

Hill; and—perhaps the largest body of them all—those who openly or secretly desire to see the Transvaal annexed and the war turned into one of conquest or—to put it more bluntly—of plunder. With the first we have already dealt. As to the second: Our untutored fancy quite fails—even with the aid of its best spectacles—to see what glory is to be won by even the most successful war against the Boers, or how the honour of British arms is to be vindicated by an ignoble struggle with a microscopic South African Republic. Mr. CHAMBERLAIN may protest by all the gods, and Jingo papers may spin bales of flimsy platitudes on the situation, but the ultimate object of the real wire-pullers of the war party will be found to be nothing less than the annexation or conquest of the Transvaal. This policy has been shamelessly admitted over and over again in the Press of Great Britain and the colonies, and in all probability lies deep in the minds of those who at the present moment do not find it prudent to openly avow it. We may feel tolerably certain that there will be no war merely for the purpose of wringing a few not vitally important further concessions from Mr. KRUGER for a mixed colony of Uitlanders at Johannesburg. The cost of the war would probably be enormous. The conquered country would at first be held as security for the cost of war; afterwards as its guerdon. By the very nature of the case, the struggle would be a racial one. Its bitterness would be intensified by the very suspicion that it was a war of conquest. The Dutch problem in South Africa has always been a difficult one. There never has been, and there is not, a fusion of the Boer and the Briton. They are still and will long remain races apart. The suspicion of annexation would probably make the Cape Boers—who are a majority of the population—throw in their lot with their brethren in the Transvaal. Mr. SELOUS—who knows them well—bears abundant witness to the vast trouble they could give, if so minded, in the event of war. Such a combination would intensify, prolong, and widen the area of the struggle. The situation would be aggravated by the presence of great bodies of half-civilised black races in and near the disturbed area. The issue of the tangled struggle would, undoubtedly, eventually turn in favour of Great Britain and the big battalions; but it would set back the progress of South Africa, and leave an undying legacy of distrust and hatred between the two white races that colonise it. Such a war—and, in the present circumstances, any war—would be unnecessary, unjustifiable in policy, and both in its immediate effects and permanent results, a calamity for South Africa. As Dr. KOLBE says in the latest issue of the *South African Magazine*, it would create more abuses than it would heal.

HELD OVER.

OWING to the extraordinary demand upon our space this week an article on St. Patrick is unavoidably held over.

ANSWER TO CORRESPONDENT.

GABRIEL.—M. H. Gill and Co., 50 O'Connell street, Dublin (Ireland), publish at a few pence each easy graduated manuals of the Irish language, also O'Reilly and O'Donovan's Irish-English Dictionary, price 10s. If you send us your address we will forward you a copy of the *Gaelic Journal*. The *Australasian Catholic Directory* costs 2s 6d (interleaved, 3s). This and the books mentioned above can be ordered through any of the Catholic booksellers advertising in this paper.

CONSECRATION OF MANKIND TO THE SACRED HEART.

We have published at this office, at a very low price, a neat eight-page pamphlet containing the full text (authorised English translation) of the Encyclical Letter of the Holy Father on the Consecration of Mankind to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, the Act of Consecration, and the approved Litany of the Sacred Heart. This reprint will be found very useful for distribution among the people in connection with the forthcoming ceremonies of consecration in the various parishes. Copies can be had on application to the manager. The price of the pamphlet is 5s per hundred and 45s per thousand to the clergy, members of religious houses, and laity who desire to secure a wide distribution of this Encyclical.

MANAGERIAL NOTICE.

A GENTLE HINT TO SUBSCRIBERS.

OUR financial year closes with the last day of the present month. In the circumstances the Manager entreats all who have received and not yet settled accounts, or who are to receive accounts during the rest of this month, to forward amount due to this office or to our authorised agents or travellers with the least possible delay. Taken individually, the amounts of such accounts are not considerable; but in the aggregate they represent a very large sum of money. The Manager therefore trusts that subscribers will make an effort to forward the amount of their respective accounts as speedily as possible and well before the close of the present month.

DIOCESE OF DUNEDIN.

The usual weekly meeting of the Dunedin Catholic Mens' Social Club was held on Friday night, when there was a good attendance. A pleasant evening was spent in games and social intercourse.

