

excess of births over deaths is constantly diminishing. The Church has lost its hold over the Frenchman in France, and the race there is actually decreasing instead of increasing in numbers. In this connection it is very significant that the only wards of our City of Boston where this last-mentioned fact was also noted was that portion of the city inhabited almost entirely by descendants of the early English settlers. It is a very painful fact to us, but it must be highly encouraging to our Catholic brethren, who have other aims in view than the special enlightenment of the individual mind.

'We feel very confident that individual enlightenment and the consequent freedom from what we regard as degrading superstition is a matter of prime importance for all men and all women; but if the resulting intellectuality is obtained at the expense of happiness and that life-giving emotional nature on which the very permanency of the race depends, the price we must pay for that apparently most admirable achievement is certainly a matter for very serious consideration. The Catholic, with quite other aims in view, regards with pardonable complacency the inauguration of Catholic mayors in old Puritan communities like Boston and Salem, blest by the prayers of the so lately despised priests of what he regards as the only true and living Church. It is to his mind the promise of the ultimate fulfilment of the prophecy which the French-Canadian editor made less than quarter of a century ago. What we regard as debasing superstition—the worship of the saints and the Virgin Mother—he looks upon as a life-giving realisation of the visible presence of the Holy Spirit in the human lives which he believes to have been divinely inspired—a source of virile faith and a most important means toward the ultimate triumph of all that he has most at heart.' While (says the *Pilot*) there are some misconceptions of Catholic teaching in the above, at least it is interesting as showing that many of our separated brethren are beginning to think reasonably on Catholic matters.

The Mayor of Boston.

'WHEN I saw General Collins, the honored Mayor of Boston, riding beside the representative of the German Emperor,' said the Rev. E. A. Horton, a Protestant clergyman of Boston, 'I thought—in Heaven's name in what other country could that happen!' The same thought (says the *Boston Pilot*) occurred, no doubt, to most of the spectators, whatever their ancestry. Patrick A. Collins, Irish immigrant boy in 1848, coal-miner in Ohio in 1858, Massachusetts State Senator in 1870, graduate of Harvard Law School in 1871, United States Congressman in 1882, United States Consul General to London in 1892, Mayor of Boston in 1902. What a record for Irish blood and American fair play!

The Irish lad who has loved and worked for the cause of his native land all his life, sat on a fence in 1860 to see the first royal guest of the United States—the Prince of Wales—go by. Little more than forty years later he welcomes the country's next royal guest, Prince Henry of Prussia, as the representative of America's most cultured and historic city.

Says the *Boston Herald*: 'Mayor Patrick A. Collins and Prince Henry of Prussia were much together yesterday. The spectacle was one which supplies ample material for reflection. The immigrant Irish boy, whose youth was a period of poverty, hard toil, and scant opportunities, was, as the official representative of this noble city of wealth and culture, acting the part of host to the brother of a reigning monarch of one of the haughtiest dynasties of Europe. He performed his duty with a dignity and grace of which Boston has no occasion to be ashamed. If his Royal Highness did not recognise in him a true-hearted and honorable gentleman, the fault must be in himself. In the accidents of birth and fortune, for which neither deserves credit nor blame, the son of an imperial line has had what the world reckons superior opportunities. Has he done for himself so much as this American citizen whose youth was spent as a mine worker and a factory-operative in a strange land? If Prince Henry had begun life under circumstances similar to those which environed Mayor Collins, would he have risen so handsomely superior to them? Not in his native land, we may safely reply. In this land he would have had at least an equal opportunity.'

Nor was it less striking that a mayor of Irish blood, the Hon. John McNamee, welcomed Prince Henry to Cambridge, seat of the old university in our land. Verily, the brother of Emperor William of Germany and the nephew of King Edward of England saw strangely suggestive things in Boston and Cambridge.

Diocesan News

DIocese OF CHRISTCHURCH.

(From our own correspondent.)

April 21.

The Bishop at the early Mass, and priests at all the other services on Sunday strongly urged the people to devote a greater part of their leisure to the study of works bearing on their holy religion, and the perusal of good Catholic literature. The claim of the TABLET, to a far wider circle of readers in this city, was eloquently advocated and the splendid service it has rendered the Church in and out of New Zealand warmly commented upon.

The Christchurch Catholic Club began its weekly meetings for the winter session on Tuesday evening last. Mr. J. R. Hayward, vice-president, occupied the chair, and there was an exceptionally

large attendance. Sixteen new members were elected. An application to organise a football team was granted, and the members purpose entering for the junior competitions of the season. All departments under the control of the club were reported to be in a prosperous condition. The evening was filled in with musical and other items of a social character. For the ensuing three meetings the Journal, card tournament, and a lecture will form the respective programmes.

