

Christian convert, crossed the dreaded desert of Gobi and penetrated, in search of souls, the then unknown land of Tibet. On one wild and wintry January day in 1846 they reached its capital, the sacred city of Lhassa. They immediately started a mission and set to work to preach the Gospel of Christ to the pagan population. Success promptly attended their efforts. They made a number of converts. And then came sudden disaster. At the instigation of the Chinese Amban or Resident at Lhassa, the missionaries were deported to Canton. Twenty of their converts won the crown of martyrdom. Father Iluc returned to his native Paris in 1852 utterly wrecked in health—the mere battered ribs and timbers of a man. But several years before he died he gave to the world one of the most fascinating books of travel yet written—the two-volume story of his long toilsome missionary journeyings through Tartary, Tibet, and China. It still remains, and will long remain, a classic. Even healthy eyes have what is called a 'blind spot.' And the blind spot in the eyes of writers on Tibet seems to be turned, with curious persistency, on the valuable records which Catholic missionaries have left of that strange country and its strange people.

DIocese OF DUNEDIN

His Lordship the Bishop left Te Aroha at the beginning of the present week and is now in Rotorua.

On Tuesday evening the assistants in the Home Rule stall in the recent and highly-successful Carlin Ban Fete entertained their principal, Miss Staunton, to a social evening in St. Joseph's Hall. The function was a very pleasant and successful one. Vocal items were rendered by the Misses Davis, Brady, Bryant, K. Hannigan, and Staunton, and Messrs. T. Hussey and H. Miles. The accompaniments were played by Miss Poppelwell. During the evening a presentation, consisting of a very handsome travelling writing case, was made to Miss Staunton by Father Murphy, on behalf of the assistants. Mr. H. Miles returned thanks on behalf of Miss Staunton in a happy vein.

The weekly meeting of St. Joseph's Men's Club on Friday evening took the form of a smoke concert. There were 42 members present, and the Rev. Father Murphy, Adm., occupied the chair. Rev. Brother Brady was also present. A very pleasant evening was spent, and the Club has good reason to be proud of the talent it contains and with the manner in which the various contributors to the evening's amusement acquitted themselves. Instrumental solos were given by Messrs. Deehan, Whelan, songs by Messrs. T. Hughes, T. Hussey, and recitations by Messrs. Hill and Beard, whilst Mr. L. Stokes ably acted as accompanist. This gentleman also added some first-class gramophone selections to the programme. Brother Brady also favored the members with a humorous story, which was greatly enjoyed. Prior to the meeting Brother Brady, who has kindly undertaken to conduct an elocution class in connection with the Club, gave an outline of the object of such a class, as regards the art of speaking, reading, and reciting. Nine more new members were elected, bringing the total for the season to 37.

The formal opening of the session of St. Mary's Literary and Social Club, Milton, took place on Monday night, when there was an excellent attendance, about sixty members being present. The president (Very Rev. Father O'Neill) delivered an inaugural address on the general benefits of literary and debating societies, and treated the subject in a characteristically humorous, pointed, and practical way. His illustrations from the careers of famous Irishmen such as Thomas Sexton, Tim Healy, and Michael Davitt, and of colonial statesmen such as the Premier and Sir Joseph Ward, were particularly interesting and telling, and the address was listened to throughout with the most marked attention and appreciation. Mr. Scott, in moving a hearty vote of thanks to the lecturer, emphasised the incalculable benefit to be derived from continual practice in speaking, and declared that that was the one and only remedy for nervousness, self-consciousness, and the other disabilities that made public speaking so difficult to the beginner. The vote of thanks to Father O'Neill was carried with acclamation. A capital musical programme was then rendered, to which the following contributed: Miss Scanlan and Mrs. Nolan, and Messrs. J. A. Scott, T. Leaven, W. Kirby, and P. Hynes. At an interval in the proceedings refreshments were handed round, and the ladies' efforts in this direction were very cordially appreciated.

NEW ZEALAND: GENERAL

Mr. Jackson Palmer, who represented Ohinemuri in the last Parliament, is appointed additional judge to the Native Land Court.

The estate of the late Mr. John A. Ewen, of Dunedin, and a member of the firm of Sargood, Son, and Ewen, has been finally certified for stamp duty at £203,116.

The proposed Wellington exhibition has been definitely postponed until November, 1905, the principal reason being the uncertainty of the date on which the Town Hall would be ready for the purpose.

The Chief Government Veterinarian states that the black quarter disease which plays havoc among calves is spreading rapidly in Taranaki, and fears it will in time involve the whole of the North Island. He thinks Taranaki should be a quarantine area for young stock.

At a meeting of the Newtown Licensing Committee on Monday licenses were renewed to the Newtown and Grosvenor Hotels. This action restored the licenses to all the hotels in the district which had been closed pending the appeal to the Privy Council.

A Taranaki doctor was once riding over a wild stretch of country, and asked the lonely milker how he managed to get medical assistance for his wife in the isolated cottage where they lived. 'Well, sar,' replied the farmer, in all good faith, 'we don't ha' no doctor; we just dies a natural death.'

The Premier, who had been staying at Sir George Grey's old house at Kawau, left on Monday in the 'Hinemoa' for the northern lighthouses, and expects to take a fortnight to reach Manukau. He is due in Wellington on June 8. The rest and sea air are doing him great good.

The head master of one of the largest of Wellington city schools states that so great is the demand among employers for boys in Wellington that the supply fails to meet it. A great number of lads leave school directly they have passed the Fifth Standard to go to work. Requests for boys come to head masters of schools at a rate that cannot be satisfied.

Kauri gum has been discovered in large quantities right on the Aotea beach, Kawhia. Several Maoris are engaged in securing this valuable product, which cannot be got excepting at low water, it being submerged at any other time of the tide. The gum is of fair quality, estimated to be worth nearly £100 per ton, and is produced in large pieces.

It is a frequently expressed opinion that Taranaki farmers are paying too much for their land, when they give more than £15 or £16 per acre for it. An Eltham resident (says the local paper), who is in an excellent position to judge, expresses the opinion that with butter selling as low as 8d per lb, Taranaki farmers can safely pay £25 an acre for good land, and still make money. He makes the provision, however, that the farmer must have the necessary labor within his own family. If he has to pay for labor at the current rate of wages, then his outlook is not a bright one.

It is understood (says the Wellington correspondent of the 'Evening Star') that the Bank of New Zealand has had a more prosperous year than ever. When the figures are disclosed in due course the profit for the year will be shown at £200,000, which is some thousands in advance of last year's profit, although last year was looked on as a phenomenal year. This is regarded as a splendid result, as although times are prosperous, money has been tighter during the past twelve months than in the preceding year.

There was a very good attendance at the first social gathering of the season held on Wednesday evening, May 15 in St. Mary's Hall (says the Nelson 'Colonist'), and the function was most enjoyable. The concert portion of the programme was most excellent, songs being contributed by Misses I. Driscoll (encored), Garrard, and Hanton (encored), Messrs. Hosieaux, Bunny (encored), and Jackson, and instrumental music by Miss Greenfield (piano) and Mr. Owen (mandoline). An abundance of refreshments was provided.

A Greymouth message states that after an extraordinarily long spell of fine weather heavy rain set in on Saturday, and no less than 5in fell within 24 hours. The rivers and creeks are all in high flood, and rising. The lower end of Greymouth is under water. A great deal of damage has been occasioned to roads, railways, and bridges through slips and subsidences. A most extraordinary accident took place on the Grey-Otira railway. The morning train had passed Stillwater about a mile, and was running along a siding when a large slip occurred just in front, which capsized the engine, carry-

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