

THE BOER WAR.

NOTES AND POINTS OF INTEREST TO CATHOLIC READERS.

A THANKSGIVING OFFERING.

Bishop Gaughran, in the name of the Catholics of Kimberley, has sent an offering to the Church of the Sacred Heart, Montmartre, Paris, in thanksgiving for their safety during the four months' siege of the town.

ST. AIDAN'S CATHOLIC COLLEGE, GRAHAMSTOWN.

A letter from Nazareth House, Kimberley, dated 29th July, says: 'The Sisters who know Mr. Mandy will be sorry to hear of the death of his eldest son. He went to the front about a fortnight ago, took fever, was sent back to Kimberley, had an operation, and died under it. He is the forty-ninth boy from St. Aidan's Catholic College, Grahamstown, who has died during the war either of fever or wounds.'

A CHANGE.

Time effects many changes. There are two States less in the world to-day than there were a year ago. The Transvaal and the Orange Free State have during the past twelve months lost their independence. Wednesday, the 10th inst., was the anniversary of the declaration of war against Great Britain by the South African Republic. Ex-President Kruger's ultimatum was handed to the British Agent at Pretoria on October 9, 1899. Messrs Kruger and Steyn have no longer a country, and the former is on his way to Europe to seek an asylum in Belgium or Holland. Many lives have been sacrificed on both sides, and millions have been wasted on war materials, which might be employed to better advantage in promoting the welfare of the masses.

THE COMMISSIONER OF WINBURG.

Captain E. De Penhony O'Kelly, Sixth Lancashire Fusiliers, the newly appointed commissioner of Winburg and Ficksburg, in the Orange River Colony, was educated at the famous Catholic College, Stonyhurst, is a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society and of the Society of Antiquaries. He was some time an inspector of agriculture in New South Wales, and before the South African campaign was engaged in pacifying Ujiba, West Africa.

MILITARY RED TAPE.

Here is a story illustrative of what is styled military stupidity:—At Capetown a sick volunteer was ordered to embark for England. But he happened to be an Australian volunteer, so he objected. He was sternly informed that his name was down on the list, and he must get aboard. In vain he protested that his home was in Australia, and that he had not a friend in England. His name was down, and he had to go aboard. That was all the satisfaction he could get. He is now living (says an exchange) on the generosity of a Birmingham jeweller, with whom, fortunately, he came into contact on the voyage home, and declares his intention to 'have it out' with the War Office when he has fully recovered his health.

THE SPION KOP DISASTER.

A cable message received during the past week stated that troops lined both sides of the road for miles on the way out from Lydenburg, and continuously cheered General Sir Redvers Buller, the leader of the Ladysmith relief column, as he passed on his way. It is evident that when General Buller returns to England certain explanations will be necessary. A Home paper of a recent date says:—We have by no means heard the last of the Spion Kop blunder. It will inevitably become the subject of a long and acrimonious discussion, all through the imbecility of the War Office. When the Spion Kop despatches were published, Conservatives as well as others wondered what could be the object of such a policy. No sound reason was ever alleged for exposing to the world the differences of generals in the midst of a campaign. But the worst of the remarkable indiscretion is that it has made further explanations necessary. Sir Charles Warren, who has been the chief sufferer in connection with the affair, has returned home, and is naturally anxious to prove that he was not to blame. He has sent to the War Office a detailed defence of his conduct, and has communicated to the representative of a news agency an exculpation of himself which is an impeachment of Sir Redvers Buller. His plea amounts to this—that he was opposed to the seizure of Spion Kop and proposed to Sir Redvers an alternative scheme which was actually adopted before the relief of Ladysmith. When Sir Redvers Buller comes home he will, we may presume, have something to say in reply to this version of the affair, and it is difficult to see when the dispute will end—a dispute which might have been avoided if the War Office had had ordinary common sense.

KRUGER'S LEGAL ADVISER.

Mr. Michael T. Farrelly (the *Daily Chronicle* says), late legal adviser to President Kruger, from whose pen is announced a work on the *Settlement in South Africa after the War*, is an Irishman, who commenced his career at Trinity College, Dublin, where he gained many honors, and was afterwards for a time a member of the Senate of his Alma Mater. He came to London some time in the eighties, and joined the Middle Temple. On his call to the Bar he won the Barstow scholarship in jurisprudence, constitutional, and international law, at that time the blue riband of legal prizes. Mr. Farrelly only practised in London for a short time, but he was an indefatigable writer upon international law questions, and he speedily became a recognised authority. He defended the prisoner in the Chelsea dynamite case at the Old Bailey, and when Jabez Balfour was hiding in South America he advised friends on his behalf as to the question of extradition.

