

People We Hear About

Ex-Queen Natalie is spending her days in retirement in a Paris convent. It is in the guest house of 'The Solitude' that the Queen of Servia now lives. Here, with a small suite for company, she devotes her time to different charitable works brought to the notice of the nuns. Her Majesty turned Catholic several years ago.

In the person of Paul Mauser there passed away recently one of the best known inventors of modern times. According to Mr. Erzberger, a member of the German Parliament, Mauser was a noble and modest personality, a self-made man, who rose from simple conditions to the highest rung on the ladder of fame. In spite of many disappointments and reverses, the persevering Suabian inventor patiently improved his gun inventions until success crowned his efforts, and the Mauser rifle was introduced in most armies of the world. But success did not make him proud. Though his biography spells a history of modern industry in Germany, Mauser remained the modest, light-hearted son of the Black Forest. For over sixty years he belonged to the choir in his native parish, contributing in various ways to the progress of Church music after the heart of Pope Pius X.

Catholics have more than an ordinary interest in the death of the late Duke of Argyll (says the *Universer*), for, in the collateral succession to the title and position of chief of the Campbell clan, stands Campbell of Lochnell, descended in the male line from John, second son of Colin, third Earl of Argyll. He is a Catholic, and should he ever succeed to the dukedom, Catholicism in Scotland will receive a great impetus, particularly in the clan Campbell, who regard the MacCailean More with a reverence and a loyalty of which we Southrons have but a small conception. Still, we need not fash ourselves about that, for in the ordinary course of things it seems a very remote contingency. There are still four persons in the direct line of the succession, in addition to Mr. Niall Campbell, who now becomes the tenth duke, and is unmarried. There is the only son of the late Lord Walter Campbell, now heir-presumptive, and he has a son; and there is Lord George Campbell, third brother of the late duke, and a partner in Coutts's bank, who also has a son.

The memorial which is to be inaugurated in Valparaiso this year in honor of Patrick Lynch, who was 'soldier and sailor, too,' will be another reminder of the far-flung activities of the Irish race. Lynch, who had the unique distinction of serving both as admiral and general in the South American Service, was born at Santiago de Chile in 1824, and one of his biographers adds the almost superfluous information that he was 'of Irish descent on the paternal side,' his father being Senor Estanislao Lynch. His life was crowded with incident. When a youthful cadet in the infant navy of the land of his birth, he was sent by the Chilean Government to the British Navy for training purposes. He served for seven years, and took part in the 'opium' war against China in 1841. Returning home, he served on various ships, and when the war with Peru and Bolivia broke out he was given command of a naval expedition. For four years he was in the thick of the struggle, which ended so disastrously for Peru. As Governor of Lima, he showed great administrative powers, and in 1884, when he was 60 years of age, Rear-Admiral Lynch was appointed Minister Plenipotentiary to the Court of Spain. After a sojourn of about 18 months in Madrid his health broke down, and he set sail for Chile, but died on the voyage in May, 1886.

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Palmerston North

(From our own correspondent.)

At all the Masses on Sunday last it was announced that it was the wish of the St. Vincent de Paul Society that the *Tablet* be placed in every Catholic home in the district, and with this object in view an energetic canvass is to be made by members.

The town presents a very lively aspect at the present time, patriotic demonstrations taking place every evening. The band paraded on Friday and Saturday evenings, playing patriotic airs, and the news offices are besieged night and day for the latest news regarding the European struggle. The military forces of the Wellington District are to mobilise at the local race-course.

Timaru

(From our own correspondent.)

August 10.

At all the Masses yesterday special reference was made to the war, and the prayers of the congregation were asked for the Empire's success, and for the speedy termination of the conflict.

In response to an invitation from Very Rev. Dean Tubman, a large and representative gathering of the ladies of the parish met in the girls' school on Sunday afternoon. The Very Rev. Dean presided, and explained that the object of the meeting was to give every assistance possible in helping the general committee to equip the men volunteering for service, and to form themselves into an emergency society so as to be able to relieve any case of distress caused through the war. Mrs. Loughnan was elected president, Mrs. Mangos vice-president, Miss Knight secretary, Mrs. Ardagh treasurer, and a committee of eight ladies and four gentlemen were selected. Dean Tubman gave the fund a start by contributing £3 3s. The nuns of the Sacred Heart Convent have offered the free use of the technical school workrooms and machines, etc., for work on Thursday afternoons. It was decided that the ladies' committee should attend the public meeting, to be held on Monday, and undertake, on behalf of the society, any work that might be necessary. Dean Tubman heartily thanked all for responding so readily to his appeal, and another meeting was arranged for Sunday afternoon next at the same hour.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS

ST. COLUMBKILLE'S CONVENT, Hokitika.—Donation of £1 duly received, and forwarded to the proper quarter.

J.T.F., Auckland.—Thanks for correspondence. If you receive a further communication from the editor of the paper in question, kindly let us know.

A CORRESPONDENT.—The A.O.H. in Ireland is what is called a 'mixed' society—that is, candidates may join either as honorary members or as benefit members. At the present time the over-whelming majority are benefit members. We have already shown conclusively that the members do not take the silly 'oath' you refer to, and have given the actual declaration which they do take. The A.O.H. is not a secret society. We dealt quite fully with the question of the county councils and of public appointments in Ireland in our issue of May 14 last.

We long for great events, for imposing duties. We could make something of our life, we think, if only we had not such small sordid cares and tasks. . . . We ask for heroic duties, but the duties that lie to our hand are heroic. The so-called heroic occasions are, after all, often easier, and therefore less heroic than the commonplace trials that daily test the stuff of which we are made.

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