

MISSING PAGE

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Friends at Court

CLEANINGS FOR NEXT WEEK'S CALENDAR

- April 18, Sunday.—Second Sunday after Easter.
 „ 19, Monday.—Of the Feria.
 „ 20, Tuesday.—Of the Feria.
 „ 21, Wednesday.—Solemnity of St. Joseph, Patron of the Universal Church.
 „ 22, Thursday.—SS. Soter and Caius, Popes and Martyrs.
 „ 23, Friday.—St. George, Martyr.
 „ 24, Saturday.—St. Fidelis of Sigmaringen, Martyr.

Saints Soter and Caius, Popes and Martyrs.

We know very little of these two Pontiffs except the manner of their deaths. St. Soter won the crown of martyrdom in 177; St. Caius, after many sufferings for the Faith, died in 296, in the reign of Diocletian, whose kinsman he was.

St. George, Martyr.

St. George has been recognised as patron of England since the time of the Crusades. Unfortunately, no authentic details of his life have come down to us. He is believed to have been a soldier, and to have suffered martyrdom about 303.

St. Fidelis of Sigmaringen, Martyr.

Born at Sigmaringen, in Germany, in 1577, St. Fidelis adopted law as a profession, in the practice of which his charity earned for him the title of 'advocate of the poor.' Having become a priest and a member of the Order of Capuchin Friars, he was sent, in 1622, by the Propaganda to Switzerland to endeavor to win back the Calvinists to the Church. The extraordinary success of his mission excited the rage of some of these sectarians, who put him to death in the course of the same year.

URAINS OF GOLD.

COMFORT BY THE WAY.

I journey through a desert drear and wild,
 Yet is my heart by such sweet thoughts beguiled,
 Of Him on Whom I lean—my strength and stay—
 I can forget the sorrows of the way.

Thoughts of His love! the root of every grace
 Which finds in this poor heart a dwelling place,
 The sunshine of my soul, than day more bright,
 And my calm pillow of repose by night.

Thoughts of His coming! For that joyful day
 In patient hope I watch, and wait, and pray:
 The dawn draws nigh, and midnight shadows flee,
 And what a sunrise will that advent be!

Thus while I journey on my Lord to meet,
 My thoughts and meditations are so sweet
 Of Him on Whom I lean—my strength, my stay—
 I can forget the sorrows of the way.

Idleness has no advocate, but many friends.
 Self-distrust is the cause of most of our failures.
 There is not a moment without some duty.
 Praise not thy work, but let thy work praise thee.
 The more noise you make about doing good, the less real good you do.

Be what you are. This is the first step towards becoming better than you are.

It does not help much to tell people they are doing wrong; show them how to do right.

True courage is not incompatible with nervousness; and heroism does not mean the absence of fear, but the conquest of it.

The saddest thing in the world is to feel that we are alone; the best thing in the world is to feel that we are loved and needed.

The Storyteller

'HOUSE FOR SALE'

Mr. and Mrs. Billy Keenan sat in the living room of their little house on Stuyvesant place—sometimes known as Friendly street.

'Billy,' Mrs. Billy exclaimed from behind the Washington evening newspaper, 'listen to this: "House for sale. Six rooms and bath. Laundry in basement. Apply to J. H. Hamlin, 60 Stuyvesant place."' "

She emerged from the folds of the paper.

'Why should they want to sell their house just when they've decided to adopt Mr. Hamlin's little nephew, Edwin?'

Billy Keenan's eyes twinkled as he looked at his wife's round, flushed face. 'I don't know,' he said, 'but I prophesy that you'll find out within a week.'

Mrs. Billy regarded her husband suspiciously for a moment, and then devoted herself again to the affairs of the nation's capital. The following day she had forgotten his prophecy, but within the week she had, nevertheless, fulfilled it.

When Billy came home on Saturday afternoon he found Mrs. Hamlin leaving his house, and Mrs. Billy, in a white voile dress with pink ribbon attachments, standing in the doorway, looking sympathetic, and, he thought, altogether attractive.

Mrs. Hamlin was a tall, nervous woman, with a thin, delicate face. At that moment her thin lips were pressed together unpleasantly, and her eyes had an aggressive expression.

When the door had closed behind the visitor, Mrs. Billy, with her face against her husband's broad shoulder, said in a muffled voice: 'Billy, they have advertised their house for sale because they simply can't endure this neighborhood any longer!'

'What!' cried Billy incredulously. 'Not endure us? Why, we're the only real and original neighbors in Washington! She couldn't find a nicer or quieter spot than this little block. Some of the finest Government men are here.' Mr. Hamlin as well as Billy was devoted to 'Uncle Sam's' interest in the Forestry Department. 'There are Hone and Carter, for instance, who live next to them. Where will she find finer fellows than they?'

Mrs. Billy's eyes twinkled. 'She knows those two men only as the fathers of a good-sized collection of badly managed children. And, Billy, did you mention "quiet"? She says it would be less wearing on her nerves to live near a train yard than between those five young Carters and three Hones. She says Mr. Hamlin is determined that his nephew shall not associate with the little "hoodlums," as she calls them.'

One afternoon not many days later, Billy walked home from the office with Mr. Hamlin, who for the first time became confidential in regard to his views of the street. And as if to substantiate those views, no sooner had they gained the corner of Stuyvesant place than two Hones and three Carters came careering along the walk on roller skates. When directly opposite the two men, the youngest Hone lost control of his feet, and the sharp edge of his skate caught Mr. Hamlin just under the ankle bone.

'When he limped up his steps,' said Billy to his wife, a few moments afterward, 'I never saw a madder-looking man in my life! Of course the little hoodlums have no business to skate on the walks.'

'Oh, I shall hear all about it to-morrow,' said Mrs. Billy, laughing, 'for I've promised to help Mrs. Hamlin get ready for Edwin. He comes the last of the week.'

But when Mrs. Billy reached 60 Stuyvesant place in the morning she found Mrs. Hamlin absorbed in grievances of her own. The biggest Carter boy had fallen into her pansy bed from the top of the fence that divided the back yards.

'Was he hurt?' Mrs. Billy gasped.

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The solidly boarded dividing fence was at least twelve feet high.

Mrs. Hamlin choked. 'I don't know. He has ruined the pansies. They look as if a steam roller had gone over them. I can't wait to get away from this awful street!'

Mrs. Billy tossed her small curly head, but did not reply. The two ascended the stairs to the airy front chamber, which overlooked the shady street.

'I hope,' said Mrs. Hamlin, with a sigh, 'I may be given strength and wisdom enough to bring little Edwin up well. I hope we shall find him quiet and gentlemanly, and considerate of other people's feelings and property.'

Little Edwin was six years old.

Presently there sounded on the street below the excited whoops and joyful yells of the five Carter children on one side and the three Hones on the other. A stiff breeze was blowing up the street, and soon outside the second storey window floated home-made kites of all shapes and in all stages of dilapidation.

'Oh! oh!' cried Mrs. Hamlin, with her head out of the window. 'They've upset the jar of roses I put on the lower step; and there stands Mrs. Carter just beaming at them, and never noticing my roses. How can anyone be so thoughtless? If only I could move to-morrow----' Here her voice was lost in the joyful shouts from below.

That night Mrs. Billy told Billy that she was growing nervous. 'Somehow, when I'm with Mrs. Hamlin I hear the children's noises so much more plainly than I do anywhere else, and seeing her jump and start and fuss at them makes me jumpy too.'

'Then,' said Billy earnestly, 'for the love of goodness stay away from Mrs. Hamlin!'

Mrs. Billy stayed away for two days. Then Mrs. Hamlin called to relate two items of overwhelming importance. Edwin was due to arrive that evening at 60 Stuyvesant place, and the house had a prospective purchaser.

'It's a man by the name of Sherry,' said Mrs. Hamlin. 'He has a two weeks' option on it, and we're looking for an apartment. I want to take Edwin off the streets, so that he won't be killed or mangled by carts—and roller skates.'

The evening was hot and sultry. Stuyvesant place, leaving its windows open to catch any belated breeze that might blow, was sitting out on its doorsteps or in its tiny plots of grass; its eyes were turned expectantly toward Number 60. That is, the older members of the community sat in the manner described. The younger members were massed in front of Number 60, waiting to look Edwin over. He finally arrived in a closed taxicab, and was hastily conveyed in the arms of his uncle through the waiting ranks.

Billy, sitting on his own steps with Mrs. Billy, grinned broadly. His comments were tinged by a recollection of Mr. Hamlin's opinion of the street. 'That was done with neatness and despatch,' said Billy. 'The child is now beyond the contaminating influence of the Carters and Hones. His feet have not touched the pavement that theirs have trod. Wonder if they have a glass case for him yet?'

Fifteen minutes later Billy amended his last remark vigorously. 'Cats and dogs! Talk about a noise! I wish the glass case were here—and he inside it! Wh-e-w!'

The noise came from Number 60, and caused the inhabitants of the little street to hold their breaths. Finally Mrs. Hone and Mrs. Carter hastened down to the Billy Keenans.

'Isn't that racket awful?' said the mother of the riotous Carter five. 'I can endure any amount of happy noise, but it makes me wild to hear a child cry like that.'

'Of course neither of the Hamlins know anything about caring for such a baby,' said the mother of the three mischievous Hones, 'but we hesitate to go and offer our services because they—well, they're so unlike the rest of the street—not neighborly; and lately she has been positively snippy. But she comes to see you,

and we thought we'd ask your advice. Would it do for us to offer—'

'Oh, yes!' interrupted Mrs. Billy eagerly. 'Do go before that child splits his throat!'

'And our ears!' added Billy.

Mrs. Hone and Mrs. Carter hastened up the steps of Number 60, and disappeared. Presently the windows of Number 60 banged shut, and muffled the noise within. Soon Mrs. Carter appeared on the top step, and calling the smallest Hone and the two youngest Carters, drove them into Number 60. Then quiet reigned.

An hour later the two good Samaritans came down the street again to report progress to the neighborhood.

'There's nothing like children to comfort children,' Mrs. Carter explained. 'We left Edwin playing with ours. He seems more used to being with children than with grown people.'

'The Hone and Carter hoodlums to the rescue!' exclaimed Billy, after the mothers had gone. 'Will the Hamlins survive?'

The next afternoon, when Billy reached home, Mrs. Billy met him. 'Billy, guess what's going on in the Hamlin house?'

'I hope that the little chap isn't going on as he did last night!'

Mrs. Billy chuckled. 'No, but Mrs. Hamlin is so afraid he will that she had the Carter and Hone children there all day. She's clinging to 'em as a drowning man clings to a straw. They are swarming all over her basement and back yard and front steps. Oh, the racket they are making! And I noticed that Edwin is the loudest one among them. But I think he is a lovable little fellow, and I can see that Mrs. Hamlin thinks so too.'

The option on the Hamlin property was five days old before Mrs. Billy again saw Mrs. Hamlin. Edwin's foster mother was standing in her front doorway. A smile hovered about her lips and softened her eyes. She was watching a street parade by the neighboring children; Edwin was in the heart of the parade. A Carter grasped one hand, a Hone the other, and both a Hone and a Carter had affixed themselves firmly to the rear of his blouse. They occupied the middle of the highway. A milkman's cart approached, and, with the others, the diminutive Edwin lifted his voice in frantic commands to the driver to get out of the way. In her doorway Mrs. Hamlin fluttered nervously, and called:

'Why, Edwin darling! Is that the proper way to speak to the man?'

Edwin, not hearing, continued in his own form of aggressive address, and the parade, unhampered by further obstructions, swept noisily down the street. When the option was a week old Billy came home from his office laughing. 'It's rich to hear old Hamlin,' he declared. 'He's got little Edwin's points down super-fine. It's really all he wants to talk about.' I dropped into his office to tell him that I had heard of a good apartment at a bargain price, and he kept me there for an hour, telling me about the boy. You'd think Edwin was the only child ever born.'

Mrs. Billy laughed. 'Mrs. Hamlin shares his opinion, Billy. You see, they've discovered that Edwin is a very unusual child! Mrs. Hamlin admitted to-day that he was noisy, but said there was so much more character in his noise than in most children's that she hesitated to check him!'

When the option was ten days old Billy again walked up from the office with Mr. Hamlin, who carried under his arm an awkward package. Mr. Hamlin refused to divulge what the contents of the package were; but as they turned a corner Billy accidentally knocked against him, and the bundle went to the pavement, the string broke, and out flew a pair of roller skates. Mr. Hamlin, smiling broadly, picked them up.

'Boys will be boys,' he said cheerfully, 'and nothing would do but Edwin must have roller skates. Now I'll have a dickens of a time teaching him how to use them!'

The 'dickens of a time' began that very evening, when Edwin and his teacher occupied a large area of

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the sidewalk in front of Number 60, and the passers-by prudently took to the middle of the street. Mrs. Hamlin, wholly unaware of the discomfort of the passers-by, sat on the top step eagerly exchanging views on child culture with Mrs. Hone and Mrs. Carter. Billy Keenan looked at Mrs. Billy, whistled softly, and remarked that if anyone said that a leopard could not change its spots, please refer that person to William Keenan!

The day that the option expired Mr. and Mrs. Hamlin came to call on the Keenans, and brought Edwin with them. Conversation was difficult. When Mr. Hamlin was not straightening the child's collar, Mrs. Hamlin was reknitting his tie; occasionally they combined their efforts to keep him from climbing on the piano or pounding the glass in the bookcase.

Suddenly Mr. Hamlin, removing his eyes for an instant from his heir, saw a man passing the bay window.

'Bless me, it's Sherry!' he said, making a dive for the door and the holder of the option.

When he had finished his conversation with Mr. Sherry, he found his wife and Edwin awaiting him on the Keenan doorstep. In the doorway stood Mr. and Mrs. Billy.

'Don't believe we've told you that we've changed our minds about selling,' Mr. Hamlin remarked to the doorway. Then, with the complacent self-assertion of one who announces original discoveries, he added: 'This is such a quiet street to bring the boy up in, so few trucks or autos to look out for, and a kindergarten so handy it seems foolish to move out. Good, friendly, helpful neighborhood, too, none better!'

Mrs. Billy gasped; Billy coughed; but the Hamlins heard nothing and saw nothing except Edwin, who buried his sleepy face in his new mother's skirt. A smile lighted her thin face, and made it look sweet and motherly.

'I feel so safe when he is out playing with the Carters and Hones,' she said, in further explanation. 'They take such excellent care of him, and with Mrs. Carter and Mrs. Hone next door in case of colic or croup—oh, no, we shall not sell!'

HILDA'S BETROTHAL

Count Von Switzer was lord of the far-famed municipality of Bresenberg, and last of the noble name Von Switzer.

He had married late in life, and the union, though a very happy one, had been blessed with only one child, and that a girl, christened Hildagard, or Hilda, as she was mostly called.

With the coming of Hilda's little life into the world that of her mother, always a frail, delicate creature, passed into the Great Beyond, and the babe was left to a father's care.

On that little frail creature he lavished all the love of a deep, passionate nature. From a dutiful child she grew into a beautiful woman, inheriting all her mother's beauty and her father's goodness of heart.

In her childhood they were playmates; but now, when she had entered into the maturity of womanhood, they were comrades, caring little for company or enjoyment, content with each other's presence, their books, and their music. But enjoyment cannot live for ever, neither will joy endure for all time.

Count Von Switzer was old already; he was beginning to totter as he walked. His days on earth were numbered. Soon he would be forced to leave his handsome home and beautiful daughter and go the way where there can be no earthly arm to guide us.

The thought worried him.

How could he leave his daughter unprotected? The times were rough and there was much evil-doing in the land. Marrying or getting a husband for her had never before entered his head. Now the thought was always with him. Where could he get a suitable husband? Wealth and titles were but secondary considerations. The husband for his Hilda must be brave,

honorable, and good of heart, qualities hard to find in those days.

There was his next neighbor, Baron Weiss.

No!

It was a troublesome question, and one that required much thought.

At length he decided to send a messenger to each municipality where there was a marriageable lord, begging them come to Bresenberg as suitors for the hand of the Countess Hilda.

But that was not all, for as they journeyed to Bresenberg they were to perform some deed of bravery and not by their titles or possession, but by that deed would the choice be made.

Then it would be clearly shown who was worthy of being the husband of Hildagard Von Switzer, Countess of Bresenberg. At length the time arrived, and for over a week nobles had been gathering from distant parts of the country.

Flags were flying, bands were playing, wine ran like water in the streets, all was glitter and splendor.

The people fairly went wild with happiness, for did it not mean the marriage of their beloved Countess? A great platform was erected outside the palace that the people might all witness the betrothal.

On a throne-like seat draped with purple the Count and his daughter were seated.

How the people cheered when they saw them. Verily they were loved by all. As each lord or candidate stepped up to the platform a little boy dressed as a herald read—first his rank, then his possessions, and lastly the deed of bravery that he performed as he journeyed to Bresenberg.

The first in rank was Baron Weiss, Lord of Weiss and Grossberg, owner of castles, houses, and land, and famous for his courage and daring, for as he journeyed to Bresenberg he rode through the black forest and with his own hand slew three boars, the tusks of which he now presented to the Countess Hilda.

The people cheered and shouted as Hilda, smiling and blushing, stepped forward and accepted them.

The next in order was the jovial Count Werner. Nobody expected much bravery from him, for he was too indolent.

He had noted himself because he had drunk a barrel of beer in one afternoon, after which he fought a duel with the Lord of X., and was victorious. After much laughter he, too, took his seat.

And so the list was read—until at length the herald was through.

Then Count Switzer arose, and, taking his daughter's hand, said:

'My lords and barons and neighbors,—I thank you all for your presence here and for the honor you have done me and mine by asking my daughter's hand in marriage.

'It is with deep pleasure that I have listened to your deeds of bravery. As I listened my heart bounded, then sank; bounded at your marvellous exploits, sank because I know that my days of joining you on the hunting field are over.

'You are indeed a gathering of men that any man might be proud to give his daughter to.

'But, friends, as I listened I missed one from among you. Tell me where is the Lord of Wicklestein? Is he not here? Came he not to grace my little gathering?'

Then a commotion arose. Where was the Lord of Wicklestein?

Count Werner said that he had passed him on the road near Blenheim:

Surely he did not put such an indignity on the lady as refusing to be present. A messenger was at once despatched, and in the meantime the merry-making went on.

The next day towards noon the messenger returned and they at once all gathered together to hear his news.

And this is the word he brought: As the Count of Wicklestein and his followers journeyed to Bresenberg they took a short cut through the hamlet of B. They were riding leisurely along when they heard moans coming from the roadside.

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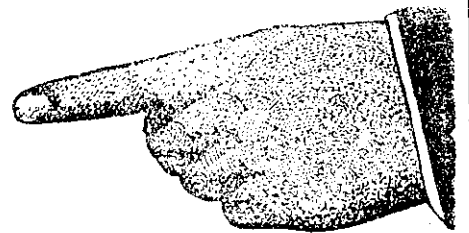
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AVENUE

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WANGANUI

My Lord of Wicklestein being ever charitable, at once drew rein and dismounting parted the bushes.

There he saw an aged woman supported by a child about six years of age.

She seemed to be suffering great agony, and as there was no house near by my lord lifted her to his horse and took her to the nearest hut, where he cared for her himself, while he sent his servant for a doctor, but she died before aid could reach her. Her malady was small-pox. That was the reason of my lord's absence.

He would be present as soon as all danger of infection was passed. Would they wait for him?

The answer from one and all was unanimous. Yes!

The rule regarding the quarantine of a person brought in contact with an infectious disease was not as strict as it is in these days, so it was not long before the Lord of Wicklestein was able to join them.

Once more the platform was erected. Once more the Count and his daughter were seated on it.

But this time only one name was read, one list of lordly possessions, and no need of bravery or valor.

Verily it was plain that he had no reason to expect the hand of the Countess. A deep silence fell on the people as the old Count arose.

Without speaking or making the speech that all were waiting to hear, he motioned to my lord to come up on to the platform, and taking his daughter's hand and that of the Count of Wicklestein, he joined the two together.

'My friends,' he said, turning to the people, the tears running down his withered cheeks, 'in the presence of you all I give my daughter to the Lord of Wicklestein, for by his deed, not of bravery, but of goodness of heart, has he shown himself to be a lord of generosity, a prince of charity, and worthy of being the husband of my beloved daughter, the Countess Hildegard Von Switzer. For he, who while on an errand of pleasure, stops to raise the suffering and the aged, is indeed worthy of all the honor that can be conferred on him by his fellow-men. Let us, now that we are all here together, celebrate their betrothal in royal and regal manner. My servants are yours, my house is yours—use them.' *Michigan Catholic.*

Reefton

A few Sundays ago at Reefton (says the Grey-mouth *Argus*) the annual St. Patrick's Day breakfast was held, and very largely attended by representatives from all parts of that parish. The response to the Rev. Father Galerne's open invitation must have been very gratifying to him and the good ladies who prepared such a generous spread and for so large a number, the table reaching from one end of the schoolroom to the other, and every seat was occupied. The Rev. Father Golden, of Auckland, presided, and congratulated the Rev. Father Galerne on his thoughtful way of celebrating St. Patrick's Day. In a very fine speech he commended the Catholics of the Reefton district, and congratulated the Rev. Father Galerne on the good work so much in evidence about his parish. The Rev. Father Galerne, previously speaking, welcomed the Rev. Father Golden to the district, and briefly thanked all for accepting his invitation. He also thanked the ladies. Mr A. M. Carroll, in a very able speech, supported the vote of thanks to the ladies. Songs were contributed, and the pleasant function concluded with the National Anthem.

The builder builded a house of brick,
 'Twas as sound as sound could be,
 But the builder himself was out of repair,
 And a ragged cough coughed he.
 'Tis a wooden suit I'll be wearing soon,'
 Said he, and his face was dour,
 But he beat the old Reaper in just two hours
 With Woods' Great Peppermint Cure.

'STAND FAST IN THE FAITH'

(A Weekly Instruction specially written for the N.Z. TABLET by GHIMEL.)

LIFE.

'I am come that they may have life and may have it more abundantly.' St. John x., 10.

Our Lord was fond of expressing His whole purpose and object by means of some brief but pregnant phrase. In the hearing of the Pharisees He said it was 'for judgment' that He came into this world. Then He told Pilate that He came 'to bear witness to the truth.' Once more it is, 'I am the Resurrection and the Life,' or 'I am come that they may have life and have it more abundantly.' Get at the heart of Christ's teaching and life is nestling against that heart: life is the sweet epitome of the Gospel message.

(1). *Physical Life.*—A fresh supply of life comes to us every day, and in a large measure we can shape it as we choose—make it larger and fuller, keep it much the same, or let it dwindle away almost into nothingness. For our greatness and our responsibility consist in this, that we are able to determine what our end in life shall be. Each one is, to this extent, 'the captain of his soul and the master of his fate.' He may allow himself to be dominated by moods and circumstances, or to be swayed by the passions of his physical nature. In neither case does he rise to the level of manhood. Even nobler activities and pleasures fail to exhaust our capacities or satisfy our natures. These at best slow life under the limitations of time, and

Life's inadequate to joy,
 As the soul sees it.
 A man can use but a man's joy
 And he sees God's

So we cry out from the depths of our heart for life, fuller, deeper, more enduring; for the prospect of untroubled calm with fruitful activity, for the pledge of

Some future state
 Unlimited in capability
 For joy, as this is in desire for joy.'

And thus we find a new meaning and a new power in the words: 'I am come that they may have life.'

(2). *Intellectual Life.*—A man begins to live when the noblest part of him is truly awake to the tremendous realities of life and death. The burning words of the Teacher of Mankind make us think and stand for Him or against Him: Is there anything more calculated to quicken the mental faculties and arouse intellectual enthusiasm than a consideration of those lofty and inspiring topics that were the theme of the ministry of Jesus of Nazareth?

(3). *The Moral Life* towers above the merely intellectual and emotional. Whatever homage we may pay to commanding genius, we feel and know deep down in our souls that the honest man, the man who can conquer and command himself in loyalty to justice and duty, who dares to do right whatever the consequences to himself, who seeks always to serve and help his fellows in whatever way he can, is a king amongst men. He has reached a higher and truer, richer and fuller life. He may have been one of those poor livers who do nothing more than 'consecrate dull deeds with undulled justice,' but, after all, this is the sum of life's purpose, and with the poet we hold

'Tis proved
 To be heroic is an easier thing
 Than to be just and good.'

Christ came to give moral life.

(4). *Spiritual Life.*—However perfect in itself the moral life may be, it can have its limitations. It may be bounded by time and pinned down to earth. It

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may be alive to the world around, but dead to the Eternal Being, to the Creator Who has first claim on us. The spirit of life that moves within us makes us feel the highest and truest life of man is found in the life of religion. For man is conceived in the image of God Himself, and called to be His son and heir.

'We live in deeds, not years; in thoughts, not breaths;
In feelings, not in figures on a dial.
We should count time by heart-throbs. He most lives
Who thinks most, feels the noblest, acts the best.
Life's but a means unto an end; that end,
To those who dwell in Him, He most in them,
Beginning, mean and end to all things, God.'

The elevating grace of the Redeemer confers upon a man completeness of spiritual life. It evokes our spiritual instincts, kindles them into a warm, personal love for Our Saviour; and when, as in the case of the saints, the Spirit of Christ gets room and opportunity to do its work, a noble character is the result—faith joining hands with love, strength with sympathy, courage with tenderness.

A Pioneer of the Potato

France recently celebrated the centenary of Antoine Parmentier, who popularised a vegetable which has since become one of the staple foods of European countries—the humble potato. Parmentier was not only a public benefactor, but a philanthropist with scientific attainments. The potato had already been brought to Europe from Peru in the fifteenth century, but was looked upon, as are many novelties, as something to be not only avoided, but dreaded. A French Cabinet Minister, Turgot, tried to persuade the people of Limoges to make a trial of the new food, but he had little success owing to the rumor that it was poisonous. Although he had potatoes served daily at his own table, nothing could overcome popular prejudice.

Parmentier wrote a treatise setting forth the chemical properties of the food, and planted a considerable area in the plain of Sablon with potatoes. He was already known as the author of a treatise on vegetables, written after the famine of 1769, in which he proved that nutritive starch was contained in plants as well as in grain. His experiments with the potato were watched with curiosity, but when flowers instead of fruit appeared on the plant he was ridiculed and derided. Nothing daunted, Parmentier made a bouquet of the blossoms and presented them to the King, Louis XVI., who forthwith put one in his buttonhole, and promised to taste the vegetable, thereby setting an example to his courtiers. The palace cook then took the matter in hand, and produced a variety of appetising dishes. But it was only after Napoleon that the homely potato began its assured and honorable career, whether as a component of luxurious fare with elaborate adjuncts on the tables of the rich, or as the practical, wholesome food of the poorer classes. It is a fecund product of the kindly earth, giving health and satisfaction to the digger, who turns up on his spade a dozen at a time.

