

their assistants, the young performers, the general committee, and many kind friends outside our own denomination for much valuable assistance. Signor Borzoni was also presented by some of the young ladies who have benefited by his tuition with a handsome silver-mounted walking stick. Goods remaining unclaimed in the various stalls were removed to Mr. A. Dobbs' store, where those who were successful in winning prizes may obtain them.

#### RE-OPENING OF THE HAWARDEN CHURCH.

(From our Christchurch correspondent.)

St. Raphael's Church at Hawarden, which has recently undergone extensive alterations and improvements, was solemnly re-opened by his Lordship Bishop Grimes on Sunday, November 25, under most favorable auspices. The day was beautifully fine—a typical summer day in fact—under which conditions a large congregation from the surrounding districts attended the ceremonies. After the church was blessed by the Bishop a *Missa Cantata* was celebrated by the Rev. Father Price. The music was Farmer's Mass in C, the principal vocalists being Mrs A. Mead, Miss A. Bryant, and Mr R. Hayward (Christchurch), and Miss Gertie Duncan (Rangiora), Miss Lee presiding at the organ. At the offertory Mrs Mead sang Gounod's 'Ave Maria.'

The Bishop preached a sermon appropriate to the occasion, during which he thanked, on behalf of Father Price, the architects (Messrs Collins and Harman) for their gift of a beautifully constructed confessional, Mrs Lance for a rich altar cloth, Mrs A. J. White a Benediction canopy, and Mrs Smith (late of Waikari) for a magnificent altar cover richly embroidered, a gift all the more appreciated as the donor is not a member of the church. His Lordship in an especial manner referred to the hospitality and kindness of Mrs Lance, whose home had always been at the service of the clergy before the presbytery was erected at Hawarden. A word of commendation was expressed for the secular Press for its essentially friendly attitude to Catholics on most occasions, and a graceful reference to the TABLET, a paper which was alike a real necessity to the Catholic home and a credit to Catholic journalism, for which, in the presence of its representative, he bespoke a liberal measure of support and encouragement. At the conclusion of the sermon a collection was made towards liquidating the cost of the building and generously responded to.

After Mass the Rev. Father Price extended a general invitation to attend dinner at the new presbytery. Including the Bishop, who presided, there were present Mrs. Lance, Mr. White, Mr. Taylor, Mr. O'Carroll, the choir, and others. His Lordship in proposing the health of the parish priest, Father Price, excused himself for having omitted to mention during the sermon the name of one who had done so much in so brief a period in regard to the spiritual interests of such a wide district as that entrusted to the charge of their genial host. Father Price had done and was still doing noble work in their midst, and he (the Bishop) was under a debt of gratitude to him for the very great assistance rendered to the carnival then in progress in the city. The Rev. Father Price in responding expressed a hope that when next his Lordship the Bishop made an official visit to Hawarden it would be at the opening of a convent and schools.

At the evening devotions his Lordship the Bishop again preached and afterwards gave Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. Suitable music was rendered by the choir, and as solos Miss Duncan sang 'O Maria Stella,' and Miss Bryant an 'O Salutaris.'

At the conclusion of the day's ceremonies the popular pastor entertained the choir and visitors at supper. The old part of the church has been very materially improved, whilst the additions comprise much extended accommodation, besides a gallery, all of which has been carried out in a thoroughly workmanlike manner.

#### THE BOER WAR.

##### NOTES AND POINTS OF INTEREST TO CATHOLIC READERS.

###### THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF'S SALARY.

The salary of Lord Roberts, Commander-in-Chief of the British Army, amounts to £4500 a year, on a five years' appointment, with a retiring allowance of £1300 a year.

###### THE COST OF THE WAR.

It is said that the cost of the South African War will be about £110,000,000.

###### A CANADIAN CHAPLAIN.

That the unhappy religious bigotry of a former time is rapidly dying out in Canada is shown by the movement on foot in Eastern Canada to collect funds for the purpose of presenting a suitable memorial to Father O'Leary, who was the chaplain of the first Canadian contingent on active service in South Africa. The contributing to this testimonial is not confined to any one denomination, for we find even such a stalwart Protestant paper as the *Montreal Witness* collecting and forwarding funds. All the members of the regiment are enthusiastic in their praise of Father O'Leary, who has endeared himself to all by his many kindly acts and personal heroism.

###### IT IS EASY TO CRITICISE.

The Sister Superior of Nazareth House, Kimberley, writing on July 15, says:—We are sorry to hear there is an impression in England that the sick soldiers have been neglected. This is not our experience. At times when numbers were overpowering no doubt the difficulties in giving proper attention to the sick were very great, but God alone knows the superhuman efforts that were made to succour the poor fellows. It will not be known until they appear before the judgment seat of God what privations many have

gone through in order to help them. It is easy for those who had nothing to suffer to criticise. I take this opportunity of thanking many inquiring friends, but none of the Nazareth Sisters have returned from South Africa, for 'the poor they have always with them.' Their houses are full of poor, young and old. These could not be left for a single day, and to send out a new staff for each house would be an impossibility. The Sisters say they must wait for their eternal rest.

