

church with an instrument more in keeping with the building than the one now in use. A special meed of praise is due to that enthusiastic and cultivated musician and leader of the choir, Mr Guthrie. Though a non-Catholic, Mr Guthrie is never so happy as when engaged in some useful work in connection with the church, and in this respect sets an example to many of our co-religionists.

The Rev. Father Kimbell, on Sunday, referred to the deplorable folly of those parents who, for the most frivolous causes, keep their children away from school. It was, as he pointed out with much force, most harmful to the children and a gross injustice to the teachers. What indeed can be more disheartening to anxious teachers than to find that obstacles are put in the way of the children's progress through irregular attendance at school? Father Kimbell's trenchant remarks should be pondered over by Catholic parents throughout the Colony. It is of the utmost importance that Catholic children should have a thorough grounding in secular subjects. Those who know something of the world fully realise this. This being so, what can be thought of those parents who, for a few paltry shillings, take their children away from school just at the time when the minds of the pupils are most likely to be benefited by the instructions of the teacher.

T I M A R U.

(From a correspondent.)

The Very Rev. Dean Martin paid a short visit to the Rev. Father Tubman at the Priory during the week.

The Marist Brothers have handed to the treasurer of the Swimming Bath Committee the respectable sum of £16 as the net proceeds of the entertainment recently given by the pupils in the Theatre Royal for that purpose, and were accorded a hearty vote of thanks by the committee.

The Christy Minstrel company, formed in connection with the Hibernian Club, journey to the Point on Thursday to give their initial performance in public. It would be a very good idea if they gave an entertainment in Timaru in aid of the purchase of a piano for use at entertainments held in connection with Catholic matters. If the Aloysian and Hibernian Societies assisted in the affair a much felt want would be provided without much difficulty.

The election of a borough councillor for the South Suburban Ward took place on Thursday, and resulted in the return of Mr. Richard Kelly over his opponent, Mr. H. Whittaker (the former councillor) by a majority of 43 votes. Mr. Kelly is a member of the Aloysian Society, and the youngest councillor ever elected in Timaru. He has set a plucky example to his Catholic fellow-townsmen, both old and young, the majority of whom take little or no interest in civic matters. At the declaration of the poll Mr. Kelly made a manly speech in thanking his supporters. The Mayor, being present, welcomed Mr. Kelly as a councillor, and on hearing his speech said, 'Just the sort of man we want.' It is to be hoped some of his fellow Aloysians will develop a similar ambition.

THE FLOWERY KINGDOM.

BITS OF CHINA, OLD AND NEW.

CHINAMEN IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

There are 767 Chinamen in England, 112 in Ireland 29 in Scotland, and 16 in Wales.

THE MARTYR'S CROWN.

Over 1000 applications have been received in Rome from priests who are willing to take up the work of the noble missionaries who have won the martyr's crown in China.

AMONG THE FIRST TO FALL.

A young Catholic naval officer was among the first to fall in the attempt to reach and rescue the Europeans in Pekin. Mr. A. P. Donaldson was a midshipman of H.M.S. Barfleur, and fought under Admiral Seymour. He was only 19.

THE OPIUM TRAFFIC.

We (*Speaker*, July 21) wish it were possible to face the stupendous problem (Chinese) that confronts Europe at this moment without some bitter heart-searching. But it is well to remember Burke's great maxim, that in dealing with any political event we must not allow the causes to be swallowed up in their consequences. Let us go back 60 years, to the time when English commerce first thought to exploit the riches of China, and remind ourselves how Lord Palmerston determined to force the Chinese to eat opium, not for their own good, but for the benefit of the Indian taxpayer; how at the bayonet's point we forced an iniquitous traffic upon a reluctant Government; how we carried fire and sword to Pekin, and finally impressed, by the most odious means, upon the Chinese Mandarin the doctrine of the Open Ports.

CHINA AS A TEA-PRODUCING COUNTRY.

Long since China has lost her position as the great exporting tea country of the world, but the extent to which she has sunk as compared with India and Ceylon, in order to be fully appreciated, must be seen in the light of the returns. To the United Kingdom last year there went in all 235,411,000lbs of tea. Of that enormous quantity China only sent 20,603,000 lbs, or less than eleven per cent. of the total, the balance being made up with 82,081,000lbs from Ceylon and 132,757,000lbs from India.

AS BAD AS BEING CALLED A 'PRO-BOER.'

This notice, in large characters, in the window of Charlie Moy's laundry at Chicago made a small riot one afternoon recently:—

'Hurrah for the Boxers; 140 Christians slain at Pekin. This shop will close on August 15 to allow me to go to China to fight with my countrymen, the Boxers.'—CHARLIE MOY.