Parmentier was a native of Mont Didier, in Normandy. Born in poor circumstances, and early orphaned, he devoted himself to the care of his widowed mother and younger brothers. At eighteen years of age he was apprenticed to an apothecary, and, as a member of the medical staff of the French army, went through the hardships of the Seven Years' War in Germany. Studious by nature and anxious to improve himself, he worked at Frankfort with the famous physician Meyer. On returning to France he devoted himself to chemical experiments and botany. Had he obtained a following for his theories on the nourishment of the people, the Great Revolution itself might have been averted. It is irrefutable that the chief factor of discontent was famine, and when the corn crops failed there was no substitute. When the monarchy was swept away ignorance and intolerance still main-

tained their hold over Frenchmen. The Republicans were supercilious toward Parmentier's remedy for economic distress. Tobacco and alcohol were more readily accepted by mankind than the beneficent potato.

THE OUTLOOK IN FRANCE

A NEW EPOCH IN ITS RELIGIOUS HISTORY.

It is difficult for foreigners, and even for Frenchmen, to know all the divisions which are represented in the Chamber of Deputies, or to understand the exact difference between Republicans and Moderate Republicans, Liberals, Moderate and Advanced Radicals, Radical Socialists, Socialists, Anti-Militarists, and other groups. But behind these differences, some of which are merely superficial, there is hidden a profound cleavage (writes an 'Anglican Minister' in the *Catholic Times*). G. Hanotaux, 'Histoire de la France Contemporaine,' describing the state of things that prevailed in 1871, when Paris had fallen and a new Administration was painfully forming in Bordeaux, remarks that the real division in the country, which seemed bewildered by different factions, was on the question of religion. This is the problem, he says, which has always preoccupied the soul of France. On one hand there is the ancient faith, the submission of most families to the rites of the Catholic Church, the glories of past centuries, when France was 'the soldier of Christ,' St. Louis, Jeanne d'Arc, St. Vincent de Paul; the lesson left by the great masters of thought and of language, Pascal, Bossuet, Chateaubriand; finally a kind of mystical impulse, which in dark hours of sorrow folds the hands of women and of children before the image of the Virgin Mother. On the other hand there is freethought, the laughter of Voltaire, the statements of Auguste Comte, the idea of man building up his morality and his ideals on the precepts of nature and progress.

The Attitude of the Government.

When the Republic was finally established, members of the higher clergy were accused of Royalist or Bonapartist tendencies, and the charge of being lukewarm or even opposed to the Republic, which was brought against the clerical party, determined the action of the Government towards the Church. Gambetta's 'Le Clericalisme Voila l'Ennemi' marked the beginning of the estrangement, which became ever wider and which ended forty years later in the separation of Church and State. It is not necessary to follow the various steps which led to this final measure, or to state the case for both parties, but it is certain that the law which disestablished the Church and dissolved the 'Congregations' was hard on Brotherhoods and Sisterhoods. But the law promoted by the same Government party, which deprived clergymen of all privileges and subjected them to military service, had some very unexpected results.

The Clergy and the War.

Now at the outbreak of war the priests of military age joined the colors and appeared in uniform in the midst of their parishioners. The monks and all the members of the banished Congregations hastened to offer their services to their country, and to take their places like the secular clergy, with the ambulances or in the firing line. The twenty thousand priests, among them three bishops, who were mobilised, soon made their influence felt. It was found that the vicar or cure who had dropped the cassock and donned the haversack and marched and fought like all the rest, became most popular among his comrades. Letters from the front bear daily testimony to his bravery, his cheery good humor, and his devotion to duty. The habit of obedience acquired at a seminary proved an excellent preparation for military service. Soldiers who had looked upon him as a being in a cassock, whose occupation it was to say Mass or sing Vespers before old women, and catechise young children, found out that he was

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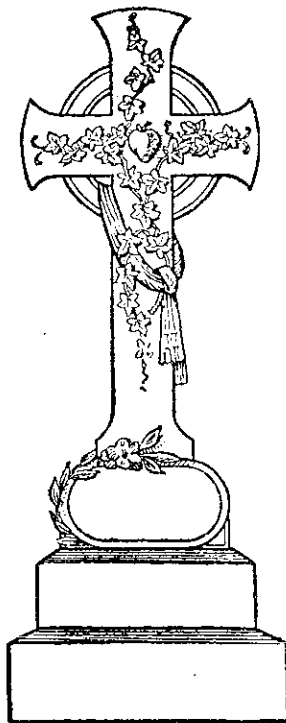
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A Man Amongst Men.

It would be of interest to record the names of all the priests who appear in the roll of honor, who are mentioned in despatches for conspicuous bravery, have been decorated with the military medal, or have received promotion. The ministrations of the priest-soldiers, who celebrate Mass in the trenches, or, if they are further from the enemy, on a portable altar under the open sky, or amidst the ruins of a village church, have made a lasting impression. The nature of the French, especially among the lower classes, is opener, franker, and certainly more impulsive than the English. In the midst of danger and terror their soldiers have come forward more readily than perhaps our men would have done, to confess themselves and to receive absolution from their corporal, their lieutenant, or captain, who is in Orders. Not merely the men show the fruit, but those who have been left behind have been equally affected. Attending the services on weekdays and Sundays in hamlet, village, or town, we certainly could not say that the congregations, as in former days, consist of women and children. The men are there. The great Paris churches which on Sundays offer barely standing room, tell the same tale. It is a sight touching and pathetic, wherever there is a depot, to see the wounded and convalescent, with faces and heads bandaged, arms in slings, legs dangling between crutches, crowding aisles at early Mass. Nor will those forget, who witnessed the scene, when a young vicar who had at the outbreak of war heard the confessions of the young fellows of the town, then had donned the haversack, and, fighting bravely, had been shot through the chest, barely healed of his wound, all bandaged up, appeared in the pulpit to say a few words before he returned to the front.

A Notable Change.

France has travelled far since the days of General Andre, when men were certainly not encouraged to go to church, and when officers whose clerical sympathies had been denounced at headquarters, lost every chance of promotion. The country will continue to move along the same road. It is not likely that Jesuits or Benedictine Fathers, who in the hour of danger, forgetting the treatment they had received from Government and hastening to serve their country, have received promotion or the Cross of the Legion of Honor, will again be banished, when the war is over. It is not likely that a generation of men, who in the dread and danger of battle are experiencing the strength and stay of religious belief, will ever return to their former attitude.

The French People and the Church.

The war has approached the Church and the Army in a manner which appeals to the sense of chivalry in the nature of the French. The voice of the extreme Socialist and anti-militarist is no longer heard in the land. Misunderstandings have vanished; and it is no exaggeration to say that the attitude of the French people with regard to the Church is undergoing a complete change. Just as the war of 1870 and the fall of Napoleon marked the beginning of the estrangement, which ended with the disestablishment of the Church, so the present war will introduce a new epoch in the religious history of France. Government will be obliged to yield to the new tendencies, and will find other reasons to come to terms with the Church. There can be no doubt that Germany, if it had been victorious, would have taken Christian interests in the East under its protection: to play the part of Lord Protector of the Holy Land and of Syria would have united the theatrical, romantic, and at the same time practical character of the Emperor William.

The Protectorate in the East.

The present state of things will make it an imperious duty for the French Government to resume the ancient protectorate over the convents, the schools, and the hospitals in the Levant and Syria. Turkey, moreover, by making war, by confiscating the French religious establishments and expelling the inmates, has raised a number of questions which can be settled only by the intervention of the Head of the Catholic Church.

The action of the English Government in sending a representative to the Vatican has been widely commented on in the French press, and has given rise to serious reflections. 'We cannot close our eyes and leave matters to be settled by the Congregation of the Propaganda,' remarks M. Hanotaux pertinently. Something more will have to be done. There is no need to talk about the Government 'going to Canossa,' but the rulers of France will find, as Bismarck discovered during the Kulturkampf in his negotiations with Leo XIII., that measures must be found that will meet the renewed spirit of the people, and remain in keeping with the old traditions of the country.

Pasteur's Benefactions to Soldiers

'At least one great victory is assured in the war, and one man has established an immortal reputation,' comments *Rome*. Some months before the war a Paris newspaper asked its readers to name the greatest man that ever lived. Pasteur was the choice of the majority, Napoleon coming in 'a very poor second.' *Rome* goes on to prove the scientist's claim to this distinction:

It was Pasteur, the modest, Catholic man of science, who first impressed upon the world the inward meaning and importance of infection and disinfection. By teaching doctors 'to wash their hands'—in the phrase of Claude Bernard—he taught them the precious secret of medical antiseptics, which has during these first six months of the war saved over a hundred thousand lives.

Figures are given to show the great decrease in mortality after Pasteur's teaching was introduced. In the Crimean war 15.21 per cent. of the French wounded died from their injuries: in the Italian war of 1859-60 the percentage of deaths was still higher: the introduction of surgical antiseptics among the German wounded in the Franco-Prussian war reduced the mortality rate to 11.07. During the Spanish-American and Anglo-Boer wars Pasteur's science had come into almost universal application, and only five or six per cent. succumbed to their injuries. The figures for the present war show that of the wounded French soldiers treated in the hospitals 55 per cent. returned to the fighting line, 24 per cent. are on leave convalescing, 17 per cent. are still under treatment and doing well; 1½ per cent. are permanently disabled; 2½ per cent. have died.

But this is only a part of the great change wrought by Pasteur's science (says the *Sacred Heart Review*). The mortality from sickness, especially infective maladies, during war times surpassed the mortality from wounds, but Pasteur antiseptics have reduced to very small proportions in the present war the death rate from tetanus, dysentery, and typhoid in particular. 'Perhaps Pasteur was not the greatest man in history,' adds *Rome*, 'but he will do until a greater is discovered, and he is one of ours.'

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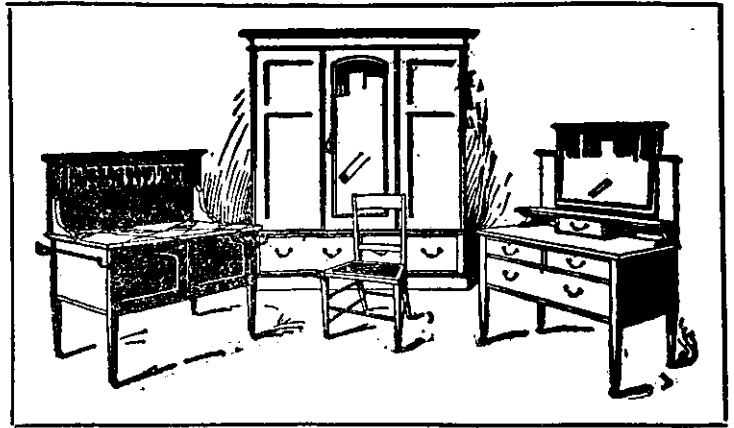
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SIDELIGHTS ON THE WAR

GENERAL.

Sir John French in the long report on the work of his army, published on February 17, pays a tribute to the energy and devotion of the chaplains, and says the Cardinal-Archbishop of Westminster visited most of the Irish regiments at the front and the principal centres on the line of communications.

An officer writes: 'St. Patrick's Day saw a number of men sporting sprigs of shamrock in their caps in the trenches. An Irish flag, materialised from somewhere, was stuck on top of a parapet amidst a burst of cheering. Shortly after a Union Jack was placed side by side with the green ensign. Everyone was wildly enthusiastic, and the whole trench burst spontaneously into the National Anthem. It was quite unrehearsed, and sounded splendidly.'

A NEW ZEALANDER PROMOTED.

Cable advice has been received from Cairo, Egypt, that Pay-sergeant T. J. King, of the Headquarters Staff, New Zealand Expeditionary Force, has been promoted to the rank of lieutenant. Lieutenant King, who is a son of Senior Sergeant King, of Timaru, is an officer of the Marine Department, and was formerly in the Treasury Department. When the 'call to arms' came he volunteered for the Expeditionary Force, and was selected as pay sergeant. He is well known in Wellington swimming circles, and was a prominent member of the Oriental Football Club.

TOUCHING LETTER OF THANKS.

Her Majesty Queen Alexandra, President-general of the British Red Cross Society, desirous of recognising the unwavering devotion of the Franciscan Sisters, who are in charge of many hospitals in the North of France, has addressed to the Superior of the Hospital of Bethune an autograph letter in French, of which the following is a translation:

'Madame la Supérieure, I have been informed by Dr Martin of your noble and heroic devotion to our brave and unfortunate wounded soldiers, and it is with a heart full of gratitude and thankfulness I beg you to accept my sincerest and warmest acknowledgments. I pray the good God to recompense the angelic care you have lavished on our unfortunate soldiers, and I shall never forget that it is to you, Madame, and to your Sisters they owe life and restored health. Receive, Madame, the assurance of my high consideration.'

GALLANT CATHOLIC OFFICER.

Captain Alwyn Bertram Robert Raphael Gosselin, D.S.O., of Blakesware, Herts, 2nd Battalion Grenadier Guards, was killed near Bethune on February 7. Born on February 16, 1883, he was the only surviving son of the late Sir Martin Gosselin, of Blakesware, British Minister at Lisbon, and of the Hon. Lady Gosselin, second daughter of the first Lord Gerard. He received his first appointment in October, 1901, and was promoted lieutenant in 1905 and captain in 1910. Captain Gosselin was awarded the D.S.O. in November last for the following gallant action:—Although wounded and in considerable pain, commanded his company for two days in action against the advice of the medical officer, and until he could be relieved by another officer.'

BLINDNESS FROM SHOCK.

Some of the most distressing, and at the same time, from the medical point of view, most curious, casualties during the present war have been the considerable number of cases of blindness which have occurred simply from shock, without apparently the accompaniment of

any outward and visible traces of injury. The strain of battle has in these instances, it would seem, impaired seriously the functional nerve values of some portion of the visual apparatus, though all organic and objective evidence of the damage done escapes the closest examination of the physician. Mischief has been effected, but it is mischief which clinical tests can neither analyse nor define. Happily, in the majority of instances those who have been affected in this way have eventually, as the result of rest and general recuperation, recovered their sight again and suffered no permanent disability.

IRISH CANADIANS AND THE UNION JACK.

'We are Irish of the blood,' says an editorial in the *Catholic Record*. 'The blood of an outlawed people is in our veins. But we are of the new generation that stands ready to recognise facts. Moreover, we have lived in Canada, under the same flag that floated over our native land. Here it is the symbol of liberty. There it is soon to be such. To us the Union Jack is not the emblem of oppression, but the flag of freedom. This is something that the Irish in the States can hardly realise. Could they but do so, could they but see things as we see them, and as they really are, they would wish as we wish, not for an independent Ireland, but for a self-governing Ireland, loyal to the Empire, and proud of the Union Jack, which is to-day, no matter what it may have been in the past, the freest flag that courts the breeze of heaven.'

A QUEEN IN THE TRENCHES.

'Last week,' writes a Belgian soldier on the Yser, 'we were busy in the trench, when suddenly we saw a lady, accompanied by two officers, coming towards us in the trench. You would never guess who the lady was. It was our Queen. She went along in the trench giving cigarettes, cigars, and chocolates to each of us. I can tell you we gave the Queen a warm reception, and we cheered as she left the trench, and shouted, "Long life the Queen!"'

A SOLDIER'S BURIAL.

A French officer, describing a funeral at which he had assisted, writes from the front: 'I have never seen anything so imposing in its simplicity. . . . Never a religious service seemed so beautiful to me. No more diversity of political or religious opinions: we all had the same feelings and respect around the Cross and the Flag, which represent the two ideas for which we are fighting—God and country. And the Christ on the Crucifix, opening His tender arms to the soldiers, rifles in hand: what a contrast!'

ORIGIN OF MILITARY TERMS.

At a time when naval and military terms are in everyone's mouth, it may be interesting to recall their origins. 'Captain' is derived from the Latin 'caput,' meaning a head; 'colonel' comes from the Italian 'colonna,' a column, the 'compagna colonella' having been the first company of an infantry regiment, the little column which the 'colonel' led. The title 'lieutenant' comes from a word signifying 'holding the place'—e.g., a lieutenant-colonel is a sort of understudy for a colonel, a lieutenant looks after a company in the absence of the captain, and so on. The titles of 'lance-sergeant' and 'lance-corporal' originated in the fact that in the old days the holders of those ranks carried a lance instead of a halberd, round the head of which was twisted a slow match. Their duties were to go round the ranks with these torch-like lances and give fire to the matchlock men just before a battle took place.

The word 'dragoon' was first used of a regiment of mounted infantry, so called from the 'dragons,' or short muskets, with which they were armed; the well-

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known cavalry call of 'Boot and Saddle' is really a corruption of the old French signal, 'Boute-selle,' or 'Put on your saddles.' 'Admiral' comes from the Arabic 'Emir of bagh,' meaning 'Lord of the sea'; 'commodore' comes from the Italian 'comandatore'; exploit, the matter of fact narrative of which equals, the term 'giving quarter' is believed to have originated in the agreement which existed in the old fighting days, account of his gallant action as it appeared in the *London Gazette*:—

BRAVE IRISH SOLDIERS

O'LEARY'S BRILLIANT EXPLOIT.

The award of the Victoria Cross to Michael O'Leary, of the Irish Guards, has set everybody talking of his exploits, the matter of fact narrative of which equals, if it does not surpass, the best things related of the warrior heroes in song and story. The following is the account of his gallant action as it appeared in the *London Gazette*:—



SERGEANT O'LEARY, V.C.

'No. 3556. Lance Corporal Michael O'Leary, 1st Battalion Irish Guards.—For conspicuous bravery at Cuinchy on 1st February, 1915, when forming one of a storming party which advanced against the enemy's barricades. He rushed to the front and himself killed five Germans who were holding the first barricade, after which he attacked a second barricade about 60 yards further on, which he captured after killing three of the enemy and making prisoners of two more. Lance Corporal O'Leary thus practically captured the enemy's position by himself, and prevented the rest of the attacking party from being fired upon.'

In addition to receiving the Victoria Cross, this young Irishman of 24 years of age was on the field of his great achievement promoted to the rank of sergeant. The official despatches from the Headquarters Staff make no mention whatever of Sergeant O'Leary's glorious achievement (says the *Freeman's Journal*). 'Eye-Witness' described it in part, but made no reference to the hero of 'the most conspicuous gallantry.' His name was suppressed, his nationality was suppressed, his regiment was suppressed. He was described simply as 'one of our men.'

Sergeant O'Leary's exploit was not the only display of Irish heroism on that day. It will be remembered that the incident occurred at the attack on Cuinchy on the 1st February. This was part of the battle that raged for several days on the Bethune-La Bassée line, of which the desperate struggle for the village of Givenchy, which recalled some of the most heroic episodes of the great Continental wars, was the central feature. In that hotly-contested fight the Irish Guards fought with desperate valor, which the Commander-in-

Chief acknowledged. Cuinchy, where O'Leary won his place in the rank of heroes, is three-quarters of a mile south of Givenchy, at the other side of the canal, and it was there that the Irish Guards stemmed finally the tide of the Germans' desperate attacks in force and compelled the enemy to retire. The work of the Irish Guards at Cuinchy is described in Sir John French's despatch of the 12th of February as 'a fine piece of work,' and he wrote again of their 'indomitable pluck.' The struggle for Cuinchy began at half-past 2 o'clock in the morning and lasted until after midday. The German night attack surprised the Coldstream Guards, who were driven from their trenches. The Irish Guards came to their assistance three-quarters of an hour later, and a desperate attack was made to regain the trenches. The fight was renewed again and again, and it was not until noon that an attack with the bayonet dislodged the enemy. 'All the ground which had been lost was brilliantly retaken. They captured three German trenches, two sets of barricades, and killed or made prisoners many of the enemy.'

Sergeant O'Leary is the son of a small farmer residing at Inchigeela, near Macroom, County Cork. He was born in September, 1890, and is thus little more than 24 years old. Five years ago he enlisted in the Irish Guards, and after serving three years went into the Reserve in June, 1913. After a brief stay at his home in County Cork he started for Canada, where he joined the North-West Mounted Police—the famous force which is accountable for the peace and order of the vast and as yet largely unsettled territory of the north-western portion of the Dominion. O'Leary was serving with this force when war broke out, and being still liable to service as a reservist, he at once returned to London.

Press and Other Tributes.

The *Daily News*, in recounting the heroic action, compares O'Leary to Roland, the nephew of Charlemagne, one of the greatest heroes of the Middle Ages.

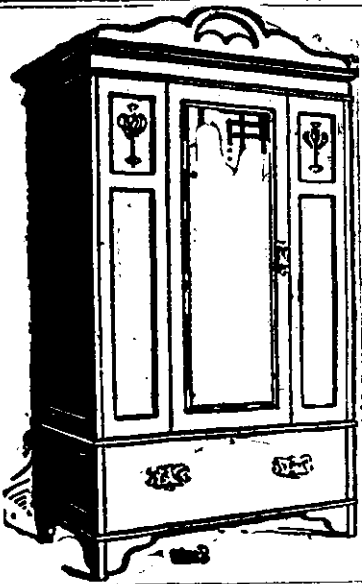
'Only Homer could do justice to his exploit at Cuinchy,' states the *Globe*. 'It reads more like some tale of Hector or Achilles in the Plains of Troy than the sober record of the twentieth century fighting in Flanders.'

The *Pall Mall Gazette* says: 'The recipients of the Victoria Cross include some who would have gained a place in the *Iliad*—fighters in whom a perfect hurricane of temperament is evoked by a crisis, and whose energy has perhaps a power of magnetising the enemy before it destroys him.' Having described O'Leary's brilliant exploit, the same journal goes on to say: 'When we try to understand achievements of this kind we have to fall back upon the sheer moral supremacy which forgetfulness of self establishes over those confronted by it. And alongside of the explosive and Homeric type of valor we have the more distinctively modern kind which endures the most prolonged nervous strain, and works coolly and efficiently, despite the knowledge that death may come at any moment.'

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, writing of O'Leary in the *Evening News*, pays him the following tribute: 'No writer in fiction would dare to fasten such an achievement to any of his characters; but the Irish have always had the reputation of being wonderful fighters, and Lance-Corporal Michael O'Leary is clearly one of them.'

Mr T. P. O'Connor, M.P., also writing in the *Evening News*, says: 'I am moved to admiration by the splendid courage of so many men and officers of every race. I am particularly proud that one of my own people should have been so foremost in these wonderful and brave achievements. It is only one of the many exploits which reveal the Irish as great fighters, and is a vindication of Mr Redmond and his colleagues in calling upon their people to rally to the great cause of the Allies.'

The Countess of Limerick states in the same paper: 'The Irishman never fails. O'Leary is typical of the Irishman and the Irish Guardsman. His exploit—the finest thing in the whole war—does not surprise me in the least.'



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Colonel Driscoll, D.S.O., Commandant of the famous Driscoll Scouts, also writes of him: 'Magnificent! O'Leary's exploit was thoroughly Irish in method and execution. This splendid Irish Guardsman deserves to rank as one of the greatest heroes of modern warfare.'

A representative of the *Cork Examiner*, who interviewed O'Leary's father and mother at Inchigeela, County Cork, writes: This gallant Irishman, O'Leary, comes from near Inchigeela, a little hillside district called Cooleen, in the celebrated barony of Ivleary. He may be said to be a child of the mountain and the flood, for the district is the hilly, boggy land that lends such a wild charm to that beautiful lake country. The first news his parents received of the greatness that he has achieved was a telegram from the *Examiner*, and it was not until our representative visited his home that they learned of the story. 'We had a letter,' said his mother, 'and it told of a big engagement, but he gave us none of the details now published.'

Though proud of his wonderful feat, her greatest concern was for his safety, and when she learned that evidently he had done this truly herculean feat without sustaining even a scratch, she gave God thanks for His mercy from her heart and prayed in our presence for his further safety. 'Perhaps they will let him home for a while, as he has done so well,' she said, and we could only hope sincerely that her wish would be granted.

In an interview she told us that when he was sixteen years of age he entered the Navy. At Malta his health broke down, and he got his discharge. He came home crippled with rheumatism, and was so bad that he had to use crutches. His mother's careful nursing restored his health, and soon after he joined the Irish Guards. He comes of a fine, healthy, vigorous stock. His father, Dan O'Leary, was one of the finest athletes in a parish that could match men with the pick of Ireland. His son is not of the father's physique, being only about 5ft 10in, and rather lightly built, but he has inherited his dash, courage, and vitality. His father stands to-day, though over 60 years, well over six feet. A spare, lean man, with massive bones, long, supple sinews that allow the arm to strike like a shot or the legs to be untirable. From Macroom to Rantry there are told tales of the strength of the father in his younger days as a hurler, a footballer, or particularly when a quarrel was forced on him. On our remarking that it was a good thing for the Germans that he was not amongst them with a rifle and bayonet, or his son's performance would likely suffer, he said: 'I think I could get back a bit off some of them for their murders at Louvain—God forgive them! I wish I was only twenty-four years of age—my son's.'

ANOTHER VICTORIA CROSS HERO.

Another Irishman got the Victoria Cross also for heroism, part of which had to do with machine guns. Lance-Corporal Kenny had rushed through a hedge of flying shot to rescue comrades that were wounded. He brought them to safety, and, hearing then that two maxims were in danger of falling to the enemy, he rushed back again to bring them away. Kenny was invalided home with a broken wrist. He is a native of Drogheda. His achievement, too, found no mention in official despatches. If these two Irishmen (says the *Freeman's Journal*) had not been awarded the Victoria Cross, and their deeds, in consequence, formally set out in the *Gazette*, the world would know nothing of them. It is not so when men of other nationalities do brave deeds.

A Drogheda correspondent, writing to the *Freeman's Journal*, says: In an interview which I had with the parents of Lance-Corporal William Kenny, of the 2nd Battalion of the Gordon Highlanders, who has been honored with a V.C. distinction 'for conspicuous bravery on the 23rd October, near Ypres, in rescuing wounded men on five occasions under very heavy fire, and in the most fearless manner, and for twice previously saving some machine guns by carrying them out of action,' I learned a few particulars about this fine young soldier, whose native modesty is an inheri-

tance of his worthy parents, who, though naturally proud of their gallant boy, are singularly reticent in regard to his exploits.

