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BY THE REV. T. LE MENANT DES CHESNAIS, S.M.

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**DEATH**

**FALKNER**.—On the 8th inst., at Reid street, South Dunedin, Thomas Falkner, native of Templemore, County Tipperary, Ireland, in his 85th year; deeply regretted. Died fortified by the rites of Holy Church.—R.I.P.

**IN MEMORIAM**

**BROUGH**.—In fond and loving memory of my dear and only Son, Charles Patrick, who departed this life on October 17, 1906. So loved, so mourned.

It is not the tear at the moment shed,  
When the cold earth has just been laid o'er him,  
That can tell how beloved was the soul that's fled,  
Or how deep in my heart I deplore him.  
'Tis a tear through many a long day wept,  
Through a life, by his love all shaded—  
'Tis the sad remembrance, fondly kept,  
When all lighter griefs have faded.

Inserted by his loving mother, Mary.

**ANSWER TO CORRESPONDENT**

**ERIN**.—We are not in a position to give you the information you require.

**EDITOR'S NOTICES.**

Send news **WHILE IT IS FRESH**. Stale reports will not be inserted.

Communications should reach this Office **BY TUESDAY MORNING**. Only the briefest paragraphs have a chance of insertion if received by Tuesday night's mails.

**ADDRESS** matter intended for publication 'Editor, TABLET, Dunedin,' and not by name to any member of the Staff.

**ANONYMOUS COMMUNICATIONS** are thrown into the waste-paper basket.

Write legibly, **ESPECIALLY NAMES** of persons and places. Reports of **MARRIAGES** and **DEATHS** are not selected or compiled at this Office. To secure insertion they must be verified by our local agent or correspondent, or by the clergyman of the district, or by some subscriber whose handwriting is well known at this office. Such reports must in every case be accompanied by the customary death or marriage announcement, for which a charge of 2s. 6d. is made.

**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, OCTOBER 17, 1907.

**SOME POISONED PRINT**



**RANKLAND LEWIS** once said of the serious and (occasionally) leaden books of his son George: 'I wish that George couldn't write, or that I couldn't read'. The same might well be said of two classes of authors and two classes of readers in New Zealand. We refer to the poisonous adventure-books of the 'Deadwood Dick' and 'Daring Dick's Dagger' type, and to the risky, or 'problem', or sex novel, or the high-spiced sensational romance, that plays upon the mind of the reader a havoc akin to that which dram-drinking plays upon the body. The world would indeed be the richer if the authors of these pernicious forms of fiction had not learned to write, or their readers never mastered the alphabet or caught the ken of the printed page. One of the uneasy symptoms of our time in New Zealand is the increased importation and the promiscuous exposure and sale of the sort of fiction—written by lost souls—that corrupts the minds and morals of boys and youths. A few months ago a gang of boys in the North Island, fired by the perusal of the coarse 'penny dreadful', armed themselves, took to the hills, and became amateur bush-rangers. Another sign of the times was pointed out in our news columns last week:—

'Among some books stolen by four boys who were before the Christchurch Court was a bundle of the "Deadwood Dick" type. Mr. V. G. Day, S.M., remarked that he was surprised that a reputable firm like the one from which the goods were stolen should stock such rubbish. Such reading matter was the means of instilling wrong ideas into the heads of youths, and led to offences being committed which would otherwise never have been dreamed of. He could not confiscate the "dreadfuls", but he would be very pleased to set fire to them if he could.'

The ease with which mere boys can steep their minds in this pestiferous stuff imposes a fresh obligation upon parents and teachers. And, in all the circumstances, it is, we think, about high time that the arm of the law should be stretched out to protect the minds of children from the foul contagion that is contained in the pages of some of this class of literature.

As regards the reading habits of adult habitues of our public circulating libraries, there are few in New Zealand better fitted to form an opinion than the cultured vice-president of the Dunedin Athenaeum. In February, 1906, we quoted from an interesting lecture of his to the following effect: That the chief demand is for fiction; that 89.3 per cent. of all the books