

All joined in wishing Mr and Mrs Wade a pleasant voyage, and every happiness and prosperity in South Africa.

The following is the address:—

Dear Mrs Wade,—We have not gathered here to extol your virtues or applaud your merits. No! But on this the eve of your departure from amongst us we desire to express our appreciation of the edifying and unvarying attention you have bestowed on the confraternities of the Holy Family and Children of Mary since their inception. The practical interest you have at all times taken in everything connected with our Holy Church has been a bright and shining example which we shall long remember. As a mark of our esteem and good will we beg your acceptance of the accompanying little souvenir. Whilst deploring the void your departure is leaving in the Society of the Holy Family, and indeed in the Catholic community at large, we heartily wish you and Mr. Wade every blessing in the land to which your gaze now turns. Dear Mrs. Wade we subscribe ourselves with much esteem, 'The confraternities of the Holy Family and Children of Mary.'

DIocese of AUCKLAND.

(From our own correspondent.)

August 28.

The Boer boy to whom I have already referred is named Charles Patrick Crowley, the father being an Irishman, the mother a Boer. He continues to attract much attention in the city.

His Lordship the Bishop proceeded to the Orphanage, Lake Takapuna, last Saturday evening, where he celebrated Mass on Sunday, and stayed until Monday morning, when he returned to town.

The local branch of the H.A.C.B. Society will approach the Holy Table in a body at the 9 o'clock Mass next Sunday morning at St. Patrick's. The officers will provide a breakfast after Mass for the members in St. Patrick's Hall.

The half-yearly meeting of the N.Z. District (No. 3) of the H.A.C.B. Society took place last evening in the Hibernian Hall. The district President, Bro. B. Stead, presided. As the business had not concluded at 10.30, it was decided to adjourn the meeting until Friday evening.

'The Romish Church' is the term applied by a local editor to the Church when writing this week of the school trouble in France. One would think that such opprobrious language was reserved solely for 'pious, glorious and immortal' gatherings, and not to editorial columns of a daily journal.

Mr Leslie, the new Registrar of Friendly Societies, has returned several names of officers of the H.A.C.B. Society to the District Secretary, Bro W. Kane, stating that he refused to recognise them because they were not guaranteed according to law. This should act as a salutary warning to branches.

Jean Gerardy, the famous Belgian cello player, rendered two solos at St. Patrick's last Sunday morning. They were an 'Ave Maria' by Bach and an 'Ave Maria' by Gounod, both of which were performed with a skill and devotion that shall ever remain in the memories of those who listened to them. Herr Gottfried Galston accompanied on the organ, and such a combination has rarely been heard here.

Rev. Father Hickson, S.M., Reefton, has written to the District Executive of the H.A.C.B. Society to the effect that the conditions are favorable for the inauguration of a branch of the society there. The officers are to attend to the matter at once. This will make four branches of the society on the West Coast. The Rev. Father Ahern, of Pukekohe, Auckland provincial district, who attended the last meeting of the Auckland branch, also thought a branch could be formed, with every prospect of success, in his extensive parish. This is good news, because we cannot have too many branches in the Colony of this excellent Catholic society.

A copy of the following letter has been sent to the Rev. Father Patterson, Adm., St. Patrick's, and to the Rev. Father Benedict, O.P.:—Dear Rev. Father,—I take this opportunity of thanking your Reverence most heartily in the name of all the Austrian residents of the Colony for the beautiful sermon delivered at St. Patrick's Cathedral on Sunday last on the occasion of the birthday celebration of his Imperial and Apostolic Majesty the Emperor of Austria and King of Hungary, Francis Joseph I.—I have the honor to be your Reverence's most obedient servant, F. LANGGUTH, Austro-Hungarian Consul.

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Those of our readers in need of the articles specified would do well to peruse the following lines. The best value is promised. Particular attention is drawn to the first-class stock of numerous sets of stations of the cross (size 17 x 13)—per set 7s 6d, posted 8s; large assortment of nickel statues in different styles and sizes, from 6s to 15s; marble fonts with brass crucifix attached, beautifully finished, from 1s to 3s 6d; medals (Sacred Heart and Blessed Virgin) at all prices; crosses in mother of pearl and gold from 2s to 15s; rosary beads in mother of pearl, 2s to 2s 6d; others 6d to 1s; crucifixes (wall and standing), 1s to 5s; framed religious (photo) pictures on imitation marble, all sizes, 2s to 4s; ordinary, 6d to 2s; unframed pictures, 1d to 1s; large-sized pictures of St. Patrick, 1s; others, 6d to 1s; plated nickel (bronze-colored) glass stands, different shapes and sizes, 6s to 15s; worked silk pictures of Our Lord, etc., encased in oval-shaped glass frames, 1s to 3s 6d; scapulars, etc. Where not specified all articles post free. Orders promptly executed and carefully packed. Note the address—H. Koorey, Fancy Goods Depot, Victoria Avenue, Wanganui.*.*

Palatines in Limerick.