William Kenny's father, who served 23 years in the Bengal Tigers (1st Battalion of the Gordons), the old 75th, is still a hale man, while his mother, a magnificent type of Irish womanhood, is still also hale and hearty. This worthy pair saw a good deal of military life together, the old man's regimental experience lying amongst other places in Gibraltar, China, Egypt, and South Africa—Durban and Natal. Old Kenny, during his service, secured five good-conduct clasps, and sports the Khedive Star and Medal on account of his Egyptian experiences. His son William, who is one of thirteen children, joined the colors some seventeen years ago, saw war service during the Boer war, from which he brought three medals.

STILL ANOTHER IRISHMAN.

His Majesty the King on February 20 received at Buckingham Palace Sergeant John Hogan, 2nd Manchester Regiment, to whom the V.C. was awarded some time ago for special gallantry displayed on the 9th October near Festabert. The sergeant was passing through London, and, as in the case of a former recipient of the V.C., the King, on hearing of his presence in town, directed that he should be sent for in order that his Majesty might personally attach the coveted decoration.

Sergeant Hogan was conducted to the King's business room, where his Majesty pinned on the medal and chatted with him for some little time about the occasion in respect to which the award was made.

It has been already notified in the *Gazette* that Hogan and a lieutenant (the latter has received the decoration) volunteered to endeavor to recapture a trench which had been taken by the Germans and which the British had on two occasions failed to recapture.

By a display of special skill and daring a commissioned and non-commissioned officer succeeded in recapturing the trench, killing several of the enemy and taking several prisoners.

The King, on shaking hands with the new V.C. at the close of the interview, warmly congratulated him.

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Current Topics

The German Blockade and Mines

A week or two ago we commented upon the stress which was laid in the German Note to America upon the intended use of mines in carrying out the so-called blockade of the British coasts. In the Note presented at Washington by Count Bernstorff the announcement was expressly made that Germany intended to sow mines in waters around the British Isles as part of the warfare against belligerent merchantmen—with, of course, certain and inevitable risk to neutrals. German papers emphasise the same point, and indicate quite clearly that the wholesale use of mines was looked forward to, no less than the action of the submarines, to play a great part in the work of strangling British trade. The *Cologne Gazette*, for example, gives the following advice to neutrals:—'To genuine neutral shipping only this good advice can be given. Remain far from the waters which have been declared a war zone, because another weapon may be called on to play an important rôle—namely, the mine. England will not fail to protect herself against submarines by mines. Our navy, too, probably with the assistance of submarines, will not fail to cover the English coast with mines, and to devote particular attention to English harbors. It is not, however, possible for mines, with the best will in the world, to distinguish neutral from enemy vessels. They bring death and destruction to all alike who approach too near them.' And even the well-known *Germania* announces and approves the indiscriminate sowing of mines for the blind destruction of unarmed passenger vessels, whether British or neutral. 'We, of course, shall place mines before English harbors. We are fully entitled to do so, since all the British ports have been declared war ports. Our U boats have contrivances for mine laying, and will make lavish use of them. We may expect from the discernment of our U boat captains that they will be able to recognise neutral ships, even in the present difficult circumstances, and spare them, but mines are blind, and may strike anyone going into danger. Neutral shipping must make itself clear on this point.' As little, if any, destruction by mines has been recorded since February 18—the date from which the 'blockade' was to operate—it must be presumed that the policy above outlined has been found difficult, if not impossible, of accomplishment.

What Will America Do?

The American Note presented in protest against Germany's famous decree declaring a naval war zone, and announcing that even neutral ships would be liable to be destroyed if found within the proclaimed area, made it very clear that, officially at least, Germany was to be held strictly accountable if any injury were done to the lives or property of American citizens in carrying out what the Note described as this unprecedented naval policy. The Note observes: 'To exercise the right of attack or destroy any vessel entering the prescribed area in the high seas without first certainly determining its belligerent nationality and the contraband character of its cargo is an act so unprecedented in naval warfare that this Government is reluctant to believe that the Imperial Government of Germany in this case contemplates it as possible.' And it continues: 'If the commanders of German vessels of war act on the presumption that the flag of the United States is not used in good faith, and should destroy on the high seas an American vessel and the lives of American citizens, it would be difficult for the Government of the United States to view such an act in any other light than an indefensible violation of neutral rights which it would be very hard indeed to reconcile with the friendly relations now happily existing between the two Governments. The United States Government would be constrained to hold the Imperial Government to strict accountability for such acts, and to take any steps that might be necessary to safeguard

American lives and property.' The American press is even more explicit and emphatic, and warns Germany of the peril she runs if any ill befalls any American citizen—whatever be the nationality of the boat by which he or she is travelling. The *New York Sun* says:—'The contention that officers of a submarine cannot be expected to ascertain the identity of neutral ships is preposterous and indefensible. British submarines are hailing neutral ships and stopping them every day, and no German officer in his senses can plead incapacity, although he might feign it, by obeying secret orders.' The *Sun* again warns Germany that 'there must be no doubt in the German official mind that the United States will hold Germany strictly accountable for mistakes that cause the destruction of American merchant ships or loss of American lives.' The *New York Herald* says that 'the United States is clearly within its right in notifying Germany in terms incapable of being misunderstood that she will be held to strict accountability for the destruction of an American vessel or the loss of a single American life.' And the *World* remarks: 'Mr. Wilson's Note to Germany applies to Americans on board British and French ships as well as to American ships by declaring that a submarine has no more right wantonly to kill Americans in the *Lusitania* than in the *St. Paul* or *St. Louis*.' In the *Falaba* case a German submarine has killed an American citizen in the person of Mr Thrasher. It will be interesting to see what action President Wilson's Administration will take in the matter.

Arizona Prohibition

Some time ago we referred to the new and drastic prohibition law which has been carried in the State of Arizona, and to the application which had been made by Bishop Granjon for an injunction to suspend the operation of the law so far as the exclusion of wine for sacramental purposes is concerned, and to have this provision annulled as being *ultra vires* and unconstitutional. That application has so far failed; and unless the Supreme Court takes a different view from that of the District Court, and comes promptly to the rescue, there is imminent danger of the Catholics of Arizona being entirely deprived of Holy Mass in the near future. As we learn from the *Arizona Daily Star*, Tucson, January 8, the seriousness of the situation was only realised when it was learned that the dealers who supply sacramental wine to the Catholic churches of that part of the country had been unable to fill an order sent to them by Father Marx, of Winslow, because the railroad companies refused to accept the wine for transportation. News of the matter reached Tucson when Bishop Granjon received a letter from Father Marx, in which he enclosed the following communication, sent to him by the San Francisco house with which he had placed the order:—'Rev. Father,—We regret to state that your order reached us too late. The drastic prohibition law in your State goes into effect on the 1st of January, and railroad companies since the last few days are refusing to accept liquor shipments to Arizona on the ground that it is impossible to have the goods delivered to consignees by the first of the year. With best wishes for a happy and prosperous New Year,—We remain, yours very respectfully, Brun and Chaix, Inc. December 28, 1914. To Rev. George Marx, Winslow, Ariz.' When questioned about the matter, local railroad officials said that the statement of Brun and Chaix was correct, and that none of the transportation lines would accept consignments of liquor of any kind for delivery in Arizona, there being no exception whatever in favor of sacramental wine for Catholic churches.

Interviewed on the matter, Bishop Granjon expressed the natural hope that some relief from the law might be secured through the courts or through a modification of it by a vote of the people, and was also naturally loth to consider the condition which would result when all the sacramental wine then in Arizona had been used. He did say, however, that if they were unable to secure sacramental wine the priests would be unable to perform their duties, and in such a case doubt-

less he and the sixty-four priests in Arizona would be compelled to move from the State, abandoning their churches and people, and, further, that all devout believers in the Faith would of necessity have to journey outside the State at frequent intervals to attend Mass, or, if they were not situated so that that were possible, they would have to move to some other State to reside. Commenting on this situation, our esteemed contemporary, the *Ave Maria*, remarks: 'It is difficult to believe that the legislators of any portion of this country are so destitute of ordinary common-sense as not to bring about a modification of the law in question; but if the Arizona legislators are so unreasonable, their State is evidently no place for Catholics—or other sane people.' That is all very well; but the point is that no section of the community has the right to drive Catholics out of the State of Arizona by such an invasion of their religious freedom. Of course some relief will be found; but this is one of the cases in which prevention is better than cure. Eternal vigilance is still the price of liberty.

The Call for Ammunition

Some time ago General French was reported as having said that if the men and munitions asked for were forthcoming the Allies would achieve some measure of definite and final success after three months' fighting. It is quite possible that Sir John French never made any such statement; but if he did, it was certainly for the purpose of impressing upon the British armament workers the life and death necessity for an adequate supply of war material. It is the one insistent cry from each of the Allies. American factories are sending thousands of tons of arms across the ocean to England in a continuous stream, yet this amounts to only a small portion of Britain's need. Not only England, but France and Russia also, are pleading desperately with American manufacturers for war supplies, and are offering almost unheard-of prices, yet the quantities obtainable still fall very far short of the demand. According to New York papers, every ammunition factory, every harness factory, and every vehicle factory is sold out for the next three months or more. The acuteness of the position may be gauged by a recital of some of the tempting orders which have had to be 'turned down.' The United States Steel Corporation has been forced to refuse an order for 100,000 tons of barbed wire because its wire mills are working to their full capacity. The Union Metallic Cartridge Company has been compelled to turn back a possible £1,000,000 order. An American manufacturer's agent gives us some further particulars. He has returned from Europe because there is no further use for him there, his company being unable to even begin to fill the orders that are coming to it unsought. 'Every factory in England,' he says, 'that can be turned into a factory for the production of munitions of war is now busy turning out things for the army on the Continent. And still the demand far exceeds the supply. Orders are going begging that are staggering to one who is not on the inside of the situation. For instance, there is an order waiting for £2,000,000 worth of shells. It has been suggested that some American manufacturer in some other line who is not crowded with orders could make an immense profit on this if he would make a few changes in his works so that he could produce shells. Should this be done he would be given a guarantee that would cover the cost of changes and make him a fortune. Another order that is going begging is for 250,000,000 cartridges for machine guns, which means more than £1,000,000, and this order would be increased to 800,000,000 if it were even remotely possible to guarantee delivery within the next three to six months. But every factory is now running up to the limit, and there is scarcely any use even talking about it in the United States. Then there is the demand for vehicles and harness. One American concern got into this end of the game early, and acted as agent for the British Government. It put out orders enough to keep the harness makers busy for months, and incidentally at a price that is making a fortune for the

agents. The amount of the orders runs into the millions, and the price was away up. Horses are another big demand. The French Government has asked the United States to supply £5,000,000 worth, and if there were many times as many in the country as there are now they would find a ready sale if they came within striking distance of the specification for cavalry or artillery animals. A horse isn't good for much more than a month under present war conditions, and the armies have to keep the supplies hurrying in to take the places of the dead and disabled.' All this referred to a period prior to February. In view of the near approach of really serious and extensive operations, the need will be greater and graver than ever; and it is humiliating to think that one of the causes of shortage should be the moral laxity and lack of patriotism of a section of the British workers.

Germany and America

Some time ago, when commenting on President Wilson's threat of 'serious complications' if Germany persisted in her naval war zone policy, we ventured the very safe prediction that the German War Lords were not likely to become at all nervous at the prospect, and that there would be no abandonment of the programme which formed the subject of President Wilson's protest. That has notoriously been the case. Not only so, but a section of the German press have expressed frank and flat and almost contemptuous defiance of the American declaration. 'When something does not suit the Yankees,' says *Die Post*, 'they are accustomed to adopt as threatening and as frightful a sabre-rattling tone as possible. They reckon that the person thus treated will let himself be frightened and give in. If this does not come to pass, however, if the person thus treated and threatened with the strongest expressions pays no attention and shows that he is not scared and will not let himself be driven into a state of funk, the staggering Yankees calm themselves and soon quiet down.' The *Losischer Zeitung* says that while the searching of ships for contraband previously has been the acknowledged procedure, the entry of the submarine denotes a new factor in naval warfare. 'The submarine,' says this newspaper, 'runs a risk against armed merchantmen. England has both armed its merchantmen and advised them to carry false flags. Shall Germany, in the face of such treacherous measures, throw down her arms because an American ship might possibly be wrongly torpedoed? The American note demands nothing else.' The *Hamburger Nachrichten*, discussing the note, says that nobody can demand that German warships expose themselves to destruction through consideration for neutrals. 'American merchantmen,' the *Nachrichten* continues, 'retain their right to sail in the specified waters or to avoid them. If Washington assumed that the Admiralty's declaration will not be executed unsparingly it fundamentally deceives itself. The threatening sentences in the American note are quite unimpressive.' And Count Reventlow, the naval expert, in the concluding sentences of an article in the *Tages Zeitung*, administers the sub-direct to President Wilson. He declares that the request of the United States that ships be searched before further action is taken against them shows 'that the people in Washington do not or will not comprehend the meaning of the German measure.' 'We have so often demonstrated,' Count Reventlow continues, 'the impossibility of search, that we can merely refer to our earlier remarks. Washington must know this and therefore the demand of the note for a search and the establishment of the identity of the neutral merchant amounts *de facto* to non-recognition of the German declaration respecting war territory.' Count Reventlow repeats the German order, the declaration of which he asserts is a considerable warning, and adds: 'Whether it is regarded or protested against is of secondary importance. If its consequences are depicted as "inexcusable" we may believe that the United States Government misjudges its ground. The same can be said of the remarkable phrase in the note that the United States Government will see itself impelled to hold the German Imperial

Government responsible for such action of its naval authorities. She cannot escape the conclusion that President Wilson and Secretary Bryan in their communications with the Mexican pretenders and rebel leaders have accustomed themselves to a tone that is not suitable for communications with the German Empire.' Count Reventlow declares that the American Government's request for assurances that its ships and citizens will be subjected only to search, even in the war zone, is utterly out of the question. 'The only way to preserve the existing relations between the German Empire and the United States,' he says in conclusion, 'is actual American recognition of the German war zone declaration and regard for the warning expressed therein.' That is what may be called fairly plain speaking: and it goes to show that, as we have before suggested, these American paper protests, with nothing behind them, are not taken in the least degree seriously by any of the belligerents.

CARDINAL MERCIER

As the powerful personality of Cardinal Mercier must appeal to the energetic and warm-hearted people of the United States, the following sketch of his Eminence's character will doubtless be of interest (says a writer in *America*). The Cardinal has a keen sense of humor and is noted for the readiness of his repartee. He has a special gift for silencing his opponents without wounding their feelings, and they even relish the wit that leaves them without a word to answer. This rare gift seems to have won the admiration even of the Socialists, for they have declared him to be 'quite the right sort,' and no longer attack him.

Cardinal Mercier's private life is one of real evangelical poverty. His table is plain and simple, as many a chance guest has experienced: yet, when he entertains he does so handsomely. For instance, about two years ago the convent of the 'Minimes' of Louvain presented his Eminence with a rochet made of the new 'Orient' lace invented by one of the nuns, and which received the gold medal at the Ghent Exhibition of 1913. Thereupon he invited to his palace all the working girls who had had a hand in making the rochet, sending them a generous banknote for their railway expenses. After saying Mass for them in his private chapel, he conducted the girls to one of the salons where a tempting breakfast awaited them. He then appeared clad in his Cardinal's robes, which he put on just to give the lace-makers the pleasure of seeing the effect of their work when worn over the scarlet silk. Afterward he produced some of his photographs, and, asking the name of each girl in turn, he wrote on the picture his autograph with a special blessing for her and her family. Cardinal Mercier spends very little on himself, that he may have more to give to the needy. Last year the cost of gas having risen, he had electric light placed in his house. While stringing the wires, the electrician had to pass through the Cardinal's bedroom, and, yielding to curiosity, examined it very carefully.

The Description He Gave of Its Poverty

caused a sensation in Mechlin, for the chamber was a small, plain, white-washed room with bare, unpolished floor, and furnished with a springless bedstead, a pallet of straw for a mattress, two chairs, a washstand, and a clothes-press, all of the cheapest kind. The electrician declared that in all Belgium the humblest servant in a decent family would scarcely be given so poor a room. Some years ago the Cardinal was presented with a motor car, which he gladly accepted, for it enabled him to call without ceremony, and at any moment of leisure, on any of the priests of his vast diocese. Though his clergy number 2500, he makes it a point to keep in touch with every one of them and to know all their needs and difficulties. Moreover the seeming luxury of a motor car proved a great saving to its owner. A Cardinal ranks in Europe with a prince of the blood royal, and consequently he is bound by certain forms of etiquette which are very costly. Each time he travels

by rail, for instance, he must give liberal tips to every employee of the stations at which he begins and ends the journey. Needless to say, on such occasions employees spring up like mushrooms. Besides this, he must take the entire railway carriage he travels in and must pay for all the compartments it contains. Thus the possession of a motor, bitterly criticised at first by the Socialists, saves his Eminence's charities several thousand dollars a year.

This automobile bears witness, moreover, to the Cardinal's extraordinary capacity for work. No sooner was the car received than his Eminence had it fitted up inside with a folding-desk at which, while driving from one village to another, he attends to much of his correspondence. The automobile is in a dilapidated condition now, and for the last two years his chauffeur has been constantly begging him to get a new one, but in vain, for the only answer is: 'Come now, Franz, think of my poor. Our old motor has not wholly collapsed yet.' Etiquette forbids his visiting any laymen except those of high rank, but in his eyes the poor are all of the blood royal and he visits them in their humble homes and tenements, bringing with him words of comfort and substantial relief. It is chiefly on their account that he is now in such distress because of the ruin of so many convents. As all who know Belgium intimately are aware, the working classes owe a great deal to the convents. Not only do the nuns train the women of Belgium to become the splendid housewives they are, but, besides this, the convents are important industrial centres, giving well-paid employment in lace-making, embroidery, lingerie, glove and corset-making, and other trades to thousands of women and girls. Cardinal Mercier's earnest desire is that all his priests shall lead

The Life of Evangelical Poverty

and renunciation which he lives himself, and great numbers of them do so. His zeal on this head is amply proved by two excellent books, his *Conferences* and his *Retreat to Priests*. He always spends his summer vacation preaching the annual retreat to his priests, who gather for the purpose at Mechlin in groups of some 350 at a time. This means giving three lectures every day, except Saturdays and Sundays, for six consecutive weeks. When he found in the beautiful life of Father Chevrier, of Lyons, his ideal of the true Catholic priest, he was so desirous that all his clergy should read the book and confirm their own lives to it, that out of his own meagre purse he bought over 2500 copies of the volume and presented one to each priest and seminarian of his very extensive diocese.

Cardinal Mercier has, in addition to his other gifts, a remarkably clear head for business and for all kinds of administration. He is constantly being consulted on such matters by high and low. Consequently on private audience days there is no fixed hour for his dinner. He continues receiving until all are heard. Hand in hand with his practical turn of mind goes an essentially different quality: a keen sense of the beautiful, especially in art and in poetry. Though now aged sixty-four, his Eminence's imagination seems to have

Lost None of Its Brilliancy.

For instance, about thirteen months ago, an Irish woman residing in the Mechlin diocese sent him a copy of *The Hound of Heaven*. Though English is one of the eight languages that Cardinal Mercier has mastered, yet the giver of the poem scarcely expected him to appreciate it fully. She was agreeably surprised, however, to find that he had sat up nearly a whole night making a literal translation of the poem into French to make sure that he thoroughly understood the beauty of the verses.

Cardinal Mercier's love for his flock is so strong that he would gladly shed his last drop of blood for them. On his return from Rome last autumn he found that his priests, in order to escape observation, had thought it prudent to let their beards grow and to adopt the secular dress. He at once expressed his desire that they should resume their clerical garb, so that in case of need every sheep of the flock should be able to distinguish them as priests. It was his wish that no word

of comfort or encouragement should remain unspoken merely to save the life of a priest. 'If we have to die for our people, why, let us die for them.' Is it surprising, then, that the Belgians love their Cardinal?

Diocesan News

ARCHDIOCESE OF WELLINGTON

From our own correspondent.

April 10.

At the senior military cadet tournament, held recently, the St. Anne's Cadets won easily the tug-of-war competition.

His Grace Archbishop Redwood is at present in New York, and is expected to return to the Dominion in the latter half of the present year.

A Solemn Pontifical High Mass for the repose of the soul of his Lordship Bishop Grimes will be celebrated at St. Joseph's Church, Buckle street, on Thursday next.

The combined Catholic school committees of the city are organising a monster Catholic social and picture entertainment to be held at the Town Hall on May 19. The proceeds are to go to the Catholic education fund.

When the Rev. Father Joseph Herring, S.M., was transferred from Wellington South to Blenheim sufficient time was not given to organise a farewell. Since then an energetic committee got to work, and as a result a very nice chalice, etc., will be sent to him at Blenheim, and will be accompanied by the best wishes of his many friends in Wellington South for his welfare and happiness.

The Holy Week ceremonies were observed with the customary solemnity at St. Joseph's Church, Buckle street. On Holy Thursday the Rev. Father Barra, S.M., preached on the 'Blessed Eucharist,' and on Good Friday morning, Rev. Father Hurley, S.M., Adm., celebrated the Mass of the Presanctified, assisted by the Rev. Fathers Schaefer and Barra. In the evening the Rev. Father Hurley preached on the 'Passion.'

The festival of Easter was observed with due solemnity at all the city churches. At St. Joseph's Church, his Grace Archbishop O'Shea celebrated Pontifical High Mass, Rev. Father Schaefer, S.M., being deacon, Rev. Father Barra, S.M., subdeacon, and Rev. Father Hurley, S.M., Adm., master of ceremonies. The choir, under the conductorship of Mr. Bernard Page, rendered appropriate music. His Grace preached on the feast of the day. In the evening there was a very large congregation, when Very Rev. Dr. Kennedy (Rector of St. Patrick's College), preached on the 'Resurrection,' which, he said, was but the pledge and the type of our own resurrection. At St. Anne's, Solemn High Mass was celebrated by the Ven. Archdeacon Devoy, S.M., the Very Rev. Father Taylor, S.M., being deacon, Rev. Father Peoples, S.M., subdeacon, and Rev. Father O'Connor master of ceremonies.

The erection of a temporary Catholic social hall and church-room at the Trentham Camp is now proceeding, and it is expected that the building will be available for use in a few days' time. So far the Catholics of the Dominion have made a very poor response to the appeal for the necessary funds for the erection and furnishing of the building. It must be remembered that this building is by no means a Wellington affair. Trentham is the permanent concentration camp for the Dominion, and our Catholic men from all the dioceses are located there, and, if other denominations are able to provide the necessary accommodation for their members, surely Catholics ought to be able to provide a hall for their soldier co-religionists. All remittances sent to the Rev. Father Hurley, S.M., Adm., Dominion treasurer, of the Catholic Federation, Patterson street, Wellington, will be very gratefully acknowledged.

TWO WELLINGTON PRIESTS HONORED.

The Very Rev. Dean McKenna, V.G., of Masterton, has received a letter from his Grace Archbishop Redwood, who at the time of writing (February 25) was at Rome, stating that the Holy Father had conferred the title of Monsignor on him and the Ven. Archpriest Walshe, of Westport.

The Right Rev. Monsignor McKenna, V.G., was born in Ireland. His first appointment was as curate in the Thorndon parish, and later on he was transferred to the Wairarapa where he has been stationed ever since. He did a good deal of pioneer work in that district, with the result that the Church in the Wairarapa is flourishing both in a spiritual and material sense. He introduced the Brigidine Nuns into his parish. A few years ago he was made Vicar-General of the archdiocese in succession to his Grace Archbishop O'Shea, and he has filled this position with conspicuous ability and success. Some three years ago, in company with his brother, the Rev. Father T. McKenna, of Pahiataua, Monsignor McKenna visited the land of his birth, when they had the privilege of seeing their mother, who died shortly after their departure for New Zealand. Monsignor McKenna was in his early days in the Wairarapa an ardent footballer, and represented the district in representative matches. He is a keen Catholic Federationist, and is president of the Wellington Diocesan Council. Although resident in Masterton, there are very few monthly executive meetings in Wellington which he misses. Needless to say that the appointment is a popular one and well deserved.

The Right Rev. Monsignor Walshe, of Westport, is the oldest priest in the archdiocese, and very popular. He was one of the first priests ordained in New Zealand. He was educated in Ireland, and ordained at the same time as the late Right Rev. Monsignor O'Reilly at Auckland. He has been stationed on the West Coast for many years, and has done a great deal for the Church in that part of the Dominion. He is an ideal priest in every sense of the word. Monsignor Walshe will have the congratulations of a great number of friends throughout the Dominion at the dignity conferred on him by our Holy Father the Pope.

DIOCESE OF CHRISTCHURCH

(From our own correspondent.)

April 12.

The Very Rev. Dean Regnault, S.M., is at present on a business visit to this city, and is a guest at St. Bede's College.

The fine achievements of the Invercargill Hibernian Band, individually and collectively, in the A grade competitions of the contest last week were the subject of hearty congratulation to the popular conductor and his persevering bandmen.

On Easter Monday a party of forty members of the Sacred Heart College Ex-pupils' Association, accompanied by a number of their former teachers (Sisters of the Missions) as guests for the day, had an enjoyable outing in the country. Going by the morning train to Sheffield, they walked from there to the Waimakariri Gorge, where a very pleasant day was spent picnicking. A return to the city was made by the evening train, all being well satisfied with their experiences.

The following pupils of the Sisters of the Missions, Lower High street, were successful at the recent competitions:—First prize, children's action song (under 12 years); second prize, children's chorus (under 16 years); first prize, piano solo, reading at sight, K. Murphy; first prize, piano solo (under 13 years), I. Bradford; first prize, piano duet (under 10 years), Jessie Rosewarne and Midge O'Malley; second prize, piano solo (under 10 years), Jessie Rosewarne; second prize, violin solo (under 16 years), Kitty Murphy; third prize, piano duet (under 10 years), Dorothy Walsh and Molly Stewart; third prize, action song (under 12 years), Dorothy Walsh; highly commended, piano solo (under 16 years), Kitty Murphy; highly commended, piano

duet (under 16 years), Kitty Murphy and Rita Green; highly commended, piano solo (under 13 years), Elsie Ives and Florence Gossling; highly commended, action song (under 12 years), Iris Craig.