The parochial library, now under the control of the Catholic Club, has been reopened. The volumes have been re-classified and numbered and the bookshelves present a particularly neat and orderly appearance. To enable this work to be carried out the library had of necessity to be closed for a time, and now that the reading room and circulating department are available to subscribers it is expected the privileges will be largely taken advantage of. His Lordship the Bishop has just contributed many new and popular volumes to the shelves and placed a number of entertaining and instructive magazines and periodicals on the tables. On Sunday afternoons a young lady will be in attendance to enable patrons to return and take out books, and on week nights members of the club's executive will in rotation take charge.

The South Island section of the Tenth Contingent which left for South Africa on Saturday contained 500 troopers with officers. Of these 150 were Catholics, or about one in four—a fair average probably of all previous contingents. We are one in seven of the population, consequently this proportion would have been more than could have been expected of us. Our critics raise a cry of 'stuffing' the public service with Catholics, when, as has been conclusively proved, we are not represented to a greater extent than one in twenty; but this is a different matter. It is quite another affair enjoying the emoluments of the State and risking one's life in your country's cause. Whilst we fight the Empire's battles with the pick of our Catholic manhood, our critics with smug complacency, prefer to do their 'killing with the mouth,' as Rudyard Kipling has it.

The Very Rev. Dean Foley, who acted as chaplain for the eighth contingent at Addington camp, was requested by his Lordship the Bishop to undertake a similar duty in regard to the tenth which received such an enthusiastic send-off on Saturday last. The Very Rev. Dean who has displayed a remarkable aptitude for this particular service visited the camp early in the week where he received much courteous consideration and assistance from the officers in charge, including Captains Lindsay, McGee and Fisher. Here he found 150 Catholic troopers exclusive of officers. By his (the chaplain's) arrangement these mustered at the Pro-Cathedral on Wednesday night where they were prepared for their religious duties by his Lordship the Bishop, the Very Rev. Dean, and assistant priests. At six o'clock on Thursday morning Mass was celebrated at the camp in apartments suitably arranged by the Government storekeeper, Mr. O'Sullivan, and Mr. Paisley. Dean Foley was celebrant, and in appropriate terms addressed those present, many of whom received Holy Communion. Lieut. Butler was in command, and Mass was served by Trooper Harry Redwood, nephew of the Archbishop of Wellington. William Redwood another of the family, is a member of the eighth contingent now on active service in South Africa. At the conclusion of Mass the Very Rev. Dean distributed to the Catholic members of the contingent, prayer books, rosaries and other articles of piety, the gift of his Lordship the Bishop.

TIMARU.

(From our own correspondent.)

A meeting was held in the Council Chambers on Wednesday, the 16th inst., for the purpose of taking steps to present a testimonial to Inspector Pender on his retirement from the Public Service. There were present Mr. T. Hawkey, acting-Mayor (in the chair), the Ven. Archdeacon Harper the Hon. J. M. Twomey, M.L.C. and Messrs Grandi, Hole, Howley, Kirk, Harvey, Hall, Annetts and Dennehy. Mr. Hole explained that it was not the intention to present a separate testimonial from Timaru but to fall in with Christchurch and make one from the whole of Canterbury. The speaker spoke highly of Mr. Pender's career and was sure the movement would be a success in South Canterbury. The Ven. Archdeacon Harper expressed his very great pleasure at being present as he held Inspector Pender in the highest esteem, and, mentioning his many years acquaintance with the Inspector, said no one came nearer to his ideal of such an officer. He (the Archdeacon) put down the singular immunity which Timaru enjoys from professional vice and crime to Inspector Pender who watched Timaru during his stay here as if it was his own home, and kept all bad characters away. Speeches were also delivered by Messrs. Kirk, Howley, Harvey and others, when it was decided that those present form a committee, that a list be obtained for each member, and that Mr. Howley act as treasurer. Mr. Twomey promised to further the movement in Temuka. A list was handed round and a considerable amount collected in the room. The meeting, which was most enthusiastic was terminated by a vote of thanks to the chair.

The Catholic Club held its annual meeting on Friday evening last in the boys' schoolroom, the Rev. Father Aubry presiding. The secretary read a report and balance sheet of the previous session, showing the number on the roll to be 72, and the surplus over expenditure £6. This was considered most satisfactory, and the committee are to be congratulated on their financing, as several socials, a picnic, and various extra expenses were incurred during the past term. The officers for the ensuing term are—Patron, Rev. Father Tubman, S.M.; president, Mr. P. Kane; vice-presidents, Messrs. J. Dunne and J. P. Fitzgerald; treasurer, N. F. Knight (re-elected), secretary, J. G. Venning (re-elected); council, Messrs. T. Mara, T. Quinn, E. Venning, M. Mahoney, F. McDonald, James