

differences would have to be examined, each with its separate and peculiar vices—some deep, corrupting, cunning, and concealed filming

'The ulcerous place
While rank corruption, mining all within,
Infects unseen.'

Other vices explode openly into breaches of the human statute. We cannot weigh and measure these things by statistics. And yet they count most truly in the formation of human conduct and character. We may lay down one proposition as irrefragable—that all sin against God, seen or unseen of men, is an offence against society, lowering the moral tone, and preparing for overt acts against law. The secret trickster, the darkness-loving adulterer, rarely come within the reach of legal punishment. Yet they are poisoners of the social atmosphere. Compared with the moral lepers, the mere wine-bibber is a trifling offender. Yet the taproom drunkard comes under the note of Mr. Panton, the Police Magistrate, while the others are chronicled only in the great book of God's recording angel.

As an illustration, you all remember the 'Pall Mall Gazette's' exposure of London as 'The Modern Babylon.' A thrill of horror pervaded Christendom at the almost nameless secret iniquities of the city against purity. I have before me, as I write, a consensus of testimony from Protestant ministers of Midland England that 'at no previous date in English history has the marriage bond, the very basis of society, been so openly violated and dishonored as it is to-day.' Be it remarked that none of these things come into the crime tables.

The Purity of Ireland.

But there are some evidences of immorality which do. For instance, here is a table taken from a number of the old 'Victorian Year Book':—

Illegitimate Births to Every 100 Children Born.	
Scotland for 15 years	8.05
England and Wales for 15 years	5.00
Tasmania for 5 years	4.30
New South Wales for 15 years	4.27
Victoria for 15 years	4.14
Queensland for 14 years	3.67
New Zealand for 14 years	2.38
Ireland for 14 years	2.04

Here is another form, quoted by the Rev. Arthur Young from Dr. Leffingwell's tables. It puts the case in another shape. It takes the unmarried women between the ages of 15 and 45, and gives the number of illegitimacies to each 1000 of them for all the ten years 1878-87. This is the result:—

Irish Illegitimacy	4.4 per 1000
English and Welsh Illegitimacy	14.0 per 1000
Scottish Illegitimacy	21.5 per 1000

How do Sir Archibald Michie's ideas about the influence of 'Romanist dogma' look in the light of these figures? But there is a still more drastic test. The same writer takes two Irish counties, Catholic Connaught and Protestant Ulster, and compares them thus:—

Ten Years, 1879-88.	Total Illegitimacies.	To 1000 Births.
Connaught	322	5.6
Ulster	3081	51.1

There we see the Protestant province ten times as immoral in this point as the Catholic one. Is this a sign of the influence of 'Romanist dogma'?

British and Irish Crime Compared.

Father Young, in his book, 'Catholic and Protestant Countries Compared,' cites scores of Protestant authorities to prove that Protestant crime and immorality are much blacker than anything to be urged against Ireland. I have no more space to give to his statistics beyond this one line, taken from the 'Encyclopaedia Britannica,' showing the 'more serious offences' in Ireland, as compared with equivalent numbers of the population in England and Scotland, thus:—

Ireland.	England.	Scotland.
3812	4797	6487

An English journal is quoted to show that 'death sentences are eight times greater in England than in Ireland to equal numbers of population.'

So you see—what, of course, you always saw—that Irishmen and Catholics have no occasion to be afraid of facts. As for sneers and jeers against 'Romanist dogma'—well, they may make the 'unskillful laugh,' and 'split the ears of the groundlings'; but they only make 'the judicious grieve.' Certainly, Irish Catholics will never hang their heads in shame at any true statistical crime comparison. Like others, Irish Catholics have, doubtless, plenty of room for moral and spiritual advancement. And they need not disdain to accept a lesson from even the unjust taunts of their enemies.

But the heavenly purity of their faith, and the holy and salutary restraints of their confessional, make their lives, in the bulk—in spite of slips from their warm and impulsive temperament—the saving salt of this bright, new land. It is quite true that the racial peculiarities, the poverty, and the generally undistinguished social status of their exceptional offenders bring their failing more frequently and prominently into the public eye. But as to the moral and spiritual status of Irish Catholics—their attractions of those codes of which God takes note where the Statist fails—I would gladly take their chances as against those of the very sleekest and best in any other sections of the community

Diocesan News

ARCHDIOCESE OF WELLINGTON

(From our own correspondent.)