On Easter Sunday the Invercargill Hibernian Band headed a church parade of the H.A.C.B. Society and Marist Brothers' School Cadets to the Cathedral for the half-past nine o'clock Mass, celebrated by the chaplain (Rev. Father Long). After Mass the procession reformed and marched to the Convent of the Sacred Heart, where the band gave a very enjoyable programme of music, which was much appreciated by the community of the Sisters of the Missions. During the afternoon the band were the guests of the Hibernian Society, and, together with their lady friends, were taken in four-in-hand drags to several institutions in and around Christchurch. The first place visited was Nazareth House. The visitors were warmly received, and a short programme of music was played, which was much enjoyed by the inmates. The party then proceeded by way of Colombo street to the Consumption Sanatorium, Cashmere Hills, where the band again played several selections, which were much appreciated by all present. The party was then driven through Cashmere by Hoon Hay road to Mount Magdala, where they were warmly welcomed by the Rev. Mother and the Sisters of the Good Shepherd, who conducted them through the institution, and afterwards entertained them at afternoon tea. The band again gave another enjoyable musical programme. On behalf of the band, Conductor Wills took the opportunity of thanking all for the very enjoyable afternoon's outing, and as a mark of their appreciation, he asked the president, Bro. J. Griffin, to accept on behalf of the Hibernian Society, an enlarged photograph of the band. The president briefly returned thanks, and expressed the pleasure it gave the society to have the band amongst them as their guests, and also thanked the Rev. Mother for the generous hospitality and warm welcome which they had received. The Rev. Father Long, who was accompanied by the Rev. Father Murphy, joined the party at Mount Magdala, and returned thanks on behalf of the Rev. Mother and Sisters.

At the last quarterly meeting of St. Patrick's branch of the H.A.C.B. Society, held on March 29, Bro. W. P. Daly was elected treasurer in place of Bro. M. Mannix, who had resigned. The Hibernian fair, which will be closed on Saturday night next, has been well patronised during the past fortnight, and it is anticipated that the efforts of the promoters will result in considerably reducing, if not entirely clearing off, the debt on the hall.

Timaru

(From our own correspondent.)

April 12.

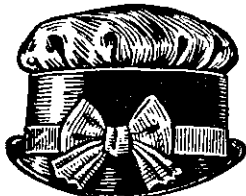
The annual meeting of the Celtic Football Club was held on March 31. The president occupied the chair, and thirty-three members attended. In moving the adoption of the annual report, the president congratulated the members on their exemplary behaviour both on and off the playing field. The teams were not quite so successful as in former years, one of the chief reasons being the withdrawal of T. W. Lynch to represent New Zealand on the Australian tour. Several members also met with injuries of a purely accidental nature, which, of course, disorganised the team. Special mention was made in the report of the conspicuous brilliancy displayed by T. Lynch in Australia, and also on his return home, and allusion was made to the fact that thirty-two present and past members had joined the Expeditionary Forces, including ten of last year's players. They, with their comrades of other Timaru clubs, were wished a safe return. The balance sheet showed the club to be in a satisfactory position financially. A punch-ball, boxing gloves, and other requisites had been purchased to assist members in training. Several new members were admitted to the club, and the following office-bearers were elected for the ensuing year:—Patron, Very Rev. Dean Tubman; president, Rev. Father Murphy; vice-presidents—Messrs. T. W. Lynch, sen., J. Aitken, F. Taylor, J. Collins, J. Reilly, J. P. Murphy, and J. B. Crowley; captain, Mr. T. W. Lynch; vice-captain, Mr. M. Darcy; coach, Mr. J. Murphy; secretary, Mr. M. Hyland; delegates to the South Canterbury Rugby Union, Messrs. J. Collins and A. Wilson; treasurer, Mr. W. Gillespie; auditor, Brother Egbert; management committee: officers (ex officio), Messrs. P. Stapleton, J. P. Leigh, T. Sullivan, D. Mangos, and J. Fitzgerald. A hearty vote of thanks to the chairman, and the singing of the National Anthem brought an enthusiastic meeting to a close. It was decided to open the season with a practice match on the club's training ground.

On Tuesday evening in the girls' school hall a social will be held at which a presentation is to be made to the Very Rev. Dean Tubman, S.M., who leaves Timaru during the week on a holiday visit to America. During the Dean's absence the Rev. Father Goggan, S.M., will be in charge of the parish.

Hay Rakes and Pitch Forks should be light but strong, then good work can be done with much less labor. Smith and Laing's, Invercargill, is the place to get these things....



The "TIPPERARY" Hat. Made of Black Velvet, trimmed with black corded silk band, 13/11 each.



Smart Soft Black Velvet Shape, white or black velvet crown, trimmed ribbon bow, 6/11 each.

FOUR USEFUL HATS

POST FREE

For present wear the four smart Hats we have reproduced here are amongst the most popular. In them is to be seen the strongly-marked tendency of this season's Millinery towards small Military Shapes, and for stylish, serviceable wear these Hats are unequalled. Orders by post will, as is usual at Beath's, receive the best attention.

BEATH & CO. LTD. CHRISTCHURCH



Small Sailor Shape, in black velvet, trimmed with white, 9/6 each.



Fashionable Soft Shape, in black velvet, with white and coloured crown and lining, 6/11 each.

POST FREE

DIocese OF AUCKLAND

(By telegraph, from our own correspondent.)

April 12.

The winter socials, which were eminently successful last year in St. Benedict's, are to be again inaugurated this season. Rev. Father Forde has called a meeting this week with that object.

News by mail brought the sad news of the death of Mrs. Noyle, sister of the Very Rev. Chancellor Holbrook. The deceased lady, her husband, and family, came out to Auckland some time ago, but later on returned to Ireland. The deceased leaves five young children. Much sympathy is felt for Father Holbrook.—R.I.P.

The news of the elevation to the rank of Monsignor of the Ven. Archpriest Walshe, Westport, gave genuine pleasure to many old residents here, because it was to Auckland diocese Monsignor Walshe first came, and here he was ordained priest by Auckland's first Bishop (Right Rev. Dr. Pompallier), the late Monsignor O'Reilly being ordained at the same time. Monsignor Walshe may rest assured his old Auckland friends join with his own faithful parishioners in heartily congratulating him on his deserved distinction.

Three Redemptorist Missioners (Very Rev. Father Roche, Rev. Father O'Sullivan, and Rev. Father Kelly) arrived from Wellington on Saturday morning, and commenced a three weeks' mission at the Cathedral on Sunday after the eleven o'clock Mass. The opening sermon was preached by Father Roche, who dealt with the great spiritual benefits and lasting good which would result from the mission. In the evening the Cathedral was crowded, when Father O'Sullivan preached, and in the course of his discourse impressed on his hearers the importance of saving their souls. There will be Masses every morning and short instructions at six and nine o'clock, and devotions and sermon each week night at half-past seven o'clock. The members of the Confraternity of the Holy Family received Holy Communion on Sunday at the Cathedral at the early Mass, celebrated by Very Rev. Father Roche.

CATHOLICS IN THE UNITED STATES

There are 16,309,310 Catholics in the United States, according to the *Catholic Directory*. The increase in the number of Catholics during the year 1914 amounts to 241,325. Forty-four dioceses report increases in the Catholic population, forty archdioceses and dioceses made no change in the population figure, and fifteen dioceses show decreases, although three of the fifteen showing decreases have given up territory for the establishment of the two new dioceses of El Paso and Spokane.

Some authorities quoting Catholic statistics usually deduct 15 per cent. for children and infants, claiming that only communicants should be counted. The impression is created, therefore, that Catholic statistics are exaggerated. The editor of the *Directory* claims that instead of being over-estimated, the Catholic statistics are under-estimated, and that the figures 16,309,310 are very conservative. According to the editor, at least 10 per cent. ought to be added for 'floating' Catholic population of which no record can be kept.

The population statistics are always the most important feature, showing as they do the strides made by the Catholic Church in the United States. Looking back ten years, it is found by comparing the *Directory* of 1905 with the issue for 1915 that there has been an increase of 3,846,517 in the number of Catholics. Going back twenty years, it is seen that there has been an increase of 7,231,445 during the past two decades. There are 18,994 Catholic clergy in the United States. Of these 14,008 are secular and 4986 are priests of religious Orders. The increase in the number of priests during the past year is shown to be 426.

Looking over the list of churches, one finds that there have been 310 Catholic churches established dur-

ing the past year. There are 9883 churches with resident priests and 5078 churches without resident priests, or, in other words, mission churches attended by a neighboring pastor. The *Directory* further shows that there are 85 ecclesiastical seminaries, with 6770 young men studying for the priesthood. There are 229 colleges for boys and 680 academies for girls. Furthermore, there are 284 Catholic orphan asylums, with 45,742 orphans therein.

RECOLLECTIONS OF MONSIGNOR BENSON

The *Cornhill* for February has an interesting article on some early memories of the late Monsignor Robert Hugh Benson by Mr. Archibald Marshall, an intimate friend and fellow-student at Trinity College, Cambridge (writes the London correspondent of the *Melbourne Advocate*). On his first appearance at Cambridge, Monsignor Benson looked like a schoolboy, with a tangled mop of fair hair, quick, stammering speech, and a shy but attractive manner. But even at this very early period his thoughts were turned towards Rome, for Mr. Marshall remembers hearing him say one day, when they were discussing their future:—'I would like to be a Cardinal.' It was a very ambitious aspiration, but had he been spared, he might have realised it. When he was so sadly and prematurely cut off in the prime of his powers a few weeks ago, Monsignor Benson was certainly one of the most prominent and picturesque figures in English Catholicism, and his boyish dream of a red hat really looked like an intelligent anticipation, and approaching actuality on the ecclesiastical horizon. While still an undergraduate at Cambridge, Monsignor Benson wrote a couple of novels, one in collaboration with Mr. Marshall and the other entirely by himself. Neither of them has so far appeared in print, but Mr. Marshall still possesses the manuscript of the first. He does not think much of this early juvenile experiment in fiction, although he allows that it

'Contains a Few Gleams of Observation.'

Mr. Marshall says young Benson always felt under a sort of imperious necessity 'to be doing something with a pen.' Later on he plunged deeply into life, and his craftsmanship fitted itself to his knowledge. One very clever thing young Benson wrote at Cambridge was a poem in the style of Pope entitled 'A Scandal in High Life,' and published in one of the University comic papers. It satirised a prank played by a group of noble and aristocratic undergraduates, which got them into trouble with both the academic and civic authorities. Young Benson's poem aroused considerable interest and amusement. 'It was,' says Mr. Marshall, 'remarkably well written, and its thinly-veiled points were so sharp that they aroused the ire of one of the gentlemen concerned, who made determined efforts to discover the author, but without success.' In due course young Benson received ordination as an Anglican minister at the hands of his father, the Archbishop of Canterbury, and proceeded to work as a missionary in the densely-populated East End of London. Afterwards he became a curate at Kensing, a picturesque Kentish village, where Mr. Marshall was also living, and so they renewed their old University acquaintanceship. It was at Kensing that Father Maturin, then a famous High Church preacher, now a well-known London Catholic priest, conducted a retreat that proved

A Turning-point in the Spiritual Life of Benson.

'Of all the preachers I have ever heard,' says Mr. Marshall, 'Father Maturin was at his best the most capable of holding his hearers' attention, and he was at his very best then. He sat in a chair on the chancel steps and talked, and I for one hardly took my eyes off him. Hugh Benson was just as deeply impressed. But he was not at all prepared to accept the advanced doctrine that was uncompromisingly put before us.' Of course, he did eventually, but at this time he had not lost faith in the Church of England as 'keeping her authoritative course, as far removed from Romanism on the

one side as from anti-Catholic Protestantism on the other.' As Cardinal Newman did before him, Monsignor Benson soon found that this half-and-half arrangement would not work. 'It was necessary,' Mr. Marshall observes, 'that Hugh Benson should feel that he had widely-admitted authority behind him. That has been impossible in the Church of England since the Oxford Movement turned its level plain into a mountain, upon one slope or other of which its clergy must find a foothold, each for himself. There is no authority that is universally accepted in the Church of England, and with Hugh Benson's temperament, when he had once set foot upon the slope that is on the Romeward side, he was bound to end where he did, little as he or his friends thought it.' While still an Anglican minister, Monsignor Benson developed considerable power as a preacher, but it was not until he became a Catholic priest that he reached the zenith of his fame in this respect. Mr. Marshall says he carefully prepared his sermons and addresses. He spent most of his mornings writing them out. He did not commit them to memory, but he read them over several times, and thus got them fixed in his head. The result was that he seemed to be speaking extemporarily and without any perceptible trace of previous study. He did not prepare any oratorical effects at all.

His Eloquence Was Purely Natural, inspired by his interest in the subject and his impetuous habit of mind and speech. As his mind became more stored, his need for self-expression greater, and his powers of speech more flexible, he gave every indication of developing into a great preacher. He was exceedingly fond of children, and they loved him. With the boys of the Westminster Cathedral Choir he was an immense favorite, and he delighted in their performance of the Christmas plays he wrote for them. As an Anglican curate at Kensing he was on the best possible terms with the village children, and for them he wrote three fairy plays, which they performed with conspicuous success. Mr. Marshall concludes with the expression of his conviction that Robert Hugh Benson did the right thing in joining the Catholic Church. 'With the break-up of our circle at Kensing our continuous contact ceased, though I think our friendship deepened in spite of widely-divergent ways of life and thought. I have spent very happy days with him since, and found him an even more delightful companion than he was during the years of which I have written. Our common sympathies, if more sober, were much wider than those of our youth, and a certain friction, that made itself felt before he finally found what I believe to have been his true vocation in life, had completely vanished. He had the most lovable qualities, and they seemed to shine out in him more and more each time we came together.'

OBITUARY

MR. WILLIAM FRANCIS ROCHE,
CHRISTCHURCH.

It was with very genuine sorrow (writes our Christchurch correspondent) that his numerous friends and acquaintances in the community learned of the death of Mr. William Francis Roche, which occurred on last Tuesday in the Christchurch Hospital at the age of sixty-three years. The late Mr. Roche was a native of Cahir, County Tipperary, and as the son of a contractor for supplies to the army (Cahir being a garrison town and his father storekeeper in a large way there), he acquired a good commercial and general education, which was of immense service to him in after life. The late Mr. Roche was for a lengthy period travelling representative for the Kaiapoi Woollen Company, and as such, owing to his genial personality, integrity, and exceptional business abilities, was esteemed and respected alike by clients and fellow-travellers. Some years ago he decided to leave the road and enter business on his own account. Ill-health almost from the start, however, pursued him, and he was obliged recently to

enter the hospital for treatment. His constitution was so broken, that medical skill was unavailing, and he passed away as previously mentioned. The Rev. Father Murphy, B.A. (chaplain), and other priests visiting the hospital afforded all the spiritual consolation possible, and being always a faithful and fervent Catholic, his death was peaceful and happy. The late Mr. Roche leaves a widow and family, his eldest son being Lieutenant Arnold Roche of the Marist Brothers' School Cadets. He also leaves a sister to whom he was greatly devoted—Mother M. Augustine, of the Sisters of Mercy, Auckland, and late of Onehunga, where for many years she did noble and enduring work in connection with the local Catholic schools. To all of these the sincerest sympathy is extended. A Requiem Mass for the repose of his soul was celebrated in St. Mary's Church, Manchester street, by the Rev. Father Hickson, S.M., on last Thursday, the Rev. Father Hoare, S.M., afterwards officiating at the interment in the Linwood Cemetery. Among the oldest and closest friends attending the funeral were Messrs. M. Cleary, T. Gaffney, J. Moiloy, J. S. Barrett, W. Hayward, sen., G. C. Hayward, J. Power, M. O'Donohue, and Bowler, the four last mentioned being pallbearers.—R.L.P.

CATHOLIC FEDERATION

WELLINGTON DIOCESAN COUNCIL.

The monthly meeting of the executive committee was held at the offices of the Federation, Cuba street, Wellington, on April 7. The Rev. Father Daly presided, and the following members were present:—Messrs. Sievers, Corry, Smyth, and the secretary. An apology was received from the Very Rev. Dean McKenna. The Rev. Father Daly reported that the building at Trentham Camp was near completion, and would be ready for use in about a week. The secretary stated that the amount asked for by the Dominion Council £40 had been paid in. It was decided to expend a sum not exceeding £5 on literature, stationery, etc., for use in the Territorial camps. The secretary brought down a statement showing the cost of providing the fare of the delegates to the council meetings, and, after considerable discussion, it was decided to postpone the consideration of the question until a future meeting.

The following remit from the Thorndon committee was considered. 'That it be a recommendation to the Diocesan Executive, that on Federation Sunday all the members of the Catholic Federation in Wellington be invited to attend Holy Communion, and that this be followed by a breakfast to be held in some place to be arranged by the Diocesan Executive.' Considerable discussion ensued, and it was the general opinion that a demonstration of the kind would have good results, but owing to the small attendance it was decided to hold the matter over till next meeting.

A letter was received from the head office suggesting that prizes should be offered to the scholars in the Catholic primary schools for the best essay on the subject of the Federation. After some discussion, it was decided to defer the matter to a future meeting. The secretary reported that very few returns for the quarter ended March 31 had been received so far. It was hoped that by next meeting all returns would be in. This information is required for statistical purposes, and parish secretaries will materially assist in the work by promptly sending in the returns and remittances when due.

CHRISTCHURCH DIOCESAN COUNCIL.

(From our own correspondent.)

The executive committee of the Christchurch Diocesan Council met in the Federation rooms, Wiltshire Buildings, on last Thursday evening. In the unavoidable absence of the president, Mr. J. R. Hayward (vice-president) presided, and those present were

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BRANCHES THROUGHOUT NEW ZEALAND.

the Very Rev. Dean Hills, S.M., Messrs. J. E. Doolan, M. Garty, T. H. C. Williamson, and the secretary. In reporting on the correspondence received and despatched, the secretary stated that circular letters had been sent to all branches, with regard to the special progressive movements sent forward by the Dominion executive. Excellent reports were received from the organiser (Mr. Girling-Butcher) of the successful results of his work in Westland, and arrangements were made for meetings commencing this week in the city and vicinity. Speaking at Mass in St. Ann's Church, Woolston, on last Sunday, the Rev. Father Murphy, B.A., made a particularly fine appeal in the interests of Catholic Federation, and presumably the same was done in the other churches in anticipation of Mr. Girling-Butcher's visit.

THE ALLIES' STRATEGY

Mr. Hilaire Belloc, whose journalistic writings on the war have aroused general interest, gave two lectures dealing with the present conflict at the Philharmonic Hall, Liverpool, on February 18, the event being under the auspices of the Liverpool Geographical Society.

The subject of the afternoon address centred around the strategy of the war. It was upon the decision in the western campaign ultimately that the result of the war would turn, said the lecturer. The first rule underlying all military operations was that in any particular field, other things being equal, numbers were the decisive factor, but only when used in a decisive time and place. Merely to have more men than the enemy did not mean victory. At the beginning of the war in the west the Germans had a numerical superiority in trained and equipped men of sixteen to ten. (Even to the present day the numerical preponderance lay with the enemy of 81 to 72). Of that ten the British force might be reckoned as 5 and the Belgian army as an equally small decimal. The only thing the French could hope to do was to pin the enemy down, destroy his initiative, and contain him. It was the only success the Allies could reasonably expect, and that had not been sufficiently appreciated by public opinion in this country. The French rightly expected growth in both their own and the British forces (the English contingent now was five times the size of the original Expeditionary Force), and if they could pin the enemy, in six or eight months the numbers of the combatants would be more equal. The chance of success rested upon a device not unknown to Napoleon, and a favorite one with the French military school, known as the open strategic square, which Mr. Belloc proceeded to describe by means of diagrams. It was part of the scheme to hold a large force in reserve, and to rely on the capacity of another force to receive the full pressure of the enemy's blow and to carry out a pre-arranged retreat without being annihilated. It was the German opinion that modern conscript short service troops could not stand the strain of such pressure as would fall upon what Mr. Belloc called 'the operating square.' This 'square' at Mons, however, consisted of the British troops and the Fifth French Army, and its superb fighting quality justified the French theory. Had the operative or sacrificial square been pierced, then all was lost. At the best the scheme was a gamble, and it only just succeeded.

The next problem of the Allies' strategy in the west was to wear down the enemy until he could no longer hold with the men available so long a line as that from the Swiss mountains to the North Sea, and on that task they were still engaged. What the issue would be, whether we could get a shorter line or not, nobody could tell.

'It is my conviction,' declared Mr. Belloc, 'that when the enemy finds he has to shorten his line he will appeal for an inconclusive peace. It will be made to look as flattering for the Allies as possible. He will appeal for that peace, relying upon the ignorance of a civilian population which cannot be expected to judge, on the ignorance or partiality of neutrals. A great

deal will be made in the press and in political speeches about the position being a deadlock, that he cannot win and we cannot win, and that it was no use going on merely wasting young lives day after day. He will depend on a radically false conception that our task is to push him back, and he will appeal to that very fallacious method of argument which thinks of the progress made and the distance to the Rhine. He will have behind him powerful financial interests, who will ask that the war be called a draw. It is essential that public opinion in this country shall understand that when the enemy makes that appeal the thing is no longer a deadlock, because he knows, and hopes we shall not know, he is in danger of shortening his line, and that is the moment for public opinion here to answer him "No." When he asks for an inconclusive peace, at that moment we are in sight of a conclusive peace.'

Christchurch North

April 12.

The Rev. Father Moloney, S.M. (Wanganui), after a short visit to St. Mary's, left for Temuka.

At a meeting of the parish committee, held yesterday afternoon, the report disclosed a gratifying result of the penny collections, and it was decided to extend the system to the outlying churches at Hornby, Paparua, and New Brighton.

Mr. John Francis Knott, second son of the late Mr. Wm. Knott, of Mosgiel, passed away at the residence of his brother-in-law (Mr. P. Walls), Fitzgerald street, St. Albans, on Sunday, April 11, fortified by the rites of Holy Church.—R.I.P.

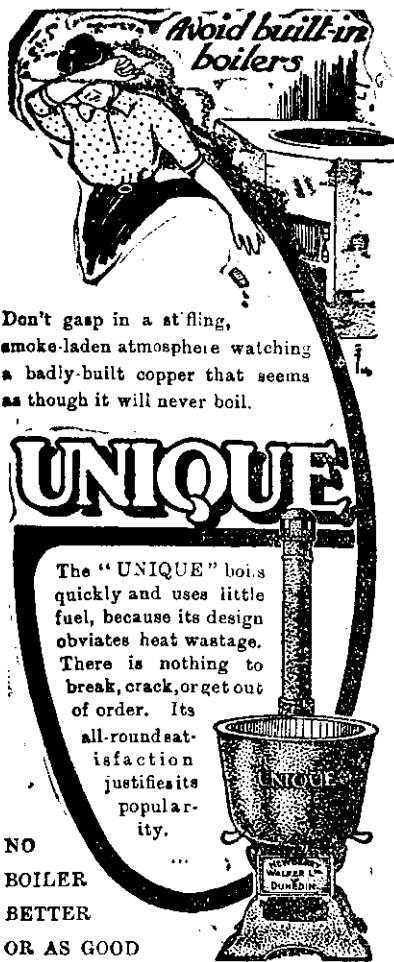
On Tuesday morning, April 6, the death occurred of an old and respected parishioner of St. Mary's, in the person of Mr. W. F. Roche. The deceased, who was in delicate health for some time, was very widely known, and much sympathy is felt for Mrs. Roche and family in their bereavement.—R.I.P.

The euechre party in aid of the funds of St. Mary's Altar Society, held in the Art Gallery on Thursday evening, proved a most enjoyable entertainment. The card playing took place in the exhibition room, which gave those present an opportunity of admiring the beautiful works of art for which the gallery is famed. The prize-winners were Miss Donnelly and Mr. F. Ward. Immediately after the euechre a short programme of music was gone through. A dainty supper was served by the ladies of the Altar Society, after which the Very Rev. Dean Hills, S.M., who was present with the Rev. Father Hoare, S.M., thanked those responsible for the very enjoyable evening's amusement, which they had provided. Miss E. Harrington made a most efficient secretary.

The official opening of the Catholic Girls' Club took place on Saturday afternoon. The event was looked forward to for some time with considerable interest, and the popularity of the movement was evidenced by the large gathering which assembled to celebrate the occasion. Mr. W. Hayward, jun. (president of the Diocesan Council of the Catholic Federation), in extending a hearty welcome to those present, gave an outline of the aims and objects of the club. In thanking the ladies who had worked so hard to make the club an actual fact, he showed the necessity of such an institution in our city, and predicted a great future for it. Mrs. G. Harper (president of the club), in the course of her remarks, spoke of the spontaneous support and encouragement received by her committee in the undertaking. Lady Clifford then declared the club open. Afternoon tea was served in the spacious club room, after which an inspection of the building and furnishings was made. Mr. T. B. Riordan's orchestra was present, and added considerably to the enjoyment of the afternoon by the rendering of popular selections.

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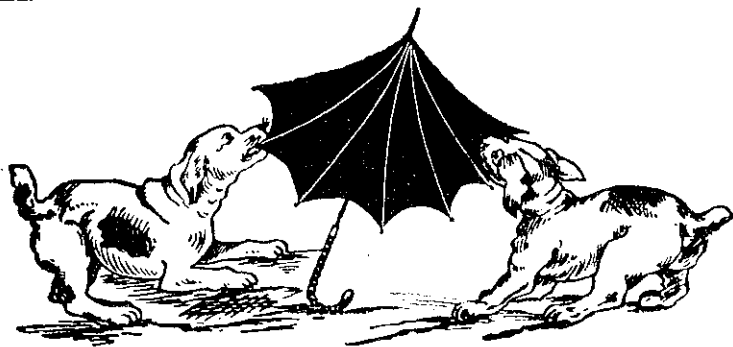
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COMMERCIAL

Wellington, April 12.

The High Commissioner cabled from London on April 10:—

The meat market is not quite so firm, with a downward tendency.

Mutton.—Fair demand continued. North Island, 6d per lb to as high as 6½d for best quality; light-weight, poorer demand for ewes at 5½d.

Lamb.—Market rather duller, and shows signs of weakness. Only a few Canterbury at the market, realising 8½d per lb to 8½d; other than Canterbury, 8d.

