

# Science Siftings

BY VOLT

## A New Smoke Consumer.

A new locomotive smoke-consumer has been adopted by the New York, New Haven, and Hartford Railroad. It is the invention of Charles Schneider, the railroad commissioner of Austria. A train equipped with the new smoke-consumer on September 12 ran from New Haven, Conn., to Springfield, Mass., without the slightest appearance of smoke or cinders. The smoke and cinders are drawn from the firebox into a compartment, where they are consumed, securing greater economy in fuel consumption as well as increased steaming capacity.

## Simple Barometers.

Country people have a great contempt for those who cannot tell what the weather is going to be till they have looked at their expensive barometers or seen the weather indications in the morning paper. They have so many simple ways of finding out what they wish to know about the weather, and are so accustomed to doing this, that they make the observations almost mechanically. Ask one of them how to do this, and he will give you a long list of simple weather gauges. For instance, if you are a smoker, look at your cigar tip. If it burns with a clear, red glow the day will be fine, but if it has a charred end that refuses to burn brightly take your umbrella. If a slipper creaks it is sure to be fine; if it is silent it will be damp. In damp weather newspapers are easily torn, gloves contract and are difficult to put on, matches will not light easily, silk hats become dull, awning cords are tight, boot laces snap, and a score of inanimate things tell to the initiated that there is rain to come.

## New Method of Printing Railway Tickets.

The *American Machinist* describes a machine called the tesserograph for doing away with the necessity for printing in advance the thousands of various kinds of railway tickets. It says: 'Each ticket is printed separately by a machine from a slip of thick paper, all the necessary particulars, such as station names, date, price, class, etc., being inserted, and on a second paper strip within the machine is printed, as a check, a duplicate of the ticket sold. The money values of the tickets issued are totalised according to classes and series. A machine constructed for the Naples-Rome line can print and register 400 different kinds of tickets. The various mechanisms are interlocked together, and no tickets can be issued until the inspector in charge, upon opening the office in the early morning, has freed the machine and brought all the totals back to zero.'

## Novel Fireless Cooker.

'Well, I think I'll heat my coffee for dinner,' said a laborer on one of the many buildings now going up in the city, a few minutes before noon the other day. And he proceeded to do so without the aid of a fire or even the use of a match. He took his bottle from his handbag and with it went over to the wooden contrivance in which mortar was mixed. He put about half a shovelful of sand in a corner of the mortar bed, having previously scraped that part of the bed dry and clean. Then this laborer took a piece of lime about as large as his two fists. He pushed the lump of lime down into the yielding sand, put his bottle standing upright on the lime, banked up the bottle with sand to hold it in position, and was ready for the important part of the job. Dipping about a pint of water from a cask near by, the laborer poured it on the mounded sand easily, allowing it to percolate through the coarse grains. Putting on a little more sand to hold the bottle in its upright position, he went back to his work. In ten minutes the noon whistle blew, and this laborer went to his fireless heater, took from it his coffee boiling hot in a bottle that had at no time been in danger of breaking from the heat, and proceeded to enjoy his homely but hearty meal, all unconscious that he had performed a very interesting experiment in Nature's chemistry.

## THE LATEST TABLET PUBLICATION.

'Secular versus Religious Education: A Discussion.' Edited (and, as to its greatest part, written) by Rev. H. W. Cleary, D.D. 212 pages, stiff paper wrapper. Price 1/-, posted 1s 3d. Cardinal Moran writes of it: 'I have received the brilliant pamphlet, *Secular versus Religious Education*. It is a most useful and instructive contribution to the educational controversy, and cannot fail to do a deal of good.'

Apply MANAGER, TABLET, Dunedin.

# Intercolonial

The high price of fourteen guineas was paid for a rare daffodil exhibited by Mr. L. Buckland at the Ballarat display. It was exhibited by a Ballarat grower.

The Archbishop of Melbourne is steadily regaining strength. His Grace intends spending some time in Echuca and Deniliquin before returning to Melbourne.

