

'did not much affect our trade, but it rendered necessary the deposition of the East India Company and the assumption of government by the Crown (1858), and thus eventually served to put our relations to that vast and rich empire upon a much more satisfactory and profitable basis.' The three wars with China were undertaken for the purpose of forcing open a market for western manufactures in the Far East. The protection or expansion of trade was the root motive of the bombardment of Acre; the chastisement of the Algerine pirates; the occupation of Egypt; the campaigns in the Soudan; the subjugation of the Ghoorkas, Pindarees, Scindians, and, generally, of the pushing back of frontiers or spheres of influence in India and the Far East; of the Kaffir, Ashantee, and Zulu wars; and of the countless other petty struggles that are almost continually in progress in the back-blocks of the Empire. British merchants were keen to benefit by the quarrels of their Continental neighbors, and after the American Civil War promptly supplied the urgent demand for English products to replace the waste caused by that long and fiercely-fought conflict. The more that comes to light regarding the origin of the South African struggle, the more clear it becomes that it was also a mere incident of a policy of commercial wars which has never been lost sight of by British statesmen since the days of Pitt. The European Continental wars of the nineteenth century were undertaken chiefly for the sake of securing pet lines of frontier, or of preserving the equilibrium of that ticklish thing which is known as the balance of power. But some of the Continental Great Powers—and especially Germany, France, and Russia—are now fairly launched upon the policy of petty wars with barbarians for the purpose of extending evermore the markets for their wares. The State conscience is fast becoming a mere cash register.

Without taking the cost of the present South African struggle into account, Great Britain spends annually 16s 1½d of every pound sterling of her taxes on war purposes—on army, navy, and interest on past wars. Long before the outbreak of the trouble in South Africa she had expended some £6,000,000,000 on or in connection with war during the nineteenth century. MULHALL states that the British wars from 1599 to 1856 involved the country in the enormous expenditure of £1,359,000,000,000. The wars of Europe and America from 1793 to 1877 are said by the same high authority to have involved a loss of 4,470,000 men and an expenditure of £3,047,000,000,000. The veins and the purse of the workers have paid most of this mighty butcher's bill. A fraction of this mountain of gold would suffice, if rightly expended, to kill off grinding poverty and to make the world as nearly a terrestrial paradise as money could well make it. And yet the worker huzzas the long knife called a sword that is sharpened to slit his carotid artery, and applauds the ringed finger that picks his pocket in order to purchase the weapon and to fee the man who wields it.

NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS.

Subscribers are entreated to forward the amounts due by them at the earliest possible moment. The amounts due by individual subscribers are not considerable, but taken together they amount to a very large sum. The many calls that we have to meet make it imperative on us to greatly reduce the amount of indebtedness of our subscribers. We therefore ask those who have received accounts to wipe off their indebtedness to us before the close of the dying century. This will be a suitable mode of celebrating the parting of the nineteenth, and the beginning of the twentieth century.

MARIST BROTHERS' FUND.

We have received and duly forwarded to the Rev. Treasurer (Father O'Shea, Bouicott street, Wellington), the sum of £1 1s from Mr. John Barrett, Ballinville, Kirwee; £1 from Mr. T. B. Conway, Dunedin; and 10s from A. Lady, Dunedin, in aid of the fund being organised to reimburse the Marist Brothers, late of Stoke, the heavy financial outlay which they have been compelled to undergo in their necessary defence during the recent trials.

Surely there is none but fears a future state; and when the most obdurate swear they do not, their trembling hearts belie their boasting tongues.

DIOCESE OF DUNEDIN.

All the clergy of the diocese are requested by his Lordship the Bishop to assemble at Holy Cross College, Mosgiel, on Monday, January 21, in order to take part in the annual retreat, which is to be conducted by the Rev. Father Boyle, Melbourne. The Synod will be held on Tuesday morning, and the Conference on the same day.

The *Acta et Decreta* of the Provincial Synod held in Wellington in the early part of 1899 were formally promulgated on the 1st of January by his Grace the Archbishop of Wellington and are now in force throughout the Colony. They are contained in a handsome volume, which has been brought out in excellent style by the N.Z. TABLET COMPANY, and copies have been forwarded to the various Bishops, and are now available for the use of the clergy.

