

MURDER OF FRANCISCANS.

Word was recently received at the Franciscan Monastery at Brooklyn, near Washington, of the murder of four missionaries of the Franciscan order in China. The missionaries killed were Mgr. Anthony Fantosati, titular Bishop of Autren and Vicar Apostolic of southern Hu-An, and his three associates, all of them Franciscans. One of these assistants went to China as late as last November. The massacre took place on July 4, at Pen-Sien-Fu, where Bishop Fantosati resided. The bishop had been fearful of trouble for some time, and had placed 200 of the native converts under arms to guard the cathedral at Pen-sien-Fu. While the missionaries and their converts were holding services in the cathedral, a mob of Boxers, reinforced by Chinese troops, surrounded the building, and after cutting off all escape for those in the cathedral, set fire to the edifice and massacred the converts. Mgr. Fantosati was led to the viceroy's yamen, after which he was decapitated and his head suspended before the yamen.

Hu-An, in which the massacre took place, is one of nine vicarates which are in charge of the Franciscan friars, the bishop of each being a member of that Order.

THE OPIUM CURSE.

It will be within the memory of persons yet alive (says a Home paper) that Great Britain actually forced the Chinese to allow the sale of this pernicious drug, and forced them to do so by war. The mandarins objected to have their subjects demoralised by the opium traffic, and rather than allow its importation, stopped all foreign trade. Captain Elliot, the superintendent of trade, agreed that all opium in the hands of Englishmen should be delivered up and that no more should be introduced. On April 3, 1839, 20,283 chests of the vile drug were handed over to the Chinese authorities, who destroyed every one of them—no weak evidence of their detestation of the opium curse and of their honest desire to free their people from it. Yet England went to war in 1840 in defence of the traffic, and only made peace in 1842 on terms which engaged China to cede Hongkong and open several ports to foreign trade and pay an indemnity of 21,000,000 dollars. Opium is still introduced. Opium is grown in China in competition with the foreign drug. Thousands of Chinese are victims to the terrible opium habit, and thousands of Englishmen are ashamed of their country's acts in selling opium to the Chinese. No wonder the Chinese people sell anti-opium pills labelled 'Cure for the Foreign Poison.'

THE MISSIONS OF PEKIN.

M. Marcel Monnier in his delightful book *Le Tour d'Asie, L'Empire du Milieu*, writes as follows of the Lazarist missions at Peking:—

'At the missions the welcome was indeed a cordial one. The road thither is easily found. Hours pass swiftly by in conversing with the men who for so many years have passed their whole lives in the midst of these strange Chinese races; men who have adopted their language, their habits, and customs, who have studied their literature, their art, and their annals, and who possess the gift, so rare and scarce, of evoking in their conversation, by a few ornate and vividly descriptive touches, men and matters of the present and the past: men who though garbed as Chinese yet still possess the true French soul: with minds alert, not given, however, to the fostering of illusions, convinced that they are laboring on ungrateful soil; still tenacious, possessed of a joyous ardor, wholly happy in the enormous difficulties of their self-imposed tasks.

'It would be a mistake to look upon these missions simply from the one point of view of religious propagandism. Their activity is manifest in many different ways. Their missions in Peking are far removed one from the other, situate at the four cardinal points, as their names indicate: Pei-tang, Nan-tang, Ton-tang, and Si-Tang—the Church of the north, of the south, of the east, of the west. Around these churches are grouped not only the residences of the Fathers, the seminaries of the novitiates, but also the schools, the workshops, where the young people are taught wood and metal work. Then there is the printing office, where the young native compositors are equally skilled in the setting up of the Chinese and Latin characters.

'Near the Church of the East, Ton-tang, is the hospital where the Sisters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul, assisted by the medical staff of the French Legation, are ever assiduous in their care and nursing of the most repulsively afflicted patients. This suffering class of humanity exhibit afflictions, sores and complaints and such like pathological phenomena seldom to be met with in European clinical institutions. This institution is the only one of its kind in all Peking. Needless to say it is ever crowded. On certain days there are to be seen hundreds of stricken patients awaiting the arrival of the doctor. Those who are unable to find room in the hospital make their way to the dispensary. There their ailments are seen to, wounds washed, and a large bowl of rice given to each. In the neighborhood of this mission—the most ancient Catholic settlement extant in Peking, one founded by the Portuguese Jesuits over 200 years ago—there is a never ceasing influx and exodus of spectral figures, disease-stricken and fever-marked sufferers.

'The headquarters of the mission is the Pei-tang Church of the North. It is situated in the yellow-quarter of the city, close to the Imperial Palace. There are two small pavilions flanking the entrance surmounted by a dragon; affixed to the wall are marble slabs on which are inscribed the Imperial Ordinances, setting forth the terms upon which the concession of the land was made to France some 100 years ago. But a few years back the Emperor, wishing to enlarge the grounds of his palace, took the site previously held by the French Fathers and gave them the present site in exchange, and built the present cathedral, episcopal residence, and all the many dependencies at his own expense—a cost estimated at over £30,000. A huge tablet suspended over the

facade of the Cathedral records this fact. Pei-tang is the residence of the Vicar-Apostolic, a man whose name is widely known, who is much beloved by all those whose privilege it has been to know and meet him, Mgr. Favier.