Beef.—Less demand as a result of heavy arrivals of chilled. New Zealand hinds, 6½d per lb; fores, 6d; chilled hinds, 6½d per lb; fores, 6d.

Butter.—Market steady. Danish, 138s per cwt to 142s; New Zealand, 134s to 136s; unsalted, 138s to 140s, and up to 142s; Australian, 130s to 132s; unsalted, 132s to 136s; Siberian, 128s to 130s; Argentine, 128s to 132s.

Cheese.—Market steady. Canadian market quiet, but firm. White and colored, per cwt, 94s to 98s. New Zealand not quite so firm: white, 93s to 94s; colored, 92s to 93s; Australian, 88s to 92s; United States, large cheddar shapes, 90s to 94s; English cheddar, firm, 100s to 104s.

Hemp.—Market quiet and prices slightly weaker. New Zealand good fair grade, per ton, £34 10s; fair, £32 10s; fair current Manila, £40. Forward shipment: Good fair, £34; fair, £32; fair current Manila, £39 10s. The output from Manila for the week was 19,000 bales.

Wheat.—Market dull, and prices irregular. Canadian and American, on passage, 62s per quarter; April or May, 61s; Argentine, on passage, 60s.

Oats.—Market inactive. Argentine, on passage, 28s per quarter.

Messrs. Donald Reid and Co. report:—We held our weekly sale of grain and produce on Monday, when values rules as under: Oats. Good shipping qualities have been offering more freely at southern stations, and at prices somewhat below late quotations. The effect of this has been felt on this market, and all classes can only be placed at a reduction on prices lately ruling. Prime milling, 3s 11d to 4s; good to best feed, 3s 10d to 3s 11d; inferior to medium, 3s 6d to 3s 9d per bushel (sacks extra). Wheat.—The market has a somewhat quieter tone. Millers are buyers of velvet red chaff and velvet at a slight reduction on late values, but are not keen to increase their stocks of Tuscan. Fowl wheat meets a good local demand. Prime milling velvet, 7s; other sorts, 6s 11d (ex truck, Dunedin). Best whole fowl wheat realises little short of milling prices. Potatoes. The market is fairly well supplied. Most of the consignments now coming forward are in excellent condition and meet with ready sale. Best freshly-dug table sorts, £5 12s to £5 15s; medium to good, £5 to £5 10s per ton (sacks included). Chaff.—Most of the chaff now coming to hand is in good condition. Prime quality meets good demand, but any unsound lots are difficult to deal with. Best oaten sheaf, £6 to £6 5s; choice black oat, £6 5s to £6 7s 6d; medium to good, £5 10s to £5 15s; light and discolored, £4 10s to £5 5s per ton (bags extra).

Messrs. Stronach, Morris, and Co., Ltd., report for week ended Tuesday, April 13, 1915, as follows:—Rabbitskins.—We held our sale yesterday, and offered a fair catalogue to the usual attendance of buyers. Prices were a shade better than last sale. Quotations: Prime winter does, to 14½d; outgoing does, 11½d to 12½d; best bucks, to 13d; outgoing, 9d to 10½d; prime racks, 6½d to 7½d; light racks, 5½d to 6d; autumns, to 8½d; prime winter blacks, to 28d; horseshair, 19d to 20½d per lb. Sheepskins.—We offered a large catalogue to a full attendance of buyers, and prices were fully maintained. Best halfbred, to 11½d; medium, 9½d to 10½d; best coarse crossbred, to 11½d; medium,

9½d to 10½d; best fine crossbred, to 11½d; medium, to 10½d; best merino, 8d to 9d; medium, 6½d to 7½d; best pelts, to 10d; best lambskins, to 10½d per lb. Hides.—We offered a full catalogue to the usual attendance of buyers, and prices were a shade easier than last week. Quotations: Prime ox to 10½; medium, to 9d; light, to 8d; heavy cow hides, to 9½d; medium, 8d to 8½d; light, to 7½d; inferior, 4½d to 7d; calfskins, to 10½d; medium, 8d to 9½d; inferior, 4d to 7½d per lb. Tallow and Fat.—We held our weekly sale on Saturday, and offered a medium catalogue to the usual attendance of buyers, when competition was keen. Best rendered tallow, 22s to 24s; medium, 18s to 20s 6d; best rough fat, 16s to 18s; medium, 14s to 16s 6d. Oats.—Samples are coming to hand more freely, and prices are easier than last week, as supplies are more plentiful from southern districts. Prime milling, 3s 11d to 4s; good to best feed, 3s 10d to 3s 11d; inferior to medium, 3s 6d to 3s 9d per bushel (sacks extra). Wheat.—Millers are not operating so freely, and prices are easier. Prime milling, 6s 11d to 7s; medium, 6s 10d to 6s 11d per bushel (sacks extra). Chaff.—There is a good demand for prime oaten sheaf, light supplies coming to hand. Choice black oaten, old season's £6 to £6 5s; best white oaten sheaf, old season's £5 17s 6d to £6 2s 6d, new season's, £5 15s to £6; medium, £5 to £5 10s per ton (sacks extra). Potatoes.—Moderate consignments are coming forward. Medium quality meets with a good demand at quotations. Prime freshly-dug samples, £5 12s 6d to £5 15s; medium to good, £5 to £5 10s per ton (sacks in).

'What is the present position in regard to tonnage?' the Prime Minister was asked by a Wellington reporter last week. 'Unfortunately,' he replied, 'last month was bad for shipping. This month will be better. As for May, I am not yet able to speak positively, but I am able to say that there will be an unusually large number of ships here in June. We have 1,750,000 carcasses of mutton in cold storage in New Zealand, so that we want all the ships we can get.'

At a conference held on Friday at Christchurch between those interested in the frozen meat export trade and the Prime Minister it was decided that a committee be appointed to fix the price per pound over all in the works. The committee met on Saturday, and agreed that the over-all price to be paid by export buyers to producers of lamb be continued at 6½d to 6½d per pound until April 30 inclusive, and 6 11-16d and 6 5-16d thereafter until May 31, such prices to apply to all lambs delivered at freezing works on or before such dates, the arrangement to be subject to revision after the end of May.

Money continues to flow into the country from the realisation of our season's produce to a very considerable amount, whilst our imports are on a lighter scale than for some time past (states the *New Zealand Trade Review*), consequently the bank's coffers are well replenished and there is an ample supply of funds available for all ordinary trading purposes. Many farmers and others have big credits now, for which they seek investment: as a liquid form of security is desired in many cases, good sound shares are in demand and values of all good investment stocks are firming. With the end of February we completed five months of the current export season, and the value of our exports for this period reached £12,750,154, as compared with £9,458,158 for the corresponding period of last season, which is an increase of £3,291,996. It must be remembered that we are enjoying a very early season, and the returns from now on may not maintain last year's level; still, a record total for the season is confidently anticipated. The outlook, therefore, is decidedly satisfactory, and the supply of funds for all general purposes should be ample for some time.

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J. M. J.

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- ¶ The aim of the College is to give Catholic boys of the Dominion a sound Catholic training, together with all the advantages of higher secular education.
- ¶ Students are prepared for N.Z. University Junior Scholarship, Matriculation, Medical and Engineering Preliminary, Solicitors' General Knowledge, Senior and Junior Civil Service Examinations.
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IN conformity with arrangements made at the First Provincial Synod, held in Wellington in 1899, this Seminary has been established for the Education of Students from all parts of New Zealand who aspire to the Ecclesiastical State.

¶ Students twelve years of age and upwards will be admitted.

¶ Candidates for admission are required to present satisfactory testimonials from the parochial clergy, and from the superiors of schools or colleges where they may have studied.

¶ The Pension is £35 a year, payable half-yearly in advance. It provides for Board and Lodging, Tuition, School Books, Furniture, Bedding, and House Linen.

¶ The Extra Charges are: Washing, £1 10/- a year, and Medicine and Medical Attendance if required.

¶ Students will provide their own wearing apparel, including the Soutane, as well as Surplice for assistance in Choir.

¶ The Seminary is under the patronage and direction of the Archbishops and Bishops of New Zealand, and under the immediate personal supervision of the Right Rev. Bishop of Dunedin.

¶ Donations towards the establishment of Bursaries for the Free Education of Ecclesiastical Students will be thankfully received.

¶ The course of studies is arranged to enable students who enter the College to prepare for Matriculation and the various Examinations for Degrees at the University.

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MARRIAGE

FACER—STANTON.—At St. Mary's Basilica, Invercargill, on February 2, 1915, by Very Rev. Dean Burke, assisted by Rev. Father Tobin, Norman D., only son of the late John Facer, Nottingham, England, to Mary, youngest daughter of Mr. T. Stanton, Richmond grove, Invercargill.

DEATHS

FINNERTY.—On April 11, 1915, at 376 Cashel street, Linwood, Christchurch, Amy, dearly beloved wife of John Finnerty; aged 55 years.—R.I.P.

RYAN.—Of your charity pray for the repose of the soul of Mary, relict of John Ryan, who died on March 29, 1915, at her residence, 37 Bay View road, St. Kilda; aged 66 years; native of Dromkeen, Co. Limerick, Ireland.—R.I.P.

IN MEMORIAM

BRADLEY.—In loving memory of Jeremiah (Jerry), dearly beloved son of John and Kate Bradley, Otaki, who died on Good Friday, April 14, 1911, at Clyde, Central Otago.—R.I.P.

Oh, Immaculate Heart of Mary,
Your prayers on him extol;
Oh, Sacred Heart of Jesus,
Have mercy on his soul

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MRS. T. J. BOURKE,

Hon. Secretary,

115 Hamilton Road, Wellington.

Raffle will take place on May 1, and Winning Number will be published in *N.Z. Tablet*, May 6.

WANTED—By Thoroughly Competent Person—**POSITION AS HOUSEKEEPER** in Auckland or Suburbs; elderly couple or bachelor preferred. Write 'K. B.', 11 Liverpool street Auckland, or ring up 829.

CRUSADE OF RESCUE

We have received a donation of 5s from Mr. James Garr, Pukehiki, for Father Bann's Crusade of Rescue, London.

MESSAGE OF POPE LEO XIII. TO THE N.Z. TABLET.

Pergant Directores et Scriptores New Zealand Tablet Apostolica Benedictione confortati, Religionis et Justitiae causam promovere per vias Veritatis et Pacis.

Die 4 Aprilis, 1900.

LEO XIII., P.M.

TRANSLATION.—Fortified by the Apostolic Blessing let the Directors and Writers of the New Zealand Tablet continue to promote the cause of Religion and Justice by the ways of Truth and Peace.

April 4, 1900.

LEO XIII., Pope.



THURSDAY, APRIL 15, 1915.

OUR IRISH HEROES

WE have done full justice elsewhere to the splendid valor of the three Irish soldiers who have recently been awarded a particularly well-merited V.C. The magnificent achievement of Michael O'Leary stands out as especially memorable, and the story of how he captured the enemy's position single-handed, and himself accounted for eight killed and two prisoners, will be read with a thrill of pride by every member of 'the fighting race' throughout the Empire. Here is the narrative as it was given, simply and vividly, in the cables of the time: 'O'Leary, a crack shot, and formerly of the Mounted Police of Canada, led the assault of the Irish Guards in the brickfield engagement at La Bassee, 150 yards away. He easily outstripped his companions, and, when nearing the German trench, he dropped to the ground and picked off the whole five of the crew of a machine gun before they could slew the gun. Then he reached the second barricade and shot three more. His comrades completed the rout, and the brickfield was captured in half an hour. Had the Germans been able to use the machine gun the whole company might have been wiped out. O'Leary brought in three prisoners.' It was without doubt one of the finest things of the whole war, and fully merited the chorus of encomiums which the English papers have so liberally and justly lavished upon it. It is worthy of note that the three new V.C.'s are all typical Irishmen, and bear good, honest Irish names, albeit one of them figures as a member of the Gordon Highlanders. Their heroic deeds form only a part of a sustained and splendid record of endurance and gallantry established by the Irish regiments throughout the war, in the light of which any attempt to side-track or withhold Home Rule when hostilities are over becomes impossible and unthinkable.

THE WAR AGAINST BRITISH COMMERCE

The submarine attacks on British merchantmen continue, with very inadequate results so far as material loss and injury are concerned but with some recent accompaniments of a very painful and deplorable character. According to Admiralty statements, the losses average three or four ships a week out of about 1500 sailings and arrivals. So long as the safety of human life is provided for, Britain can afford to bear such loss with the utmost equanimity. It cannot be denied that according to the laws of war the commander

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of a German submarine is within his rights in holding up, and, under certain circumstances, in sinking British merchantmen. If a captor cannot bring in a merchant vessel which he has seized for adjudication by a Prize Court, he is at liberty to sink her after the removal of the crew, passengers, and papers, this last proviso being in accordance alike with the express requirements of international law and with the most elementary dictates of humanity. It would appear that Germany now holds herself free to disregard this hitherto universally observed condition at her discretion. In the case of the *Falaba*, full particulars of which have appeared in the cables, the captain was given ten minutes to launch the boats and get crew and passengers away—an utterly impossible task in so short a time. While the operation was in progress, with some dozens of passengers still standing on the deck, the submarine, 100 yards away, deliberately torpedoed the vessel, with the result that over 100 passengers were killed or drowned. As the daily papers have amply pointed out, this was not war, nor even piracy—it was simple murder. The worst feature of the business is not the circumstance that German sailors are stated to have laughed and jeered at the struggles of the drowning—horrible and incredible as that is—but the fact that the sinking of the *Falaba*, with its destruction of human lives, is hailed by the German press as ‘a glorious feat,’ and is officially ‘justified’ by the German authorities, apparently showing that the new policy has the endorsement of the German nation generally.

*

The ‘justification’ of this piece of inhumanity which is advanced by the Berlin authorities is that ‘the destruction of human lives is now a painful duty, as submarines are compelled to act quickly.’ This is only another version of the now familiar principle that signed treaties and the laws of humanity are only to be respected when it is strictly convenient to do so. It is the principle which was acted upon in the violation of Belgium, in the shelling of certain unfortified English bathing places, in the bombing of undefended towns without any concomitant military operation, and now acted upon and ‘justified’ as applied to the destruction of the innocent, non-combatant, travelling public, some of the members of which are citizens of neutral nations. As has been said, it is not war, nor fighting of any honorable kind, but merely wanton and useless taking of human life. Such action and policy could be understood—even though it could not be defended—if its successful execution meant the accomplishment of some substantial military advantage to Germany. But the very contrary is the case—so far from involving a military gain, commerce destruction as now practised by Germany is a confession of naval weakness. The German submarines were not built to destroy passenger boats; and the German naval authorities would not be wasting time on small British merchant ships if they could sink British men-of-war. The primary object—for both parties—of the war on the seas is the injury and destruction of the enemy’s war fleet; and the fact that Germany is employing these valuable war-vessels, sea-going submarines, in subsidiary objects, with a view not to reducing the nation attacked to impotence, but to causing irritation and annoyance, is an acknowledgment that the primary purpose of genuine sea warfare is beyond her power to accomplish.

*

Viewed even from the purely commercial point of view, the results of the German submarine policy are quite insignificant. As a matter of fact, the interference with British commerce is for all practical purposes so slight that, were it not for the newspapers, the general public would hardly be conscious of it. It must be remembered that precisely similar attempts to destroy British commerce have been made in previous great wars; and they have not only failed, but have in the end resulted in the increased prosperity and development of British trade. ‘In the old wars which were fought before the introduction of

steam,’ writes L. G. Carr Laughton in *The British Navy in War*, ‘the enemies of Great Britain on more than one occasion attempted systematically to ruin her by destroying her commerce after they had proved unable to defeat her fighting fleets at sea. This they did by ceasing to fit out fleets of men-of-war, and sending to sea instead small squadrons of ships of considerable power, whose first duty was to make prizes of British merchantmen. They also sent great numbers of petty cruisers to sea to pick up what they could. In the old wars these swarms of small cruisers were always employed by both sides. Many were caught, but it was like killing wasps, for others continually appeared. In this way they did at times succeed in doing much harm to our trade, and sometimes captured many more of our merchantmen than we succeeded in taking of theirs. It might be supposed that by doing this damage they would have succeeded in crippling Britain’s resources; but the event proved always to be quite contrary. The result in every war was that the oversea trade of Britain grew, and that of her enemy gradually disappeared. If the enemy succeeded in taking three hundred ships in a year out of ten thousand at sea, the loss looked heavy, but was in fact almost negligible; if in the same time we took from them only two hundred out of, say, a thousand ships, the blow was very serious. And something of this sort happened more than once. At the end of the Napoleonic wars our ships had almost ceased to capture enemy merchant ships, for the simple reason that practically none were left to capture. Such as remained could not go to sea. At the same time the enemy’s cruisers continued to capture many British merchantmen, which we could well afford to lose, seeing that by far the greater part of the sea-borne trade of the world was in our hands. That this was so was simply due to the protecting power of the stronger navy, a statement which sounds contradictory in some respects, but still is true. Exactly the same thing is happening in the present war. The sea-borne trade of our enemies has utterly stopped, so that few captures of their merchant ships have been made at sea since the first few days of the war. On the other hand, British and French commerce has been but little interrupted, and the inconvenience caused by war grows steadily less as men’s minds become acclimatised to the unusual conditions.’ In respect to the insignificance of the injury which is being inflicted on British commerce, and to the immense extension of British trade which will take place on the conclusion of hostilities, the indications are already clear that history will repeat itself.

Notes

Belgium and the Peace Prize

The Nobel Peace Prize is not to be awarded in this year of war, but two French Deputies are inviting their colleagues to sign a petition praying that the prize should be allotted to the Belgian people. They urge that Belgium, in upholding the principle of the inviolability of treaties, has rendered pre-eminent services to the cause of peace and justice—a suggestion and a contention that have very much to commend them.

Where Submarines Fail

The fatal defect and essential weakness of an exclusively submarine warfare against enemy commerce is well illustrated in some facts set forth in a recent issue of the *Pall Mall*. After pointing out that Germany stands in need of certain things—corn, oil, copper, cotton, among others—the London paper continues: ‘Last week he torpedoed a big neutral tanker, carrying oil to Amsterdam. Yesterday he sank a British steamer with 800 tons of copper on board. A few days ago an American ship laden with cotton for Bremen was sunk by a mine off Borkum, and among the latest victims of the Kronprinz Wilhelm was a four-

masted Norwegian ship laden with wheat. Could the Germans have made good prizes of these ships, and brought them into port, they would have done a very real service to the cause of their country. But such a thing is impossible unless their battle-fleet can clear the sea-routes. Their campaign of destruction can at best have only a negative result, which we can afford to regard with a good deal of equanimity.

Professor Kettle's Fore-vision

Professor T. M. Kettle, who is now about to go to the front as a lieutenant, was in Ostend at the time when war broke out and in Brussels for the first five days of the fighting. His forecast—published at the time—of the character and final outcome of the struggle then opening has lost none of its interest, but has rather been confirmed, after eight months' fighting. As for our attitude of mind and temper, we have got to brace ourselves to the prospect of a blind war and a heavy war. The moral strain imposed by the necessary restriction of news will begin to show its severity as soon as we know that Irish, English, and Scottish soldiers are lying dead somewhere. The war itself we are going to win simply because we have no choice between victory and extinction. I see no reason to expect a diplomatic termination of it in its earlier stages. The only hope of that would centre on the detachment of Bavaria, Wurtemberg, and Saxony from Prussia. That, I believe, rather than a revolution, or the disappearance of the Kaiser's dynasty, will be the ultimate issue. Meantime, the awful duty of the sword lies on this country. Nobody who has ever seen, and walked, and talked with the vast German hosts, massed for manoeuvres, can expect any summary triumph. Against Belgium one can well believe that the troops fought without anger, conviction, or *claire*. Against France it will not be so. A long war, a war of Apocalyptic bloodshed and destruction, issuing in the deepest peace that Europe has ever known; the reformation of small nationalities and of the common world; the end of sabre-rattling and armed camps, and peace-diplomacy; the return to earth of reason and all humane aims; that is the fore-vision that possess my mind. It is a price greater than the Iron Gods ever before demanded, but it is the price of their abolition.

DIocese of DUNEDIN

Chief Detective Herbert, who has been stationed in Dunedin for a number of years, has received notice of his transfer to Christchurch.

On Sunday there was Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from the last Mass until Vespers at St. Patrick's Basilica, South Dunedin. In the evening there was the usual procession, followed by Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

Sergeant O'Connell, who has been in charge of the South Dunedin Police Station for the last two years and a-half, left Dunedin on Friday morning to take control of the Gore district. Prior to his departure he was met by the local police staff and also by a gathering of the residents of South Dunedin, and on behalf of the former, Constable McRae presented the popular sergeant with a set of pipes and a tobacco pouch. The citizens presented Mrs. O'Connell with a well-filled purse of sovereigns. Mr. P. McKay, sen., who presided over the gathering, made complimentary reference to the manner in which the sergeant had carried out his duties during his stay in South Dunedin. Sergeant O'Connell replied in suitable terms.

On Wednesday afternoon of last week the members of the A.M.D.G. Guild gave a handkerchief tea at the residence of Mrs. J. B. Callan, jun. (vice-president of the guild) to Miss Mary Callan in connection with her approaching marriage. There was a good attendance, and a very pleasant afternoon was spent. The president, in making the presentation, expressed her pleasure at seeing so many present to do honor to the bride-elect, who had been one of the first members of

the guild, and had always done her best for it. The members wished her a long life and every happiness, and they felt sure she would always remember the guild. As her future home would be not far from the Maori missions, the members would do all they could to assist the poor churches in those districts. They prayed that God would bless her and her mother, who had done so much for the Catholics of Dunedin.

ST. PATRICK'S DOMINICAN COLLEGE, TESCHEMAKERS.

The following are the results of the Oxford Local Examinations held at St. Patrick's Dominican College, Teschemakers, in November, 1914:—

Junior pass certificate—D. Sutton, L. McVeigh, T. Ward.

Preliminary pass certificate—M. Dwyer, S. Neil, B. Waldron, W. Boland, M. J. Collins, T. Hutton, R. Roughan, D. Collett.

Passed in four sections—E. Gallagher, A. McCone, W. O'Connell, M. Collins.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS

RVAL BUSH. Answer next week.

W.L.L. Auckland.—A full and cordial appreciation of the late Mr. Moore appeared in our Auckland correspondent's notes in our issue of March 18.

Waipawa

(From our own correspondent.)

A mission to be preached by Rev. Father Grogan, C.S.S.R., will occur in the various churches of the parish as follows: Waipukurau, Tuesday, April 20; Onga Onga, Sunday, April 25; Takapau, Thursday, April 29; Waipawa, Sunday, May 2.

Gisborne

(From our own correspondent.)

April 8.

The adjourned St. Patrick's Day sports, held on Easter Monday, were a great success. Mr. McGrath and an energetic committee are to be congratulated on the results. The social in the evening was a most successful wind-up to a pleasant day's enjoyment. Mr. Cassin was a most attentive and courteous secretary.

The Holy Week ceremonies were attended by large congregations. The Rev. Father Lane was celebrant at all the Masses. Rev. Father O'Malley, of Ormond, preached a sermon on the 'Passion' at St. Mary's Church on Good Friday night. On Easter Sunday there was a crowded congregation. Father Lane congratulated the parishioners on their desire to fulfil their Easter duties. He thanked the Sisters of St. Joseph and Children of Mary for the excellent decorations of the Altar of Repose on Holy Thursday and the High Altar on Easter Sunday, and the choir for their services during Holy Week.

You never know how one good act of yours may cheer and encourage others, or how terrible an influence one single wrong may have!

The Minister of Finance was asked on Monday whether he had heard any news about what has given rise to the rumor that New Zealand was contemplating the raising of a loan on the London market. Mr. Allen replied that he had not. At present we are not under the necessity of going to London for money,' he said. 'Our finances are easy just now, but I ought to say that we do not know what every succeeding month may bring about. If the deposits in the Post Office Savings Bank keep up to their present monthly rate we shall be under no necessity of raising loans in London.'

Interprovincial

What is probably a record in Oamaru for a plot of potatoes has been achieved (says the *Mail*) by Mr. J. R. Hill, Newborough, who has taken seven and a-half bags from a piece of ground ten yards square. This is in the proportion of 30 tons to the acre.

Mr. W. G. Pearce received the gratifying news by cable (says the *Feilding Star*) that his wool (Romney), 51 bales, realised an average of 1s 6d per lb for the whole clip, unskirted. Mr. Pearce's first clip from Colyton in 1885 realised 6d per lb, and the proceeds had all to be taken out in goods.

Deerstalkers who have returned to Timaru from the deer country at the back of Albury report that deer are very plentiful there, so plentiful indeed, that they are doing a great deal of damage to turnip crops and grass. Mr. T. C. Palliser, one of the stalkers, secured a very fine 18-pouiter.

The weather at Fairlie continues warm and dry, with sharp frosts at night (says the correspondent of the *Timaru Post*). A good soaking rain is now being anxiously looked for, and if it does not come soon the prospects for a good supply of winter feed will not be very bright.

Mr. William Platt, water diviner, has visited the Pongarewa district and located water on a number of properties. A good supply was located on Akaroa Hill, at a height of about 450 feet above the township. A supply suitable for town purposes was also located on another property.

When applying for 30s costs against a 'helpless drunk' who had been in 'his Majesty's boardinghouse' for twelve days at Napier, Sergeant Cumming said: 'The tariff at the gaol has been raised.' In the past prisoners kept at the gaol for medical treatment have been charged 1s 6d a day, but recently the amount was raised to half-a-crown.

The delicate question was raised at the luncheon to the Japanese visitors at Wellington, as to the particular complexion of the Massey Ministry. 'Is it Liberal or Conservative?' inquired Dr. Miura of the president of the Chamber of Commerce (Mr. C. W. Jones). The question was turned on to the Hon. H. D. Bell. His response was: 'Oh, Sir Joseph Ward can tell you.' On the Leader of the Opposition being appealed to, he said: 'If Mr. Bell cannot tell you, I don't know who can.'

Mr. J. C. Thomson, M.P., recently requested the Minister of Mines to have a report made upon the best method of saving platinum in the Orepuki goldfields, and in reply the Minister states (says the *Southland News*) that platinum, being heavier than gold, is very easy to save by any system of concentration, from the primitive cradle to the elaborate Wilfley table. He was advised that the platinum contained in the sand at Orepuki was not sufficiently plentiful to warrant the erection of mechanically-driven concentrators, and the only commercial method was that by which the fine gold was saved—namely, on matting or in cradles.

