

American campaign—their quiet heroism and whole-souled devotion to the sick and wounded broke down many a barrier of prejudice against the religious habit. When the Mother Superior of the Sisters of Mercy was invalided home from the Crimea, Miss NIGHTINGALE wrote to her: 'No one loves you, reverences you, more than I do. You were far above me in fitness for the general superintendency, both in worldly talent of administration and far more in the spiritual qualifications which God values in a superior.' An American historian says of the great Civil War: 'As the war progressed, so did the influence of the Sisters, until at length there was scarcely a corner of the country into which a knowledge of their services did not penetrate, and there were but few homes in which their name was not mentioned with respect.' They stand or fall upon the battlefield with the same unflinching cheerfulness with which they brighten the gloom of an Irish workhouse or bring relief to the victims of cholera or small-pox in the slums of the great cities. Work such as theirs is the very Gospel living and moving, so to speak, before our bodily eyes. It is CHRIST Himself projected into the Church's life and still going about the world doing good (*Acts, x., 37.*)

### A HAPPY RIDDANCE.

#### THE SLATTERY'S VANISH.

ON Thursday last the wretched pair of impostors who had been for some time perambulating this Colony flitted prematurely for Hobart. They have left this Colony for the Colony's good, leaving unrealised an elaborated programme which included a visit—or rather a visitation—to Invercargill, and a return lecturing tour which was to have concluded with a final series of performances in Auckland. So Slattery proposed, but so the Pink Pamphlets did not dispose. From the moment when the unfortunate pair of strife-raisers landed in Auckland till the close of their last 'Punch and Judy show' in Dunedin they were haunted, first by the publications in which the Catholic Truth Society exposed their discreditable careers, and afterwards, in swift succession by the Pink Pamphlets issued from this office. These publications were, all along his noisome track, distributed to clergymen, pressmen, and respectable non-Catholics of every creed. In Dunedin every individual attending Slattery's lectures was presented, near the entrance of the hall, with the pamphlet *Joseph Slattery: The Romance of an Unfringed Priest*; and every person who went to hear the female impostor or unclean vaporings received the companion pamphlet, *Mrs. Slattery: The Romance of a Sham Nun*. We are free to attribute to this persistent exposure of the pair the fact that the actual period of their lecturing in Dunedin was shorter than in any other city of its size yet visited by the Slaterys in the whole course of their wanderings in Australasia. It was a bare fortnight of occasional and spasmodic mud-slinging at the Catholic body. Then they suddenly ceased, 'lay by' for ten days in splendid idleness, and flitted by the first boat they could find from the most unfriendly shores they have yet inflicted with their presence to others where, unless we are greatly mistaken, they will meet with a reception as icy as any they have encountered in New Zealand. Our friends and co-religionists in Tasmania are abundantly supplied with the mater al to enable them to show their fellow-colonists the vile antecedents of the fraudulent pair that are now bent upon arousing sectarian passion upon the peaceful shores of that tight little island.

The visit of this wretched pair to New Zealand has undoubtedly aggravated the bitterness of sectarian feeling among those strata of the population whose anti Catholic bias is not open to the force of either fact or reasoning. But we have received on all hands assurances that the distribution of the Pink Pamphlets has saved our Catholic young men and women in shops and factories from the sneers and innuendoes even of this class. These are not, however, the class that mould the public opinion of the Colony. That is happily the function of another and far better and far more numerous element in the community—the broad-minded and tolerant and intelligent. The attitude of these—the great bulk of the non-Catholics of the Colony—towards the Slattery crusade has been unexceptionable, and Catholics owe a debt of warm acknowledgment to them for that frank and kindly fellow-feeling, and for that strong and manly disgust with filth and imposture under the cloak of religion which at length forced the Slaterys to decamp before half of the evil work which they contemplated had been done. To the non-Catholic clergy in particular we gladly accord a word of special acknowledgment. During the whole of the impostors' tour in New Zealand the clergy of every denomination avoided the pair as if contact with or aid to them meant certain infection by the bubonic plague. Many of the non-Catholic clergy roundly denounced the Slaterys from their pulpits; and many have expressed to us, both verbally and in writing, their manly disgust for the evil trade that lives and thrives on appeals to the bigoted and the unclean. At Thames, as already recorded by us, the Slaterys' utmost audience numbered only 30 to 40 persons.

