

and Official Documents relative to the Miraculous Cures wrought during the exhibition of the Holy Coat in 1844." In this work are set down the details of eighteen cures of diseases, nowise connected with the nervous system, hysteria or paralysis, or curable by mental excitement or like influences, but of diseases really and visibly organic, whose sudden removal can only be accounted for by supernatural interposition. But, of course, I expect to be told "this is the nineteenth century!" Ploughs, harrows and wheelbarrows have been much improved during the past "dozen years"—men's religious beliefs should be improved in the same way! Your comparison from the point of view of innate progressiveness between farmers' "methods" and similar "branches of industry" and the truths of a Revealed Religion like Christianity, betrays dullness of understanding, cloddish, bucolic, and abysmal ignorance of the first elements of philosophy and theology.

JAMES LYNCH, C.C.

(To the Editor of the Lake Wakatip Mail.)

SIR,—In the correspondence lately published in the *Lake County Press* relative to the "Holy Coat of Treves," between the Rev. Father Lynch and the Editor, I may state that the relics of all notabilities (in religion) were preserved; in fact, oftentimes, whether religionists or otherwise, to wit, the clothes of notorious criminals by the executioners, whose privilege it was to keep the garments of such as a perquisite. Now, our Lord Jesus Christ, on his execution, had amongst his garments a coat "without seam"; this is an historical fact, and it was prized as something out of the usual way by the Roman soldiers (probably the executioner being a Roman) who cast lots for the vesture, this coat being amongst the prizes. Why should they not have made all the money they could (the same as a common hangman would in our time) out of the sale of the holy garment, and the purchasers of it having, from their love to the Redeemer, kept it in the hands of the early Christians—as they seem to have done?

Whether there is any efficacy in the virtue of the garment is a moot point, but I think with Father Lynch that there is very little doubt about the genuineness of the coat. I write this as one who takes a thorough disinterestedness in its virtue and as to its healing properties; but would like to ask the conductor of the *Press* whether he believes in history, and also that he had a grandfather—that is although he never saw him.—I am, etc.,

PROTESTANT.

IS THERE SNOW ON THE MOON?

A SPECIAL from San Jose says that Professor Holden of the famous Lick Observatory has procured through the big telescope better photographs of the moon than have been taken anywhere else, and the work of photographing goes on every hour when the moon is visible. By studying these photographs with a magnifying glass and comparing them any changes taking place on the surface of the moon may be discovered. The astronomers on Mount Hamilton have discovered some things that nobody else ever saw, but they have not determined whether these are new features or things that are too small to have been seen through less powerful telescopes.

For example, upon the top of one of the mountains of the moon the photograph shows a luminous white spot that looks like snow. If that is snow and if it was not there before, the presence of an atmosphere is indicated. It has been believed that the moon has no atmosphere and therefore is uninhabitable, but if it should be demonstrated that snow falls upon the surface of the satellite the accepted theory would be upset, and astronomers would begin to study the moon with new and greater interests. If the moon were inhabited it is very likely the works of man would have been seen there before now.

The growing and harvesting of crops would produce changes of appearance easily distinguishable by the aid of such a glass as the Lick telescope. Objects upon the moon are detected by their shadows, and a projection or eminence fifty feet high casts a shadow large enough to be seen through the Lick telescope. If Professor Holden, studying his series of photographs should discover some day a new shadow where none had been cast before when the moon was in the same position, under the same light he would know that there had been a change upon the surface, either part of the crust upheaved by some internal movement or a building put up by living creatures. The shape of the shadow might tell the nature of the projection.

Professor Holden does not expect to find any traces of man's work on the moon, but he may ascertain if any changes have taken place there within thirty years.

The smallest church in the world is at St Lawrence, near Ventnor, Isle of Wight. It has a seating capacity for twelve people.

Rev Dr Kane, the Orange parson, has denounced Mr Forwood, Secretary to the Admiralty, for having made the statement that he, Dr Kane, was one of the warmest supporters of Mr Balfour's proposal last session to aid denominational colleges in Ireland by money grants. The Dr apparently thinks that Mr Balfour is a Jesuit in disguise. The Orangemen are sorely troubled on the point.

ST. PATRICK'S COLLEGE SPORTS.

(Wellington Press, November 4.)

THE students of St Patrick's College held their sixth annual athletic sports on the Hutt racecourse yesterday. The weather in town was very bad when the special train conveying the boys and their friends left, and was so in fact all day, but curiously there was not much rain at the Hutt. Monday had, however, been very wet there, and the ground was so soft that anything like fast running was quite out of the question. By the kindness of the Wellington Racing Club the grand stand and rooms were placed at the disposal of the College, and in the building the masters and boys had lunch.

The judges were—Rev John McKenna and Messrs P. S. Garvey, W. Gasquoin, R. Holcroft, and S. Kohn. Starters—Messrs H. McCardell and M. Hodgins. Handicappers—Rev J. Holley, S.M., and Messrs H. McCardell and J. S. Ryan. Management Committee—Rev J. Holley, S.M., and Messrs H. McCardell, S. J. Ryan, M. Hodgins, M. Hanning, P. Fay, and W. H. Jones.