The members of St. Joseph's Cathedral Choir, to the number of about 30, left for a holiday trip to Christchurch on Saturday.

The Rev. Father O'Reilly, who is on his way to the diocese of Dunedin, has arrived in Australia, and is expected to arrive in Dunedin shortly.

On Wednesday and Thursday, December 26 and 27 (says the *Argus*) a very successful bazaar was held to raise funds for the Cromwell Catholic Church. The articles submitted for sale were of a very fine class, and included a number of excellent paintings, which brought very good prices. The net result will not be far short of £200. A social was held last night at which the young ladies and gentlemen who assisted at the bazaar greatly enjoyed themselves.

It is understood Dr. O'Neill, of the Dunedin Hospital, has been appointed medical officer to the sixth contingent, which will leave shortly for South Africa. The many warm friends of Dr. O'Neill in Otago, while heartily congratulating him on the important position to which he has been appointed, will sincerely regret his temporary departure from the Colony, and wish him every success in his new sphere of duties and a speedy return to the land of his birth.

On Monday last a picnic of the Catholic school children of Mosgiel (who were accompanied by the Rev. Father Headen, B.A.), Allanton, and Milton took place at Waihola. The Very Rev. Father O'Neill accompanied the Milton contingent. In all there were 170 children and adults present, and a very enjoyable day was spent.

DIOCESE OF CHRISTCHURCH.

(From our own correspondent.)

January 7.

The Very Rev. Father Le Menant des Chesnais, S.M., V.G., was engaged during last week conducting the annual retreat for the Sisters of Mercy at St. Mary's Convent, Colombo street.

Dr. and Mrs. Inglis, who during their residence at Darfield materially assisted matters in connection with the local Catholic church, were entertained by the residents at a supper and presented with a handsome tea and coffee service and pair of entree dishes, on the occasion of their leaving Darfield to settle in Cheviot. Speaking to the toast of the health of Dr. and Mrs. Inglis, the Rev. Father Chastagnon expressed himself in very high terms of the many valuable services rendered by them to the district.

Very sincere sorrow is felt at the painfully sudden death at Wellington of Professor W. Michell Clarke and deep sympathy for Mrs. Clarke in her bereavement. The following obituary notice of the deceased gentleman appeared in a local paper:—'Professor W. Michell Clarke, whose death is reported at Wellington, was appointed Lecturer on Modern Languages at Canterbury College in November, 1890. He was a Cambridge graduate, but had studied on the Continent, and held the Certificat d'Etudes Supérieures, Faculté des Lettres, Paris. He came to New Zealand with his sister early in 1891, and speedily impressed his classes with his determination to place the study of Modern Languages on a sound footing. His success was due not only to his knowledge of French and German, but also to his great earnestness and his conscientious regard for the interests of the students. For a brief period the senior French class of the Boys' High School was under his charge. Besides his work at Canterbury College, Professor Clarke was Examiner in Modern Languages for the matriculation and junior University scholarship examinations; and there is no doubt that he helped materially to raise the standard of teaching these subjects in the Colony. In private life he drew around him a wide circle of friends, and though he had been obviously unwell for many months, the serious nature of his illness was not suspected by them. The cause of death was diabetes. About two years ago Professor Clarke married a daughter of the Hon. Dr. Grace, of Wellington.

Mr. Leo S. Fanning, a former student of St. Patrick's College, and lately on the staff of the *Canterbury Times*, left last week for Sydney, en route to London.

The Rev. Father Henry, M.S.H., of Randwick, Sydney, arrived recently, and is now engaged conducting a retreat for the Sisters of St. Joseph of the Sacred Heart at Temuka. The Rev. Mother Mary of the Cross, Superior-general of the same Sisterhood, also came over from Sydney on a visit to the several houses of the Order.

The retreat of the clergy of the diocese will probably coincide with the ceremony of laying the foundation-stone of the new cathedral early in February, and will likely be conducted by the Rev. Father Piquet, S.M., of St. Patrick's, Sydney.

To mark the close of the century and the beginning of the new one, the usual ceremony of Midnight Mass was celebrated in the Pro-Cathedral on December 31st. His Lordship the Bishop pontificated, the Very Rev. Dean Foley, S.M., and Rev. Father Henry, M.S.H., being deacon and sub-deacon respectively at the throne,

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