

## CATHOLIC NEWS.

(From the Liverpool *Catholic Times*)

THE Empress Augusta Victoria is recovering from her attack of influenza. Her Majesty has the good wishes of all German Catholics, for she has always shown a kindly feeling towards them.

The Marchioness of Bute, who some time ago purchased the old hospital at Ayr, has now turned the building into a refuge for orphan children, managed by the Sisters of the Sacred Heart.

The editor of the *Devonport Independent* advises Catholics not to advertise bigots who howl about convents by noticing them, but to allow them "to stew in the juice of their own slanders." They delight, he says, to call themselves Protestant, and they are certainly more Protestant than Christian.

The misery in Rome increase day by day. Many princely families are ruined. The poor are dying of sheer hunger. The brigands and housebreakers are growing bolder and bolder. The streets are a source of terror to all after the *Ave Maria* has rung. Weeping, wailing, and gnashing of teeth (for the Romans are all *rabbiani*) are heard on all sides.

According to the *Piedmontese Gazette* the Holy Father has expressed to Cardinal Rampolla a wish to see at Rome, during his jubilee *fetes*, a congress of Catholic bishops discussing social problems. He would like that a sort of catechism on the subject should be drawn up for the benefit of workmen throughout the world.

Acting on the instructions of the General of his Order Father Bennett, Provisional C.S.S.B., leaves Clapham on Ash Wednesday for Australia, for the purpose of making a long-deferred visit to the Redemptorist houses there. Father Bennett will be accompanied by Father O'Laverty, C.S.S.B., rector of Clapham, who is not yet sufficiently recovered from his illness to be able to resume his duties, and whose only hope of perfect restoration to health is in a long sea voyage. Father Bennett will return to Clapham, via Rome, in July or August.

Mr Orby Shipley, who entered the Church through Cardinal Manning's instrumentality, contributes a "Memorial Sketch" to the *Catholic World*. In the course of it he says:—"If it were felt to be of obligation to condense into a single adjective the Cardinal's chief characteristic, no single word could be found so entirely to cover his memory as the title of *great*. . . . He was a great man, less because he was gifted and graced by any one ability or virtue of surpassing power and merit, than because he possessed many virtues and much ability of a very high order and in an unusual degree. . . . He was great in the instinct he was given to foresee the future, to grasp the situation, and to decide on immediate and suitable action.

Once again we warn our readers to be on their guard against the false, and frequently ridiculous, information published concerning the Holy Father's health. Several news agencies have built up perfect romances about the grief of the Pope at the death of Mgr Baccali. According to these omnipresent scribes, Leo XIII. gave way to his sorrow to such a degree that his health, already so feeble, has considerably suffered. Most certainly the Holy Father was profoundly grieved. He has lost his most faithful friend and trusted collaborator. His great heart could not be but sadly affected by such a loss being added to so many others. But from this to the physical and moral weakness so talked about, there is a wide difference. The Holy Father's grief was Christian and resigned, and the exaggerated statements of those knights of the pen may be considered as flights of imagination. Leo XIII. is well in mind and body, thank God.

Colonel John McDonald, who died on the 16th inst, was the uncle of two bishops and three priests, and his brother, the Rev Donald McDonald, is pastor of Glenfinnan. He was a younger son of John McDonald, and great grandson of Angus McDonald, of Borrodale, in whose house Prince Charles Edward slept at the commencement of his ill-starred attempt to gain possession of the Crown of forefathers. Col. McDonald joined the East India Company's service at an early stage, and was for many years an officer in the 66th (old) Regiment of Goorkhas. By his daring, promptitude, and decision of character at Umritzir Colonel McDonald quelled the first movements of a Sepoy revolt, and saved the Europeans from general massacre. For this service Sir Charles Napier gave him the command of a regiment of irregular cavalry. He retired on half pay shortly after the mutiny. He married a Miss Morgan, daughter of the late Mr E. Morgan, by whom he had two daughters—one of whom is dead; the other is a nun in Ireland. His wife died in India. For fifteen years of his life he lived with his nephew, the Rev Aeneas Chisholm, at Banff, and his niece, Miss Sarah Chisholm. On the removal of Father Chisholm to Blairs College, Col. McDonald went to Aberdeen with his niece—who died shortly after—to be near his two nephews, the other of whom is the Bishop of Aberdeen. His remains were conveyed to Glenfinnan, and laid in the family vault beside his daughter and relatives.

