

squire for the peasant—and he believed he could run him through in short order.

‘Are you ready?’ asked Cronin.

Both men nodded, and Cronin continued: ‘Then go at it!’

The men crossed swords, fencing rapidly and viciously for advantage, the clashing of the steel making the narrow pass ring and bringing a glitter to the eyes of the savage men who stood around eagerly watching the strange duel. Rory Lynch’s skill and strength soon began to tell on Hamilton, whose breath came in short gasps, and down whose face perspiration rolled. He realised his opponent’s cleverness with the sword, and it went a chill through him although he himself was accounted one of the best swordsmen in the North-west. He knew he could endure the strain but little longer, and that if he were to save his life Lynch must be disposed of soon. He laid on with renewed vigour, cut and thrust, pressing his opponent, around whom he circled like a hawk, but he soon found how futile were his efforts for he was beating against a sword-man with an arm and wrist of steel, and his hot offensive soon settled down to a wary and hopeless defensive. It was a hawk pitted against a cat. Rory was conscious that his forearm was in his grip, and the gleam of triumph that lighted his eyes shined Hamilton who licked his dry lips. From cat-like caution Rory changed to vigorous attack, a torrent of blows wearing out his foe who retreated step by step.

He stumbled; his guard was struck down; his sabre was knocked from his grasp, and he stood panting, wild-eyed, disarmed. Lynch’s yataghan whirled in the air with a hiss round his head, and then swept forward with a whistling swish, striking Hamilton in the neck just about the shirt collar. The blow half severed the neck, its force staggering Hamilton, who with hands and fingers working convulsively, fell to the earth bleeding and dying, his eyes big and open, staring up at the hot red sun. He was soon dead, a few choking gasps ending his life. Rory Lynch touched the body with his boot, and then, stooping down, he took a ring bearing the Hamilton seal from the dead man’s finger, and holding it aloft, he said:

‘There he lies; him that was to send me to the hangman at Castlebar. I’ll send his ring home to his ould father an’ wring his cruel hard heart. I’ll tell him how his proud son died by the sword of a Lynch, and how his bones lie whitenin’ in the dirt. Oh, it’ll be a black day for the Hamilton!’

Wiping his sword on the dead man’s garments, Rory put on his clothes and, leaving the tribesmen to their plunder, he and his uncle tramped back over the mountains to the village.

The rest of his strange story is easily told. Through the good offices of his fierce relative he was passed on from tribe to tribe until he stood on the shores of the Indian Ocean, rich in the possession of a store of jewels, the gift of his bandit uncle. After weary months of watching and waiting, the United States ship Alleghang visited the coast on survey duty, and Rory had little difficulty in shipping with the crew; and about a year later he was discharged in San Francisco, when the ship went out of commission.

John Hamilton never learned the fate of his son, and never will until the day of final accounting; for Rory kept his counsel, more prudent in cold blood than he was when he made his passionate promise in Beluchistan pass over the dead body of his enemy—*Harpur’s Weekly*.

LOTTERIES.

ARE THEY LAWFUL?

THOSE of our readers who have cast their eyes over the necessarily brief remarks made on raffles on our ‘Current Topics’ of this week may be interested to learn that so far from being evil in themselves, lotteries were from time to time commanded by God Himself. Nobody who is at all familiar with the Holy Scriptures can for a moment maintain that lotteries are in themselves sinful. Such a supposition would be nothing short of blasphemy. We give hereunder a few of the many instances recognised in the Scripture in which lotteries were resorted to for the purpose of determining issues, and that, too, with the command or approval of Almighty God.

To begin. Open your Bibles at *Leviticus*, chapter 16, verses 7 to 10. You will learn that the goat that was to be sacrificed was to be distinguished from the emissary or scape-goat by the casting of lots. This lottery you will observe was by command of the Lord. ‘And the Lord spoke to Moses and commanded him, saying,’ etc.

The next text we call your attention to is from *Numbers*, chapter 26, verses from 52 to 57. ‘And the Lord spoke to Moses,

saying: To these shall the land be divided for their possessions according to the number of their names. . . . yet so by lot the land be divided to the tribes and families. Whatsoever shall fall by lot, that shall be taken by the more or the fewer.’

Again, the Lord said to Moses ‘Josue the son of Nun thy minister, he shall go in [to land of Canaan] for thee: exhort and encourage him, and he shall divide the land by lot to Israel.’—(*Deuteronomy* i, 38.)

Again: ‘I have given it (the land) to you in possession, and you shall divide it among you by lot. . . . to every one as the lot shall fall so shall the inheritance be given.’ (*Numbers* xxxviii., 5, 31.)

Again, Josue said ‘The land in the midst between these, mark you out into seven parts, and ye shall come hither to me that I may cast lots for you before the Lord your God. . . . And he [Josue] cast lots before the Lord in Silo, and divided the land to the children of Israel into seven parts’ (*Josue* xviii., 6, 9.)

