

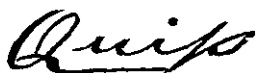
There are better things at a dance than gliding through 'the sky' as Richard Swiveller would say. I attended the White and Bachelors' Ball just before Lent began. At one time during the evening I saw five young ladies sitting together in one part of the hall, and strutting up to these was the White Island Beau Brummel, washing his hands with invisible soap in impalpable water, and wearing a smile that would make a plagued rat deliver himself up at the gas works without a pang. The five ladies spotted him, almost together. And the distant, dreamy, far away, unconcerned, don't-want-to-be-asked expression that spread itself over those five faces would lead one to believe that their five owners had no other pursuit in life than demonstrating the binocular parallax of the gas jet. Mr. Brummel bowed to one of them, and wanted to know 'could he have the pleasure of having a dance, etc.' She must have refused, because the bankrupt smile that quivered on the poor man's lips as he went outside to see if it was going to rain was so perplexing that, for the moment, I really couldn't tell by it whether he had bitten his tongue, or had just heard of the death of his only mother. You know how you feel when you are passing up the middle of a big drapery establishment and hear the ladies behind the counters coughing to one another. That is how he must have felt. And it was better than a dance to see him.

Immortality.

Those who have been endeavoring to find the abode of Rider Haggard's 'She,' or to discover the Fountain of Youth, vainly sought in Florida by Ponce de Leon, had better come home and return the portmanteaux they borrowed. The secret of immortality has been discovered. Those who have rich uncles or who have crotchety mothers-in-law living with them will try to bear the announcement with becoming fortitude. Perhaps, after all, it may not be true, you know. Anyway, an American scientist claims that he can distil from a sea-urchin's egg a magic fluid that will prolong life to any length, and make undertakers and cemeteries as superfluous as a mackintosh on the Darling Downs. If anybody has a private hearse I advise them to realise on it as soon as possible. And if anybody happens to have a job lot of coffins about the house that he bought at some sale, the best thing he can do is to utilise them as mignonette-boxes for the front windows. Either that or tie them up in fours and sell them to those Civil servants who are low down in the classification lists. Those poor fellows, considering that those above them will live for ever, might be induced to take a coffin or two. The liquid that effected the regeneration of Miss Semaphore is not in it with the distillation from the sea-urchin's egg. And it only needs to become as cheap as beer to turn each of us into a Wandering Jew or a Tannhauser or a Thomas of Erildonue. Which heaven forfend! The American discovery also means a cold day for the cremationists.

Suspended Animation.

Barnum, in his autobiography, tells a story of a district in Alaska, where the air is so pure that a person can never die. Sometimes an enfeebled old man gets blown out of the charmed circle, and dies like other people, but whilst he remains inside the worst he may expect is to become an interesting case of suspended animation. There is a museum there in which the envelopes of decayed trappers and hunters are duly numbered and hung up in bags in dry places. Should a relative happen along and inquire for some one who is missing, the polite attendant will look up the register and say: 'Oh, yes; that is number 1407. John, take down number 1407, and put him in the bath.' After 15 or 20 minutes in the tepid bath the resuscitated one is able to converse for half an hour or so, when he usually says: 'John, I feel a little tired now. I think I shall go back to my bag.'



DIOCESE OF DUNEDIN.

The Vincentian Fathers will open a week's mission in the Sacred Heart Church, North East Valley, on Sunday.

In future Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will take place at St. Joseph's Cathedral on the first Sunday of each month.

On Sunday afternoon his Lordship Bishop Verdon inaugurated a branch of the Confraternity of Perpetual Adoration in connection with the Cathedral parish, when a large number joined.

The name of Mrs. J. Hally was inadvertently omitted from the list of ladies who assisted at the Hibernian Society's breakfast on Sunday week.

On Easter Sunday there were crowded congregations at the 7.30 and 9 o'clock Masses at St. Joseph's Cathedral, when over 1000 persons received Holy Communion. It was most edifying to see such

large numbers approach the Holy Table, a result due in a great measure to the labors of the Vincentian Fathers during the previous four weeks.

On Monday the first reception in the new convent chapel of the Sisters of Mercy, South Dunedin, took place, when Miss Slowey, of Westport, (in religion Sister Mary Claude), was received by his Lordship Bishop Verdon assisted by the R.v. Father Coffey. Several relatives of the young lady were present at the ceremony.

Long before the usual hour for commencing Vespers on Sunday St. Joseph's Cathedral was crowded, when the mission, which had been so successfully conducted during the previous four weeks by the Very Rev. Father Boyle, C.M., and the Rev. Father McCarthy, C.M., was brought to a close with a renewal of baptismal vows. The closing discourse was preached by the Very Rev. Father Boyle, the subject being 'Perseverance.'

