

**CONVENT OF THE SACRED HEART,
TIMARU**
**THE ANNUAL SPIRITUAL RETREAT
FOR LADIES**

Will begin at 7 p.m. on WEDNESDAY, the 9th day of JANUARY, 1907, and will end on the morning of MONDAY, the 14th JANUARY.

The Retreat will be preached by a Jesuit Father.

**HIS MAJESTY'S THEATRE
DUNEDIN**

NOVEMBER 19 to 29.

Spanish Columbian Festival

AND

GRAND ART UNION

Valuable Nuggets

Works of Art * Choice Curios

Will be Positively Drawn on Last Night of Festival.

Help the Sisters of Mercy, South Dunedin
and forward blocks and remittances not later than the 29th.

JAMES J. MARLOW,

Hon. Sec.

MESSAGE OF POPE LEO XIII. TO THE N.Z. TABLET.

Pergant Directores et Scriptores New Zealand Tablet, Apostolica Benedictione confortati, Religionis et Justitiae causam promovere per vias Veritatis et Pacis.

Die 4 Aprilis, 1900.

LEO XIII., P.M.

TRANSLATION.—Fortified by the Apostolic Blessing, let the Directors and Writers of the New Zealand Tablet continue to promote the cause of Religion and Justice by the ways of Truth and Peace.

April 4, 1900.

LEO XIII., Pope.



THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 1906.

'LEAGUE OF FRENCH CATHOLICS'



ABLE-MESSAGES that have for a long time past been coming to Australasia from Paris furnish melancholy evidence of the extent to which the sources of international communication in France are in the hands of organisations that are hostile to religion. Last week's foreign despatches supplied a fresh case in point. It took the shape of a cable-message from Paris which stated that, 'notwithstanding the papal interdict, the 'League of French Catholics' has established a number of associations for public worship through the various departments into which the country is divided.

The real significance of this item of news lies in what the cable-sender deemed it prudent to suppress. The 'League of French Catholics' is a misnomer, a false label, a fraudulent designation. Its founder is not a leader of French Catholic thought, but a mere journalistic hack. His name is Des Houx. He was, we imagine, once a Catholic of a sort. For a time he edited the 'Moniteur de Rome', but in such a manner that his services had to be dispensed with, and the paper (a Catholic one in the French language) was finally suppressed by Pope Leo XIII. Des Houx has been since then a man with a grievance. He is now employed as a writer on the 'Paris Matin', which (as is well known) is the organ of the atheistic Freemason-Radical-Socialist 'Bloc' that organised the present persecution. The 'yellow' men of Portadown are said to entertain a particularly poor opinion of the Pope. But their opinion and its expression are as gentle as the cooings of the sucking dove compared with those of the 'Matin', which is notorious for the vindictive bitterness of its antagonism to revealed religion. A known 'Papish' might, by some possible combination of circumstances, achieve the distinction of securing employment higher than that of a scavenger from the saffron city council of Belfast. But a known, professing, and practising Christian would never soar to the dizzy heights of the hope of employment in the office of the 'Matin'. Des Houx's position on that rabid organ of persecution sufficiently determines, by itself alone, his attitude towards religion. And the anti-Catholic character of the Des Houx 'League' may be sufficiently gathered from the offensive language of its first manifesto, and from the evident object of its formation—it having been 'inaugurated' (says a cable despatch of September 24 from Paris to the American associated press) 'with the purpose of creating a schism' and starting 'a distinct Gallican Church'.

In Paris Des Houx is a nobody. But even a stuffed figure will pass at a distance for somebody. Out here on the rim of the world the anticlerical hack of the 'Matin' is made by the cable demon to pass for the leader of a new reform in France. And the so-called 'League of French Catholics' is made to appear a serious movement among professing and practising Christians. Judging by the information before us (which we believe to be in every particular authoritative), a more misleading conception of the Des Houx business could scarcely have been sent to our shores. We have already pointed out, in the columns of some of the secular papers, how, according to the despatch last mentioned, there was a small attendance when the League was founded, on September 24. No known Catholics, or at least no prominent Catholics, seem to have been present. According to a Parisian account before us, the opening of the new movement was a farcical affair, with Des Houx as its beginning, centre, and end. It seems as if the new association would have been more aptly named the League of French Anti-Catholics. The impression in Catholic centres in Paris seems to be that Des Houx (who, as stated, is nobody in particular) is simply the cat's-paw of M. Briand (Minister of Justice and Education), who urged the formation of worship associations without consultation with the bishops, and who, at the teachers' congress at Amiens, declared that religion must be banished from the minds of the children of France, and that 'il faut en finir avec l'idée chrétienne' (we must get rid of Christianity). Our readers should bear the following facts in mind: (1) The public worship associations, as provided for in the Separation Law that comes in force on December 11, are exclusively lay bodies. (2) They are to have full control of churches, seminaries, presbyteries, etc. (3) They are (as deputy Emile Molot declared) free to establish any form of 'worship' that they please, and the parish clergy would be merely their paid employees. (4) They are completely inde-