If you turn your attention to *I Kings*, chapter 10, you will learn that Saul, the first King of Israel, was selected by lot.

The author of the *Book of Proverbs* says ‘Lots are cast into the lap, but they are disposed of by the Lord. . . . The lot suppresseth contentions, and determineth even between the mighty’ (chapter xvi., 33, and xviii., 18).

Coming to the New Testament, we find that the successor of Judas to the Apostolate was determined by lot. ‘And they gave them (Joseph and Matthias) lots, and the lot fell upon Matthias; and he was numbered with the eleven apostles’ (*Acts* i., 26).

Now, having perused and meditated on all these Bible texts, what think you of lotteries? Are they sinful? Will you dare to say so with the sacred pages staring you in the face? If so, then Moses, Josue, the Apostles, and even the Almighty Himself were guilty of sin.

Those of our Protestant readers who are curious in this matter might consult the following additional texts of Scripture:—*I Samuel* xiv., 12; *I Chronicles* xxiv., 31; *Matthew* xxvii., 35; *Joshua* xv., 1; xvi., 1; xvii., 1 and 14; xviii., 11; xix., 1, 10, 17, 21, and 40; xxi., 4; *I Chronicles* vi., 54; *Judges* xx., 9; *I Samuel* xiv., 11; *I Chronicles* vi., 63; xxiv., 5 and 7, xxv., 9; *Esther* iii., 7; *Acts* xiii., 19.

Some of our Nonconformist friends may say that it is not to the lottery they object, for that is scriptural, but to its abuse. Very well, if there be abuses they should be stopped. But if we must put a stop to everything that is subject to being abused, we should have to stop life liberty, health, and even the grace of God, for all these things can be and are abused.

G O R E.

(From a correspondent).

A very enjoyable and successful entertainment was given in the Town Hall Gore, on Wednesday evening, May 17, on behalf of the funds of the local convent school. The hall was crowded to the doors, and the audience displayed their appreciation by frequent applause, and encoring a number of items. The principal performers were pupils of the convent school, who were assisted by some friends. The programme opened with an overture by Misses Roche, Archibald, Fleming, and Smail. This was followed by a chorus by the pupils, which was warmly applauded. A song in character, ‘Keep in the middle of the road,’ by a number of boys in ‘darkey’ costume, created considerable amusement. Misses Smail, Archibald, and Whitefield contributed a pianoforte selection, which was admirably played. A comic quartette, entitled ‘The Manager’s Troubles,’ in which Misses Archibald (2), McGowan, Logan, Smail, Johnston, Sparks, and Jones took part, proved a very good item, and was warmly appreciated by the audience. Mrs. Neave gave a very fine rendering of that patriotic song, ‘The Wearing of the Green,’ which was emphatically encored. A pianoforte duet by Misses Fleming, Ward, Holland, and Smith was well executed. A particularly good item was a vocal duet, ‘Life’s dream is over,’ by the Misses Archibald. Masters Sheehy, Booth, and Carroll brought down the house with their comic song and dance, which had to be repeated several times. Two choruses by the pupils, and a pianoforte duet by Misses Smail, Leahy, Doods, and Fleming made up the balance of the first part of the programme. The second part consisted of a drama, ‘The Reverse of the Medal,’ in which the characters were cleverly impersonated by Misses Archibald (2), E. Leahy, Smail, Johnston, Fleming (2). The piece went with a fine swing from start to finish, and the manner in which it was played reflected great credit on the

Incipient Consumption and Chronic Coughs Cured by Townend’s Cinnamon Cure.

Oil of Cinnamon has always been an important factor in the treatment of Consumption and Tubercular Diseases. TOWNEND’S CELEBRATED CINNAMON CURE is prepared from the QUINTESENCE OF CINNAMON, and its impellent action upon the bacilli of Consumption is the most potent yet attained. The successful treatment of Incipient Consumption and Chronic Coughs by this remedy has aroused much interest in pathological circles. Ordinary Coughs and Colds quickly succumb to this powerful remedy.

MRS. A. NORRIS resides at Tuhikeramea, Ohaupo. Her statement is.—‘My son is taking the second bottle of CINNAMON CURE, and it does him more good than anything he ever had for his cough. I can’t find words to express my thanks for this improvement. He is very much better and sleeps well at night. I hope the great value of this remedy will be known everywhere.’

TOWNEND’S CELEBRATED CINNAMON CURE is obtainable everywhere. Price 2s 6d.

Sole Proprietors and Manufacturers. LOASBY’S WAHOO MFR. CO., LD.

Wholesale Agents: KEMPTHORNE, PROSSER & CO’S N.Z. DRUG CO., LD.