

editors admit that the whole get-up of the paper is admirable, and it is even said that one of the actual editors was asked by the "Matin" to join its staff.

The Cure of Vaucherès is a mender of watches, clocks, and ploughs. His workmanship is declared to be far above that of the local experts.

The old Cure of Romainvilliers, who is over seventy years of age, makes a prosperous living from the cultivation of his orchard, which contains several bee-hives. Last year's income from both exceeded what the venerable priest would have received under normal civic conditions.

The Abbe Gaboury, parish priest of Mauvages, has chosen the blacksmith trade as a means of making a living. Ploughing at a hired man's wage, by the day or the week, is enabling Father Metais, of Sainte Soline, to furnish his larder and help the needy poor. Vine-growing is keeping Father Lecomte out of poverty; the Abbe Clavel is looked upon as a master watchmaker; the Abbe Cartean is an engraver of merit; a Father Conturand is an artist of publicly-admitted talent. Another is a designer of postcards, another is an altar-builder, others have turned their minds to invention, and have done well in their endeavors to bring the fruits of their ingenuity before the public, the anti-Catholic portion of humanity not being at all above appreciating a good thing when it is shown to them, even by a priest.

On the whole the priests of France are unlikely to fare very badly from a merely material point of consideration. Many there are who are either physically incapacitated, or, owing to previous antecedents, unfitted and inept in manual labor. These very soon drift into literary work, and, it is of interest to note, much of their literary work is finding its way to the French press of the United States and Canada.

A Tribute to the Catholic Church

Rev. Thomas Barney Thompson, speaking recently in the Plymouth Congregational Church, Chicago, referred to the Catholic Church as 'the most splendid institution the world has ever seen.' 'Governments,' he continued, in a tribute to the Church, 'have arisen and gone to the grave of the nations since her advent. Peoples of every tongue have worshipped at her altars.

'The Catholic Church has stood solid for law and order. When she speaks legislators, statesmen, politicians, and governments stop to listen, often to obey.

'In the realm of worship her ministry has been of the highest. In employing beads, statues, pictures, and music she has made a wise and intelligent use of symbolism. Her use of the best in music and painting has been the greatest single inspiration to those arts, and her cathedrals are the shrines of all pilgrims.

'The love and veneration of the Virgin Mary plays an important part in the ritual of the Church. I find no difficulty in appreciating the attitude of the Catholic worshipper toward the Mother of Jesus. Jesus is the love of God made manifest. But Christ Himself has often been made so austere and so unapproachable that a mediator between Him and man has become an insistent necessity. What is more natural than to worship Him through the gracious influence of the Mother?

'Aside from this, one cannot help but feel that the enthronement of the Virgin Mary has softened the heart of the world toward womanhood; that it has done much to give woman the place of honor she occupies to-day; that it has put the whole Catholic Church behind the sanctity of the home. In the respect given to Mary the Roman Church has paid the world's finest and most delicate compliment to the grace, sweetness, and beauty of motherhood.

'Nor do I discover any difficulty in understanding the basis of the confessional. The confessional appears everywhere in life. The erring child confesses to his mother; the patient confesses to his physician; the accused confesses to his lawyer; the penitent confesses to his priest. It is most natural for the penitent, burdened, doubting soul, to confide in his spiritual leader.

'Protestantism has wasted much of its force in a forced revivalism, which would have been unnecessary had we paid wise attention to religious education. We may rail against the parochial school system as being un-American. But the Roman Church existed centuries before there was a United States, and for many of these centuries she was the great agency of enlightenment, education, and culture. The parochial school is the most serious and successful attempt to

hold people for the religious life.

'Our country has a magnificent system of public schools. She will teach the children history, science, art, languages; but they will not let the world's greatest literature be taught under their guidance, nor will they help to develop the noblest capacity of the human soul, the capacity for God. This task is assigned to the Church. So be it, and let the Church choose that method which in her wisdom seems the best.

'And so we stand in the presence of her history, her majestic worship, her universal ministry, and we confess that God must have moved mightily in all this. We think of her Loyolas, her Xaviers, her Fernelons, and her Marquettes; we look at her hospitals, orphanages, schools, colleges, monasteries, missions, and we see a Church ministering to the body, mind, and soul of humanity. Her weakness is the common lot of every human organisation; her strength is of God.'

Lecture by Dean Burke

St. Joseph's Hall, Dunedin, was crowded on Friday evening, when the inaugural lecture of the season, under the auspices of St. Joseph's Men's Club was delivered by the Very Rev. Dean Burke, of Invercargill. The Rev. Father Coffey, Adm., presided. The Very Rev. Dean, who returned a few weeks ago from a twelve months' trip to Europe, took for his subject an account of the homeward voyage from Sydney as far as Colombo (Ceylon). In his introductory remarks he said it was almost impossible for a priest in the mission to give the time necessary to the preparation of a lecture owing to the many calls upon his time, some of which were altogether outside his duties. Having referred in a humorous manner to the class of callers who disturbed his literary work, the Dean then proceeded to deal with the events of the voyage and the places called at. Of Sydney and Melbourne little need be said, as many of his hearers had visited those important commercial centres. He had not seen Adelaide for a period of twenty-six years, and during that time a great expansion had taken place. He was greatly pleased with the South Australian capital, which is a very fine city, beautifully situated. The visitor cannot help being struck with the fine shops and their splendid display of goods, the display of fruit of all kinds, especially grapes, being most tempting. The gardens, with their semi-tropical vegetation, were greatly admired. After leaving Adelaide, they encountered the customary rough weather in the Australian Bight, with the result that most of the passengers and even some of the stewards felt so unhappy that they made the usual resolutions to stay on dry land, after that experience, for the remainder of their lives. The next port of call was Fremantle, which is not an attractive place. A visit was made to Perth, which was then suffering from dulness of trade. Some of the residents were of opinion that the State had seen its best days. Now that most of the gold was taken out there was little else to fall back upon. They were reminded that they had a glorious climate, but the pessimists replied that something more substantial than sunshine was necessary for the bringing up of a family. Here the people seemed to reflect their beautiful climate in their courteousness and cordiality, their manners being in direct contrast to those of the people of less favored climes. From Fremantle to Colombo the sea was beautifully smooth, and consequently all on board settled down to the usual methods of passing time on shipboard. The Very Rev. Dean here gave a graphic and humorous description of some of the passengers, their peculiarities and idiosyncracies. There is no place like shipboard for the study of mankind. Among the passengers were some South Australians who were taking their customary holiday trip to Ceylon. He suggested New Zealand as a more enjoyable place, and painted in glowing colors the many attractions of the Dominion. On the ninth day out from Fremantle Adam's Peak, a historic mountain in Ceylon (nearly 8000 feet high) was sighted. This mountain is held in the highest veneration by the Buddhists of the island, who make pilgrimages there, and point out a cleft in the peak as the footprint of Buddha. On approaching the coast the passengers were enabled to get a view of the tropical vegetation for which the island is celebrated. They could see the stately and useful coconut palm, the talipot palm, the bread fruit tree, and many other kinds strange to the eyes of the travellers. In the jungle are to be found wild elephants, cheetahs, jackals, bears, and poisonous snakes abound everywhere, whilst the rivers are infested with alligators. Ceylon is a most interesting country, its inhabitants being made up of many nationalities—Veddahs, Cingalese, Tamils,