'A mile or so outside the walls, near to the old French cemetery, in the village of Cha-la-eul, is the wonderful school established and directed by the Marist Brothers. There are about 100 native students attending the classes, most of whom write and speak French fluently. This institution enjoys a deservedly high reputation. Many of the youngsters who have made their studies in this school are now holding good posts in the Civil Service and Custom House offices—one of the recent members of the Chinese Embassy at Paris, the Minister Tsing, was a student of Cha-la-eul.'

Diocesan News.

ARCHDIOCESE OF WELLINGTON.

(From our own correspondent.)

October 13.

His Grace the Archbishop is expected to return from Sydney by the Westralia to-day.

The Rev. Father Goggan's health has not improved, he is still confined to his room.

Rev. Father Ainsworth leaves for Otaki to-day, and will open a mission there to-morrow.

The annual excursion of the Altar Society and altar boys was held at Day's Bay on Labor Day. Rev. Fathers O'Shea, Moloney, and Ainsworth accompanied the party, who spent a most enjoyable day.

The division list on the Private Industrial Schools Inspection and Industrial Schools Bill provides interesting reading. Several of the members who without doubt owe their seats in the House to the Catholic vote were absent from the Chamber when the most important division was taken, while the recognised opponents of all things Catholic never left their seats during the debate on the Bill.

From advices recently received it appears that the wound which Lieutenant R. W. Collins—Fifth Contingent—son of Lieut.-Colonel Collins, received at Zeerust was more serious than at first supposed. He was in charge of a company of 40 men when he was hit. His coolness and gallantry in action are highly spoken of by his senior officers. He is still in the hospital, and though anxious to be again in the thick of it his doctor forbids his return to the front at present.

The last social for this year under the auspices of the women's branch of the Hibernian Society was held in Whittaker's Hall on Tuesday evening. The music was provided by Fischer's string band and the catering was in the capable hands of Mr. Mawson. Songs, etc., made pleasant breaks in the evening's amusement. Miss N. Dwyer, on whom the management devolved, made a most capable secretary.

The Feast of the Holy Rosary at St. Joseph's Church and St. Mary of the Angels' was celebrated by special services. At the latter church Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament was held during the day. Solemn High Mass was sung by Rev. Father Ainsworth, with Rev. Father Moloney as deacon and Rev. Father O'Reilly as sub-deacon. Haydn's Imperial Mass was rendered by the choir. The soloists were Mrs. Oakes, Misses Ross, Murray, Sandbrook, and McParland, Messrs. Brookes, Tabor, and Oakes. Both churches were crowded at Vespers. At St. Joseph's the sermon was preached by Rev. Father Ainsworth, and at St. Mary of the Angels' by Rev. Father Mahony, of St. Patrick's College, who preached an eloquent discourse on the Blessed Eucharist.

That St. Mary's Convent is the premier school of music in this city is again exemplified in the published results of the examination in practice conducted on behalf of the Royal Academy of Music by Mr. Stewart Macpherson. Of the 55 successful local candidates no less than 39 are pupils of the Sisters, who presented 40 candidates. The following were successful in their respective sections:—

Local centre examination: Senior grade.—Honors section—Singing: Helen Flanagan, Bessie Flynn, Lily White, Teresa Rowe; piano: Rose Bennett, Clare Campion. Pass section—Singing: Marie Blake, Jessie Davidson, Effie Drummond; pianoforte: Winnie Connoll, Dora Maudsley, Eleanor Myers, Daisy Reilly, Madeline Mitchell.

Junior grade.—Pass section—Pianoforte: Matilda Evans, Muriel Waldegrave.

Local schools examination: Higher divisions.—Distinction—Singing: Constance McCloskey, Lena Moreshead, Linda Koch, Margaret Kenny. Pass section—pianoforte: Elizabeth Coles, Jennie Gallagher, Marion Goulter, Kate Palmer. Singing: Rose Bennett, Pippin Ballin, Annie Gallagher, Daisy Reilly, Elizabeth Minogue. Lower division.—Distinction—Pianoforte, Maud Parker. Pass section—Pianoforte: Odile Rittleg, Eveline Collins, Elsie Watson, Olive Blake, Nora Harnett, Kathleen Ward. Elementary division.—Distinction—Pianoforte, Doris Heywood. Pass section—Pianoforte: Greta King, Dulcie Fleet, Catherine Patten.

DIOCESE OF AUCKLAND.

(From our own correspondent.)

October 11.

The annual entertainment, dramatical and musical, by the pupils of St. Patrick's Convent Schools, will be given on Thursday, October 25, in St. Benedict's Hall.