

the altar vessels smashed, the chairs made into five heaps in the nave and aisles, and set on fire, while the timber framework supporting the bells was also ignited. Soon after the flames had been extinguished the framework in one of the belfries gave way.

**Father Didon's Successor.**—Father Feuillette, O.P., the celebrated preacher, has been unanimously elected by the religious of the four great Dominican schools of Albert-le-Grand, Laplace, Lacordaire, and St. Dominique, as well as by the governing bodies of these schools, to succeed the late Père Didon as Prior of Arcueil, and his election has been confirmed by the General, in spite of his own modest refusal. The post is an extremely important one for the future of education in France. It is well known what a great reformation was brought about in this direction by Père Didon, who introduced much of the English system of training in his various colleges, and Père Feuillette seems likely to continue the work on same lines. He enjoys the reputation, not of an eminent preacher, but also of a brilliant scholar. He holds degrees in philosophy, canon law, civil law, and sciences.

**INDIA.—Sudden Death of a Priest.**—On last Sunday (says an Indian newspaper, April 20) another member of the Jesuit community of Calcutta, Father James DeBroy, died at Barraokpore in the discharge of his pastoral duties; for he had gone thither, as he did every Sunday, to celebrate Mass for the Catholic soldiers of the garrison, and he was struck down with apoplexy during Mass, whilst addressing the men. Father DeBroy had been employed in several stations. The last two years of his life he was attached to the Cathedral House, Calcutta, and was entrusted with the care of the hospital, a work to which he devoted all his time and remaining energy.

**ROME.—Fire in the Vatican.**—The vast collection of sacred documents and archives in one of the libraries of the Vatican narrowly escaped destruction by fire recently. The fire was discovered in an adjoining apartment, and threatened to spread to the bookrooms. The Pontifical Guards hastily carried away an immense number of the most valuable documents stored in the endangered portions, and a fire alarm for St. Peter's Church sounded. This promptly summoned the Vatican fire corps, who fought the flames for an hour, and finally extinguished them, with no serious loss. The fire, it was learned, originated in a chimney in the night watchman's room.

**Missions in various Churches.**—During the month of April general missions were carried out in 47 churches in Rome, each mission lasting about 10 days. The sacred functions concluded on Palm Sunday with preparations for the Pascal Communion and for the gaining of the indulgence of the Jubilee. Enormous crowds attended the various services at all the churches. Sermons were preached and services conducted during the greater part of each day.

## THE BOER WAR.

### NOTES AND POINTS OF INTEREST TO CATHOLIC READERS.

#### ANOTHER STONYHURST PUPIL.

Captain Bullin, who is attached to Lord Methuen's staff, and who has been twice mentioned in despatches, is an old Stonyhurst boy.

#### THE DUKE OF NORFOLK INJURED.

During the operations in front of Pretoria last week, the Duke of Norfolk, who is at the front, had his right hip dislocated through his horse falling. He is progressing favorably.

#### THE IRISH YEOMANRY BATTALION.

A cable received last week stated that Colonel Spragge's Irish Yeomanry Battalion, which was operating under Lord Methuen, had been captured by the Boers. There is hardly a prominent family in Dublin or Belfast that is not affected.

Colonel Spragge's casualties were 19 killed (including Sir J. T. Power, Bart.) and 29 wounded (including the Earl of Longford).

[The late Sir John Talbot Power resided at Edermine, near Enniscosthy, was an excellent Catholic, and indulgent landlord, and had the respect and esteem of the people among whom he lived.—*R.I.P.*—Ed. N.Z.T.]

#### REPUTATIONS MADE AND UNMADE.

General Kelly-Kenny is said to have remarked to a war correspondent the other day: 'I have been wofully undeceived in many things in this campaign. Men I had thought were splendid fellows, who would have gone anywhere and done anything, have betrayed themselves as the rankest frauds, and those I had expected little from have done great things. War gives you the measure of men in an astonishing way.'

#### SHUT UP IN LADYSMITH.

Mr. M'Hugh, who was for some time a member of the Dublin *Freeman's Journal* staff, and now represents the London *Daily Telegraph*, has had a very unpleasant time in Ladysmith, where he has been attacked by the prevailing illness. He is now better, and the first message from him for two months reached Fleet street a short time.

#### A COINCIDENCE.

It is a record in the annals of the British army for father and son to have both gained the Victoria Cross. Field-Marshal Lord Roberts won his when only a lieutenant at the time of the Indian Mutiny, when he rescued a standard from two Sepoys at Khodagunge, whilst his gallant son was awarded the Cross a few days after his death last December. It is a peculiar coincidence that at the Siege of Delhi, Lord Roberts (then Lieutenant Roberts) was

wounded and nearly lost his life in helping his men to limber the guns and bring them out of action, whilst his son, also Lieutenant Roberts, should be wounded (and that fatally) some 40 years afterwards in doing a similarly daring act.