Mr. Farrelly always supported the Krugerite opinion as to the non-existence of the suzerainty, and wrote an elaborate tractate on

the subject after he went to the Transvaal, in which he pressed the arguments he had been one of the first prominently to advocate in the Press in this country. He got in touch with the then Government at Pretoria very soon after establishing himself in the Transvaal, and his legal services were immediately requisitioned. He is said to have drafted several of the despatches to Mr. Chamberlain, and for one of them he received the handsome fee of 1000 guineas. Lawyers' fees in the erst Republic were very high, and Mr. Kruger and his friends were lavish in this as in other departments of expenditure. At a comparatively early stage of the negotiations between Pretoria and London, Mr. Farrelly persistently warned Mr. Kruger of the necessity of adopting a reasonable attitude, but these counsels only incensed his employer, who dispensed with his services some time before the war broke out.

Diocesan News.

ARCHDIOCESE OF WELLINGTON.

(From our own correspondent.)

October 20.

Very Rev. Dean Martin has returned to Wellington from the South.

Rev. Father Goggan's health is improving, and he expects to be able to attend to his duties in about a week.

The Forty Hours' Adoration in St. Joseph's Church begins to-morrow week.

A dramatic entertainment by the students is to be given in St. Patrick's College on the 31st inst. The play to be presented is entitled 'The Two Orphans.'

On Sunday, November 4, a First Communion ceremony will take place in St. Mary of the Angels', and in the evening of the same day the choir will give a sacred concert in the church in aid of the choir fund.

The Rev. Father Gilleran, Administrator of St. Mary's, Hobart, where he has been stationed for 20 years, is on a visit to New Zealand. His friends in this Colony will be pleased to learn that he has greatly benefited by his holiday. During his stay in this city he was the guest of the Very Rev. Father Lewis, and is now on a visit to the Hot Lakes' district.

I noticed some time ago that the Marist Brothers' Old Boys had decided to postpone *sine die* their annual picnic arranged for the Prince of Wales Birthday, owing to the proposal to hold the Peace Celebrations on that day. These celebrations are, however, to be put off, but the Old Boys have not the adequate time to make their arrangements for an outing on November 3th.

Mr. W. Beech, assistant teacher at Ohariu School, lately appointed a master at Stoke Orphanage, was the recipient of a handsome silver watch from the residents of Ohariu on the eve of his departure. The head master of the school, on the occasion of the public presentation, testified to Mr. Beech's ability and industry, and as a personal mark of esteem handed him a gold chain.

The Ven. Archdeacon Devoy wrote from Colombo and said that the Marist delegates from New Zealand were well. The voyage thus far had done Very Rev. Dr. Pestre much good, and his health had very much improved. Besides the New Zealanders there were on board Rev. Fathers Aubrey (Sydney), Olier (Tonga), Bertrand (Fiji), Remy (Samoa), and Pionnier (New Caledonia), all going to the meeting of the Chapter at Lyons. They were due at Marseilles on the 7th inst.

The usual weekly meeting of the Marist Brothers' Old Boys' Literary and Debating Society was held last Thursday evening. Mr. E. Fitzgibbon presided. There was a very good attendance. Impromptu debates were given by the members. 'The Transvaal War,' 'Technical Education,' 'Our Volunteer System,' and other momentous questions were very freely discussed by those present. In handling their subjects the members showed great tact, and a very marked improvement was apparent.

The annual social in aid of St. Joseph's Orphanage was held in the Skating Rink on Wednesday when despite most unfavorable weather there was a large attendance. Instead of having the concert as a first part of the programme, as in former years, the songs and dances were interspersed, an innovation much appreciated by those present. Songs were sung by Misses Sullivan, McParland and Driscoll, Messrs. Dunne and Tabor. An excellent supper was provided by local friends of the orphanage. St. Mary's orchestra supplied the music. Much of the success of the social is due to the indefatigable secretaries, Messrs. Davis and Dwan.

On Monday evening last Mr. Reichel of the Public Works Department delivered a lecture on 'Electricity' in St. Patrick's Hall. The lecture, which was given under the auspices of the Marist Brothers' Old Boys' Literary Society, was very well attended and proved most interesting. The Rev. Father O'Shea in introducing the lecturer made mention of the valuable services rendered by Mr. Reichel to the Association. The experiments proved both successful and full of interest, and the audience received a good insight into the properties of electricity and its various uses. Mr. Reichel, who has lately taken over the electricity work in connection with the Public Works Department, is a very able lecturer, and has a deep knowledge of the principles of electrical engineering.

DIOCESE OF AUCKLAND.

(From our own correspondent.)

October 18.

Rating upon unimproved values has occupied the attention of the Auckland City Council and several of the suburban boroughs during the last two months. Two of the latter have adopted the