A WRITER in the New York *Sun* declares it to be a well-known historical fact that about the time when the great tide of Palatine (German) emigration set in toward the colony of New York, and more especially to Pennsylvania, about 4000 of this people were sent over to Ireland upon the request of the then Lieutenant-Governor, and were settled mainly in the County Limerick. These were of the same people who so largely populated Pennsylvania, the descendants of whom still speak a German dialect, commonly called 'Pennsylvania Dutch'; many of the same people settled in the valley of the Mohawk, in the county of Schoharie, and along the Hudson in the State of New York.

The *Sun's* correspondent further says that many descendants of this people are still to be found in the County Limerick, preserving their German names, habits, customs, and, in religion, their Protestant belief.

At the outskirts of Rathkeale is a hamlet called Court Matrix, which is the centre of them in that locality. Here the writer met a number of them. Mr Samuel Shier, a very intelligent farmer, seems to be a sort of 'king bee' among them. 'I met his sons and daughters,' the correspondent writes, 'all educated and well informed. Other German names one meets here are such as Medler, Muller, Bovenger, Becker, Switzer, Mueller, Reinhart, Heck, and many others. The number of families in this neighborhood is about 200, and in the County of Limerick the number of Palatine families is estimated at about 2000. They centre about Adare, Ballingarry, Arbela, and Court Matrix, the latter being the parent colony. Of course, many of these people emigrated to America during the century just passed, and others will, no doubt, follow, as America is the goal to which every inhabitant of Ireland looks forward.

'Until about a generation and a half ago these Palatines spoke the Pfälzisch dialect, which is still spoken in Pennsylvania by a million of people. Mr Shier informed me that his father, who died some 20 years ago at the age of 80 years, was still conversant with the dialect of his father, and the generations before that spoke the dialect pretty generally, but at this day it has died out.'

The Cost of Living Four Centuries

AgO

A BELGIAN priest, who devotes some of his time to rummaging among the archives and manuscripts of his native Flanders (writes a Louvain correspondent), has unearthed documents which give a splendid idea of the economical conditions prevailing in his fatherland 300 or 400 years ago. Some items culled from the documents published by Father Annaert I find interesting enough to be given a little space for the edification of my readers:

Every Flemish village had in the sixteenth century its relief society, which was generally managed by two laymen voted for by the villagers. These two administrators had to give a yearly report of their doings to the parish priest and the town councilmen. From one of these reports it appears that in the village of Stekene the revenues of the relief society amounted in 1599 to 56 dollars in American money. One would naturally think that the poor relieved with said wealth were very few and far between. Not so, however, for, according to the records of the disbursements made by the society, 56 dollars made really a round sum in those days. Judge for yourself:

Every deserving poor person received weekly a loaf of bread weighing eight pounds, that made for the year an expense of 89 cents per capita.

The society paid also house rent; and a year's rent for a poor widow's house cut a swath in the revenues of 36 cents.

It furnished wearing apparel, and paid for the cloth at the rate of from 11 to 13 cents a yard, whilst the shoes it settled for cost from seven to nine cents a pair—the price of a good cigar.

No mention is made of the accounts of coal; but items for turf furnished, entailing an expense of 16 cents per waggonload, recur quite frequently.

Doctor's fees and surgeon's fees fitted in with the above figure; for the same accounts refer to sums varying from five to 11 cents for medical attendance upon sick parishioners. For the operation of lithotomy the surgeon received in 1578 the munificent fee of 43 cents. At sight of such a bill there was no occasion for the patient to die, as was the case recently in Brussels, where, after a successful operation—operations are always successful when they are not spoiled by complications—the patient, on being handed the surgeon's bill for £1600, suffered one of these complications from which he never recovered.

In summing up his enquiry Father Annaert makes a comparison between the annual budget of a family, composed of father, mother, and five children, in the sixteenth century, and the budget of a like household in the twentieth century.

Considering the value of money in Belgium to-day, this sixteenth-century budget would represent now a sum of 210 dollars. Whence the compiler draws the inference that the conditions of the laborer in the sixteenth century, when wages averaged from seven to 13 cents a day, was not as wretched as modernists would have us believe.

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