

Prayer. There are Conferences of St. Vincent de Paul throughout the region. What must be the extent of Catholic missionary work in China when this is the account of but one province!

THE QUEEREST STREET IN THE WORLD.

Canton, in China, possesses the queerest street in the world, in spite of the fact that in nearly all the big towns in the country there are some remarkable streets. The chief thing of interest attaching to this eccentric thoroughfare is the fact that it is roofed in with glazed paper fastened on bamboo, and contains more sign-boards to the square foot than any other street in any other country. The next interesting fact about the Canton byway is that, though a business street, it contains no other shops but those of apothecaries and dentists' parlors; no professional men but doctors. It is a sick man's paradise and a Chinese physician's Klondike. They call it Physic street, which is descriptive if not picturesque.

THE BOER WAR.

NOTES AND POINTS OF INTEREST TO CATHOLIC READERS.

DEATH OF A CATHOLIC CHAPLAIN.

The death of the Rev. John Moloney, chaplain to the South African forces, is announced. He died at Springfontein of enteric fever caught in the discharge of his duties in the local hospital. He was in his 27th year.

THE HOSPITAL ENQUIRY COMMISSION.

The Hospital Enquiry Commission consists of Lord Justice Romer, Dr. Church, Professor Cunningham, Sir David Richmond (ex-Lord Provost of Glasgow), and Mr. Harrison, manager of the L. and N.W. Railway Co.

A SAD CASE.

The case of a man who, at the outbreak of the South African war, became insane through excitement, and had to be removed to the asylum, was mentioned (says the *New Zealand Times*) at a meeting of the Wellington Benevolent Trustees the other day. He had been discharged from the asylum lately, but it was stated that he still entertained a lurking suspicion that all fear of a Boer invasion of New Zealand was not yet at an end. Any night he considers a raiding commando might take it into its head to pillage his humble home. In consequence of the indifference of the police, he keeps an axe handy by his bedside at night, for he is determined to give De Wet a warm reception should he seek to effect an entrance.

WORTHY OF THE VICTORIA CROSS.

It may be remembered that at the battle of Pieter's Hill only three officers of the Royal Inniskillings came out unscathed. Where so few remained to tell the tale, certain details have been slow in coming to hand. One incident, recorded in a private letter by a surviving officer, demands a record. Colonel Thackeray was shot down, but not killed, within 80 yards of the Boer trenches. Nearly 40 hours elapsed before the ambulance advanced to where the wounded lay. Seeing the Colonel's plight, and fearing he must die of thirst, two privates of the regiment went to his succor bearing him water. Both these heroes, as they bent over their colonel, were shot, and he himself, who might otherwise have survived, was suffocated beneath the superincumbent weight of their dead bodies.

LORD KITCHENER.

Mr. Julian Ralph, the correspondent of the *Daily Mail*, notices since his return home, that he is more often asked about Lord Kitchener than about any other general, except the Field Marshal. There is little need to discuss Lord Kitchener as either an independent actor or a lieutenant of Lord Roberts. Mr. Ralph says in neither capacity has he counted for much in the war or increased his prestige as a strategist. He made a meteoric appearance during the pursuit and subsequent surrounding of Cronje's army but it was not the common opinion that he pleased the Field Marshal by his military methods. They appeared too much like an exaggeration of the worst of Lord Methuen's mistakes. The fact that Lord Kitchener was summarily sent away as soon as Lord Roberts came up with the besieging force, and that the ex-Sindar's orders were to put down a petty rebellion of 400 farmers at Prieska, carried with it a suggestion which had but one interpretation. Still his South African failure notwithstanding, Mr. Ralph has a high opinion of Kitchener as the greatest organizer of his time.

HONORS DIVIDED.

During the siege of Mafeking the Mayor was an Englishman named Frank Whitley, who hails from Yorkshire; the mayor of Ladysmith during the siege was Mr. Joseph Farquhar, who was born in Aberdeenshire, Scotland; and the head of municipal affairs in Kimberley was an Irishman, Mr. Robert Hugh Henderson, who is a native of County Armagh.

DEFINITION OF WOUNDS.

The cables frequently state that certain soldiers have received a 'slight' or 'severe' or 'dangerous' wound, but as no definition of those terms has yet been published, the following will be of interest:—'Slight' means a wound likely to heal rapidly; not impairing the use of limb or organ; not even entailing admission into hospital. 'Severe' signifies a wound requiring careful treatment in hospital, but not necessarily dangerous; often involving fracture of bone, and sometimes the permanent impairment of a limb. 'Dangerous' means a wound such as might occur from the penetration of the head, chest, abdomen, or any vital organ. 'Mortal' means no hope of recovery; certain death.

