

for their maintenance the aborigines were driven to acts of depredation. An arrest follows, and then commence barbarous practices, exposed often, but in spite of everything permitted to form part of a system that has everything to condemn it. Nothing is being done to remove the tarnish on the name of the State. The natural supplies of food having disappeared, if they kill a sheep to save themselves from starvation they must go to prison. If they go into the territory of other blacks they are speared. They are arrested indiscriminately, and often chained one to another and to the necks of the police horses. They seldom escape conviction. Many do not know for what offence they are imprisoned for years, and kept in chains day and night. Most of them do not live long after arrest. Treatment of this description to dumb animals would be counted as gross cruelty, yet as regards the natives it is claimed to be what the law demands.

The black man's burden is a heavy one. But in the Catholic Church throughout Western Australia he has from the first found his best and most constant friend, protector, and benefactor.

DIocese OF DUNEDIN

We have received the sum of 10s from Mr. T. Hickey, Waihaia, for the St. Vincent de Paul Orphanage, South Dunedin.

On Sunday—the feast of Pentecost—Pontifical High Mass will be celebrated at eleven o'clock at St. Joseph's Cathedral.

The devotion of the Forty Hours' Adoration began at Otautau on Sunday, and was brought to a close on Tuesday morning.

The new church in course of erection at Thornbury, in the Riverton parish, is expected to be completed in August.

Captain Hussey, of the Hibernian Cadets, has passed his examination, his marks being—Practical 65, duties 64, drills and musketry 59, company training 57.

The St. Joseph's Harriers held their run on Saturday at Anderson's Bay as guests of the Little Sisters of the Poor. Swanson and Connor were despatched with the bags, and laid the best trail obtainable, along the road to Shiel Hill and down around the second lagoon, coming out on Torahawk Beach. The sandhills on the latter place tested the strength of some of the members. The trail then led to the road, which was followed home.

The weekly meeting of St. Joseph's Men's Club took the form of a smoke concert, held in St. Joseph's Hall on Friday evening. Rev. Father Coffey presided, and there was a very large attendance of members. The following contributed items during the evening: Songs, Messrs. Miles, O'Connell, Quelch, Bernech, Swanson, Fleming, Heydon, and Treston; recitations, Messrs. Sims, Gorman, and Wilkinson; a piano solo by Mr. Heydon, and a flute solo by Mr. Deehan. Mr. F. Heley acted as accompanist.

The usual weekly meeting of the Oamaru Catholic Club (writes our travelling correspondent) was held in the schoolroom on Friday evening, the president, Mr. J. Cagney, in the chair. The programme for the evening was a debate as to whether the jury was justified in its verdict in a recent Supreme Court case. The discussion proved a keen and animated one, and a number of vigorous and telling speeches were made. The following members took part in the debate:—Messrs. Gallagher, J. Griffith, Corcoran, McPhee, Cartwright, P. Corcoran, and Cooney (affirmative), and Messrs. McDonald, Cagney, jun., Barry, Dwyer, and Mulvihill (negative). Messrs. J. Cagney, sen., and ex-Sergeant O'Grady, who acted as judges, gave their verdict unanimously in favor of the affirmative side. It would probably still further increase the interest in the debates—and would certainly enhance their value as a mental exercise—if the verdict were arrived at by a vote of all present, thus compelling members, each for himself, to weigh the evidence and come to a decision on the arguments adduced.

Mr. Andrew Mack and his company will appear in Gisborne on May 27, 28, and 29, and Napier on May 30 and 31, when 'Tom Moore' and 'Jack Shannon' will be produced. Mr. Mack is the greatest living exponent of Irish character, and we trust that the Irish men and women of those centres will attend his performances in their numbers...

THE KING OF SPAIN

BIRTH OF AN HEIR

King Alfonso's first message announcing the birth of a son was sent to King Edward. Salutes were fired at Gibraltar and other stations. There were tremendous rejoicings all over Spain. Dr. Glendinning, a New Zealander, assisted at the accouchement.

Our Home exchange report that the King of Spain had telegraphed from Madrid to the Sovereign Pontiff towards the end of March, begging him to be godfather to the expected child. His Holiness graciously acceded to the King's request. It may be remembered that Pius IX. stood sponsor, by proxy, of course, for the late King Alfonso XII., and Leo XIII. for Alfonso XIII. In the latter case the Queen Mother naturally wished to have her little son named after the dead father, who had never seen him. Her choice, however, was by no means popular in Spain, and she met with much opposition, as it was believed to be flying in the face of fortune to burden a child-king, whose throne was by no means secure, with the ill-omened number thirteen. Leo XIII., it is said, brushed all such superstitious forebodings on one side by reminding the Spaniards that he bore the fatal number, yet the most pessimistic among them would scarcely dare to affirm that his Pontificate had been unfortunate.

An English nurse for the expected child was engaged some months ago by the Queen of Spain, the fortunate young lady being Miss Gertrude Bunting, of Nottingham, who had been for some years nurse to the child of Lady Charles Bentinck, but, becoming a Catholic about a year ago, she since then took service with the Marchioness of Bute. Her engagement at Madrid was brought about by Lady Bute and the Duke of Norfolk.

The 'New' Theology

The secular press continues to give extensive free advertisements to the Rev. Mr. Campbell (a minister of the Independent Church) and his mis-called 'new' theology. The reverend gentleman's claim to notice is soon told: Without having ever been in a theological college, or received any theological training, or mastered that 'queen of the sciences,' he has permitted himself to dogmatise upon the deepest questions of theology; to advance old heresies as 'new'; and, while still professing to be a Christian minister, he has ventured to deny several of the dogmatic facts that lie at the root of the Christian faith.

The New Agnosticism.

Mr. Campbell's latest move (according to the 'British Weekly') has been to join the advanced socialists. And (says the 'British Weekly') he has 'nothing but compliments for Mr. Blatchford,' the aggressively agnostic editor of the 'Clarion.' Mr. Blatchford's opinion of Mr. Campbell and the 'new' theology is contained in a 'Clarion' article which we take in part from the Dunedin 'Outlook' of this week:—

'It is only three years,' says Mr. Blatchford, 'since the religious world was denouncing "the infidel editor of the Clarion," and, behold! we have agnostic socialism preached from a Christian pulpit.

'Yes. That is what it has come to. The "New Theology" is "God and My Neighbor," with the soft pedal on. It is Thomas Paine in a white tie. It is the Ingersoll fist, muffled in a boxing glove. It is the "Clarion" rue, worn with a difference.

'As an agnostic socialist, I am, naturally, pleased with the book.

'Mr. Campbell is a Christian minister and I am an infidel editor; and the difference between his religion and mine is too small to argue about. But I sail under the Jolly Roger.

'Mr. Campbell believes, I think, in the immortality of the soul. I express no opinion on that subject.

'Mr. Campbell calls Nature God. I call Nature Nature.

'Mr. Campbell thinks Jesus the most perfect man that ever lived. I think there have been many men as good, and some better. But beyond those differences I think I may venture to say that there is nothing Mr. Campbell believes that I deny, and nothing I believe that he denies. Beyond these differences I am as much a Christian as is the Rev. R. J. Campbell, and the Rev. R. J. Campbell is as much an infidel as the editor of the "Clarion."

After a statement of Mr. Campbell's denials of some of the fundamental truths of Christianity, the agnostic socialist editor goes on to say:—