The Rev. Father P. Corbett, pastor of Picton (N.S.W.) passed away on September 23, in the 40th year of his age. The deceased was a native of Kilfinane, County Limerick. He was educated at Mount Melleray Seminary and All Hallows College, and was ordained priest in 1893, and came out to Australia in the same year.

Several of the priests of the archdiocese (writes the Melbourne correspondent of the *Freeman's Journal*) have been lately indisposed. The Very Rev. Dean Hegarty, P.P., V.F. (Kyneton), underwent an operation at St. Evin's Private Hospital by Dr. J. Murphy. The Dean is progressing favorably. The Rev. P. H. Boyle is doing well at Mr. O'Hara's private hospital.

It is not often one hears of four brothers devoting their lives to the service of the sanctuary, but that can be said of the brothers O'Neill (writes the Melbourne correspondent of the *Freeman's Journal*). A few years ago one of them died, and last week another went to his reward, leaving the pastor of Castlemaine (Vic.) and Gawler (S.A.) to mourn. Some four months ago the three brothers returned from a visit to Europe.

Madame Melba, through her private secretary, has written to the Very Rev. W. Quilter, inviting the members of St. Francis' Church choir to attend her concert at the Exhibition Building on Saturday, October 16. 'Madame Melba,' the letter says, 'extends this invitation as a testimony of her friendly feelings for the musical association which formerly acknowledged her claims to artistic recognition in the days of long ago.' The diva was the leading soprano in St. Francis'.

The parishioners of Erskineville (says the *Catholic Press*) have lost the services of a devoted and talented pastor, in the person of Rev. Father Reginald H. Bridge, who died in St. Vincent's Hospital on September 27. Deceased had been suffering for some considerable time from an internal complaint. A few weeks ago he was taken suddenly ill at Suva, whilst on a cruise amongst the islands of the Pacific. After a three weeks' stay in the local hospital Father Bridge was brought to Sydney, and was taken to St. Vincent's Hospital in a very critical condition. Deceased was only 43 years old, and was beloved not only by Catholics, but by persons of all shades of religious belief. His demise was a great shock to the people whose spiritual aid he was.

In compliance with the request made by the Bishop of Maitland in his first pastoral letter, that an effort should be made to liquidate the debt of £2000 on the old Sacred Heart College buildings at West Maitland, with a view of establishing a diocesan orphanage as a memorial to the late Bishop Murray, a meeting of the parishioners of the Cathedral parish was held in St. John's school, West Maitland, recently, when the Rev. Father Victor Peters presided over a large and representative attendance. The object of the Bishop is to have meetings held in every parish of the diocese, so that every Catholic might have an opportunity of assisting in the movement initiated at West Maitland for the purpose of perpetuating the memory of the venerable founder of the diocese.

The Premier, Mr. Murray (says the *Advocate*), gave a sympathetic reply to the large and influential deputation of churchmen and laymen which waited on him the other day to urge fresh legislation to combat race suicide and juvenile immorality. The leader of the Government promised to bring the matter before the Cabinet, and to prepare the necessary legislation. The Very Rev. Dean Phelan, V.G., was unable to be present with the deputation, but he forwarded a letter expressing his regret. 'I am with you in spirit, and in full sympathy,' he wrote. 'His Grace the Archbishop denounced these life-destroying agents at the opening of the new Carlton Church, and read a pamphlet on this subject . . . and finally had established an order of knighthood to cope with the growing evils in this direction. These facts eloquently express our views,' concluded the Dean, 'and our hearty co-operation in any action to prevent race suicide.'

To give within a fortnight eight concerts, attracting in the aggregate considerably over 10,000 people, is a record not vouchsafed to many (says the *Age*). To send those same people away full of enthusiasm is something even better, for it shows that, equally with the power to attract, there is also the greater power to charm; best of all, to do it with work, for the most part, of the serious and artistic order. This is Miss Castles' achievement. And she emphasised it in her final concert in the Town Hall, the audience, as before, being overwhelmingly large and enthusiastic.