

Catholic clergy and the piety and faith of their people. In referring to the sacred edifice of St. Mary's, Sydney, he mentioned that the enormous sum of £200,000 had already been spent, a sum which had been given spontaneously by the generous Catholic community. At the dedication of the cathedral, he mentioned that there were present the princes of the Catholic Church, Bishops and clergy from all parts of Australasia, in addition to three Governors in State, and the most influential members of the colonies. This, and the fact that the cathedral was overcrowded notwithstanding the high price of admission, showed the high respect in which the Catholic Church is held. He next drew the attention of his hearers to the remarks of Archbishop Carr and Rev. Father Maher on the subject which, he stated, touched Protestants on their weakest point, the religious education of their children. In this matter, he said they (the Protestants) had much to learn from their Catholic friends. He himself had urged upon the men of his flock, for months and even years, to devote only one hour of Sunday afternoon to the religious instruction of the little ones, but so far not one volunteer has come forth to undertake the task. The Rev. D. Fraser stated that he admired the piety and self-sacrifice of the Roman Catholics, and he urged upon his congregation to try and follow the noble example of the Catholics, who richly deserved the respect of all sects for their staunch adherence to their faith.

The Very Rev. Dean O'Connor, V.G., of the diocese of Armidale, who has been raised to the dignity of a Monsignor and Domestic Prelate of his Holiness the Pope, celebrated his silver jubilee recently. An event was never celebrated more enthusiastically in Armidale, for Monsignor O'Connor is beloved by all classes and creeds. Monsignor O'Connor was born at Clonea, Dungarvan, County Waterford, Ireland, in December, 1848. He pursued the necessary studies for the sacred ministry first at the seminary of Dungarvan, and afterwards at All Hallows' College, Dublin, being finally ordained priest on September 19, 1875. He then worked on an English mission at Blackburn, Lancashire, for six months, under the Rev. Father Herbert Vaughan, formerly Bishop of Salford, but now Cardinal-Archbishop. After six months on the English mission he was ordered to Australia, arriving in Armidale in June, 1876. The enthusiasm with which all classes of people, of every religious denomination, combine to celebrate the silver jubilee of his ordination proves the esteem and veneration in which he is held in this his adopted country and home of many years. He was advanced to the dignity of Dean in 1882, after only six years of priesthood, and to this title was added, about three years later, that of Vicar-General. His unremitting zeal and toil in the service of the Church and the cause of education and humanity well deserved the honors thus put upon him comparatively early in life. He was publicly invested with the purple at the Pontifical High Mass celebrated in St. Mary's Cathedral, Armidale, when 18 priests assisted. His Lordship Bishop Torreggiani was the celebrant.

At the Catholic Congress Bishop Higgins and others referred to the fact that in future all State bursaries and scholarships in Queensland could be competed for by children attending Catholic schools. The change is due to the energy of Mr. Frank McDonnell, M.P. for Fortitude Valley, a fearless Catholic Irishman, who put the case before Parliament, and succeeded in carrying the House with him. The correspondent of the *Catholic Press* says—'You may remember the motion Mr. McDonnell succeeded in having carried in the Legislative Assembly last session, dealing with Grammar School scholarships. Effect has now been given to the motion. I need hardly say that this is a most important matter for our people, who have been so long denied any benefits in the cause of education. I may say that all the Brothers' Colleges and Sisters' High Schools will also be approved of, and Catholic boys and girls, who may receive their primary education at a State school, can, if successful in winning a scholarship or bursary, choose one of our high schools to take out the same in. Before Mr. McDonnell's motion was carried the regulations provided 1. That scholars from State schools or State-inspected schools only could compete (none of the Brothers' schools are State-inspected). 2. That successful competitors should take out the scholarship at a Grammar school. Now every boy or girl the prescribed age, no matter where educated in the colony, can compete, and choose any high school they consider best. The result will be that a number of good private high schools in addition to our own will benefit. Since the motion was carried the Council of Churches and other religious bodies have done all in their power to prevent this beneficial change, and the *Courier* has been most bitter and hostile. However, we have succeeded.'

