

States of the Commonwealth he is vanishing fast under the vices, the diseases, and the brutalities of the low Caucasian. The handsome, copper-skinned Fijian natives decreased by 121 per 1000 between 1891 and 1901. Their kinsmen in the Hawaiian group are 'going with a vengeance.' The North American Indian is also 'moving off the earth'—fitting in the wake of the vanished races that have melted on contact with English-speaking civilisation. Among colonising peoples, Catholic Spain and Portugal seem to be about the only ones that, from the first, set systematically about converting, elevating, civilising, and preserving the aboriginal tribes with whom they came in contact. One result of Spanish colonisation is this: that the pure-blood Indians of Mexico are 38 per cent. of the total population, and people of mixed races 43 per cent. In Peru 57 per cent. of the population are aboriginals, and 23 per cent. of mixed blood. And the Philippines, with their more than six million native Catholics, are a monument more lasting than bronze to Spanish enterprise and piety.

## Notes

### Nazareth House, Christchurch

With our next issue (March 23) we will issue an illustrated supplement containing a number of views and groups in connection with the recently established Nazareth House, Christchurch. Orders for copies of the issue should be booked early with our local agent (Mr. E. O'Connor) or at the office of this paper.

### A Protest

At the Methodist Conference in Wellington last week two clergymen—Revs. T. G. Hammond and J. J. Matjer—recorded a protest against the vote of a sum of money towards the salary and expenses of the paid political agitator of the Bible-in-schools League. The two reverend gentlemen deserve honorable mention here. Their action at the Conference meeting evidently stamps them as men who do not believe in clergymen abdicating one of the elementary duties of their calling and loafing in easy-chairs while lay State officials turn the public schools into proselytising institutions, or use them for the propaganda of agnosticism, or (at best) administer to the luckless little ones homoeopathic doses of an emasculated Unitarianism.

### Mixed Choirs

After all, the Papal Rescript on Sacred Music may not be like the laws of the Medes and Persians. Although in itself a judicial law of universal application, it is possible that its enforcement, so far as mixed choirs is concerned, may for a time be suspended in countries where its strict observance might work much harshness and inconvenience. So much, at least, is more than hinted at in an editorial paragraph in a recent issue of the Liverpool 'Catholic Times.' 'From a reliable Roman source,' says our English contemporary, 'we learn that the Commissions on Sacred Music and on Gregorian Chant lately held a joint meeting to consider the question of mixed choirs. Having affirmed the general law prohibiting such choirs at liturgical functions, they went on to admit the necessity of exempting countries where the enforcement of the law would create serious difficulties. A resolution embodying this view will be laid before the Holy Father at an early date. Our informant makes special mention of America as amongst the countries to be exempted. We learn from another source that Switzerland has already secured an exemption; and that several of the German Catholic States, where mixed choirs are the rule—Bavaria, for instance—are about to apply for the same favor. Up to the present no German Bishop has made any move to enforce this law.'

## DIocese OF DUNEDIN

The Right Rev. Dr. Verdon is at present at Te Aroha. His Lordship's address is Hot Springs Hotel.

We learn that Miss Ivy McKenzie, a pupil of St. Dominic's College, Dunedin, has passed the teachers' D examination.

We understand that a Catholic concert is to be held this (Thursday) evening in Milton. The St. Patrick's Day annual Catholic sports and concert take place in Lawrence on Friday.

There will be High Mass on Sunday next at St. Patrick's Basilica, South Dunedin. The Rev. Father Buckley (Holy Cross College, Mosgiel) will preach the panegyric on St. Patrick.

Rev. Father O'Donnell, C.S.S.R., who lately conducted a series of missions in the diocese of Christchurch left Dunedin on Sunday last for Melbourne and Ballarat by Hobart. Rev. Father Dolan (Melbourne) left Dunedin for the North on Tuesday.

The quarterly meeting of the Altar Society connected with St. Patrick's Basilica, South Dunedin, was held in the schoolroom on Sunday afternoon and was well attended. The Rev. Father Coffey presided, and spoke encouragingly of the good work being done by the members of this excellent society.

The annual outing to the altar boys of St. Patrick's, South Dunedin, took place on Monday last. A launch was specially engaged for the occasion, and the party proceeded to the Heads, where an enjoyable day was spent. Several of the clergy accompanied the party, and the outing was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Our readers are reminded that the Christian Brothers' Prize Competition closes at the end of March, and all coupons need to be in before then. The object is a most laudable one, and we hope that it will be a complete success, for the Christian Brothers are of invaluable service in the district.

The members of the Dunedin branch of the Hibernian Society assembled at the schoolroom, South Dunedin, on last Sunday morning in compliance with their annual custom of approaching the Holy Table. Mass was celebrated at nine o'clock by the Rev. Father Coffey, who expressed the pleasure he felt at seeing such a large number of Hibernians present and partaking of the Holy Sacrament.

There was Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at St. Patrick's Basilica, South Dunedin, on Sunday last. The members of the various sodalities and a large number of the congregation attended throughout the afternoon. At the evening service the Rev. Father Coffey officiated, the Rev. Father Corcoran delivering a very practical discourse to a large assemblage of the faithful. A procession of the orphan children, the Children of Mary, and members of the Sacred Heart Confraternity took place within the building.

The concert to be held on Friday next at His Majesty's Theatre promises to be a complete success from both an artistic and financial point of view. Amongst the performers are Miss Amy Murphy, Miss G. Meenan, Miss Edith Leech, Mrs. Power, and Messrs. T. Hussey, B. Stevens, and John McGrath. The Christian Brothers' boys will also give a short display. Mr. Lochrane, of H.M.S. 'Phoebe,' has obtained special leave from Wellington, and will appear in some new humorous items. From the foregoing list it will be seen that a capital entertainment may be expected, and it remains for the public to turn out in large numbers to do honor to their patron saint and prove by their presence that they have not forgotten the land of their birth.

### PALMERSTON NORTH

(From our own correspondent.)

March 13.

A retreat for the Children of Mary was begun by the Very Rev. Father O'Farrell on Sunday afternoon, and will terminate on Thursday next.

The many friends of Sister M. Winifred will be grieved to learn that she is lying dangerously ill at the local convent, with very little hope of her recovery.

The Very Rev. Father O'Farrell preached eloquent sermons both at the 11 o'clock Mass and at Vespers on Sunday last to crowded congregations, and has also consented to address the local branch of Hibernians at the 8 o'clock Mass next Sunday, on the occasion of their half-yearly Communion.