

dren lies in the direction of using all available means which the Church can command to quicken the sense of parental responsibility and revive family piety and make the home what it was meant to be, and what all Scripture and all history proves it capable of becoming—even the seat of Christian discipline and nursery of noble youth." I do feel very, very strongly that our energies are being to some extent misdirected. This amendment does not disparage in any way the efforts being made to introduce Bible lessons in public schools, and I have nothing to say meanwhile against that. But we overlook what this amendment declares to be the best way of meeting the necessity that exists for the training of our children. I feel strongly that the agitation that has been carried on for so many years has diverted the attention of our people from the much more important matter of Christian training in the home. I look about me; I have had my own experience during these last years; and it seems to me that the real weakness of our whole church life, the weakness that is undoubtedly growing amongst us, is just a defective family life and training; and all the agitation that has existed in this other matter seems merely to have diverted the attention of our people from that. I think that if half the amount of energy that has been spent in trying to introduce Bible lessons in schools had been spent in endeavoring to revive family piety our Church would have been vastly the better by now. I am not disparaging the efforts being made; but, at the same time, I feel that there is very little likelihood of accomplishing the end in view; and I feel very strongly that if that end were accomplished very little good would be achieved. I read Scottish history. I take Scotland because that country is very often referred to in this connection, and we are pointed to Scotland as a country furnishing striking and conclusive evidence in this matter. We are told that the Bible in schools has done more than anything else to nurture Scottish character and bring it to the excellence it has attained. My reading of Scottish history does not lead me to come to that conclusion. I read the lives of those who have made the deepest mark on the world's history—those of them who have been born and brought up in Scotland—and I find that the germs of all that was good in them, all that afterwards grew and developed to the benefit of God's kingdom, were deposited in the home. Read the lives of men such as Robert Moffat, David Livingstone, James G. Paton, Robert Chalmers; and you will find that all of these men gratefully ascribe any usefulness they accomplished in life to their home training. Anything that is diverting the attention of our people from this most necessary

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must be to some extent injurious. I know very well that if Bible lessons were introduced into our public schools they would perhaps supplement the teaching and the training of the home; but it seems to me that the strong tendency of parents now is to roll over the burden of their responsibility on others. Whilst the Sunday school has done an incalculable amount of good—and any man who knows anything of the history of the Church in recent times can see that the Sunday school came just at the opportune time, in order to supply a very clamant want in the Church, and has accomplished a great deal of good—yet, I say, I am sure that even the Sunday school has to some extent lightened the sense of responsibility parents ought to feel for the training of their children. This agitation for the Bible in schools has had the same effect. And the agitation has been of little use otherwise: I should, indeed, say very little or nothing at all has been accomplished during all these years we have been struggling to have the Bible lessons introduced in schools. We should, therefore, now turn the energies of the Church in that other direction, where they would be more fruitful in meeting the difficulty. While not seeking to oppose the Bible in schools in any direct way, yet I feel that the real way out of the difficulty is to direct the attention of parents and guardians to their great personal responsibility in this matter. I am not in opposition to this agitation, but I am certain that this is not the right way of getting at the necessity that exists. I say again, the excellence of the Scottish character and the stamina that Scotsmen have everywhere shown have not come from the Bible in schools, but from the pious homes—from the intense piety of the parents—from the way in which, in the earliest years of their children, the parents have consecrated them to the service of Christ, and by their prayers and training have endeavored to bring them up in the way of God.

The motion was carried. So, likewise, was the amendment, after much discussion, the first section being deleted.

OBITUARY

MRS. MULQUEEN, WESTPORT.

It is with extreme regret (writes a correspondent) that I have to record the death of Mrs. P. Mulqueen, who passed away at her residence, Bright street, Westport, on June 16, at the age of 62 years. The late Mrs. Mulqueen, who was born in the County Clare, was a highly respected and very old resident, having arrived in the Colony in the early sixties, and lived for over 30 years in Westport. Fortified by the rites of Holy Church, and surrounded by the members of her sorrowing family, her end was indeed a holy and edifying one. The deceased leaves two sons and five daughters to mourn their loss, the eldest son, Mr. Edward Mulqueen, being in the employ of the Union S.S. Company at Suva Fiji. The members of the family, who have lost a good and affectionate mother, have the deepest sympathy of the community in their sad bereavement. The funeral took place on Sunday, June 18, and the high estimation in which the deceased was held was manifested by the large and representative gathering which attended to pay the last tribute of respect to her memory. The Ven. Archpriest Walshe officiated at the graveside.—R.I.P.

NEW ZEALAND: GENERAL

The Wellington electric trams carried 9,437,924 passengers during the year ended Friday. The cars ran 1,082,911 miles, and the receipts totalled £53,035.

Mr. W. Gray, secretary of the New Zealand Postal Department, and Mr. J. B. Heywood, secretary to the Treasury, have been made Companions of the Imperial Service Order.

A constable giving evidence in a case of vagrancy at the Christchurch Magistrate's Court on Friday declared that all the work he had seen accused do was to carry a bottle of beer.

The usual weekly meeting of the Hokitika Catholic Literary and Debating Society (writes our correspondent) was held on the evening of June 27. The debate had to be postponed owing to the absence of one of the leaders till next Tuesday evening. The question of erecting a suitable club room was discussed, and all agreed that it was very desirable, and it was resolved to give the matter further consideration at the next meeting.

The Catholic school in Akaroa (writes a correspondent) was examined some weeks ago by Dr. Anderson, Inspector under the North Canterbury Board of Education. The results were most satisfactory; all the children passed with one exception, in the lower standards. In his report Dr. Anderson commended the Sisters for their earnestness in meeting the requirements of the new syllabus, with results in most respects very satisfactory, some of the work submitted being distinctly commendable.

A lengthy and very appreciative notice of the volume of the Second Australasian Catholic Congress, written by the Rev. Charles Coppens, S.J., appears in an issue of 'The True Voice,' (Omaha, Nebraska), just to hand. 'Our brethren under the Southern Cross (says the writer) are evidently wide awake; it is the second time in four years that they have arrested the attention of the thinking world by a solemn meeting of their clergy and laity, combining their efforts for the glory of God, the strengthening of His Church, and the widening of her influence for the salvation of souls; and they announce the third congress for 1908. Their united action forms a notable spectacle not unlike that presented to the admiring world by the grand Catholic party in Germany. The difference is chiefly that the latter is a political organization, the former is not, but purely religious and social. Yet it is evidently a power to be reckoned with if any would attempt to trample on the civil rights of Catholics there.'

Persons about to plant will find a full stock of seeds, plants, and bulbs at Messrs. B. Reid and Co.'s, George Street, Dunedin, also all requisites for the farm and garden.

The Commissioner of Crown Lands, Dunedin, notifies that certain sections on lease-in-perpetuity in the Duncan Settlement, Taieri County, will be open for selection at the District Lands and Survey Office, Dunedin, on Tuesday, July 18..