A short time ago, Archbishop Carr and Bishops Moore (Ballarat), and Reville (Bendigo) waited on the Victorian Minister for Public Instruction to urge that Catholic primary schools should participate in the scholarships given by the State. They also requested that the schools should be examined by the State Inspectors. The deputation made out a strong case for the first request. Archbishop Carr pointed out that in Queensland the course now advocated had been followed by the Government, and Catholics felt this to be an instance of altered views and a more generous administration. Some interesting figures were shown the Minister. In the Catholic schools there are 28,285 children. Taking the averages for the last 12 years, and assuming it for the next 12, and allowing £3 10s per child for education, the State would be saved annually £98,875, or over £2,400,000 for 25 years. This is exclusive of the cost of school buildings, which would enormously increase the total. His Grace referred to a widespread misunderstanding that existed. They did not ask that a single penny of public money should pass through their hands. They simply wished their schools to be considered as part of the education system, and that payment should be made by the State accordingly to their teachers. Further, they should be allowed to appoint such teachers as were qualified to give the religious instruction desired. In Ireland, Scotland, and Canada the Catholics were treated more fairly. However, this was beyond

the present purpose of the deputation, which confined its requests to much less than the Catholics were entitled to. The Minister, Mr. Salmon, could give them no satisfaction on the first point, which he said was not a departmental matter, but a matter of policy. He would consult his colleagues. Regarding the second that the State inspectors should inspect their schools, he thanked them cordially for the request, and promised to have it complied with. Mr. Salmon was under a slight delusion concerning the Catholic attitude on this point. He seemed to regard it as a changed one. Nothing he said could have induced him to force such an inspection on them against their wishes, but he was delighted they had volunteered the suggestion themselves. Dr. Carr informed him that the Catholics were not previously averse, but that Professor Pearson, formerly Minister of Public Instruction, had opposed it 'I disagree with him entirely,' said Mr. Salmon, 'it is an excellent proposition.'

PROVERBS TO SUIT THE TIMES.

A record is the only thing that improves by breaking.
A bare cupboard always furnishes food for thought.
The organ-grinder's vocation appears never to be played out.
Every time you look at a twelve-year-old boy he needs a new pair of shoes.
Some people spend enough time grieving over spilt milk to buy another cow.
You never find a man who owns a diamond scarf-pin wearing a long beard.
It never seems to occur to some people that some things are none of their business.
If a man licks the hand that smote him, it is because he can't smite the hand that licked him.
Always getting into hot water—Tea leaves.
The washerwoman's motto—'Let's soap for the best.'
The hatter and the shoemaker go to extremes in their business.
There are many men who are afraid of ghosts who are not afraid of spirits.
If ignorance is bliss, the wonder is why so many people complain of being miserable.
The discouragement in mending one's way is that there is always someone who will call attention to the patches.
A health journal says you ought to take three-quarters of an hour for dinner. It is well also, perhaps, to add a few vegetables and a piece of meat.
If we spent more of the time doing the things we can that we devote to wanting to do the things we can't, we should find that we could do more things.

SOME PRETTY FRENCH CUSTOMS.

WRITING from Paris to the *Western Watchman*, Father Phelan says—

This is First Communion time, and you see hundreds of boys and girls walking the streets in the clothes they wore at their First Communion, the girls wearing white dresses and veils and the boys white ribbons and bows on their left arms. Everyone stops to kiss the girls and some even to kiss the boys. They do it with an intensity of expression that indicates that they are thrilled with the memory of their own First Communion. I think it is a beautiful way of preaching, and one that we have not.

Another beautiful custom is the election of a *Rosiere*. This is the girl in the parish who has been the most edifying during the previous 12 months. This is not merely a matter of honor; there is a sum of money allotted to her, in some instances reaching 1000 francs. At a meeting last Sunday in one of the suburbs of Paris the fortunate girl was the daughter of a washerwoman. She had been gentle and modest to all, and especially kind and helpful to her mother. The meeting was held in the public square. The Maire made a speech. The Cure came out with the sodalities and altar boys in procession and conducted the happy girl into the church, where she was solemnly crowned. The ceremonies ended with Benediction. The young *Rosiere* is expected to visit the sick of the parish for the next year, attend all the funerals of the young people, and have a special care of the altar of the Blessed Virgin in the parish church. Every citizen uncovers to her and the gendarmes prevent arms to her for the next 12 months. This is another way they have over here of preaching goodness.

BEWARE OF MISJUDGING.

Perhaps it were better for most of us to complain less of being misunderstood and to take more care that we do not misunderstand other people. It ought to make us pause at times to remember that each one has a stock of cut-and-dry judgments on his neighbors, and that the chances are that most of them are quite erroneous. What our neighbor really is we may never know, but we may be pretty certain that he is not what we have imagined, and that many things we have thought of him are quite beside the mark.

What he does we have seen, but we have no idea what may have been his thoughts and intentions. The mere surface of his character may be exposed, but of the complexity within we have not the faintest idea. People crammed with self-consciousness and self-conceit are often praised as humble, while shy and reserved people are judged to be proud. Some whose whole life is one subtle, studied selfishness, get the name of self-sacrifice, and other silent, heroic souls are condemned for want of humanity.