilkins, Edward Freed, J. T. Hungerford, and P. Skene. The optional subjects presented by one or more of the above-named were Shorthand, Physics, French, Algebra, and Euclid.

His Lordship Dr. Verdon (wires our Gore correspondent) visited Gore on Friday last when he heard a number of confessions. Dr. Verdon celebrated the nine o'clock Mass on Saturday. About eighty persons received Holy Communion on Sunday morning. His Lordship preached at the 11 o'clock Mass, taking for his text—'We exhort you that you receive not the grace of God in vain.' He preached also in the evening, the subject of the discourse being 'Temptation.' Dr. Verdon left Gore on Tuesday for Invercargill.

Dr. O'Neill, who recently took his degree of M.B., has been unanimously elected as junior house surgeon of the Dunedin Hospital. This is, we believe, the first time in the history of the institution that such an appointment has been made with the unanimous approval of the Trustees, and the compliment thus paid Dr. O'Neill must be highly appreciated by him, and is a strong testimony of the esteem in which he is held by the governing body of the institution. We congratulate Dr. O'Neill on the appointment, and hope it will be the forerunner of a successful career.

St. DOMINIC'S College, Dowling street, is in receipt from Trinity College, London, of the report of the recent local examinations in vocal and instrumental music. All the candidates passed with success, scoring the following marks:—Instrumental Music—Senior Division: Honours, Mary Woods, 100; Florence Courtis, 87. Intermediate Division—Honours: Minnie Paton, 85; Pass: Kate Hannon, 97; Eva Hart, 92; Winifred Colehan, 82; Isabel Seelye, 78; Mary Crawley, 70. Primary Division—Mary Jackman, 78; Clara Hughes, 78; Myra Montague, 76. Singing—Senior Division: Pass, Margaret Ewing, 72. Intermediate: Pass, Helen Watt, 69; Primary: Pass, Gertrude Meenan, 71; Ethel McDonald, 72.

A MILTON correspondent writes—A retreat for the members of the association of the Sacred Heart commenced in the Church of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour, Milton, on Sunday evening. Rev. Father Vincent, C.P., conducts the exercises, which are well attended both morning and evening. The retreat closes on Sunday with the renewal of baptismal vows. The Bishop of the diocese has held confirmation services in four centres of the Milton mission—viz., Balclutha, Owaka, Glenomaru, and Tahakoup, administering the Sacrament to about 40 candidates. His Lordship very much enjoyed the drive through the romantic scenery of the Catlins district and returned to Balclutha by way of Port Molyneux. It is intended to have a confirmation service in Milton previous to Dr. Verdon's departure for Europe. The new Church of St Hyacinth at Waihola is progressing rapidly and forms a conspicuous object overlooking the lake. The Bishop has presented a handsome altar for the church.

THE Most Rev. Dr. Verdon, of Dunedin, visited Balclutha Roman Catholic Church on Monday, February 13, and administered Confirmation to a number of children. The church (says the *Leader*) was nicely decorated for the occasion by a few ladies of the congregation, the altar especially presenting a handsome appearance. The service took place at 3 o'clock in the afternoon, when only a fair congregation assembled, owing, doubtless, to the inconvenience of the hour. The Bishop preached an eloquent and instructive sermon suitable to the occasion. After administering Confirmation, his Lordship enrolled a number of children as members of the League of the Cross. The service concluded with the Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. The choir, which was augmented by a few lady members of the Milton choir, rendered the Benediction hymns in splendid style. Miss Scanlan (Milton) presided at the organ in a very efficient manner. His Lordship celebrated Mass the following morning early, and left afterwards for Owaka, where he confirmed several children that afternoon.

There are Others, And these are often sold for extra profit. You can only be certain of the genuine article by seeing the packets and boxes are Branded DIAMOND JUBILEE HONDAI-LANKA Brand TEA. Packed in Lead in Ceylon. Take no substitutes. Mr. David Roche, Agent, Invercargill