The Waimangu geyser, which has been quiet since 1904, is again in eruption, mud and stones being thrown to a height of 400 feet. The following is a copy of a telegram received by the Secretary of the General Post Office from the postmaster at Rotorua:—'Guide McCormick reports that the Waimangu geyser, which has been dormant for years, broke out at 2 p.m. and gave a brilliant display lasting over an hour, the highest shoot being about 400ft. A round-trip party had been examining the crater a few minutes previously, and were not very far away when they were startled by a terrific roar. All the debris fell in the opposite direction to the party.'

Up till Saturday morning the amount expended by the Government in the purchase of meat for export was £532,000. Commenting upon this fact the Prime Minister said that exports from New Zealand during the financial year ended March 31 last had been abnorm-

ally large. They had amounted in value to over twenty-seven millions sterling, nearly four millions more than for the preceding year. 'There is no doubt,' he said, 'that this accounts for the prosperity which the country is enjoying, and the fact that money is probably more plentiful in New Zealand just now than in any other of the Dominions of the Empire.'

A shortage of supplies of butter in New South Wales and Victoria, owing to the drought, has created a quick demand for supplies from New Zealand and other outside sources (says a Press Association message from Auckland). As a result the value of butter has been increased, and the Dairy Produce Committee has decided to advance the local wholesale price from 1s to 1s 3½d per lb from to-morrow. During the past few days parcels of first-grade butter have been purchased for shipment to Australia at rates considerably higher than the export value fixed by London rates. A shipment of 1500 boxes was made by the Riverina to-day, its value being estimated at 1s 3d per lb f.o.b. Representatives of the leading dairy companies state that the local price now fixed for standard brands is hardly on a par with the export value, as the cost of moulding into pats and of distribution is considerably more than ¼d per lb.

In a recent issue the *London Grocer* says:—'The shipment of eggs from New Zealand to Great Britain is an enterprise which is likely to be developed as one of the consequences of the shortage of supplies from usual sources on account of the war. One such shipment arrived in London this week, per s.s. *Ionic*. They were collected and forwarded for the use of New Zealand troops who are assisting us in the war, by the women of the Motueka district in New Zealand. They were carried on the boat in chill chambers, in a temperature of about 40 to 42 degrees, and were landed in Tooley street in first-rate condition. The quality was very fine, and could be sold in any retail shop as equal to 'new laids.' The size of the eggs was about 15lb per 100, nearly all white. The eggs were packed in oat husks, and very little breakage occurred. They were offered for sale, and bought in by a city grocer. The proceeds of the sale will be devoted to the necessary comforts for the New Zealand troops now in Egypt. Actually, this is not the first experiment of New Zealand eggs sent to the London market, as the Dominion Government sent a consignment in 1913, and the goods realised a satisfactory price.'

A mild warning to the people of New Zealand that serious calls are not unlikely to be made on their resources in the not very remote future was given by the Prime Minister in conversation with a reporter on Tuesday (says the *Wellington correspondent of the Otago Daily Times*). 'We have had many suggestions regarding a war tax,' he said—'all of them interesting and some of them instructive. I cannot help thinking, however, that there are a good many people asking for a war tax now who will be sorry when it arrives. But come it must when Parliament meets. New Zealanders have been wonderfully generous during the war period. The patriotic fund, the Belgian fund, and all the other funds have quite properly been contributed to very liberally, but I must say that I should like to see more being done to meet the cases of distress that are certain to arise later. The Government will do its duty to the relatives and dependents of soldiers who may be killed or disabled, but in addition to what the Government may be able to do supplementary provision may be welcome, and even necessary, in many cases. I am confident that the probability of such cases occurring has only to be mentioned to remind our patriotic and generously inclined citizens that the time is opportune to do something more in this respect than has been done up to the present.' 'Do you think our present prosperity will continue?' Mr. Massey was asked. 'Principally on account of the war,' he said, 'the prices of our staple products are at present particularly good, and in consequence the country is exceedingly prosperous, but we cannot expect such prices to continue, and now is the time to prepare as far as we possibly can for what is very often referred to as 'a rainy day.'

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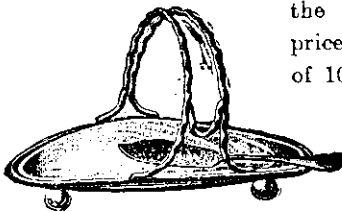
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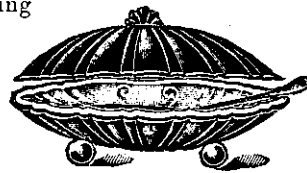
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Irish News

GENERAL.

The Earl of Kenmare was recently thrown from his motor car and broke his arm, but is progressing favorably.

A list has been made up of the past students of Clongowes Wood College in the military and naval services. They number over 250.

Mr. John McGoey, assistant inspector of the Pacific Railway of the Argentine, and his brother, James, of Abbeyshrule, Mullingar, sons of Mr. Chas. McGoey, merchant, Abbeyshrule, have joined the Irish Guards. During January 57 National Volunteers left Abbeyshrule for various regiments.

Mr. H. J. Cullen, junior (son of Mr. H. J. Cullen, J. P., secretary Meath County Council), has just received a commission in the 5th Battalion Leinster Regiment. Mr. H. J. Cullen, J. P., is a nephew of the late Cardinal Cullen, and a brother to Very Rev. P. Cullen, C.M., late President St. Vincent's College, Castleknock.

Recruiting is increasing in Limerick district. A few weeks ago Mr. McGrath, a member of the Limerick Corporation, joined the colors. Mr. Patrick O'Flynn, another Councillor, representing the Dock Ward, and an extremely popular citizen, has since volunteered for service in the Irish Brigade, to which he has been allocated.

On the afternoon of February 13 another party of recruits from Belfast arrived in Dublin en route for Fermoy to join the Irish Brigade. The detachment consisted of 200 men. At Kingsbridge they were presented with mittens, muffins, and cigarettes by Mrs. W. J. Maguire (President of the Ulster Ladies' Association) on behalf of the members.

Captain Butler, Royal Irish Regiment, son of the late General Sir William Butler, Bansha Castle, who was invalided home from the front some months ago—wounded on the head and knee by shell fragments, is now recovered, and will proceed to the front again shortly. In conversation Captain Butler referred in feeling terms to the death at his post of duty of his gallant Colonel orderly, Thomas Condon.

With the passing away of Mother M. Stanislaus MacKeever, at the ripe age of 86, the Presentation Convent, Maynooth, has sustained a severe loss. Born at Mallow, the daughter of a well-known physician in that town, and niece of an eminent physician of the same name who practised in Dublin, Mother MacKeever made her early studies at Cabra, Dalkey, and Stephen's Green. At the early age of fifteen she entered the Presentation Convent, Maynooth, of which her aunt, Mother M. Andrew MacKeever, was foundress, and then Superioress.

On February 14 there passed away at Westport a hero of the Indian Mutiny in the person of Sergeant-Major C. Coughlin, V.C. Deceased, who had reached the age of 90 years, was a native of Galway, and belonged to the old 75th Foot—now the Gordon Highlanders. At the siege of Delhi the Gordons' officer was shot dead, and Coughlin took up command. The Kabul Gate was successfully taken, and the defending cannon captured. There is a memorial tablet and monument erected over the Kabul Gate, with Sergeant-Major Coughlin's name on it. The people of Westport, amongst whom he lived for 48 years, deeply regret his death.

NOT INTERESTED IN THEIR FAULTS.

Rev. Father Bernard Vaughan was the preacher at a special service held in the Brompton Oratory in substitution of the Lourdes pilgrimage which this year has had to be abandoned owing to the war. Cardinal Bourne presided, and the congregation included King Manoel of Portugal and his Queen. In his discourse Father Vaughan spoke very warmly of Irish devotion

to our Lady. He was proud to say the daughters of Erin rally to our Lady always and everywhere. People often asked him why he spoke so much of the Irish. It was because he loved them: he was not interested in their faults but in their virtues, and especially in their devotion to our Lady.

A POOR RESPONSE.

A correspondent has sent the *Glasgow Observer* a copy of a Unionist newspaper published in Monaghan, which printed in its issue of January 30 a very candid complaint regarding the inactivity of the Ulster Volunteer Force in County Monaghan in the matter of joining the colors. Profound regret and disappointment are expressed that the U.V.F. in Monaghan has done so little. No wonder the writer asks: 'Is it a case of pure funk?' The facts must speak for themselves. The *Northern Standard* reports:—'An appeal was made, especially to the local members of the Ulster Volunteer Force, who marched in a body to the hall. . . . Out of this large body, after listening to the speeches made, . . . only four were found possessed of manliness and spirit.' No wonder the *Northern Standard* deploras this result as miserable, and candidly declares that it cannot be explained away or glossed over.

SETTING A GOOD EXAMPLE.

In Longford recently, the Royal Irish regiment, in training there for the front, decided to have a spiritual retreat to put the souls of the men into that state of preparedness desirable in those who go to face death. The retreat was given by the Rev. W. Gleeson, S.J., and for three evenings preceding the retreat, the Catholics of the regiment (and the regiment is overwhelmingly Catholic, as might be expected) marched with their officers through the town to the church to listen to the good priest's manly and practical lectures. On the occasion, headed by their Catholic colonel and the Catholic officers, they marched to nine o'clock Mass, and there, Colonel, officers, and men all received Holy Communion together. The colonel is Lord Granard.

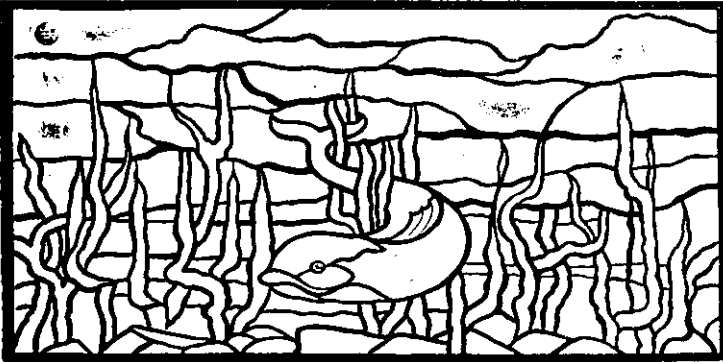
HELP FOR THE BELGIANS.

The Right Rev. Dr. Browne, Bishop of Cloyne, writes as follows to the Irish papers:—'I have been requested to send to you for publication, in grateful acknowledgment of the sympathy and generosity of our Catholic people towards the stricken Belgian nation, a statement of the proceeds of the collection for the relief of Belgian distress made by direction of the Irish Bishops in the Catholic churches of the country. Owing to local circumstances some bishops have had to postpone the collection in very many parishes of their dioceses to a later date in the present year. This will account for comparatively small sums credited to some dioceses. Even with this drawback, the total sum, £28,352 16s 9d is, I believe, highly creditable to the practical sympathy and generosity of our Catholic people.'

LAND PURCHASE.

In replying to a question in the House of Commons Mr. Birrell said:—The total amount advanced under the Irish Land Purchase Acts, 1870 to 1909, up to January 1 last, was £91,768,450, and a sum of £1,584,516 was lodged in cash by the purchasing tenants, making the total purchase money £93,352,966, the sum advanced during the year ended January 1 last being £5,764,412. The estimated purchase money of lands for the sale of which proceedings had been instituted and were pending on that date, including lands for the purchase of which the Congested Districts Board were in negotiation, but had not yet acquired, was £30,137,420. The total amount advanced under the Act of 1909 up to January 1 last was £5,132,033, and the estimated purchase money of lands pending for sale under that act on that date, including pending Congested Districts Board sales, was £8,037,929. The figures as to purchase annuities and interest in lieu of

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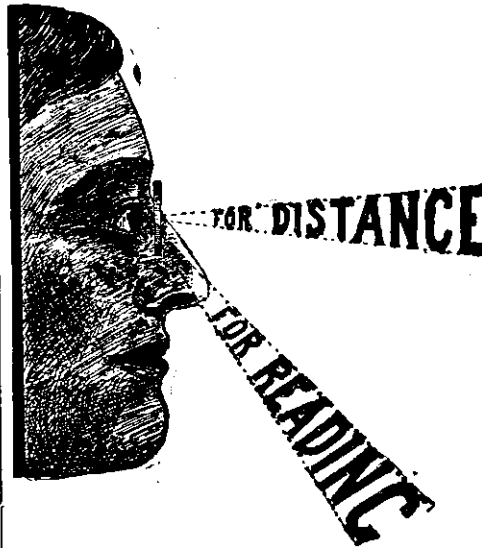
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rent collectible by the Land Commission under these Acts, and the arrears, are not classified and abstracted up to the date mentioned in the Question; but it will be seen from the Annual Report of the Land Commission for the year ended March 31 last that during that year a sum of £2,658,550 was collectible in purchase annuities and £1,212,591 as interest in lieu of rent in pending sales, and that the arrears on July 1 last in respect of these sums were only £12,499 and £11,638 respectively. These arrears have since been considerably reduced.

THE LORD LIEUTENANT'S DEPARTURE.

The demonstration organised by the Dublin Citizens' Committee in honor of the Marquis and Marchioness of Aberdeen and Tenaair on the eve of their official departure was a remarkable expression of the esteem and even affection which their Excellencies' devotion to Ireland has inspired among the people of Ireland. A great public meeting, at which the Lord Mayor presided, was held in the Mansion House. For more than an hour before the opening of the proceedings crowds began to arrive at Dawson street, and those furnished with the requisite tickets of admission proceeded to take their places in the historic meeting room. The gallery, which was unreserved, was soon crowded, and before their Excellencies arrived the body of the Round Room was occupied by a distinguished and enthusiastic assemblage.

The public farewell accorded to their Excellencies on their departure from Dublin Castle on February 15 was a very striking tribute to their popularity. The citizens of Dublin had the opportunity of adding their expression of regret to the widespread feeling of sorrow which the parting with their Excellencies had evoked. It was originally arranged that the official departure should take place on Saturday, but the utterly miserable weather of the whole of that day caused the ceremonial to be adjourned, mainly because their Excellencies didn't wish that the citizens wishing to take part in the farewell demonstration should be exposed to the discomfort of waiting for a considerable time in the incessant downpour. The alteration brought a most pleasing change in the matter of weather. Brilliant spring sunshine prevailed during the day, and under these brighter conditions the adieux extended to their Excellencies found touching and appropriate expression in a demonstration which was very impressive. It typified and evidenced how deep is the admiration which manifold endeavours on behalf of the people's welfare, and more particularly the poor, have begotten in the hearts of those to whom the name of Lord Aberdeen, and greater still, that of Lady Aberdeen, will always remain as a synonym for the highest striving after social and charitable betterment.

Waikanae

April 10.

Mrs. S. Tayler, postmistress at Waikanae, has received from Colonel Charles B. Harton, on behalf of the officers and men of P. and T. Corps, a letter of appreciation, also gifts for the many courtesies and prompt attention rendered by Mrs. Tayler and her assistant, Miss Paddon, during the recent camp held at Waikanae. Such spontaneous recognition is very much appreciated by Mrs. Tayler and her staff.

As late as 1784 Cowper, in describing the change which was then taking place in the manners and customs of all classes, mentions the umbrella in such a way as to show that, although its use was becoming much more general, yet its adoption by the lower classes was still sufficiently novel to call for comment. Though the umbrella was not adopted by gentlemen during daylight until almost the end of the eighteenth century there appears to have been previously a kind of transition period, during which an umbrella was kept at many coffee houses for the use of fashionable or effeminate men when the night was a wet one.

People We Hear About

Among the British officers recommended for distinguished conduct on the field in Sir John French's official list published about the middle of February was the Right Rev. Mgr. Bickerstaffe-Drew, one of the principal Catholic chaplains at the front, who is well known to the reading public by his pen-name, John Ayscough.

Lady Dorothy Feilding, daughter of the Earl of Denbigh, is doing active and useful work at the front with the Munroe Flying Ambulance, and has been honored by King Albert with the Order of Leopold, the highest Belgian decoration. The ambulance moves quickly from point to point as required, and its designation does not indicate that Lady Feilding is an aeronaut.

Captain William D. R. Kenny, Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, attached to the Egyptian Army, has been appointed Aide-de-Camp to the Sultan of Egypt. Born thirty-three years ago, the son of Mr. Justice Kenny, this new A.D.C. to the new Sultan was educated at the Oratory School; and he married, in 1913, Alexandra, daughter of the late Nicholas Mouravieff, Russia's Ambassador at Rome.

Lord and Lady Denbigh, one of whose daughters was married during the second week in February, have a family of ten children, including seven daughters. At an audience with the late Pope, Lady Denbigh produced a photograph of her whole family, grouped according to size, and asked his Holiness's blessing on them. Pope Pius wrote with his own hand a verse from Psalm cxxvii. at the foot of the photograph, and added his autograph, expressing the pleasure it gave him to see the portrait of this fine family of Catholics growing up, as he trusted, to serve God and His Church.

A writer in the *Catholic Universe* of Toledo, Ohio, says:—One of our sweetest, sincerest Catholic singers is Denis A. McCarthy, of Boston. This poet was born in Carrick-on-Suir, County Tipperary, Ireland, and was given his first education at the Christian Brothers' School. At the age of fifteen he landed in Boston, and since has been in or near that hub of American literature and made it his scene of labor. Mr. McCarthy has published two books of poems which have brought great credit to him. They are none of your 'wishy-washy,' sickly, sentimental trash; they are not involved, unconstruable trailings of sweet-sounding words. Mr. McCarthy's verse is essentially meaningful, religious, Catholic, and musical.

The following story of Santley, the famous singer, is worth telling. Mr. Santley, who had not then attained to fame, was travelling through a mountainous district in Mexico, when his party was suddenly attacked by a horde of half-bred bandits, who roughly demanded their valuables, and threatened, as an alternative, to take them up into the hills and torture them until a ransom should be forthcoming. At the first alarm the guards who had accompanied Santley and his friends fled. They were conducted through devious pathways for miles, until they arrived at a rock cave high up among the hills, where they were forcibly robbed of their money and valuables, including the best of their clothing. Over their rude supper that memorable night, Santley sang an aria as he had never sung before. His voice was then much lighter in tone than it is to-day. As the song rippled forth on the clear mountain air, the dusky Mexican faces lighted up with pleasure, and at its close the leader expressed his delight, and asked the senior to sing again. Santley saw his chance, and seized it. He asked, through his servant, if he might sing for his liberty, and a reluctant consent was given. For two hours that night he charmed his captors with a lengthy programme of exquisite melodies. The next day the party were taken down the mountain-side and set at liberty, to their great relief and delight.

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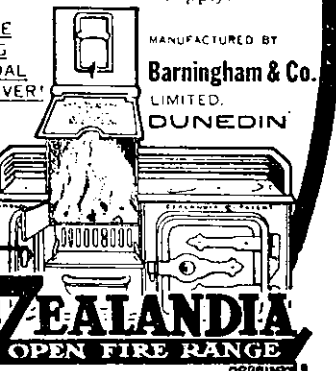


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THE MEXICAN HORRORS

DEPLORABLE STATE OF THE COUNTRY.

Judging from what I have seen in the New Zealand papers since I returned from Europe and America only a few months ago, I feel that the people of New Zealand have not the slightest conception of what is happening in America, or of how, particularly, those happenings are a matter of the greatest concern to the Catholic Church. Apart from the Church, however, those happenings may yet have world-wide significance, and probably, but for the European war, would have attracted world-wide attention. Be that as it may, the information I gained during my final weeks in America at the end of last year (chiefly Salt Lake City, Kansas City, and San Francisco), is to me of such importance and interest that I feel it cannot fail to be of interest to the people of the Dominion, more especially as there is such a dearth of called information on the subject.

That was the manner in which the Very Rev. Dean Regnault, S.M., commenced some interesting remarks to a *Post* reporter on the subject of the Mexican turmoil. For a considerable period before leaving the States he was in direct communication with religious refugees from Mexico, and what he has to say makes interesting, though not always pleasant, reading.

In the first place, those clergy with whom he conversed considered that the initial policy of President Woodrow Wilson of the United States was to drive the Mexican President Huerta and his Government out of power, but that was not such an easy task as he anticipated. As he did not succeed,

He Made an Alliance with Villa,

who through his aid was raised to power, and what Villa has done with his power, what a record of murder and rapine he has put up during the last few months, has not yet been told in this Dominion. What he had to narrate was gathered from priests who had been driven out of Mexico along with many others of the Jesuit and Maria Orders, Nuns of the Sacred Heart Order, and others. Porfirio Diaz was President of Mexico for about thirty years, and in 1910 he presided at the festival in celebration of the Independence of Mexico, which was attended by representatives of the leading nations of the world. Then Francisco Madero, a wealthy landed proprietor in Northern Mexico, raised the blood-red banner of revolution, and after six months scored a decisive victory against Diaz's army, which existed chiefly on paper.

Diaz, though not a Catholic (in fact, he was at one time a persecutor of the Church), was what is known as a Liberal—he had no particular beliefs or prejudices, and after his marriage had gone so far as to allow religious congregations to settle in Mexico. (At that time, it should be noted, the members of religious Orders were not allowed to teach, and when more than two were found living together they were suppressed.)

In 1911 Diaz was forced by public opinion to give in his resignation, but before doing so he appointed as Minister for Foreign Affairs Francis de la Barra, who became the constitutional President for the time being. The 'interim' President fixed the time for the elections, and Madero was elected President, taking office in November, 1911. Of Madero it is said that he is an idealist and an Utopian, and that, though lacking in judgment, his ideas were fairly broad. His election was largely due to the servile Indians and those of low descent, and it was also complained that he surrounded himself with creatures who were not able to inspire

The Majority of the People

with confidence. Then Felix Diaz, a nephew of the original Porfirio Diaz, undertook a counter revolution against Madero, who, being deserted by Huerta, resigned his presidentship in February, 1912. Before leaving office, however, he appointed a Minister for Foreign Affairs, one Pedro Luscain, who became interim President, and after a brief period of office handed over the presidential reins to Huerta. Madero was murdered, and to this day no one knows whether

it was Felix Diaz or Huerta who was responsible. All that can be said from Huerta's point of view is that it cannot be proved that he was directly connected with the affair. However, Huerta was supposed to have caused the death of Madero, and the United States refused to acknowledge his Government.

Then it was that Carranza, the Governor of a province in the north, came to light. He also refused to bow the knee to Huerta, and engineered a revolution against him. With the help of the United States (it is alleged), which supplied him with arms and money, he succeeded, after two years' warfare, in having himself proclaimed President of the Mexican Republic—and at once he commenced the most terrible persecution of the Church and its clergy—chiefly on the ground that the clergy were the followers of Huerta. Death, imprisonment, and expulsion of the religious were his chief methods, but there were other and more disgraceful and more horrible methods by which he proclaimed his warfare against the Church. They are frankly set out in literature which Dean Regnault has in his possession:

They Are Too Vile For Repetition.

On July 21, 1914, the Governor of the State of Guadalajara ordered that all priests be sent to prison, under the pretext that they had been plotting against the State. This was done, and for days in gaol they were treated like the worst of criminals. Altogether they numbered 180. After days of shameful treatment they were expelled from the State at very short notice, eventually reaching San Francisco, after undergoing very great hardships. A strange feature of the position that had arisen was, Dean Regnault was informed, that the truth about the state of affairs in Mexico was not known in America for quite a long time. It was left to ex-President Roosevelt to make the discovery. He sent two emissaries, both men of high standing in the Church, to Cuba, whither most of the Mexican refugees had gone. Information was given under oath, and on the strength of that evidence Mr. Roosevelt wrote a letter to the press of America, which was published broadcast under his signature on December 6, 1914. A copy of it is in Dean Regnault's possession. It fills an entire page of a newspaper, and is best illustrated by a few of the headings, which are boldly displayed. Here are some of them:

'Mr. Roosevelt on "Our Responsibility in Mexico."'

'Ex-President Recites List of Almost Unbelievable Charges Against Soldiers of Carranza and Villa.'

'What the Prioress of the Barefooted Carmelite Nuns of the Convent of Queretaro has Made Affidavit To.'

'Acts of Carranza's and Villa's Soldiers that Mr. Roosevelt Declares the United States is Partially (and Guiltily) Responsible For.'

'These include: The violating of scores of nuns. The murder of priests and others in cold blood. Wholesale robbing and expelling of priests and nuns. The sacking of schools, institutions of learning, and libraries, and the destruction of astronomical and other valuable machinery. The profanation of churches and sacred vessels in a thousand ways, including orgies of the soldiers and their women before and around the altars, and throwing the sacred Hosts into the feed of the soldiers' horses.'

It is dreadful reading, and is borne out by pamphlets and other matter in the Dean's possession. They have been circulated broadcast through the States, but so far they have not reached New Zealand. 'I consider it my duty to the Catholic community of the Dominion,' said Dean Regnault, 'to let our people know that, underneath the silence of the cablegrams, there are evil happenings in Mexico; some of them I heard from an old pupil of mine in France (he is now Father Olier, whom I met in San Francisco). I have given you only a faint idea of the horrors that reign in that distracted country. No more can be said—in print.'

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WONDERS OF THE MICROSCOPE

A letter of Galileo to Federico Cesi, written from Florence, and dated September 23, 1624, runs as follows:—"I send your Excellency an "occhialino" by which to see close smallest things, which I hope will give you no small pleasure and entertainment, as it does me. I have been long in sending it, because I could not perfect it before, having experienced some difficulty in finding the way of cutting the glasses perfectly. The object must be placed on a movable circle which is at the base, and moved to see it all, for that which one sees at one look is but a small part. And because the distance between the lens and the object must be most exact in looking at objects which have relief one must be able to move the glass nearer or further, according as one is looking at this or that part; therefore, the little tube is made movable on its stand or guide, as we may wish to call it. It must also be used in very bright, clear weather, or even in the sun itself, remembering that the object must be well illuminated. I have contemplated very many animals with infinite admiration, amongst which the flea is the most horrible, the gnat and the moth the most beautiful, and it was with great satisfaction I have seen flies and other little animals manage to walk sticking to the glass, and even feet upwards. But your Excellency will have the opportunity of observing thousands and thousands of other details of the most curious kind, of which I beg you to give me account. In fact, one may contemplate endlessly the greatness of Nature, and how subtly she works, and with what unspeakable diligence."