THE NATIONAL ANTHEM OF THE BOERS.

The national anthem of the Boers was written by an old lady who is at present living a peaceful, obscure life in Holland. She is Miss Catherine Felecia van Rees, and was born in Holland, at Zutphen, in 1831. She is an excellent musician and in her youth she composed several operettas, which were performed by the Choral Society, Utrecht. At one of these performances she made the acquaintance of Mr. Burgers, a member of the society, who was at that time studying theology in the University of Utrecht. In 1875 Burgers who in the meantime had been President of the South African Republic, went back to Europe and renewed the acquaintance of his old friend Miss van Rees. One day he begged her to write a national hymn for the Transvaal, and within a few hours she wrote both the words and music for what is now the Boers' national hymn. The burghers were so pleased with the composition that the Volksraad of Pretoria officially accepted the work and sent Miss van Rees a letter of thanks and congratulations. The hymn is very popular among the Boers and it is said that the British soldiers in South Africa have heard it so often that many of them now sing and whistle it.

Diocesan News.

ARCHDIOCESE OF WELLINGTON.

(From our own correspondent.)

September 8.

I regret to say that Father Goggan's health is not as good as his friends would wish. He has been confined to his room for some days.

The Ven. Archdeacon Devoy, writing from Sydney to Father O'Shea, speaks of the Rev. Dr. Pestre's health as being greatly benefited by the trip across.

The Very Rev. Dean Martin, Provincial of the Marist Order, is paying a visit to the Very Rev. Dean Chervier, who is lying dangerously ill in the South.

The Marist Brothers recently at Stoke, and about whom some members of Parliament seem deeply concerned, are, by direction of the Provincial, returning to Wellington from Sydney.

I regret to have to record the death of Miss Mabel Ward, which occurred at St. Mary's Convent on Friday morning. Though but 11 years of age, her amiable and kindly disposition made her the most popular of the junior pupils, and her early death has cast a deep gloom over her teachers and schoolmates. A *Requiem Mass* was celebrated in St. Mary's Church this morning by the Very Rev. Father Lewis, who also officiated at the interment at the Terrace Cemetery. The Mass and funeral were attended by the full strength of the pupils, who placed a beautiful floral wreath on the coffin.—*R.J.P.*

High Mass at St. Mary of the Angels' on Sunday last was celebrated by Rev. Father Moloney. The choir rendered Mozart's Twelfth Mass. Father Moloney was also the celebrant at Vespers, when the music included Lambillote's 'Salve Regina,' Mozart's 'Magnificat,' Murphy's 'Tantum Ergo,' Cimino's 'Divine praises,' and Oakes' 'Laudate Dominum.' Mrs. Oakes sang as an offertory 'The angelus.' The soloists during the services were the Misses Ross and Meaton, Messrs. McParland, Brooke, Dwan, and Morris. Mr. D. Kenny presided at the organ.

DIOCESE OF CHRISTCHURCH.

(From our own correspondent.)

September 10.

The Very Rev. Dean Martin, S.M., Provincial, is at present on a visit to the Very Rev. Dean Chervier at Leeston, whose health still continues far from satisfactory.

Dr. Frengley, vice-president, occupied the chair at the weekly meeting of the Christchurch Catholic Club, held last Tuesday evening. There was a good attendance of members, and several matters in connection with the working of the club were arranged.

The high and parish schools, conducted by the Sisters of Our Lady of Missions, Barbadoes street, were inspected on last Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday by Mr. Baldwin, head-master of the Sydenham School, and passed a most successful examination. The report and fuller details will be furnished next week.

Sunday last, the feast of the holy name of Mary, and patronal feast of the Marist Order, was observed in the Pro-Cathedral with due solemnity. Our Lady's altar was profusely adorned with floral offerings. After Vespers in the evening there was a procession in honor of the Blessed Virgin, a feature of which was the statue of Our Lady carried by two acolytes. The Very Rev. Dean Foley preached a fine discourse suitable to the occasion.

DIOCESE OF AUCKLAND.

(From our own correspondent.)

September 6.

A sum of £500 was recently bequeathed by a Protestant gentleman to the Catholic orphanages of this city.

His Lordship the Bishop is to administer the Sacrament of Confirmation next Sunday at St. Benedict's, and in the evening he will preach there. Rev. Father Gillan has been most assiduous for some time preparing the children of the parishes for the reception of the Sacrament.

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