

inter-relations of these four sets of social forces that are in operation on the community. (1) We content ourselves, therefore, with merely indicating in a summary way the evil results of a system of public instruction which compels the child to pass a considerable portion of the most impressionable period of its life, cut off, so to speak, from all thought of, or reference to, the Creator or from immediate contact with any firm or final code of moral restraint. (2) A vast part of the present evil is undoubtedly and directly traceable to the low teachings of the Protestant Churches on the subject of marriage. All over Europe the Reformation began by denying the unity, sacramental character, and indissolubility of marriage. The Reformation began in England with, and owed its spread in Germany to, the formal sanction of bigamy by the founders of the new religion. The father of the English Reformation gave HENRY VIII. two living wives. LUTHER, BUCER, MAIANOTHON and five other German Reformers, jointly issued a warrant—dated December 7, 1539—to PHILIP of Hesse to have two wives simultaneously. In the following year the English Protestant clergy sanctioned the divorce of HENRY VIII. from ANNE of Cleves—merely because she did not happen to be to his liking. A still more liberal dispensation from the ordinary rule of morality was accorded by the Calvinistic clergy of Prussia in the last century to the reigning king, FREDERICK WILLIAM II. He was allowed to have three wives. If these teachings did not immediately produce their full measure of results, it is due to the fact that the Catholic *sentiment* regarding marriage long survived the denial of the Catholic doctrine thereon. Like MOORE'S altar vase :—

You may break, you may shatter, the vase as you will,
But the scent of the roses will cling round it still.

In the foreign mission field polygamy is openly sanctioned. Now, let us bear in mind that New Zealand is, practically, a Protestant country. In so far as public opinion reflects, or is guided by, principles of theology, that theology is Protestant. But to this hour not one Protestant denomination has dared to preach either the sacramental character or the unity or the indissolubility of the marriage bond. Not one of them has dared to legislate against the re-marriage of divorced persons—as, for instance, by cutting them off from communion or membership. On the contrary, divorcees can re-marry at any time with the sanction, approval, and blessing of their various Churches.

Here—in the loose teaching regarding the marriage-tie—we touch one of the tap-roots of the national disorder. It is this teaching which has given the cue—a quasi-ecclesiastical sanction—to the popular idea that marriage is simply a contract to be lightly entered upon, and terminable at any time at the wish, whim, caprice, crime, or folly of either party to it. Now this teaching has had two important results: (1) It has led to, or at least greatly facilitated, the passing of the successive Divorce Acts which have done so much to destroy the permanency of domestic life among us; (2) it has consequently contributed to make marriage in a large number of cases that signal failure which has deterred many young people from entering upon an alliance which may at any moment lead to the scandal of the divorce court; and (3) it has produced those warped or radically wrong ideas regarding the true divine purpose of marriage which have made so many women in our time unwilling to bear the sacred duties and burdens of maternity, and raised that bountiful crop of low panders and criminal purveyors to the popular weakness, who minister to the demand for systematic sterility, and who are worse enemies to society than the thieves and cut-throats whom we place under lock and key in gaol. To their eternal discredit must it be recorded that a large section of the Press of these colonies have made themselves, for money, the mouthpieces of those blatant criminals whose advertisements are so many allurements to some of the degrading forms of vice which are contributing causes to the diminishing birth-rate that bodes so ill to the future well-being of this Colony. Pressmen talk fatuous nonsense when they fancy that such a mighty evil is to be remedied by taxing bachelors. We dealt with the folly of the proposal a few weeks ago. Not that way lies the remedy. We must retrace our steps to the old Catholic principles. The radical cure lies in saturating the minds of the people with the conviction of their personal responsibility to an all-

seeing God, and in bringing home to them right teaching as to the nature and purpose of marriage. The first part of this at least must begin at the home. It must be continued in the school. It must ring out like a clarion-note from the pulpit. Facilities—and therefore temptations—to divorce *a vinculo*—must be removed. The Press must mend its ways, and the purveyors referred to be placed under lock and key. Where wrong ideas and springs of action have taken so strong a grip upon the public mind, the undoing of a bad tendency will require a crusade working through two generations.

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.

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 4s per thousand to the clergy, members of religious houses, and laity who desire to secure a wide distribution of this Encyclical.

DIOCESE OF DUNEDIN.

St. Joseph's Cathedral Choir had the valuable assistance of Miss Hickling, of the Opera Company, at High Mass on Sunday.

The final meeting of the session of the Dunedin Catholic Men's Social Club will take place on Friday evening, for which a very good programme has been prepared. The meeting will be for members and their friends.

Mrs. Costelloe, of Naseby (Miss Kitty Blaney), sang at High Mass and Vespers at St. Joseph's Cathedral on Sunday. It is needless to say that the popular and talented vocalist received a cordial welcome from the members of the choir.

The week before last several residents of Hyde assembled at the Catholic Church, for the purpose of carrying out certain improvements to the grounds. A number of ornamental trees—upwards of one hundred—were planted, the paths were properly formed and gravelled, and a fence erected. A good day's work was done, and the altered look of the grounds now is more in keeping with the appearance of the sacred edifice itself, which is one of the prettiest up-country churches in the diocese. The ladies of the congregation assisted in the good work by providing refreshments for the party.

A very enjoyable concert was given by the Dunedin Catholic Literary Society in St. Joseph's Hall on Monday evening. The attendance was very large, and the piano fund, in aid of which the entertainment was given, should be considerably benefited by the proceeds. Nearly every item was encored, the audience being most appreciative. Vocal solos were contributed by Misses Oliver, Chapman, Morrison, and Mr. C. Merton. Mr. J. A. Scott was very successful in his singing of a German song, which was redemanded. Misses K. Moloney and C. Pearson gave a vocal duet, and Mr. H. McCormack a recitation. Mr. H. Isaacs gave an exhibition of bell ringing, and Mr. F. Stokes played an overture.

The quarterly meeting of the Dunedin branch of the Hibernian Society was held on the 5th inst., the attendance being very large. After transacting the usual routine business, the President (Bro. J. Bourke), on behalf of the branch, presented Bro. M. Mulquinn with a member's certificate, handsomely framed and glazed. In making the presentation the President mentioned the valuable services rendered to the branch by Bro. Mulquinn, who had been instrumental in inducing several members to join the ranks. Bro. Mulquinn, in returning thanks for the presentation, said he had done only what every member of the society should do. He intended to do better even in the future than he had done in the past, and hoped that other members would follow suit. One candidate was initiated, and another proposed.

On Sunday evening, after divine service at the Catholic Church (says the *Clutha Leader*), Miss Dunne was presented with a sub-