###### THEN AND NOW.

*The Speaker* is particularly outspoken in the course of an article on 'The Responsibility of the Press.' The Institute of Journalists had the general subject before them at their recent meeting, and *The Speaker* boldly dots the i and crosses the t. 'There is,' says *The Speaker*, 'in this country a newspaper known as the *Daily Mail*, owned and conducted by a person of the name of Harmsworth. There is also in this country (luckily for it) a soldier of the name of Sir William Butler. This gentleman was in command of our forces in Cape Colony at the moment when Sir Alfred Milner, at the bidding of Mr Chamberlain, was preparing the disasters with which we are now supped and full.' The writer then goes on to recapitulate the reasons which led to Sir William Butler's resignation of the Cape command (the *Daily Mail* called his resignation his 'recall'), and proceeds: 'The relative position and importance of these two people—Mr Harmsworth and Sir William Butler—will be readily appreciated. What was their relative power for good or evil in the State? On October 6 last year the former wrote or caused to be written these words: "Next to Kruger and the Little Englanders, Sir William Butler is the cause of the present war." On October 14 this egregious person continued as follows: "The Boers are notoriously bad losers, but unfortunately our military operations at the Cape were for a time in the hands of Sir William Butler, who eventually had to come away from the Cape on account of his pro-Boer sympathies." There is a large category of persons who do not prosecute. They value their country's honor too highly to wash the dirty linen of politics in public at the outset of a campaign. Perhaps they are gentlemen and hampered by all the sensitiveness of their rank; and so long as there is no private prosecution for libel, statements such as those made by Mr Harmsworth against Sir William Butler are unchecked. The *Daily Mail*, in the first months of the war, reached a circulation of close upon a million; it says so, and we believe it, though they vouch for it themselves. Well, then, an appreciable part of our reading and working population read this abominable slander—they had no reason to doubt it—the greater part of it, presumably, believed. Its author has received no punishment.' Is that so certain? A paper (says the *Tablet*) which abuses public confidence is sure sooner or later to be found out. Meanwhile, perhaps, the oddest thing of all about this campaign of calumny waged by Mr Harmsworth against Sir William Butler is the suddenness of its collapse. In recording the General's appointment to the Aldershot command the other day, the *Daily Mail* gave a flattering biographical account of his services, and alluded to the existence of an agitation against him on his return from the Cape for all the world as if it been conducted by somebody else.

#### A VOICE FROM SOUTH AFRICA.

THE following letter (writes our Wellington correspondent) has been received by Mr. J. J. Devine, solicitor, from Dr. Considine, president of the Irish Association, Port Elizabeth, South Africa:—

Sir,—For the following reasons, amongst others, the members of the Port Elizabeth Irish Association have desired us to express, through you, the wish to become affiliated with the Irish organisations in Wellington:—1st. In order to assist as far as possible our fellow-countrymen from Australia who might desire to emigrate to Sunny Africa, as we know only too well the difficulty there is in obtaining a decent livelihood in a strange land without friends, it is the chief aim of our organisation to do all in our power to render assistance in such cases. We would expect this action on our part to be duly reciprocated. 2nd. To create a spirit of brotherhood among the scattered sons of Ireland, and to come more in touch with the desires and views entertained by friends elsewhere, thereby regulating a common action among all Irishmen, especially those resident in foreign countries.

By such unity, it is unnecessary to point out, we would be in a far better position to place our efforts to the advantage of our public men at home, who are endeavoring in every constitutional way to obtain redress of Ireland's long standing grievances, which are the cause of continual unrest and poverty among our people.

We are safe in anticipating that the present war, though still dragging along wearily, will soon be referred to as the 'late unpleasantness.' Peace having once been proclaimed, the general elections for the British House of Commons decided, and the new form of Government established in Australia, the opportunity might be a good one to bring Ireland's cause again prominently to the front, and by unity, as we have indicated, Irishmen resident in the colonies could do much for its advancement. We are further of opinion that if our fellow-countrymen in Australia and Canada would take the initiative in supporting the idea of forwarding petitions to the Imperial Parliament, it would be a great source of encouragement to our colonial friends in South Africa to do likewise. Such a course of action, if judiciously executed, would unquestionably aid the Nationalists of Ireland, as well as to rivet the attention of well-disposed Englishmen on the need of better legislation for Ireland.

We trust you will have the goodness to submit this to the Irishmen in your quarter, and to cause communications to be extended to other centres; and on receipt of your favor we shall be most happy to place same promptly before this Association, and to transmit your views to the Irishmen of Capetown, Kimberley, East London, and Durban.