By private advices from Sydney we learn that Father Cleary left that city by the Moana for Vancouver on Monday, March 24. A large number of his clerical and lay friends assembled to wish him a pleasant voyage and a safe return. He is accompanied on the trip by an old college companion, Rev. Father Barlow, parish priest of Pearith, N.S.W. The Moana had close on 100 passengers in the first saloon and about 50 in the second.

On Tuesday two young ladies made their profession at St. Dominic's Priory—viz., Miss Morton (Invercargill), in religion Sister Mary Frances; Miss Elizabeth Sullivan (daughter of Mr. James Sullivan, of Gurteen Levels, Timaru), in religion Sister Mary Martina. Miss Bridget Boyle received the holy habit of the Order, her name in religion being Sister Mary Anastasia. His Lordship the Bishop performed the ceremony in the choir of the priory, and was assisted by the Rev. Father Murphy, Adm., and a number of clergy and friends of the Sisters were present.

The Rev. Father O'Reilly celebrated a Missa Cantata at eleven o'clock on Easter Sunday at St. Patrick's Basilica, South Dunedin. The music of the Mass was Weber's in G, which was rendered in a finished manner by the choir, under the conductorship of Mr. Bagar, Mr. F. Stokes presiding at the organ. The choir were assisted by a numerous and efficient orchestra, led by Herr Zimmerman, their playing being the most artistic ever heard in the church. The sermon was preached by the Rev. Father Henry, C.M. The mission which had been conducted by the Vincentian Fathers during the previous four weeks was brought to a conclusion in the evening, when the closing discourse was preached by the Rev. Father McEnroe, C.M.

On Easter Sunday Pontifical High Mass was celebrated at 11 o'clock by his Lordship Bishop Verdon. The Very Rev. Father Boyle, C.M., was assistant priest, Rev. Father Murphy deacon, and Rev. Father O'Malley sub-deacon. The choir, under the conductorship of Mr. W. T. Ward, rendered in a very efficient manner Mozart's First Mass. The soloists were Miss Rose Blaney (soprano), Miss M. Drumm (contralto), Mr. B. Stephens (tenor), Mr. T. Hussey (bass). Mr. Vallis presided at the organ. After the Mass the choir were entertained in St. Joseph's Hall by his Lordship the Bishop and the parochial clergy. His Lordship thanked the choir for their services, and congratulated them on the successful and devotional manner in which they had rendered the music of the services during the year. Mr. Carolin replied on behalf of the choir.

On Holy Thursday the ceremonies at St. Joseph's Cathedral began at 7 a.m. His Lordship Bishop Verdon was celebrant of the Mass, Right Rev. Mgr. Mackay assistant priest, Very Rev. Mgr. O'Leary and Rev. Father O'Donnell (Gore) deacons at the throne, Rev. Father Hunt deacon of the Mass, and Rev. Father O'Malley subdeacon. The deacons at the consecration of the holy oil were Rev. Father Howard and Rev. Father McMullan. Rev. Father Murphy was master of ceremonies. On Good Friday morning the Mass of the Presanctified was celebrated by his Lordship the Bishop, Rev. Father Lynch (Palmerston) being assistant priest, Rev. Father O'Donnell deacon, Rev. Father O'Malley subdeacon, and Rev. Father Murphy master of ceremonies. The Passion was sung by the Right Rev. Mgr. Mackay, the Very Rev. Mgr. O'Leary, and Rev. Father O'Reilly. On Holy Thursday the sermon on the Blessed Eucharist was preached by the Rev. Father McCarthy, C.M., and on Good Friday Very Rev. Father Boyle, C.M., preached on the Passion. On Holy Saturday morning the ceremonies began at seven o'clock. The Rev. Father Murphy was celebrant of the Mass, Rev. Father O'Reilly being deacon, Rev. Father O'Malley subdeacon, Rev. Father O'Neill (Holy Cross College, Mosgiel) master of ceremonies.

NEW ZEALAND: GENERAL.

BETWEEN 200 and 300 applications have been received for the 20 teacherships in the Boer concentration camps.

It is stated that Mr. J. O'Meara, who is well known in the Wakatipu district, and who has just lately relinquished business in Gore, has accepted a position in the Advances to Settlers Office, Invercargill.

OUR Christchurch correspondent writes to say that after Vespers on Easter Sunday at the Pro-Cathedral Miss Funston, the organist, played in a finished manner 'The Hallelujah Chorus,' from the 'Messiah.'

THE Railway authorities had their hands full in dealing with the traffic on Easter Monday, both north and south of Dunedin, and it is satisfactory to know that the arrangements were so excellent that not a hitch or accident of any kind occurred. The inward passengers from the south numbered 2340, and from the north 2200; and the departures were 1640 for the south and 1100 for the north. The bookings for the Taieri races amounted to about 500.