December 3.

The mission, at present being conducted by the Redemptorist Fathers at the Sacred Heart Basilica, will be continued during part of next week. There have been large congregations at the various services.

On Monday morning at St. Joseph's, Buckle street, Miss E. Cassin, of Hastings (in religion Sister M. Anthony), made her profession as a member of the Order of the Sisters of Compassion. Four postulants were received. They were Miss E. Moynihan, of Ireland (Sister M. Michael), Miss M. Murphy, of Hokitika (Sister M. Gabriel); Miss H. McNamara, of Ireland (Sister M. Gerard); Miss A. Brett, of Wellington (Sister M. Vianney). Mass was celebrated by the Very Rev. Father Keogh, the Rev. Fathers O'Shea, O'Reilly, and Vanning being present in the sanctuary. Father Keogh preached on the religious life, and the choir, under Mr. McLaughlin, rendered the incidental music in a very devotional manner.

On Wednesday morning at St. Joseph's Church the Rev. John Funnerty, of Ireland, and Rev. John Kousch, of Luxemburg, were ordained priests. His Lordship Bishop Grimes officiated, and was assisted by the Ven. Archdeacon Devoy and the Rev. Father O'Shea. His Lordship delivered a short address on the office and duties of the priesthood. After the celebration of Mass the newly ordained priests blessed the congregation. After this ceremony the Sacrament of Confirmation was administered to about seventy candidates, including many adults.

The twentieth annual sports gathering of the students of St. Patrick's College was held on Monday on the Basin Reserve. Lady Ward and many other friends of the college were present. A band played during the afternoon, and afternoon tea was served in a marquee on the ground. The 100yds and 220yds championships were won easily by J. Kennedy, of Greymouth, who in the 100yds race equalled the record of 10 2-5secs established by J. O'Dwyer in 1888. Kennedy won the College Championship on the day's performances, gaining 19 points, and thus is the first competitor entitled to have his name inscribed on the handsome championship cup presented to the college by Messrs. P. Garvey, J. Kerwin, and Dixon. The following were the results:—

St. Patrick's College Grand Handicap.—First distance, 100yds—Ron. McDonald, 6yds, 1; F. Ryan, 3yds, 2; F. O'Connell, 5yds, 3.

Second distance, 220yds—M. Sheridan, 16yds, 1; Ron. McDonald, 11yds, 2; F. O'Connell, 9yds, 3.

Third distance, 440yds—M. Sheridan, 31yds, 1; J. Kennedy, scratch, 2; Ron. McDonald, 21yds, 3.

Ron. McDonald and Sheridan are equal for first place in the Grand Handicap, with 6 points each.

100yds Championship—J. Kennedy, 1; W. Quill, 2; E. Prendeville, 3.

220yds Championship—J. Kennedy, 1; E. Prendeville, 2; W. Quill, 3.

100yds, under 16—T. O'Connor, 2yds, 1; D. Landon, 8yds, 2; E. Casey, 10yds, 1.

Throwing the Cricket Ball—J. Herring, 83yds 8in (handicap 1yd), 1; P. McNamara, 76yds 9in (handicap 2yds), 2; C. Campion, 75yds 2ft (handicap 3yds), 3.

Potato Race—W. Sullivan, 1; J. Dignan, 2; F. McKenna, 3.

Hop, Step, and Jump—J. Kennedy, 41ft 4in (scratch) 1; P. McNamara, 36ft 10in (handicap 10in), 2.

100yds, boys under 14—F. McKenna, 2yds, 1; T. Malone, 9yds, 2.

120yds—L. Chapman, 7yds, 1; Ron. McDonald, 5yds, 2; F. Ryan, 1yd, 3.

220yds Handicap, under 16—F. McKenna, 15yds, 1; T. O'Connor, 5yds, 2; J. Ryan, 9yds, 3.

Half-mile Handicap—J. Ryan, 90yds, 1; R. Hill, 50yds, 2; T. Kearins, 90yds, 3.