

PROTESTANT SUSCEPTIBILITIES

There seems (says a writer in the *London Tablet*) some need of public protest against the manner in which some of our Catholic compositions are not only appropriated by outsiders, but 'adapted' to their own views, and their words wrenched from their original construction, or bowdlerised to meet the susceptibilities of a Protestant audience. We note an objectionable sample of this malpractice which is reported to have taken place in the Anglican Cathedral in Southwark. A service was held at Christmastide, of which a prominent feature was the singing of carols. Amongst the carols selected was the following (the italics are ours):

'The Ox he openeth wide the Doore
And from the snowe he calls her inne,
And he hath seen her smile therefor
Our Lady of *David's Kin*.'

Now the words of this exceedingly beautiful carol are the composition of a Catholic lady, Miss L. I. Guiney, and in the original the fourth line, there is no mention of 'David's Kin,' but instead: 'Our Ladye withoute sinne.' To Catholics, one of the chief prerogatives of the Mother of God is her sinlessness, and they feel that it is a matter of the honor of her Son, that sin should never be associated with her name. (St. Augustine, in his treatise on *Nature and Grace*, says that all men have sinned 'except the Virgin Mary,' of whom, for the honor of the Lord, he will move no question where sin is concerned.) However, when the carol was sung in the Anglican Cathedral, this note of sinlessness, which entered essentially into the Catholic authoress's concept of the honor due to our Lady, was thrown overboard so as to trim the carol to the Protestant milieu, and the words 'of David's Kin' made to do duty as a substitute! No one expects conscientious Protestants to accept or sing what they do not believe, but surely they might very well, in that case, leave our Catholic compositions to those who can use them in the sense and entirety in which they were written and intended.

FAREWELL TO CHOIRMASTER, GREYTOWN

(From an occasional correspondent.)

On the evening of Tuesday, February 17, the members of St. Mary's Choir assembled at 'The Pines,' the residence of Mr. J. A. Dudson, to bid farewell to Mr. Doyle, of the W.F.C.A., Greytown, who has been officiating as choirmaster for the past few months. During the evening, songs and musical items were contributed by members of the choir, and parlor games enlivened the proceedings. Speaking on behalf of the choir, the Rev. Father Kinkead commented upon the excellent progress made during the short period the choir was under the control of Mr. Doyle, and while regretting his departure for Gisborne, wished him every success in his new sphere of life. Mr. Doyle suitably responded, and a very pleasant evening was brought to a close by the singing of 'Auld lang syne.'

Waipawa

(From our own correspondent.)

During the last five weeks, a successful and edifying series of missions have been carried out throughout the parish. All the smaller settlements, Onga-Onga, Tikokino, and Wanstead, received visits of three or four days' length, whilst the larger townships, Waipawa and Waipukurau, were fortunate in having missions of longer duration. The preacher was the Rev. Father Tuohy, C.S.S.R. Although there was some slackness in the beginning, the closing scenes of the mission at Waipawa were a grand testimony to the faith of the people. There were 120 communicants on the last Sunday morning, February 22, and in the evening the church was crowded to the doors.

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