From a private telegram we learn with deep regret of the death of Mrs. Hanley, senr., wife of Mr. Matthew Hanley, Gore, the sad event taking place on Sunday last. The Rev. Father Murphy and the Rev. Father Coffey of Dunedin left for Gore on Tuesday morning to attend the funeral ceremonies.—R.I.P.

A letter received from our Oamaru correspondent states that the solemn consecration of the parishioners of Oamaru to the Sacred Heart took place at St. Patrick's Basilica on Sunday last, September 3. Owing to the indisposition of Very Rev. Dean Mackay, Rev. Father Ryan (Dunedin) was engaged with the Rev. Father Howard for the two days previous in carrying out the preparatory devotions. During those days the attendance at all the services was exceedingly large. On Sunday the basilica was exceptionally well filled. At the 11 o'clock Mass Father Ryan preached a touching, effective, and very appropriate sermon on the Sacred Heart. The church was also crowded at the evening service. Before the solemn consecration took place a most powerful exhortation was again preached by Rev. Father Ryan. The beautiful act of consecration followed, and as the vast congregation repeated the words the effect was highly impressive.

There was a large attendance at the meeting of the Dunedin Catholic Literary Society on Monday evening, among those present being a number of ladies. The Rev. Father Murphy presided. Mr. Forster opened in the affirmative a debate on the question "Is phrenology a true and scientific guide to character?" Mr. Forster kept his audience highly interested during the course of his remarks. Mr. J. A. Scott, M.A., in the course of an admirable and exhaustive speech, proceeded to show that while recognising that there is a large amount of truth in phrenology, it does not fully establish its claim to rank as a true science and as a certain and accurate guide to character. Rev. Father Coffey and Messrs. T. Hussey and P. Carolin also spoke. On a division Mr. Scott's amendment was carried by a small majority. This being the last meeting of the session the Rev. Father Murphy took occasion to thank the secretary (Mr. A. F. Quelch) and the vice-president (Mr. J. A. Scott) for the interest taken in, and services rendered to the Society during the session, which has been highly successful. On next Monday the Society give an entertainment and dance in aid of the piano fund.

By the last San Francisco mail Mr. J. Liston, Princes street, Dunedin, received a letter from the Rev. Father Lynch, C.S.S.R., formerly of this city. Father Lynch, writing under date, July 28, from Teignmouth, Devonshire, England, said he had just had a visit from his Lordship Dr. Verdon, Bishop of Dunedin, and Mr. James Liston (son of Mr. Liston and now a student at Clonliffe College, Ireland). Bishop Verdon and Mr. Liston remained from Friday afternoon to Monday evening, when they left for Paris *via* Southampton. His Lordship looked remarkably well, and Mr. Liston was decidedly stronger than when he visited Father Lynch at Dundalk last year. Father Lynch said that Mr. Liston was to be congratulated on his marked success at Clonliffe College. Dr. Verdon, wrote Father Lynch, is an enthusiastic New Zealander—his Lordship is very proud of his devoted priests and religious, and of his faithful, generous people. There is no mistaking his sentiments. He spoke in the highest praise of his people, and in the most kind manner of his fellow-citizens of Dunedin. It was very pleasing, continued Father Lynch, to hear of the great progress religion was making in the Colony. Father Lynch was about to leave Devonshire in a few days for mission work in Ireland, but he did not know to which of the houses of the Order he was to be sent.

D. I. C. grand display of new spring novelties, style, value, and assortment unequalled, at the leading fashion house.—*.*

Persons suffering from biliousness and liver complaints generally will be interested in a notice which appears in our advertising columns, with reference to Haydock's new liver pills. It is claimed that a dose of one or two of these pills suffices to place the stomach in perfect order, creates an appetite, and renders the spirits light and buoyant. If the liver is affected its functions are restored, and if the nervous system is enfeebled it is invigorated and sustained. Dr. Haydock has spent many years in compounding a pill that will act readily and systematically as a bilious remedy, and, having not much faith in great purgatives, he has made one which is an active and thorough dose. Messrs. Kempthorne, Prosser and Co., Christchurch, are the New Zealand agents.—*.*

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