Some small boys posted this while Moy was away. He returned in time to tear down the notice and help the police to save his shop. The windows were wrecked.

ODDS AND ENDS.

Chinese soldiers live on rice and cabbage.

There is a saying that a Chinese soldier is 'eleven-tenths thief.'

Chinese regiments are recruited in the same manner as British regiments.

Twice a year, in the first week of April and October, the Chinese carry food to their dead.

More than 10,000,000 Chinese, it is said, are engaged, either directly or indirectly, in the tea industry.

It is not an uncommon sight to see a Chinese soldier with a fan and an umbrella strapped across his back.

The railway from Tientsin to Peking, a distance of about 70 miles, was the first constructed in China.

The society of Boxers is composed of lodges, each of which has a president, whose power for good and evil is considerable. Every president has under him two or more vice-presidents, who are bound to obey his every command or else suffer a horrible death.

A Chinese regiment presents a gay appearance to the foreign observer. Nearly every man bears a banner.

The horseshoe in China, as well as in other countries, is looked upon as a harbinger of good luck. For that reason Chinese mandarins, when buried, have horseshoe graves, and they believe that the bigger the horseshoe grave the better the luck of the departed. As a result the mandarins outvie each other in the size of their horseshoe graves.

The Boxers' signs are so complete and so admirably arranged that individual Boxers are able to communicate with one another at a considerable distance, even in the middle of a surging crowd.

THE ITALIAN MINISTER AT PEKIN.

Not a few of the Vicars Apostolic in China are Italians. Curiously enough, the Italian Minister, the Marquis Salvago-Raggi, is the son of a famous Catholic parliamentarian. His father, the Marquis Salvago-Raggi, was a Genoese nobleman of distinction, and a strenuous defender of Catholic interests in the old Italian Commons. The Minister married the Marchioness Camilla Pallavicini, a most gifted member of the family which has given so many Cardinals to the Church, and, besides others, the historian of the Council of Trent. The first secretary of the Italian Legation is Don Livio Gaetani, son of the Duke of Sermoneta, of Rome, and the claimant of kinship on the paternal side of his family with Popes Gelasius II. and Boniface VIII., and on the maternal side with four other Roman Pontiffs.

THE SCIENCE OF SUB-LETTING.

Here is a story of official life in China:—A short time ago the Emperor of China made up his mind that the street of the Legations in Pekin should at last be paved. To ensure the work being done, he himself provided the money—some £3000. This sum was handed to a high official of the Public Roads and Highways Department. It entered into the mind of this dignitary that the work could be done for much less. He very soon found an enterprising contractor who undertook the task for £1000. No. 2 had, however, views similar to those of No. 1, and was equally successful in finding a No. 3, who, in his turn, considered £500 an extravagant sum for so insignificant an undertaking. The street was eventually paved at the cost of £5. And yet some say that the Chinese are not in an advanced condition of civilisation.

THE CHINESE MINISTER TO FRANCE.

The Chinese Ambassador at Paris, Yu Keng, has had a very varied and interesting career, some of the main incidents of which are worth recalling. His Excellency, who is a member of the Catholic Church, and probably the most enlightened statesman ever accredited to any European Government by Pekin, began life by adopting the military career, in which profession he distinguished himself with Gordon in the 1858 war against the Taepings. In 1870, being Taotai in the province of Ngang Hoay, he married Miss Pearsons, an American lady, and paid with her extended visits to North America and Paris. The Ambassador, it is stated, is western in all his ideas, and in conversation admits that the only point in which he regards Chinese civilisation as superior to that of the west is in its code of politeness, a distinction (he also admits) of a very hollow kind. But it is on account of an incident which took place shortly before his departure for Europe to fill his present position that the career of Yu Keng may be said to derive its present interest. According to the story told by the Paris correspondent of the London *Daily News*, who has been accorded an interview by Yu Keng's eldest son, the Ambassador, just before he set out from Pekin, had an audience of the Emperor and Empress, at which a rather significant dialogue took place, in the course of which the Empress, it appears, smiled and nodded assent in reply to a tentative remark by the Ambassador, to the effect that there would shortly be a catastrophe. 'The Emperor, a man of 30,' says the *Daily News* correspondent, 'then addressed Yu Keng, and from his way of questioning the Ambassador, it was evident that there was a great weight on his mind. . . . The conversation on this occasion was rather between man and man than between Emperor and subject. "Are you taking your wife and children with you to France?" asked the Emperor, a question which I am told was unusual. Yu Keng replied that he intended to do so. "You are right," said the Emperor, who was deeply moved. "Go and live in the West, and try to be happy far from China." The inference from the account of what passed at this remarkable interview appears to be irresistible that the Chinese Government was all along privy to subsequent massacres of foreigners.