#### TO THE MEMORY OF LORD ROBERTS'S MOTHER.

A shamrock wreath tied with bows of green ribbon was on St. Patrick's Day placed on the grave of the mother of Lord Roberts in Hampton churchyard. The wreath was inscribed, 'Shamrock from Ireland placed here respectfully to do honor to the mother of our great Irish Field-Marshal, Lord Roberts, by a few Irish admirers.'

#### THE TRAGEDY OF WAR.

Saturday's list of killed (says the *Cork Examiner* of a recent date) brings home to Cork people the awful tragedy of the war. First in the list from the War Office is the name of Colonel M'Carthy O'Leary, a County Cork gentleman, who was well known and respected throughout the county, and was beloved of the regiment he commanded. Another name, that of Lieutenant C. J. Daly, who had got his commission in the Royal Irish Fusiliers some two or three years ago, son of Mr. M. D. Daly, J.P., Cleve Hill, is also among the dead. Lieutenant Daly was well known in athletic circles in Cork, being an excellent hockey and football player.

#### SHAMROCKS FOR LORD ROBERTS.

Miss Juanita Emma Orpen Taylor, a young lady who has not attained her seventh year, when sending a bunch of shamrock from the County Kerry to her brother at the front, also sent a bunch to Lord Roberts, from whom she has received the following kindly letter: 'Army Headquarters, Bloemfontein, St. Patrick's Day. Field-Marshal Lord Roberts presents his kindest regards to Juanita Emma Orpen Taylor, and begs she will accept his best thanks for sending him some shamrock. The welcome present arrived just in time for this eventful occasion—the first St. Patrick's Day spent by her Majesty's Irish soldiers in the capital of the Orange Free State.'

#### NOT AS BAD AS THEY ARE PAINTED.

Bishop Jolivet, of Natal, advises the public to reject stories of atrocities, Boer or British. His Lordship, who testifies that the Boer authorities have been 'kindness itself towards Catholic priests and nuns,' speaks in these words: 'Give no credit to reports of "Boer atrocities" or "British atrocities" which find their way into newspapers. War is always a cruel thing, and many irregular and deplorable acts may be committed by both parties, but on the whole the Boers are not worse than other people. I can gather a little comfort and consolation in the thought that on both sides the prisoners are treated with humanity.' Thackeray was right, after all (remarks a Cape paper) there are bishops who are Christians.

#### THE VICTORIA CROSS.

The Victoria Cross, the intrinsic value of which is one penny and one farthing, cannot be accepted as a pledge by a pawnbroker anywhere in Great Britain under penalty of a heavy fine. The cross is made from cannon captured from the enemy, and weighs just three and a half grains less than one ounce. About eight miles from Carrickmacross, Monaghan, was born the first recipient of this distinction. He obtained it for an act of bravery performed in 1854 under these circumstances:—A shell from the Russian batteries fell on board his ship, he ran forward, and, taking up the live shell, cast it overboard. Then he was a midshipman, now he is Rear-Admiral Charles Lucas. The first man recommended for Victorian Cross in the present war is the son of Mr. Hassell, of the Royal Irish Constabulary.

#### THE WAR OFFICE AND THE CHAPLAIN.

The War Office has come in for a good deal of criticism in the present war, but the officials can reply that, whatever may be their mistakes elsewhere, at least they take pains to see that none but fit and proper persons are appointed as chaplains. The Colonel of the Oxford Yeomanry nominated as chaplain the head of the largest and most fashionable of Oxford colleges. On receiving the nomination the War Office sent him the usual form to be filled up, in which he was requested to state his age, the present position, and the character borne in the past by his nominee. The colonel wrote down the answers to several of the questions in due form:—'Dean of Ch—Ch—', 'Professor of Theology,' etc. Then he came to a question which he really deemed superfluous: 'Has the applicant ever been in prison, and, if so, for what offence?' He left the answer to that a blank. The War Office is nothing if not careful, and next day came a memorandum: 'We note that you give no answer to Question No. 6. We hope this does not imply that the applicant has been convicted. We shall be glad of a definite answer on this point.'

#### THAT HANDFUL OF IRISHMEN.

A Wexford gunner serving with the 7th Battery Royal Artillery, writing from Spearman's Point on February 1, says:—'We have had a very trying time since my last letter. We have been fighting all the time. We had a fierce battle last week, and a severe defeat or rather a reverse. We marched all night and next day, and attacked the enemy, and for seven days and seven nights we fought them and had to retire owing to their position being impregnable. On one hill our troops charged the Boers, and were met by a fire from cannon and Mauser rifles, that hell could only stand it; it lasted about three hours; in that time 12 officers, 18 sergeants, and 400 men of the Lancashire Fusiliers were killed. There were 450 of the Dublin Fusiliers in rear of the L.F., and when the L.F. were defeated and could get no further the general (Hart) shouted 'Send up that handful of Irishmen they will shift them' (the Boers). The gallant Dublins, when they heard the order, raised such a yell that we all thought the battle was won. The Dublins charged the Boers, and fought and fought like heroes, drove the enemy clean off the hill, and held it for six hours by themselves, but had to retire as the enemy turned all their long range guns on them, and played havoc with them.'