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M I S S I N G F R I E N D

Anyone knowing the whereabouts of Bridget Cleary, last heard of in Amberley, Canterbury, will oblige by sending information to TABLET Office.

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(To be continued.)

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NOTICE.

Correspondents are particularly requested to bear in mind that to insure publication in any particular issue of the paper communications must reach this Office not later than Tuesday morning.

All communications connected with the literary department, reports, correspondence, newspaper cuttings, etc., should be addressed to the Editor.

Correspondents forwarding obituary and marriage notices are particularly requested to be as concise as possible.

ANSWER TO CORRESPONDENT.

J.R.C. (Wellington)—Held over.

DEATH.

FITZSIMONS.—On May 31, at his residence, Wairio, Terence Fitzsimons; aged 52 years. R.I.P.



'To promote the cause of Religion and Justice by the ways of Truth and Peace.'

LEO XIII to the N.Z. TABLET.

THURSDAY, JUNE 21, 1900.

THE TROUBLES IN CHINA.



IN some matters history has an awkward habit of repeating itself in China. So much is to be looked for in the land of ancestor-worship, cast-iron tradition, and almost changeless social customs—a land in which, in the early days of the Manchu Tartar dynasty, it took a savage law savagely administered, plentiful head-dropping, and the imminent risk of a general revolution, to substitute the now loved but then hated pigtail for the older Chinese fashion of long and flowing tresses. In an especial manner has history repeated itself with melancholy monotony in regard to the succession of flickering sunshine and deep shadows which have fallen on missionary work among the races that inhabit the vast Celestial Empire. It is here a case of constancy in inconstancy—a weary succession of friendly pat and hostile cuff, of easy tolerance and fierce and savage persecution with refinements of exquisite torture which recall the scenes that took place in olden days around Indian camp-fires after the capture of prisoners of war. A little over two years ago—on March 15, 1898—the Emperor of China signed a decree which was 'to render the protection of Christians easier' and to deliver them completely from the local and partial persecutions that were of such frequent occurrence. It likewise granted official recognition and official status to the Catholic clergy; it made bishops equal in rank to viceroys and governors, entitled vicars-general and archpriests to audiences with treasurers and judges, and accorded to other priests the right to have audiences with prefects. And now the traditional reaction has set in with a rush. The 'Boxers,' otherwise the Society of the Big Sword—one of the dark-lantern associations with

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