

RETURNING TO THE FOLD

An announcement which had been made by the *Pall Mall Gazette* with regard to the conversion of the Anglican Sisterhood at St. Katharine's, Queen's square, London, W.C., was circulated widely by the press and made a sensation not only in the Metropolis, but throughout the whole country. The paper's statement was that the entire community was formally received into the Catholic Church on Thursday, April 1, by a French priest, that Mass was said that day in the chapel, that the Archbishop of Westminster has permitted the nuns to continue to wear their own distinctive dress, and that the institution will still be called St. Katharine's Convent.

Naturally, the details given by the journals in which the news has appeared, vary (says the *Catholic Times*). Nearly all of the reports are more or less incorrect. The convent was opened forty years ago as a branch of the East Grinstead Anglican Community. A representative of the *Catholic Times* learns that a few years ago the convent separated from the Mother House. The doctrines and ritual of the Catholic Church had much attraction for some of the nuns, and recognising more and more definitely that union with the Holy See is an essential of true Catholicity, they gradually came to entertain the idea of entering the Catholic fold. The result was that this step was decided on in a number of cases within the past year. In the course of the twelve months six Sisters and ten embroidery school workers came into the Church. The event, of course, had a considerable influence. The converts, steadfast and true in their loyalty to the Catholic faith, set an example by which the thoughts and views of others must have been affected. At any rate, in December the Superior, Mother Ellen Mary, was received into the Church by Abbot Cabrol, of Farnborough, and became, instead of the head of an Anglican community, a Benedictine Abbess.

Permission has since been received from Rome for the celebration of Mass and the reservation of the Blessed Sacrament in the convent, and on Thursday, April 1, Abbot Cabrol said Mass for the first time at the institution.

It need scarcely be said that at present the reporters are eager to make 'copy' out of what has taken place, and that the disposition of the converts is to cultivate retirement and silence.

Palmerston North

(From our own correspondent.)

May 23.

Next Sunday, being the feast of Pentecost, there will be High Mass at 11 a.m., after which there will be Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament and a procession in the evening.

There was a large attendance of the Catholic Debating Club and their friends at their rooms, Broad St., last night, to hear Mr. F. Oakley's essay on Shakespeare. The paper, which took up nearly an hour to read, was listened to with great pleasure and interest by the audience. The visitors and members were loud in their praise of the paper, and expressed a hope that Mr. F. Oakley would soon again favor the club with another essay on a similar subject.

There was a profit of £166 10s on St. Patrick's Day celebration in Adelaide. This was nearly £36 better than last year, and the best since 1899.

The late Hon. John Leahy, Speaker of the Queensland Legislative Assembly, was not as wealthy as many believed him to be. Probate of his will, granted the other day, showed realty £4538, personalty £7166.

The Rev. D. Duclou, S.M., has been appointed Superior of Villa Maria Mission, and the Rev. Father Laurent, S.M., has been placed in charge of the parish. The Rev. J. B. Chevreur, of Solevu, Fiji, will now fill the position of Procurator for the Islands.

Captain Anzalono, the inventor of a new system of wireless telephony, by which it is rumored that Genoa has succeeded in speaking to Buenos Ayres, is a Catholic officer in the Italian army. He has been carrying on experiments for a long time, but refuses to reveal his methods beyond saying that the system consists in confining microcophone currents, which themselves are very weak, to the care of massive electrical waves, which gather them up and speed them along for indefinite distances. His system has been successfully tested across the Straits of Messina, and is now being tried on the Trans-Atlantic cables to the United States and South America.

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OBITUARY

MR. JOHN LYNCH, ST. BATHANS.

There passed away at Naseby Hospital on the 5th inst. (writes a correspondent), one of the old pioneers of the goldfields in the person of Mr. John Lynch, a native of Kilmacduan, County Clare. He arrived in Victoria in the early sixties, and after spending some time on the diggings came to New Zealand at the time of the Dunstan rush. He also worked at St. Bathans and Nevis, and later on went to the West Coast, where he remained for a number of years. Returning to Otago, he worked at Black's Flat, and was a member of the Shamrock company. The deceased was, like nearly all the old miners, hospitable, cheerful, and kind-hearted. He was a generous supporter of the Church and all charitable institutions. The deceased had been in failing health for some time. He was attended in his illness by the Rev. Father McMullan and Rev. Father O'Dea. The remains were interred in the Catholic cemetery, St. Bathans. Father O'Dea celebrated a Requiem Mass and conducted the burial service at the graveside, making feeling reference to the many good qualities of the deceased.—R.I.P.

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