

Fresh developments ensued in 1899. In that year the Way of the Cross was completed. M. Roubaud was again notified—presumably for the reasons mentioned in the last paragraph—that a wall was to be erected around the church property. Again he paid no heed. The wall was built in 1901, the year before that assigned in the story for the marriage of the proprietor of the Hermitage, and long in advance of 'the advent of the first,' which (as the story runneth) led to the 'walling-in' of the hapless Roubaud family. Here was a pretty inversion of cause and effect! It reminds one of Looking-glass Land, where the sequence of an accident to the Queen's finger was—first bleeding, then a healthy yell, and lastly the prick of a big thorn. But now, as in the days when the world was young, the wolf that wants a pretext for devouring the lamb, will find no difficulty in making the course of events run up stream. As regards the supposed wall of circumvallation about the Roubaud Hermitage, it was not 'constructed round the house.' The Mayor of Lourdes testifies that it was 'only on the north side, leaving open ground on all the other sides,' and free means of communication at all seasons with the town. The Appeal Court at Pau, like other such Courts in France at the present time, is not open to any suspicion of favoring ecclesiastical ownership. Yet in its judgment, on the case, it decided that Roubaud had no right of way through the episcopal grounds, and pointed out that he had abundant space for the customary pathway to his house, as the wall did not come nearer than within three metres (9ft. 10in.) of any part of his property. The story about the will, the delicate wife, and the 'walling-in,' 'isolation,' and starvation of the family has all been imagined or invented by anticlericals to whom, in such connections as this, truth is in a very real sense stranger than fiction. 'M. and Madame Roubaud,' says the Mayor of Lourdes, 'come down into the town almost daily. Both they and their children are in the enjoyment of perfect health, and they lack neither bread nor coals nor anything whatever.'

The Roubaud incident was recently closed in the following amicable way. By an arrangement made between the Mayor and the chief of the municipal police on the one side, and the Bishop (Dr Schoepfer) on the other, effective steps were taken to prevent a recurrence of the conduct which had necessitated the closing of the Calvary grounds at night. The forbiddance of thoroughfare (said the Bishop) had then no longer any object, and the private road is once more open at all times to the Roubaud family—not, of course, as a legal right, but as an act of Christian charity. In view of his persistent disregard of his signed agreements, it seems to us that M. Roubaud has been all along treated with a patience and consideration that he would neither have expected nor received at the hands of a lay proprietor. With characteristic anticlerical 'honor bright,' the 'Matin' refused to publish any part of the lengthy statement of M. Lacaze, Mayor of Lourdes. It subsequently appeared in the 'Gaulois' and other papers. And here endeth—in smoke—the Punch-and-Judy tragedy of the 'walled-in' innocents of Calvary Hill, over far-off Lourdes.

Diocesan News

ARCHDIOCESE OF WELLINGTON

(From our own correspondent.)

December 16.

I regret to report that Mr. B. Doherty, of Messrs Fielder and Co., and a prominent Hibernian, is at present dangerously ill with pneumonia.

The members of the lodge of Druids were entertained in St. Patrick's Hall on Wednesday evening by the Hibernians at a card tournament, which ended in a victory, by a very narrow margin for the Hibernians.

The members of the local Young Men's Club will entertain the Marist Brothers as usual on Thursday evening next at the schoolroom, Boulcott street, when the presentation of the annual Christmas hamper will be made.

All the necessary arrangements in connection with the Catholic picnic at the Belle Vue Gardens, Lower Hutt, on Boxing Day, have been made, and only fine weather is required to insure success. The fare by rail, including admission to the ground, will be as usual two shillings. The children will be carried free.

The very fine silver cup, presented to the Young Men's Club a few years ago by Mr. Ulic Shannon, will be again competed for by members at the picnic on Boxing Day. This cup has been won in succession by Messrs. C. Gamble, H. McKeown, and P. O'Connor. The distances for the event will be 150 and 220 yards.

The St. Patrick's and St. Aloysius' branches of the H.A.C.B. Society have decided to carry out a large picnic at Day's Bay on St. Patrick's Day, and to hold on the following Monday night a concert in the Town Hall, for which only the very best talent is to be secured.

A movement is on foot to present a purse of sovereigns to Mr. P. J. O'Regan in recognition of the splendid fight he made in the recent election contest for Wellington Central. Since the declaration of the poll Mr. O'Regan has received numerous appreciative telegrams from prominent men all over the Colony.

The annual distribution of prizes at the Thorndon parish school took place on Friday afternoon, that of the Dixon street school on Friday night. The Newtown convent school's annual entertainment will be held in the Victoria Hall on Tuesday and Wednesday next. The annual distribution of prizes at St. Patrick's College will be made on Tuesday next.

The results of the November law examinations are just to hand, and the members of our local club are again to the fore. Messrs. W. Perry and E. J. Fitzgibbon have passed the semi-final section of their LL.B. degree. Two other of our Catholic young men also figure among the successful ones. They are Messrs. J. J. McGrath and A. D. Lynch, who have both passed the final section of the Solicitors' Examination.

Although Mother Aubert has decided to erect the buildings described in your last issue, it must not be understood that the necessary funds are now in hand. On the contrary, only about £2000 is available, a large amount of which was donated by Mrs. Grace, of this city. It is intended to proceed with the erection of the buildings only in so far as funds permit. The Home will be devoted entirely to children.

The executive of the Federated Catholic Young Men's Societies of New Zealand met on Thursday evening. Reports were received from the various societies of the oratorical competitions held under the auspices of the Federation. With regard to the procuring of a medal to be worn by members, the executive is now awaiting information from the Victorian Federation, for whom the Rev. Father King, of Melbourne, is securing medals from England. The diplomas for presentation to the successful orators are being obtained locally. The design is to be characteristic of New Zealand, and the diploma should be a most handsome one. The Rev. Father Kimbell and Messrs. Fitzgibbon and McKeown were appointed to arrange for the preparation of the design and the execution of the diplomas as soon as possible.

Masterton

(From our own correspondent.)

December 15.

The children of St. Patrick's School 'broke-up' for their summer vacation to-day.

Mr. J. L. Conlan, of the firm of Bunny and Dolan, passed the final section in the Solicitors' Examination. Mr. Conlan is an old St. Patrick's College boy.

The devotion of the Forty Hours' Adoration was commenced at St. Patrick's Church on Friday last, and brought to a close at the 11 o'clock Mass on Sunday, when there was a procession of the Blessed Sacrament. In the evening the Rev. Father Tymons preached an eloquent sermon on the Blessed Sacrament to a large congregation.

The vocal and instrumental entertainment, given in the Town Hall last evening by the pupils of St. Bride's Convent, in aid of the funds of St. Patrick's School, was attended by a large and appreciative audience. It proved very enjoyable, and the manner in which those who took part acquitted themselves reflected most creditably on the training they received from the Sisters, who must have devoted much pains in order to produce such satisfactory results. The first part opened with

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