The proceedings were under the kindly eye of the Very Rev Dr Watters, S.M., D.D., principal of the College, and his staff, all of whom showed great interest in the different events. The Archbishop was to have been present, but is absent in Australia. The Very Rev Father Macnamara, V.G., and the Very Rev Father Devoy were present. The boys returned to town shortly before 7 p.m., having spent a very pleasant day.

The results of the various events are as follows:—Preparatory School Race 190yds—C. Harper, 10yds, 1; H. Poll, 9yds, 2; F. Reid, 1yd, 3. Twenty-six started. No time taken. St. Patrick's College Grand Handicap (first heat), 100yds—E. Smith, 4yds, 1; J. Prendergast, 5yds, 2; A. McKay, 6yds, 3. Time, 11 2/5th sec. High Jump—J. Haggerty, 5ft 2in, 1; J. Prendergast, 4ft 10in, 2; W. Organ, 4ft 3in, 3. 120yds Handicap, under 15 years—P. Garvey, 18yds, 1; C. Harper, 18yds, 2; K. Jeffries, 1yd, 3. No time taken. 150yds Championship—J. McNeill, 1; J. Prendergast, 2; J. Young, 3. Time 17 3/5th sec. St. Patrick's College Grand Handicap (second distance), 220yds—J. McNeill, 4yds, 1; E. Smith, 6yds, 2; A. McKay, 10yds, 3. 220yds, under 15 years—M. Scanlon, 2yds, 1; J. Haselden, 15yds, 2; P. Keane, 15yds, 3. Long Jump—P. Fay, 19ft 9in, 1; J. Lafferty, 18ft 4in, 2; J. Prendergast, 18ft 1in, 3. 250yds (open)—A. McKay, 11yds, 1; W. Organ, 15yds, 2; J. Cullen, 18yds, 3. Time, 30sec. High Jump, under 15 years—J. Taylor, 4ft 6in, 1; S. Hickson, 4ft 4in, 2; J. Brazil, 4ft 2in, 3. St. Patrick's College Grand Handicap (third distance), 440 yds—A. McKay, 15yds, 1; W. Fallon, 30yds, 2; E. Smith, 8 yds, 3. Time, 60sec. Half-mile Handicap—P. Fay, scr, 1; T. Bourke, 50yds, 2; H. Kummer, 60yds, 3. Time, 2min 26sec. Old Boys' Race, 120yds—P. Cooney, scr, 1; J. Bourke, 5yds, 2. Time, 14 2/5sec. Band Race, 120yds—W. Miller, 5yds, 1; J. McNeill, 1yd, 2; J. Henley, 4yds, 3. Mile Handicap—F. McDonald, 200yds, 1; H. Kummer, 150 yds, 2; T. Bourke, 120yds, 3. Messrs W. Reid and C. Ludwig were the timekeepers.

A HEROIC PRIEST.

ON Sunday evening, July 26, a sad accident happened at the Friar's Goose Chemical Works, Newcastle-on-Tyne, England, by which six men were instantly killed and a seventh so entombed as to linger only for fifteen hours. McCuskin, the man entombed, was caught by the legs between two large stones, each a ton weight, besides several tons of debris, forming a vault over him. He was up to the waist in acid which in itself would kill one not accustomed to it in a few hours. McCuskin, who was a Catholic, was attended on Sunday night by Father Rafferty, who, when he had become prostrated, was relieved by Rev F. Fitzgerald, of Gateshead. During the early hours of Monday, when hope was all but abandoned, and the efforts of the workmen were futile to effect a release of McCuskin, Father Fitzgerald, at the imminent risk of his life, stepped through the ruins and stood close to the dying man, while the workmen stood a little way off. The good priest, in calm tones and with a quiet demeanour becoming his sacred office, administered Extreme Unction. The scene was most impressive. The place was only illuminated by the flickering light of the torches and the pale rays of the moon. Every now and then the view was obscured by the dense volumes of white smoke which completely enveloped the priest as he stood near the man who was dying under such dreadful circumstances. The solemn scene so impressed the spectators that they ceased work, and reverently uncovered their heads; no sound was heard save the solemn tones of the priest's voice. Poor McCuskin seemed intensely pleased that the priest had shown so brave a spirit, and appeared reconciled to his dreadful fate. As the priest finished his sacred duty and stepped from the ruins a feeling of relief was experienced by the spectators, who dreaded every moment that a further catastrophe might occur by the falling of another condenser. As the priest passed out each man involuntarily lifted his cap, or made a salute with his hand, as a mark of respect to him who had, amid great danger, given the only consolation that could possibly be afforded to this poor unfortunate comrade, who soon afterwards passed away, after exclaiming "I'm done."—Exchange.