

Toribo Martinez suddenly drew a revolver from under his cassock and fired two bullets into Father Morales' head. The latter fell lifeless at the steps of the altar. Martinez then shot himself through the heart. Father Morales was considered one of the most brilliant preachers in Spain, and devout worshippers travelled long distances to hear him. The cause of the tragedy is unknown, but it is believed that Martinez' mind suddenly became unhinged.

Did this dispatch ever come from Madrid? We gravely doubt it. There are two contradictory versions of this mysterious 'tragedy in a church.' The 'Auckland Weekly News' gives one of them. According to it, the 'tragedy' occurred on May 5, and the account of it was despatched over the electric wires on the same day. 'Madrid, May 5.—A terrible tragedy took place to-day.' And so on. Now we have before us a copy of the Montreal 'True Witness,' which quotes this very same story as having appeared as a 'despatch' in the 'Gazette,' 'Star,' and 'Herald' in that city 'on Friday, May 4th.' The Auckland version and the Montreal version present only unimportant verbal differences—the latter, for instance, laying the scene of the alleged tragedy at Muria (not Murcia).

But this is by no means the only fishy feature about the 'tragedy.' There is no such place as Muria on any map or gazetteer of Spain. Murcia we know—the city of silk and oranges. The name of every Jesuit in Spain is known to the members of that great organisation. But we have the well-informed authority of the 'Glasgow Observer' and of the Montreal 'True Witness' that there is not in all Spain a Jesuit known as Pedro Morales, much less a 'brilliant' Jesuit 'preacher' of that name. And it would take the cable-demon himself to explain how the Montreal papers contrived to publish a full account of the 'tragedy' the day before it happened?

**A Pig-tail Paradise**

The Randlords—or nabobs of the Rand—kept their home and foreign skins well out of the reach of shot and shell when the war pursued the uneven tenor of its blundering way in South Africa. They lived riotously in Cape Town and Cairo and London, while cooks' sons, dukes' sons, sons of belted earls, and other white men galore gave blood or life—to increase the nabobs' dividends and to make the Rand a pigtail paradise. According to the Johannesburg correspondent of the 'Otago Daily Times,' 'the main reef continues to give an ever increasing harvest of gold.' Good dividends for the men that made and profited by the war! Yet 'the depression in trade is deeper and more widespread than ever. The Rand,' continues the same writer, 'has been steadily losing, not gaining, in population, and the very life is being knocked out of the place. Big men (many accounted a few years back as worth hundreds of thousands), as well as the little, have gone to the wall, and there is more actual want in the Golden City at the present time than at any previous period of its existence. Here is what the 'Johannesburg Leader' of yesterday has to say in regard to those out of work:— "Once, not so long ago, one could say that the unemployed man in Johannesburg was, in 99 cases out of 100, an undesirable. He either preferred to live and loaf on the casual charity of the unwary or the unwisely kind, or he was an inefficient. Now the number of unemployed on our streets is increasing daily, and, unfortunately, the character of the class is changing. Everyone in this town who has the opportunity of coming in close contact with the workless has noticed, almost within the last few months, a significant and disheartening increase in the men of good character and capacity who cannot find employment even in this young and developing country. Those who can afford it are leaving the town in hundreds; those who cannot—their name is legion, and in many cases their poverty is

blameless—find themselves in an impasse from which apparently there is no escape: What is to be done is a matter that demands the most serious consideration; but it is obvious that something must be done, and the town is indebted to the Mayor of Johannesburg for having grasped the nettle and brought the problem prominently before the Government. Unemployment in an old and crowded State is a curse for which one may find an explanation more easily than a remedy in a new country, just entering on progress, the willing man workless is a spectacle which we cannot afford to see."

**DIocese OF DUNEDIN**

At a final meeting of the St. Patrick's Day concert committee on Friday evening, the Rev. Father Coffey, Adm., presiding, the balance sheet was presented and passed. It was reported that the net receipts were £85 odd, this being a record.

Our readers are reminded of the entertainment in aid of the Christian Brothers' school, which takes place in His Majesty's Theatre, to-morrow (Friday) evening. A varied and interesting programme has been prepared, and, apart altogether from the object, those who attend will receive good value for their money.

The devotion of the Forty Hours' Adoration began in the Sacred Heart Church, North-East Valley, on Friday morning. Rev. Father O'Rilly was celebrant of the Mass, Rev. Father Cleary deacon, and Rev. Father Corcoran subdeacon. There was Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament on Sunday from last Mass until Vespers, after which there was the customary procession.

On Friday, the feast of the Sacred Heart, about thirty children received their First Communion at St. Patrick's Basilica, South Dunedin. Later on in the day, accompanied by the Rev. Father Howard, they visited the Church of the Sacred Heart, North-East Valley, for the devotion of the Forty Hours' Adoration, and afterwards visited the Dominican Convent, where they were entertained by the Sisters.

At the meeting of St. Joseph's Men's Club on Friday evening the programme consisted of a Parliamentary debate, 'Should ladies have the right to enter Parliament?' Rev. Father Coffey, Adm., acted as Speaker, and the Government was led by Mr. J. A. Scott, Mr. P. Hally being the leader of the Opposition. The affirmative side was supported by Messrs. J. B. Callan, jun., and T. J. Hussey, and the negative by Messrs. J. Sweeney and D. S. Columb. As many others desired to speak on the subject the discussion will be continued at the meeting on Friday, July 6.

The St. Patrick's Literary and Social Club has had so far this season very successful meetings. On Monday evening, June 18, the programme consisted of a debate as to whether members of local bodies should be elected by all entitled to vote for Parliamentary candidates. Messrs. J. A. Scott, Hoare, and Fitzgerald took the affirmative side, and Messrs. Marlow, Carr, and McCurdy the opposite, the question being decided in the negative. On last Monday evening a programme of musical and other items was submitted. Songs were contributed by Misses Fitzpatrick, Heffernan (2), Mahoney, and Messrs. H. and E. Mee, Sutherland, and Mooney, and a recitation was given by Mr. S. Bush. The accompaniments during the evening were played by Misses Kerr and Toner.

The St. Joseph's Harriers held a most successful run from Mornington on Saturday. Starting from the residence of Mr. Plunket, the trail laid by Swanson and Coughlan led down to the Kaiorai Valley, thence up the hill to the right of the Silverstream dam, where many opportunities were afforded to the pack of showing their sprinting powers. The Silverstream water race was struck, and a good run along the bank brought the pack to the reservoir, from which point a course was shaped directly for home. Several new members were out on Saturday, and gave promise of being valuable acquisitions to the club. Mrs. Power and the Misses Purton and Plunket entertained the runners with afternoon tea, this action of the ladies being much appreciated by the members, whose feelings were voiced by Mr. Callan in a very happy speech.

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