Another special word of commendation is due to the secular Press, and above all to the daily and weekly newspapers of Dunedin, which refused to sully their advertising columns with announcements of a fraudulent venture which they had too much of self-respect to report in their news columns. We are glad to know that other

respectable daily, weekly, and bi-weekly papers in Otago and Canterbury were fully determined to do likewise, had the occasion arisen, and that a large number of the newspapers of the Colony strongly condemned the vile pair and their ignoble traffic. The proprietors of halls—in nearly every instance non-Catholics—refused in very many cases to allow their property to be used by the Slaterys for the purpose of arousing sectarian passion and making it the source of personal revenue. The long list of refusals opened with the Y.M.C.A. in Auckland. It concluded by so sweeping and general a boycott that the wretched impostors could not, outside of Dunedin, procure a hall from the Bluff to, or nearly to, Christchurch. In Dunedin they were refused the use even of the boardings, and one of the Tramway Companies discarded their advertisements in response to a requisition signed by the leading non-Catholic citizens of the place. The happy day is evidently not far off when gross and prurient calumny of the members of any creed will not be permitted by decent people, and will cease to be a profitable speculation. And then the occupation of wandering impostors like the Slaterys will be gone.

### DIOCESE OF DUNEDIN.

We regret to record the death of a fine young man, Mr. Patrick Bourke, son of Mr. David Bourke, of Hall street, South Dunedin, who was accidentally killed on the railway on Monday afternoon. Much sympathy is felt for the parents in the ordeal of sorrow through which they are passing.—R.I.P.

In connection with the opening of Holy Cross Seminary on May 3, Pontifical High Mass will be celebrated in the Mosgiel Catholic Church at 10 o'clock. The clergy and other visitors will afterwards proceed to the College, which will be solemnly blessed and opened. The furnishing and adornment of the College are proceeding apace. Numerous invitations have been sent out. Great local interest is manifested in this new departure in ecclesiastical work in New Zealand, and everything bids fair for a large gathering and a function that will be on every count memorable among the annals of the Church in this Colony.

On Monday a pleasant social evening was given by the Children of Mary in St. Joseph's school as a 'welcome home' to his Lordship the Bishop. Pianoforte selections were given by Misses Joyce, Burke and Millar; songs by Misses M. Ross, M. M. Falkner and Brady; and recitations by Misses A. Heley and M. Kilmartin. A very amusing short entertainment was given by a number of lady minstrels, and several fine tableaux added greatly to the attractiveness of the social. A nicely worded address was also read to the Bishop, who was also presented with a splendid collection of altar linen, adorned with valuable lace, for use in Holy Cross College. His Lordship thanked the donors and the performers in suitable terms.

On Thursday evening the members of the Cathedral choir gave a welcome-home social in honour of his Lordship Bishop Verdon in St. Joseph's Hall. Besides his Lordship there were present the Rev. Fathers Murphy, O'Donnell, Coffey, Cleary, Ryan, Headen and McMullan. The large hall of the building was very handsomely furnished in the form of a drawing-room for the occasion. The programme for the evening consisted of instrumental and vocal musical selections, and various kinds of games. During the evening Mr. Carolin, on behalf of the choir, in a happy speech congratulated his Lordship on the success of his mission in Europe, and expressed their pleasure at his return to the diocese. His Lordship made an appropriate reply.

An entertainment was held in St. George's Hall, Milton, on Easter Monday evening, when the attendance was very good. The programme consisted of items of vocal music, step dancing, and recitations. Messrs. Gray and McKechnie opened the proceedings with selections on the pipes, which met with much favour from the audience. Miss McKechnie gave an exhibition of step-dancing. Vocal items were contributed by Misses Le Brun, Mahoney, and Scholfield, Mrs. King, and Messrs. Carolin, King, and Fottrell, and recitations by Messrs. McCormack and Pastorelli. The accompaniments were played by Mrs. Marryatt and Miss F. Dunne. During the evening the Very Rev. Father O'Neill, who presided, thanked the audience for their attendance, and also those who had assisted in making the entertainment a success.

On Friday evening an entertainment was given in St. Joseph's Schoolroom by the Kindergarten and pupils of St. Dominic's High School, assisted by friends, in honour of his Lordship Bishop Verdon's return to Dunedin. Besides the Bishop there were present the Rev. Fathers Murphy, Coffey, Cleary, Ryan, O'Donnell, Headen, McMullan, and a number of friends of the pupils. The programme consisted of a drama, 'The Martyr Bride,' a kindergarten performance, and vocal and instrumental musical selections. Very fine vocal items were contributed by Miss Rose Blancy and Miss Ewing, and several pianoforte selections were admirably rendered. The drama was very prettily staged, and was acted with good taste and refined feeling. A chorus, 'Night Bells,' brought the proceedings to a close. At the conclusion his Lordship thanked the Sisters and pupils for the very enjoyable entertainment, and complimented the latter on the admirable manner in which they had acquitted themselves.

The eighteenth annual meeting of the Dunedin Catholic Literary Society was held in St. Joseph's Hall on Monday evening, the Rev. Father Murphy presiding. The attendance was good considering the inclemency of the weather. The report and balance-sheet for the past year, as read by the acting-secretary, Mr. T. Hussey, were received and adopted. The report, among other matters, stated that owing to the meetings being held for the first time in the new hall a larger measure of success was obtained than in previous years. Debates, as heretofore, had formed a feature of the session's work, and it was claimed the singular success attained was due to