France is not anti-Catholic, but it is anti-monarchical. It might become, however, for an uncertain length of time anti-Catholic if it were rendered difficult for the electors to vote as Catholics without

voting as monarchists. The country wants no more subtleties such as the famous Conservative Union endeavoured to practice upon it—no more hiding of the true flag and sailing under false colours; no more Boulangism or any other "ism" to pave the way to public convulsions that may bring about civil war. The people want safety, and, rightly or wrongly, they have got the idea rooted in their heads that the safest Government for them is a Republican one. But between this conviction and the desire to trample out the religion which is so intimately woven up with their family traditions, with all the solemn and respectable thoughts surrounding baptism, marriage, and death there is a gulf. If Catholic politicians will go to work discreetly and also frankly, they have it in their power to save the Church from the further attacks of Radicalism and Atheism; but if they should blunder at the next general election, which is not far off, as they have before, there is a strong probability that the most dangerous kind of Republicanism will become triumphant.

## OUR TEMUKA LETTER.

(From an Occasional Correspondent.)

Temuka, April 23, 1892.

SINCE my last letter Passion Sunday, Palm Sunday, Good Friday, and the great festival of Easter, 1892, are numbered amongst things of the past. On the first-named day the choir had the benefit of rather a distinguished vocalist, Miss Bartos, of Waimate. In the morning the young lady rendered the solos, "O Salutaris," and "Veni Jesu," and in the evening again sang several solos, which were very eminent for the excellent manner in which they were rendered. Miss Bartos possesses a voice of extraordinary power and range, which is backed up by a thorough knowledge of, and appreciable soul for, music. Many flattering comments were elicited from those who were capable of judging sublime harmony. Certainly it was the best singing heard in the famous church of St Joseph. Good Friday proved extremely quiet, both priests being in Christchurch, assisting at the ceremony which took place on Thursday. In the evening the Stations of the Cross were followed. The Good Templars had to hold their picnic in the Volunteer Hall (owing to the wet), where, like the Jews on that memorable day, they enjoyed themselves even in aching. On Easter Sunday, the church, which during the week looked so sorrowful with its drapery, was beautiful to behold, the decorations being artistic, the work of the Sisters of St Joseph. At half-past ten solemn High Mass was sung by the Rev Father Fauvel, who preached an impressive sermon from the text of the gospel for the day—"He is risen; He is not here; behold the place wherethy laid Him." The choir, under the leadership of one of the Sisters, was exceptionally good. The "Mass of the Annunciation" (C. M. Baeteus) was rendered, and before Mass "Vidi Aquam," and the "Resurrection Litany," the Offertory piece being Labat de Serene's popular composition, "Regina Cœli." A selection from Haydn and Mozart was also given. The solos and due's on the occasion were sustained by Mrs Twoomey, Misses Connolly, L. Quinn, and B. Connolly, and Messrs Polaschek and Scannell sustained the bass solos in the Mass. In the evening solemn Vespers were sung, amongst the items rendered by the choir being Father Police's popular Litany. The excellent manner in which this piece (and others) is always sung by the choir is due to the splendid tuition of Father Aubrey (now, I believe, in Blenheim). Miss Quinn presided at the harmonium at both services. The Rev Father Lepetit officiated at St Mary's, Pleasant Point, on Easter Sunday. The church was prettily decorated for the occasion. The choir, with Miss L. Hoare at the harmonium, were very successful with their appropriate renditions.

The Rev Austin Aubrey, the Diocesan Inspector of Schools, in his report on St Joseph's School, recommended some alterations to the building, which, I believe, will shortly be carried out. It is intended to add a room of 20ft to the western end. When the school is completed the building will be a comfortable one. It is also intended to make improvements to the convent, and to rectify the injured spire of St Joseph's church. The parish is entirely free from debt, which has been hanging on for a good time. In justice I might remark that for a long time the interest on money due to the bank was paid by Father Fauvel, which was rather a large item. There is now a surplus in hand. The sea's in the church are being let, and with this it is intended to do any necessary work that may arise.

When his Lordship was in Temuka on his visitation he expressed a desire that the "Angelus" should be rung in the usual manner. This wish has been gratified. The bells of St Joseph's have been heard both in Timaru and Geraldine, about 12 miles distant.

A number of photographers visited St Joseph's at different times with the objects of their art in view. At that time the beautiful church was surrounded with "pines," which rendered it practically impossible to take the building. No doubt they will be pleased to learn that the trees have been removed. This alteration has made a wonderful improvement in the general appearance of the locality. I might mention that on Easter Monday there was quite an influx of Protestant visitors to the church, and many remarks of admiration could be heard.