This occhialino of its inventor, or the microscope as we nowadays call it, is an instrument that has contributed a great deal to the pleasure as well as to the profit of mankind (says *St. Xavier's Magazine*). We can well imagine the Tuscan philosopher glowing with delight as, bending over his tube, he sees a fly as big as a hen, nor shall we blame him if he proudly reports the same to all his friends and patrons. Let those who wish scan the heavens and mark the craters in the moon and the dark and bright spots in the sun. The revelations of the microscope are as interesting and more useful, as they relate to objects not millions of miles away, but directly under our feet, objects that are constantly benefiting or harming us. Yet, so very obscure are they, that but for the microscope we should be

Totally Ignorant of Their Very Existence.

We may well call the microscope an alchemy that turns dust into gold. What could be more nauseating than a pool of stagnant water! To the microscopist, however, it is more valuable than the richest mine of Kimberley. He takes a drop from it, mounts it on his slide, and lo! that simple drop of stagnant water is immediately converted into a little ocean teeming with plant and animal life. There may be seen the Proteus amoeba, the simplest of animals, now looking like a drop of jelly, now throwing out arm-like projections which flow round some minute organism that the animal has destined for its prey. The sea does not engulf a rock more surely, though slowly, than this animal does its prey.

While the movement of the sluggish amoeba is hardly perceptible, active little slipper-animacules, rotifers, and crustaceans of various forms are darting about with great rapidity, now coming within the field of vision, now disappearing beyond it just as we are trying to have a good look at them. If we have been fortunate enough to get on our slide a rootlet of duck-weeds, we may have the pleasure of seeing attached to it a whole colony of bell-animacules, looking not unlike a cluster of fox-gloves, and exciting great interest by their contractions and expansions and other exhibitions of life and activity.

Larger animals need no microscope to proclaim their existence. But still a microscope is required for the study of the structure of their different organs, and a most interesting and useful study it is. For instance,

to know that the blood of an earthworm or some such invertebrate, though to all appearances quite like human blood, differs from it in structure, its plasma being red and corpuscles white, while the contrary is the case with the blood of vertebrates. If, further, we separate the coloring matter from the red corpuscles and then cause it to be crystallised, we shall see that the blood-crystals of man and most animals are rhombic prisms, but those of the guinea-pig tetrahedra, and those of the squirrel hexagonal plates. Structures of nerve and muscle fibre, bone and cartilage, and other tissues that go to form the complex animal body as depicted by the microscope give us a better idea of the infinite skill of the Creator than we can possibly have from contemplating the enormous orbs that nightly roll across the sky. No class in

The Whole Animal Kingdom

affords to the microscopist such a wonderful variety of interesting objects, and such facilities for obtaining an almost endless succession of novelties as that of insects. The vast number of species included in this class enables us to have a large collection with little trouble, and their preparation for the microscope, too, generally entails little labor. The common house-fly, perhaps a little too common for our comfort, will serve as an example. Its eye may be easily mounted as a sample of a compound eye. The microscope reveals to us the astonishing fact, entirely beyond the reach of direct observation, that the organ of vision of a fly is not simple like ours, but consists of something like 4000 tiny eyes closely packed side by side, each perfect in itself. The wings, with their canals or nervures, and the proboscis are also worth while peeping at. The "tracheae," or canals through which the insect breathes, show under the microscope as thin-walled tubes, stiffened and kept open by an inner lining of a very fine spiral and elastic thread, so as to ensure the free passage of air from one end of the tube to the other. But what excites our greatest admiration is the peculiar formation of the foot, which enables the fly to walk over smooth surfaces directly in opposition to the laws of gravity. The limb is provided with two flat paddle-like appendages called "pulvilli," which are covered all over with fine hair, each hair having a disc at its extremity. These discs enable the insect to walk over smooth surfaces, either by secreting some adhesive liquid or by using them as suckers so that the insect is held fast to the substance merely by the external pressure of the air.

Butterflies, too, are easily obtained. The shiny powder that comes off on our fingers when we touch the wings is nothing but scales covering the organs of flight. Our interest is also excited by the peculiar build of the long snout by means of which these fair creatures extract nectar from flowers. The microscope shows that it is not a simple tube, as it appears to the naked eye, but is made up of two half-tubes, placed side by side and firmly interlocking with each other by means of hair-like bristles, and thus forming one tubular sucker.

Few only have such universal sympathy as to be interested in the question whether the planet Mars is inhabited or not. But the bite of the mosquito disturbs every man's business and bosom; and it is good to know what sort of weapons our enemy is provided with. If we examine the mouth parts of a mosquito we shall find that Nature has supplied it with a hard stilet having saw-like tips and a hollow tubuliform proboscis within which the stilet rests. When the insect has chosen a good prey, the stilet darts out and inflicts a wound, while the proboscis sucks up the blood that issues forth.

Plants and Minerals

afford no less interesting matter of study for the microscopist. What with leaves, tender shoots, roots, flowers, and fruit, a single plant will supply us with ample material for our observation. We can have cross sections and longitudinal sections, and the task of

Dr. J. J. GRESHAM

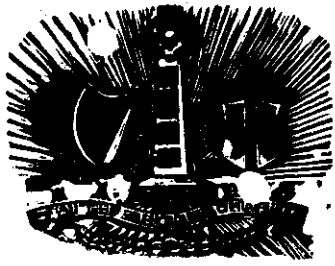
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Timaru and Temuka

dehydrating, staining, and preserving will fully occupy all the time we can possibly spare. Add to these the beautiful forms seen when solutions of salts are caused to crystallise under the microscope, and we shall find that no kaleidoscope can present a greater variety of colors and forms than are exhibited by well-prepared microscopic slides of these objects.

But the greatest benefit that the microscope has conferred on the human race is the invaluable aid it has given to the study of bacteriology. It is now acknowledged by all scientists that most of the diseases of mankind are caused by pathogenic bacteria or protozoa, as the case may be, which pass with great facility from one person to another especially by means of insects. Thus the microbes of typhoid fever, typhus, and especially of infantile diarrhoea are carried by flies. The prevalence of malaria and yellow fever is due to mosquitoes, while the rat flea is responsible for the spread of bubonic plague. Nor need we be surprised at the immense number of microbes transported by a single insect, if we consider that in comparison with the size of a bacillus, the sole of the foot of a fly or the proboscis of a mosquito is thousands of times larger. But without a microscope we could never have discovered that malaria is caused by the infinitely small 'laverania' entering our blood together with the saliva of the mosquito, and devouring the red blood corpuscles therein.

So great is the danger we live in from these death-dealing germs that a scientific institute is needed for making researches in bacteriology. By a skilful combination of chemical and microscopical researches we have succeeded in discovering the slightest quantity of poisoning matter. We can now by micro-chemical analysis, combined with the microscope and the spectroscope, recognise with unerring certainty the presence of such inconceivably small quantities as the 100,000th part of a grain of hydrocyanic acid, mercury, arsenic, and other substances, poisonous or otherwise—a feat which formerly would have been absolutely beyond the reach of human skill and ingenuity.

OBITUARY

MR. JAMES McGRATH, GORE.

(From a correspondent.)

On Monday, March 29, Mr. James McGrath, of Main street, Gore, passed away after a long illness, during the last four weeks of which he had been confined to his bed. The late Mr. McGrath was a native of Tipperary, and arrived in the Dominion, landing at Port Chalmers, in 1879. After spending a few years there he joined the Civil Service as linesman in the Telegraph Department. He worked for several years at Dunedin and Maitland, and about twenty-three years ago settled at Gore, being in charge of the Gore district. This position he occupied until his death. Mr. McGrath was due to retire on superannuation on April 1. The late Mr. McGrath was married about twenty-seven years ago, but his wife pre-deceased him by sixteen years. He leaves three sons and two daughters to mourn their loss. The interment took place on March 31 at Gore Cemetery.—R.I.P.

Were I so tall to reach the sky,
Or take the ocean in my span,
What use is length, unless there's strength,
Now tell me if you can.
Suppose I'm ill with rasping cough
Or tickling throat—well, to be sure,
I don't talk length, I gather strength
With Woods' Great Peppermint Cure.

TWO GOOD FRIDAYS

At the end of a day in down-gone spring
Ten thousand if one we were gathered to hear
In the greatest of temples the great choir sing
On the solemnest, saddest day of the year.
Cardinals and canons were there, and we,
The thousands in silence who hardly drew breath,
When each forgot each, and it seemed that just he
Was alone with a music as mournful as death.
I remember the gloom, and the points of white fire
Going out one by one till one only remained;
Then a voice soaring up on the wings of desire,
Like the heavenward flight of the lark unrestrained—
Pure melody such as the angels' ears hear
When the Lamb with His virginal choir passes near.
Then the singer was silent, and the altar in gloom,
And we thought of Christ's Body at rest in the tomb.

To-day round the Fisherman's throne they will sing
All the same plangent threnodies over again;
The woes of the Prophet, the psalms of the King,
And the great chant of sorrow, of suffering, and pain.
While here, in a church that looks down on a strand
Where the chorus of billows rolls forth night and day,
We kept the great feast in this far-away land,
And mourned Christ's Death in our own humble way.
In spirit we watched Him pass through the thronged
street.

With the cross that to save us so gladly He bore,
Saw the rude nails tear open these dear hands and feet,
And the love-giving flood from His sacred side pour.
We came forth, and low down on the rim of the wave,
Saw the sun sinking solemnly into its grave;
One and all we were silent; and there in the gloom
All our thoughts were with Christ's Body laid in the
tomb.

--REV. J. KELLY, Ph.D.

The new wings and other additions to the Home for the Aged and Infirm, conducted by the Little Sisters of the Poor at Randwick, were blessed and opened by the Archbishop of Sydney on Sunday afternoon, March 21 (says the *Catholic Press*), when a very large gathering, representative of all sections of the community, showed practical evidence of the appreciation manifested by the general public in the splendid work carried on at the institution. In the course of an address Mr M. Meagher said that at the present time the Little Sisters of the Poor must find it particularly hard to find the £23,000 which the additions to their home at Randwick cost them, as well as caring for the large number of aged poor. Before the war these devoted nuns might have looked to their mother house in France for assistance; but now all the homes of the Little Sisters in Europe had more than their share of troubles. They could imagine what troubles these self-sacrificing Sisters had to provide for the thousands of aged poor in Antwerp, Brussels, Bruges, Liege, Louvain, Mons, Namur, Ostend, in Belgium; and in Armentiers, Cambrai, Saint Quentin, Mauberge, Roubaix, Rheims, and Lille, in France; also in Constantinople. Here in Australia alone, not to speak of New Zealand or New Caledonia, the Little Sisters had spent £170,000 in building homes for old people, every penny of which they collected themselves, never, of course, receiving one shilling from the State.

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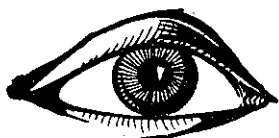
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BELGIUM

CARDINAL MERCIER.

Cardinal Mercier, nothing daunted by his previous experience, issued recently to his priests and people a Lenten Pastoral. It is said that the Cardinal was allowed so much liberty by the Germans that he was able to celebrate Mass in his Cathedral at Malines on Sexagesima Sunday.

ENGLAND

DEATH OF AN OBLATE PROVINCIAL.

The British Province of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate has suffered a sad loss in the death of its Provincial, Father James O'Reilly, O.M.I., who passed away on the eve of the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes. Father O'Reilly was born in the County of Cavan. He was ordained in France, and had ministered in many parts of England, notably at Leeds, where he was Superior for several years, and at Liverpool, where he was also Superior at Holy Cross.

FEAST OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES.

The service at the Brompton Oratory on the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes was indeed a magnificent function (writes a London correspondent). Father Bernard Vaughan, S.J., preached for 50 minutes, for he could not resist the fascination of the crowded audience. The Cardinal gave the Benediction. The King and Queen of Portugal and other important people were there with their humbler brethren. There have been many great functions at the Oratory in years gone by, but those who have witnessed them all state that never do they remember such a congregation as that gathered together on February 11. No doubt the war and the impossibility of having a pilgrimage this year made people more anxious thus to testify to the great devotion there is in England to Our Lady of Lourdes. The Duchess of Norfolk, who is the president of the Society of Our Lady of Lourdes, took a large part in organising this function.

FRANCE

DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THE HOLY SEE.

M. Alfred Capus, member of the Academie Française and editor of the *Figaro*, cannot be classed as a devout Catholic (writes the Paris correspondent of the *Irish Catholic*). Yet he declares in his journal that the resumption of diplomatic relations between France and the Vatican 'ceases to be a complicated problem and becomes a simple affair of commonsense.' Indifference in matters of patriotism was always rare in France, and at the present moment it is almost, if not quite, absent. On the other hand, even the most arrogant freethinkers cannot deny the new force Catholicism has acquired by the war. M. Capus attributes it to the common emotion of all Frenchmen at the safety of the country being in danger. That secret accord will, he contends, impart to future politics a spirit of tolerance. The prayers offered up throughout France for victory and peace, and the money collected in the streets of the towns and villages on the same day for the assistance of the families of the men called to arms in defence of the land, constitute a double symbolic manifestation of which it would be difficult to exaggerate the meaning. Indeed the editor of the *Figaro* is right in declaring that no one would now dare to pretend his convictions were wounded by the crowds of the faithful who recited the Pope's Prayer in the churches, and that for the future no politician, to please his electors, will dare disturb prayer in France. However, it is evident an eternal good understanding between citizens cannot be hoped for, but it is permissible to believe that the freethinker after the war will not be the same man he was before it broke out.

ROME

THE HOLY FATHER AND THE POLES.

By many charitable acts the Holy Father has shown that his heartfelt sympathy goes out to those who, owing to the calamities of the times, are suffering and in sorrow. He has provided for the support and education of five hundred children made orphans by the earthquake in Italy and has sent through Cardinal Gasparri a contribution of five hundred lire to the funds of the 'Friends of Belgium' by whom offerings are collected for the relief of the Belgian soldiers at the camp of Auvours, at the same time expressing his regret that his resources did not permit him to make a larger contribution. And now a Polish Catholic paper announces (says the *Catholic Times*) that the Holy Father has been greatly moved by compassion at the reports he has received of the misery caused to the Poles by the war and has come to the aid of the distressed with a handsome offering—an example of generosity which has been followed by the members of the Sacred College of Cardinals. Amidst all their vicissitudes the Poles have ever cherished their faith, and they are hoping that when the war is drawing to an end the influence of the Holy See will be used to help them to realise, as far as possible, their national aspirations. It may be taken for granted that all he can do will be done most readily by his Holiness Benedict XV. to ensure for them a prosperous and happy future.

THE HOLY FATHER'S NEUTRALITY.

Cardinal Bourne's visit to the Catholic chaplains with the forces at the front gives occasion to the *Guardian* to remind its readers of the curious fact that all chaplains in the army and navy, whether Anglican or Catholic or Nonconformist, are 'officially subject' to the Chaplain-General of the Forces or the Fleet, in each case a Protestant (says the *Catholic Times*). Apparently the official subjection amounts to very little and leads to no friction. And then after this information, the *Guardian* says: 'We must not forget to note that in the same speech his Eminence dwelt on the justice of the English cause and the fact that our war was "in defence of the Christian civilisation of Europe itself, against methods and principles which were barbarous and anti-Christian." The world once hoped for plain language from the Pope about the German atrocities, and Benedict XV. may possibly live to regret the "diplomacy" which sealed his lips.' This curious comment and contrast is quite unfair to the Pope. Cardinal Bourne is a British subject, free to express his opinion, and sure not to be blamed for doing so by anybody here or elsewhere. He speaks as a private individual. But the Pope is not a private individual. He is an official personage, on whom lies the solicitude for all the Churches. His position as Head of the Catholic Church throughout the world imposes on him the duty of neutrality as between the combatants. Suppose it is not possible; but suppose—that he took sides against us, threw 'diplomacy' to the winds, opposed the French and supported the Kaiser, would not the *Guardian* search the Scriptures for anathemas to hurl at his head?

SCOTLAND

THE BISHOP OF ARGYLL.

Right Rev. George J. Smith, Bishop of Argyll and the Isles, recently attained the golden jubilee of his ordination to the priesthood, the happy event being suitably celebrated in Oban on February 17. A solemn religious service was held in the Pro-Cathedral in the forenoon, and in the evening Bishop Smith was entertained to a complimentary dinner by the clergy of his diocese, and was presented with a costly and beautiful chalice and various articles of altar furnishing. Bishop Smith was born in Banffshire in 1840, and was ordained in Paris in 1864. He was elevated to the episcopate in 1892.

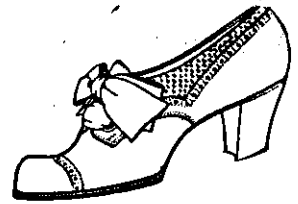
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PRESENTATION TO REV. FATHER MURPHY, CAMBRIDGE.

His Worship the Mayor (Mr M. Wells) presided at the farewell social to the Rev. Father W. J. Murphy at the Town Hall, Cambridge, on Tuesday evening (says the *Waikato Independent* of March 25). The attendance was representative, and fairly large in numbers, despite the inclement weather. On the stage were the Mayor, Very Rev. Dean Darby (Hamilton), Rev. Fathers Carran (Cambridge), Lynch (Te Awamutu), Duffy (Hamilton), Mr John London, and the guest of the evening, Rev. Father Murphy.

A number of musical items were rendered, the contributors being the Cambridge Orchestra, Mrs Gelling, Messrs A. Turner, T. F. Richards, J. London, and T. H. Boyce.

The Chairman apologised for the unavoidable absence of many friends from Matamata, Waharoa, and Cambridge. He had known Father Murphy for the past five or six years, and was virtually a neighbor of his. He regretted their guest's departure, for he was a good social man and a Christian gentleman, and a pattern to all. On behalf of the parishioners and friends, he handed to Father Murphy a handsome purse and cheque, assuring the recipient that the good wishes of all the contributors accompanied the gift.

Very Rev. Dean Darby said Father Murphy was deserving of all honor, for he had got through his manifold duties with credit to himself and to all with whom he came in contact. He's a man, besides being a priest. No one ever found him do a mean action, averred the Dean, who agreed with the Mayor that their guest was the right type of man.

Mr. J. London, in welcoming Father Murphy's successor in charge of the Cambridge parish, hoped Father Carran would prove as great a success as Father Murphy. The latter had taken a kindly interest in everything that was for the good of his congregation and the town and district generally.

Rev. Father Lynch said that from his knowledge of Father Carran he was a worthy successor to a really good man. He complimented Cambridge parish on its progress, for Dean Darby had agreed that it was equal to that of any in the diocese—even Hamilton. Cambridge had always been fortunate in its priests, and Father Murphy was quite up to the standard, and had gained—and deserved—the good wishes of all without distinction of denomination.

Rev. Father Duffy also referred to the departing guest's many good qualities.

Father Carran, who on rising was greeted with hearty applause, said he hoped Father Murphy would find in Ponsonby as good health and friends as he had found in Cambridge. Personally he appreciated his preferment to Cambridge, but he was not driving Father Murphy away. The latter had accepted the Ponsonby parish before he sought the Cambridge charge.

Rev. Father Murphy, who was obviously affected by the demonstrations of esteem from all parts of the hall, said he only wished all the good things said about him were true. The previous speakers were too complimentary. He had endeavored to put into daily practice the charity which he preached from the pulpit on Sundays. He had never sacrificed his principles, and had always tried to be Christian towards all people. He could not speak too highly of the parishioners, and expressed his sincere thanks to them. As to Cambridge, he had never seen a more peaceful or happy town, and he would always endeavor to revisit the place. The people were good, sociable, and all that could be desired. He would deeply miss many friends, and concluded by thanking all present for thus honoring him.

After the Mayor had thanked the ladies for arranging the refreshment portion of the entertainment an adjournment was made to the supper room.

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WEDDING BELLS

FACER—STANTON.

(From an occasional correspondent.)

A quiet but pretty wedding was celebrated at St. Mary's Basilica, Invercargill, on February 2, the contracting parties being Miss Mary Stanton, third daughter of Mr T. Stanton, Richmond Grove, and Mr Norman D. Facer, only son of Mrs and the late Mr John Facer, Nottingham, England. The Very Rev. Dean Burke, assisted by Rev. Father Tobin, officiated. The bride, who was given away by her brother (Mr P. Stanton), was attired in a cream tailor-made costume, with cream silk hat to match. The bridesmaid was Miss Cecilia Hannan (cousin of the bride). Mr Martin Stanton (brother of the bride) was best man. The bridesmaid wore a pretty pale blue crepe-de-chine dress and black hat relieved with pale blue. The bridegroom's present to the bride was a handsome diamond and turquoise ring, and to the bridesmaid a gold chain and pendant. After the ceremony the guests were entertained at the residence of the bride's parents. Very Rev. Dean Burke proposed the toast of the bride and bridegroom in happy terms. A large number of useful and handsome presents testified to the esteem in which the young couple are held. Mr and Mrs Facer left by the afternoon express for their future home in Wellington.

Tuakau

(From our own correspondent.)

Easter week was spent very enjoyably here by Catholics. The weather, though showery at times, was fair. A very successful and most enjoyable Sunday school picnic was held in the Domain on Easter Monday. The children, who had been looking forward to the event for weeks, had a fine day's sport, with Father O'Hara and Mr Graham as their chief entertainers. The adults, too, were well catered for in the matter of sports, and keen competition was shown in all the events.

Speaking at the annual Communion breakfast of the Irish National Foresters in Sydney, his Grace Archbishop Kelly said it was desirable that it should be made known that the Apostolic Delegate, Archbishop Cerretti, was the representative of the Holy Father for all Australasia. His life would be very much like the life of the Under-Secretary of some State Department. He would have his staff, and be in communication with all who wished to communicate with him. First he had to settle down—Providence had fixed his residence among them, and enabled them to find a good site for his Excellency's residence and Delegation. The news of the splendid reception they had given the Delegate had gone to Rome, and no doubt the Holy Father would send them back his blessing for it. Regarding the official character of the Apostolic Delegate, he was not for attending public functions, but for other purposes. Individually all would find his Excellency a most delightful citizen wherever he went. While he was here—for he did not suppose Archbishop Cerretti would always remain in Australia, although the Delegation would—they hoped that he would enjoy good health, the sunny climate, and the warm-hearted and grateful people who inhabited this continent.

Rheumatism and kindred complaints—Lumbago, Sciatica, and Gout—should be treated as soon as the first symptoms are manifested. For instance, Headaches, Constipation, Flatulence, Heartburn are frequently symptoms of excess uric acid in the blood, and the sooner this acid is eradicated the better. The safest and most reliable remedy for these complaints is RHEUMO. It has been proved by the test of public experience and is acclaimed by thousands as the one genuine remedy. RHEUMO goes to the seat of the trouble, and by driving the uric acid from the blood quickly gives relief and effects a cure. Of all chemists and stores, 2/6 and 4/6....

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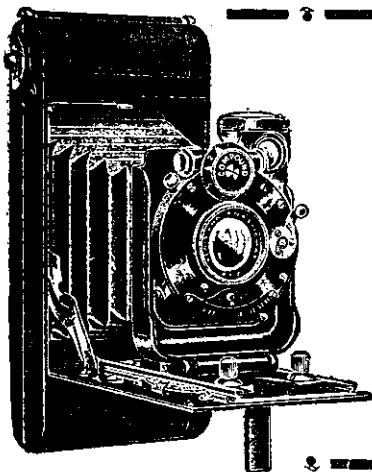
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ROME LETTER

(From our own correspondent.)

February 11.

THE WORLD'S PEACEMAKER.

It is with no little amazement one views the displays of hostility on the part of a number of bigots because of the deference shown by the warring nations to the different proposals hitherto made them by Benedict XV. and also because of the appointment of a British Minister at the Vatican. With a view to easing the minds of those good people it is well to recall that such action does not spell recognition of the Temporal Power.

Some people refer to the Middle Ages as the 'Dark' Ages. One reason for this is because they are in the dark—very much in the dark—about that glorious period. Another reason is because religion was dear then to men's hearts, and nations acknowledged the Pope as their official arbitrator. We need not go back for a few centuries in search of instances to show the world still recognises the Pope as its peacemaker: the last century furnishes plenty of them. In 1884 (I may be in error as to exact year) the Republics of St. Domingo and Hayti submitted to Leo XIII.'s arbitration a serious dispute. In 1885, at the suggestion of Bismarck, Germany and Spain left their dispute about the Caroline Islands to the same Pontiff. And we all remember that, when the Italian Government had spent money and influence to induce Menelik I., Emperor of Abyssinia, to liberate 2000 Italian prisoners and allow them to bury their dead, the intervention of Pope Leo sufficed to accomplish the desires of the Government of Italy.

THE PATRON OF MEDICAL DOCTORS.

On the feast of St. Cyrus, martyr and medical doctor of Alexandria, an edifying scene may be witnessed on January 31 each year in the Church of the Gesu, Naples. Here the martyr's body lies, and around his tomb the physicians gather in fervent prayer. On such an occasion the most thickly populated city of Italy recognises how many sincere Catholic doctors she has within her walls. This year the Holy Father manifested his appreciation of the 'Association of Catholic Doctors' of Naples by wiring them through the medium of the Papal Secretary of State his Apostolic Blessing.

THE POPE AND WARRING NATIONS.

In Europe among thinking men the general opinion is that 'the Pope has a difficult card to play' with regard to his attitude of declared neutrality among the warring nations. So specious are the proofs adduced to show the Pontiff's sympathy with one side or the other that not a few are sometimes temporarily deceived. Indeed, so much so is this the case that one finds the only really safe rule to follow is to look

askance upon all such reports and credit none that do not directly emanate from an official source. Time after time the Holy See has declared that it is outside and above national quarrels, but just as often have attempts been made to drag in the name of the Holy Father in some way or other. Naturally, his Holiness feels most for those upon whom the rigors of war have most heavily fallen, but this is no reason for placing him upon one side or the other on the battlefield. He has dear and loyal subjects in both trenches.

NOTES.

So generous have been the people of Italy in response to the appeal in aid of the survivors of the recent earthquake that the fund opened by the Pope alone has come to 280,000 francs.

The *Giornale D'Italia* is authority for the statement that the famous Benedictine Abbey of Monte Cassino has suffered from the earthquake. In this monastery St. Benedict and his sister, St. Scholastica, are buried.

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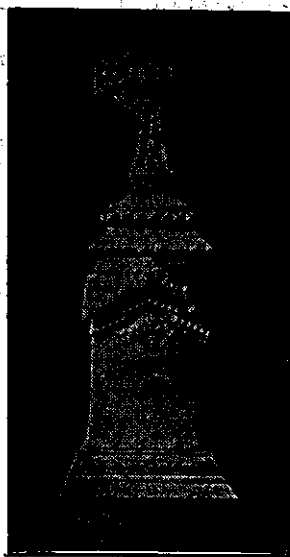
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NOTES ON HEALTH

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A Monster Elevator.

The new 1,100,000 bushel grain elevator at Philadelphia is now in use. It cost £240,000 to erect, was built of concrete and steel, and is considered the most rapid plant ever built for transferring grain from rail to shipboard. It stands back 500ft from a pier 9000ft long, on both sides of which vessels can dock, a conveying gallery extending out to the end of the pier. The elevator can unload 240 trucks per day of ten hours, and the gallery can load at the rate of 60,000 bushels per hour. The plant has a machine which cleans 20,000 bushels per hour.

Can Hear, But Not See.

When people read that armies are engaging each other at 2000 yards distance, they think the combatants can see each other, but they cannot. At that distance it is impossible to distinguish between a man and a horse, and at 1200 yards, especially where there is any dust, it requires the best kind of eyes to tell infantry from cavalry. At 900 yards the movements become clearer, although it is not until they get within 750 yards of each other that the heads of the columns can be made out with anything like certainty. Infantry can be seen in the sunlight much more easily than cavalry or artillery because less dust is raised. Besides, infantry are distinguished by the glitter of their muskets. At 2000 yards, however, everything is unsatisfactory, even with the aid of field-glasses, for a marching column in dry weather raises a great deal of dust.

Boots Made From Seaweed.

According to experts who have closely studied the matter, we are neglecting a valuable asset by not making more use of the tons of seaweed which are thrown upon our shores every day (says a Home paper). If the experience of the Japanese and the dwellers on the western shore of Norway, Scotland, and Ireland is to be accepted, there are huge fortunes to be made from seaweed. The Japanese, for instance, employ some 600,000 persons in the seaweed industries. These are mainly engaged in preparing edible products. China alone, it appears, consumes £120,000 worth of gelatinous articles made from seaweed every year. Furthermore, the Japanese use seaweed in the manufacture of such diverse objects as policemen's boots, picture frames, marbled floors, and electric switchboards. In France seaweed finds utility as a stiffener for mattresses and as size for straw hats.

Preventing Gun-deafness.

The huge power of modern guns is responsible for a deafening uproar the whole time they are in action. This din results in hundreds of soldiers being deafened for life, owing to injuries to the eardrum. Sailors are the most unfortunate in this respect, for, unlike soldiers, they cannot stand at a distance of twelve paces behind their guns, as is the rule in the army. The sailor remains at the breech the whole time that the gun is carrying on its work. As a preventive of deafness the sailors on many ships are provided with a small stick of indiarubber, which they grip between their teeth when the guns are at work. This prevents the concussion of the great volume of sound being so injurious to the nerves of the ears, and also stops that vibration of the jaw which results in chronic headache. If these preventives are not provided the sailor is advised to keep his mouth open when gun-firing is going on, as this stops, to some extent, the unpleasant consequences set up by violent concussion. Naval officers invariably chew toothpicks when gunners are at work, for the great preventive of deafness on such occasions is to keep the mouth open somehow or other.

Ye men that go shooting, if you require a Gun that will shoot straight and some ammunition that will kill, consult Smith and Laing's stock, Invercargill.

Intercolonial

His Excellency the Apostolic Delegate, Archbishop Cerretti, has now taken up his residence at 'Rockleigh,' Edward street, North Sydney.

A few Sundays ago the Right Rev. Dr Higgins, Bishop of Ballarat, blessed and opened a new church at Redan, which had been erected at a cost of £3500.

Rev. Brother Fogarty, who has been for many years in charge of the Christian Brothers' College, Gregory terrace (writes a Brisbane correspondent), has been transferred to Perth, Western Australia. Brother Egan, who has been in Brisbane for some time, returns to Adelaide. Brother O'Donoghue, of Perth, succeeds Brother Fogarty.

At the Irish National Foresters' annual Communion breakfast in Sydney on Sunday, March 28, High Chief Ranger Byrnes was presented by the Archbishop of Sydney, on behalf of the society, with a handsome gold medal as an appreciation of the excellent manner in which the recipient had carried out his duties during the year. His Grace heartily congratulated the High Chief Ranger, who suitably responded.

A private cable message reports that Captain Allan O'Halloran Wright, who was well known in Adelaide, was killed in action recently whilst fighting with his regiment in Northern France (says the *Southern Cross*). This news will be received by his many friends in Adelaide with deep regret. Captain Wright had been at the front since early in the war. He was adjutant of the Royal Irish Rifles, and was promoted to the rank of captain at the front in January.

At his request, Sir Timothy Coghlan will retire from the position of Agent-General for New South Wales at the end of the present month. Arrangements have been made for the Agent-General for Victoria (Mr McBride) to act in a like capacity for New South Wales until a permanent successor to Sir Timothy Coghlan has been appointed. Sir Timothy will retire on a pension of about £600 per annum. It is understood that he will remain in London and engage in commercial pursuits.

Among the bequests for charitable institutions included in the will of the late Mr. T. R. Scarfe are the following to Catholic institutions, free of duty (says the Adelaide *Southern Cross*):—St. Vincent de Paul's Orphanage, Goodwood, £400; Catholic Female Refuge, Fullarton, £400; St. Joseph's Orphanage, Largs Bay, £400; Father Healy's Boys' Shelter, £400; St. Ignatius' Branch of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, Queen street, Norwood, £400. The following other institutions likewise benefit:—Orphans' Home, Adelaide, Incorporated, Mitcham, £400; Children's Home, Incorporated, Walkerville, £400; Convalescent Hospital (St. Margaret), Semaphore, £400; Home for Incurables, Fullarton, £400; South Australian Institute for the Blind, Deaf, and Dumb, Brighton, Incorporated, £500; Minda Home, Incorporated, £500.

His Grace the Archbishop of Sydney has received the following acknowledgment from Bishop De Wachter of the £500 cabled some time ago for Cardinal Mercier's Fund:—Allow me to express my heartiest thanks to your Grace for the £500 draft in favor of Cardinal Mercier's fund for the relief of the poor nuns and orphans. His Eminence will be most happy to accept this proof of brotherly sympathy with him and with his country. We ask Almighty God's blessing upon our benefactors who so generously stand by us in our distress. Many of our poor nuns especially saw their convents and schools utterly destroyed, and it will be a difficult task to rebuild and restore them. But we trust the numerous friends of Belgium will come to our assistance. Australia has shown herself so exceedingly charitable that we rely on her to do what her highly appreciated and much valued sympathy will induce her to do. We will keep as a monument for future ages the generous assistance and sympathetic addresses of the Irish and American and Australian as well as the English Archbishops and Bishops, priests, and faithful.'

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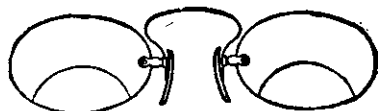
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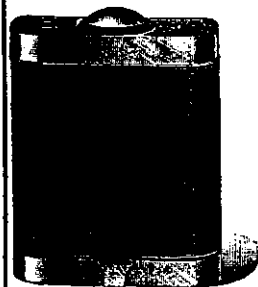
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Domestic

(By MAUREEN.)

Cheese Fritters.

Cut some long, rather thin, strips of cheese. Lay them in a shallow dish, the bottom of which is just covered with a mixture of vinegar, oil, and pepper. Leave them in this for about half an hour. Make a batter of two ounces of flour and a little salt, mixed with three tablespoonfuls of tepid water and half a tablespoonful of oil or melted fat. Beat all well together and then add the stiffly beaten white of an egg. Dip the slices of cheese into this and fry a golden brown in hot fat. Drain them well and serve very hot laid upon toast and garnished with sprigs of parsley.

Macaroni with Brown Sauce.

Required: Four ounces of macaroni, half an ounce of butter, half an ounce of flour, one ounce of grated cheese, cayenne and salt, crusts of fried bread. Take the macaroni and break it into pieces about two inches long. Have ready a quart of boiling water, into which throw the macaroni while it is boiling very fast. Cook for twenty minutes; then drain well in a colander. Put a tablespoonful of butter into a frying-pan, and when it is brown stir in the same amount of flour. Mix it until smooth; then add half a pint of stock and stir constantly until the sauce boils. Then add the cheese and boil it again. Season to taste, and serve in a deep dish garnished with the crusts of bread.

A New Way of Cooking Parsnips.

Select large roots, but see that they are not 'woody.' Wash them well and peel thinly. Then put into boiling water with some salt and a tea spoonful of vinegar. The last is to prevent them from breaking. When nearly cooked take them out of the water and set aside for a few moments, until they are cool enough to handle. Then slice them as evenly as you can. Have ready some oil or dripping in a deep pan

and see that it is boiling before putting in the parsnips. Fry them a nice golden brown. Serve in a vegetable dish garnished with sprigs of parsley. These are simply delicious, and cooked in this way retain all their nourishment. They should be well drained when taken out of the fat, or they will be indigestible.

Charlotte Pudding.

Required: Six ounces of white bread in small pieces, one quart of milk, two or three eggs, half an ounce of butter, sugar and flavoring to taste, a little apricot jam. Break up the bread into small pieces and put it into a bowl with the milk. Cover it with a plate while it is soaking. When the bread is soft beat it well with a fork till there are no more lumps left, whisk the yolks of the eggs and add the sugar and flavoring, beating them well in. Spread a layer of the jam at the bottom of a deep dish, beat the whites of the eggs lightly, and add to the mixture, which pour out into the dish and set in the oven until it is nicely browned. This is an ideal pudding for children.

Household Hints.

If one is troubled with a leaky fountain pen the application of a little soap to the threads of the screw will work magic. If the pen is emptied, thoroughly cleaned, filled, and the soap applied, there will be no more trouble until the pen needs filling again.

A glass water-bottle, when discolored by hard water, can be easily cleaned and made to look bright by putting a little vinegar and a pinch of salt into the bottle, letting it stand for about two hours, then rinsing out with clean water.

When cooking haricot beans add salt to the water first, and they will cook in a third of the time and will not need to be soaked overnight.

To brown a stew when no colouring is handy wash the outside skins of the onions and cook them with the stew.

When making pastry which is to be served cold try mixing it with milk instead of water, and it will keep short and crisp much longer than if water is used.

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"THE KASH"

On the Land

GENERAL.

The burning of stubble, bare fallow, and frequent summer cultivation all help to deplete the soil of humus.

The addition of lime to a clay soil groups together the fine grains of soil into larger granules, and gives the soil the properties of a coarser material.

Pasteurisation consists in heating milk to at least 140deg. F., for at least ten minutes. The heating is followed by rapid cooling to check spore formation.

In Canada, taking an average of four years and with 18 varieties of potatoes, the advantage of spraying with Bordeaux mixture amounted to over two tons per acre.

The amount paid by the Government (says the *Wellington Post*) for meat purchased for the Imperial authorities during the period (nearly a month) ended March 31 is £369,160.

A crop of nine acres of tares at the Weraroa Experimental Farm, on which sheep were grazed during the winter months, and which was shut up for harvesting in August, has given a return of 336 bushels, or just on 38 bushels to the acre.

At the Clydesdale horse sales last week in connection with the Sydney Show, the buying was slack. Lots on behalf of Messrs. Mitchell, O'Brien, and J. Charters (of New Zealand) ranged from £85 to £250. Messrs. Mitchell and O'Brien's draught mares brought prices ranging from 57 guineas to 102 guineas.

The annual vaccination of calves has been practically concluded in the Stratford district, about 18,000 having been put through. There have been a few isolated cases of blackleg in the district, but these have been coped with promptly by the inspector, and the efficacy of inoculation has been successfully demonstrated.

With the exception of store sheep, the entries of all classes of stock at Addington last week were rather smaller than at the previous week's sale. The market was dull, and sales generally were in favor of buyers. Fat Lambs. The entry totalled 1213. The quality of a large proportion of the offering was good, but the sale was dull, and prices weak. Prime, 15s 6d to 19s 7d; others, 10s 6d to 15s. Fat Sheep. The sale was very poor. It started with a drop in prices estimated at about 2s per head, and it never recovered its tone. The entry of fat cattle was small. The quality was of the average character, and the market was irregular. Extra steers, to £16 12s 6d; ordinary, £5 17s 6d to £9 10s; extra heifers, to £11; ordinary, £5 to £8; extra cows, to £15 5s; ordinary, £5 7s 6d to £8; price of beef per 100lb, 30s to 42s. Fat calves were scarce, and ranged from 18s to £3 17s 6d. Pigs. There was a fairly large entry of fats, but the proportion of unfinished was too large and the sale was very dull. Choppers, 48s to 92s; extra heavy baconers, to 73s; heavy baconers, 60s to 67s; light baconers, 47s 6d to 57s 6d; price per lb, 5½d to 5¼d; unfinished, to 5d; heavy porkers 30s to 36s; light, 25s to 29s; price per lb, 4¾d to 5¼d. Store pigs were almost unsaleable.

There were only medium yardings at Burnside last week. Fat Cattle. 160 yarded, these being of fairly good quality. Prices were about on a par with previous week's. Quotations: Best bullocks, £13 10s to £15 10s; extra, to £16 12s 6d; medium to good, £11 to £12; others, £9 to £10; best heifers and cows, £8 10s to £10; extra, to £13. Fat Sheep. 1976 penned. Owing to the Burnside Freezing Works being closed for some days freezing buyers were not operating, but the yarding was not in excess of the local requirements, and competition was keen. First quality sheep sold well at prices showing a slight advance on previous week's prices, medium and inferior sheep being practically on a par with late rates. Quotations: Best wethers, 24s 6d to 26s 6d; extra, to 30s 6d; medium, 21s to 23s; others, 18s to 19s 6d; best ewes, 22s 6d to 24s 6d. Fat Lambs.—463 penned. Export buyers were not in the

market, and in consequence bidding was confined to graziers and butchers. Prices showed a decline on previous week's rates. Quotations: Best lambs, 18s to 19s; extra, to 22s; medium to good, 15s to 17s. Pigs.—There was a small yarding of fats, and in consequence prices were slightly in advance of previous week's rates. Store pigs were again far in excess of the requirements, and were very hard to sell even at very reduced prices.

MOUMAHAKI EXPERIMENTAL FARM.

Though the Moumahaki Experimental Farm has just passed through one of the driest seasons in its history, the 550 acres of available land is carrying at the present time 400 head of cattle, 500 sheep, 100 pigs, and 45 horses (says the *Journal of Agriculture*). There are 40 acres in root and forage crops and 50 acres in lucerne. Thirty-eight acres have been cropped. Of this area 20 acres in wheat have yielded a crop estimated to thresh 60 bushels to the acre. Oats were grown on 5 acres, the yield being calculated at 65 bushels. Barley was grown on 3 acres, a 70-bushel crop being secured. Eight acres were under oats and vetches, mixed, which should give a profitable return. In addition to this, about 100 tons of lucerne and 100 tons of meadow hay have been saved. It is estimated that 250 tons of lucerne have been carted out to the stock from the first cutting in the spring to the end of February. From December 1 50 acres of the rougher area of the property (the gullies) have been closed up, to furnish winter grazing and shelter for stock. At the present time all the stock on the property is in excellent condition, though considerable difficulty has been experienced in providing drinking-water for the cattle and horses. The good crops of the season secured under the unfavorable climatic conditions are no doubt due to the settled policy of the property of green-manuring (to provide the light soil with the necessary humus) and thorough cultivation.

ON SHOEING.

It is often forgotten that the horn is constantly growing, while the iron shoe remains the same size (says the *Australasian*). Many cases of lameness are due to neglect of this. The wall grows downwards at the rate of about ¼ in in three months, and if allowed to grow without any compensating wear the foot does not occupy the proper relative position with reference to the limb, and the joint is strained. In districts where the ground is soft, and not stony, and where there are few metalled roads, the shoes will last several months; but they should be removed at the end of a month, and the superfluous growth of horn removed. Where the work is done in stony country, or on metalled roads, the shoes should be just heavy enough to afford four weeks' wear. A thickness of ¼ in is sufficient, and the width should be governed by the amount of iron necessary to last four weeks. With young horses the horn of the foot grows more quickly than with older ones, and their shoes may require removing more often than once a month. Injury is often caused to foals and young horses, when running in soft country, where their hoofs do not wear down naturally, by the feet being overgrown. The excess of wall should be removed with a rasp, not pared down. Not only will this make all the difference between good feet and limbs and bad ones, but the handling will prepare the young horse for the time when shoeing is necessary. Plenty of patience is required for this latter operation, not only to secure good workmanship, but also to avoid ruining the horse's temper. In some cases it is better, after getting the front shoes on, to postpone shoeing the hind feet until the next day.

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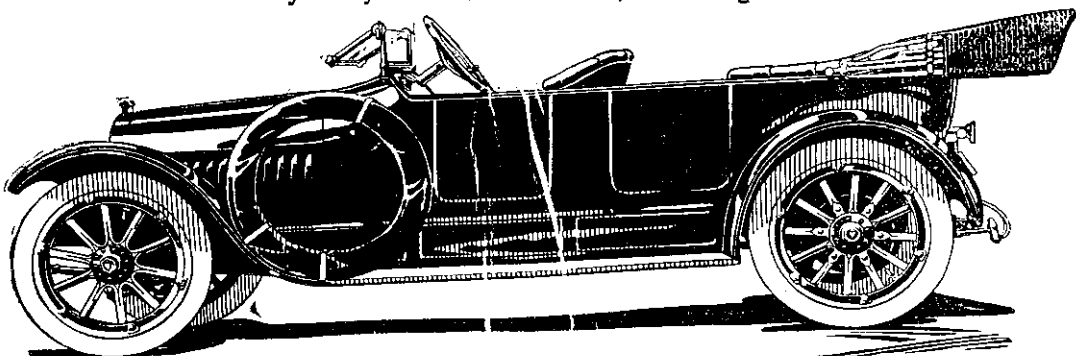
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Start the day with smiling, and it will not seem so long;
Start the day with music, and the heart will join the
song.

Start the day with sunshine, and the clouds will soon
depart—

There are no clouds or shadows where there's singing in
the heart.

Start the day with kindness, and the toil will not be
great;

Start the day with blossoms, and the rose will deck your
gate.

THE PREFECT WHO UNDERSTOOD.

Father Aloysius gazed sadly at the stubborn little figure before him. Defiance was stamped on every feature of the round, boyish face. The blue eyes were half closed, and the lips tightly compressed as the culprit stood sullenly facing the window.

Father Aloysius sighed.

'Arnold, if you would only go and apologise to Father Ignatius he would understand—go and tell him you are sorry.'

'I'm not sorry, Father: I can't say so unless I am, can I?' the boy asked, never shifting his gaze from the window.

'But why aren't you sorry, Arnold?' Father Ignatius—

'He's a German, and he don't understand Irish boys,' the lad burst forth hotly. 'He's no kind of a prefect—he isn't fair—and he don't care a thing about any but the German fellows. If Joe Miller or Hans Ahrens did what I did this morning he'd have never said a word. He ain't fair—that's why I'm not sorry, I'm glad.'

'If that is the way you feel,' said the priest slowly, 'I think I will have you repeat what you have just said to the rector. He will not be in his office for a half-hour yet. Sit over there by the window for the present. I am sure he will be glad to know your opinion of the system of discipline in the junior department,' he added as he turned back to his desk and drew his cassock over his knees.

Arnold kept his outward show of indifference, but he was inwardly agitated. 'Tell the rector that he did not approve of Father Ignatius' system of discipline! Tell the rector he was not fair! Never! He would be sent home, no doubt, for the rector would be angry. Desperately he clinched his hands on the low window seat as shouts rose to him from the playground below. They were cheering Joe Miller—he must have made a home run, from the sounds. Below, all the juniors were playing on the campus, all but himself—and he in disgrace and yet to face the rector. It was all wrong. Father Aloysius continued opening the pile of mail that lay on his desk. After covertly watching Arnold for half an hour, he sighed again.

His offence was serious. He had broken one of the rules early in the day, and had been reproved by Father Ignatius, prefect of the junior department. Arnold had so far forgotten himself as to answer the priest boldly and disrespectfully. Father Ignatius, surprised and pained, perceiving that he was making no headway, sent him to Father Aloysius, prefect of the seniors. Arnold had a deep respect and much admiration for Father Aloysius. He had often envied the seniors their possession of him and felt that he was indeed a priest who would 'understand a fellow,' German or Irish. Previously he had admired him from afar; now actual contact revealed a firmer nature than that of Father Ignatius—a man who did not hesitate to send one to the rector! It was hard to believe.

Father Aloysius turned to the lad suddenly and held out a letter.

'Your mail,' he said. 'Father Ignatius sent it over.'

Arnold took it with fast-beating heart. That was good of his prefect anyway—he might have kept it. The boy's heart sank when he read the familiar writing. A letter very similar to it in contents was lying on Father Aloysius' desk. It was signed by Mrs. Mitchell, and stated that the lady was coming to St. Martin's College on Thursday afternoon and hoped to hear a favorable report of her son.

Why, this was Thursday, and it was nearly four o'clock. She must be here even now. Perhaps they would not let him see her. Perhaps they might send him home with her. Suddenly it flashed over him—all that it would mean to leave St. Martin's. How grieved his dear mother would be—and his hearty, kindly father. He turned a shade whiter and dropped a few hot tears on the letter, but he did not look toward the desk.

After a few moments had passed a knock was heard at the study door and old Brother John announced that Mrs. Mitchell was in the parlor and wished to see her son.

Arnold waited breathless. Father Aloysius would go down first and tell her.

'Arnold,' said the priest, swinging around in his chair, 'you may go down and you may go with your mother to the guests' dining-room for some tea.'

The boy sprang up with a choked 'Thank you, Father,' and tore like a young cyclone out of the room and down the stairway.

When he reached the parlor he hesitated. He would have to tell her, but perhaps it wouldn't sound so bad if he told it first. She would hear it anyway, so better from him from the first. As he stopped outside the door he heard voices—his mother's and Father Ignatius'. It was all up—he would surely tell. Unconsciously he listened:

'Yes, he is a good lad, very good and pious; he will make a fine man.'

'But, Father, he isn't always good, I know.'

'Oh, boys will do things—yes—but not bad things. Youth and mischief, you know; but he has a temper I am praying he will learn to control—and he tries very hard.'

Now it was coming sure.

'He has one very good quality: he is quick to say "I'm sorry." When a boy will do that, Mrs. Mitchell, he is pretty safe.'

And this from the man who couldn't understand. Arnold did not wait for his mother's answer. He wanted to see her and, most of all, he wanted to see his prefect. He knocked softly and entered. He embraced his mother warmly, and during the greeting the young priest slipped away.

After they had talked a long time Mrs. Mitchell said:

'Well, son, how's the temper?'

'Oh, it's bad, mother, lots of times—and it gets harder and harder to say "I'm sorry," but I do, though. I had an awful time to-day—' And then he told her.

'I'll go to him right after studies to-night,' he promised when his mother kissed him good-bye.

It wanted eight minutes to supper time when her carriage had rolled away down the broad road. Arnold thought he would run and take a look at Brother Peter's rabbits to try and forget how he missed his mother. Somehow that lump in his throat would come whenever they parted. All the other fellows were in the study hall, but he had been excused for the whole hour; so to the rabbit hutches he went. In the garden walk he came face to face with his prefect walking with Father Aloysius. It was now or never.

'Father,' he said bravely to the young priest, 'I am sorry I lost my temper this morning and said those things. I didn't mean to—'

Father Ignatius' arm was around the lad's shoulder.

'That's all right, my boy. I made a mistake, too. Why didn't you tell me it was Hans Ahrens that was talking in ranks instead of yourself?'

'I thought you didn't like me because I'm Irish,' said Arnold, shamefacedly; 'then I got mad and said things, Father.'

'I don't know what they were just now,' said the prefect, smiling. 'I knew you were just "mad," as you say, but what put that in your head about not liking you because you are Irish?'

'Just meanness, I guess, Father.'

It was an unexpected answer, and the priests exchanged looks.

'Well, don't think it again. Now we are square. I'm afraid, though, I'll have to send you to Father Aloysius for a penance,' he added with twinkling eyes.

'Oh, yes, Father, I'll do anything. Shall I come up to your room after supper?'

The supper bell rang just then and he scampered off—but came back for a moment to say shyly:

'Thank you both for not telling my mother first.'

He ran off to join his companions, carrying in his heart the kind fatherly smile of both priests, as warm as the glow of the sunset behind them.—*Messenger of the Sacred Heart.*

KEEPING AT IT.

There is a very old but very good story about a boy who was engaged one winter day in putting a ton of coal into a cellar. His only implement was a small fire shovel. Noticing this, a benevolent old gentleman expressed his surprise and commiseration. 'My son,' said the old gentleman, 'you surely do not expect to put in all that coal with that little shovel?'

'Oh, yes, I do,' replied the boy cheerfully; 'all I have to do is to keep at it.'

There is a lesson in this story for young and old, and it is exemplified in the lives of the great men of the world. It is a mistake to suppose that the best work of all the world is done by people of great strength and many opportunities. 'Keeping at it' is the secret of success.

Never be in too great haste. Too many boys spoil a life-time by not having patience. They work at a trade until they see about one-half of its mysteries, then strike for higher wages. Such men are botches and slouches.

When learning a trade, my boy, don't move like a rusty watch. Act as if your interest and the interest of your employer were the same. Employers will not willingly lose good employees. Be honest and faithful. There is the secret of success, my boy, and that is the thing lacking with too many.

WHAT JIMMY HEARD.

'Queen Mary,' said the teacher to the class in history lesson, 'loved France so much that she declared the word Calais would be found written on her heart after she was dead.'

Pausing a moment, the teacher looked at a boy steadily.

'Jimmy Smith,' she said, 'you were not listening.'

'Oh, yes, I was,' Jimmy replied.

'Well, what did Queen Mary say would be written across her heart?'

'Kelly,' was Jimmy's triumphant reply.

NOT HIS OWN.

It was a very fashionable concert, and the artists very well known ones, but the two young things were too busy with picking out their peculiarities to hear the music.

In the midst of a beautiful selection the pianist suddenly lifted his hands from the keys, and one of the young things was heard to say clearly:

'I wonder if that hair is his own?'

The old man who sat beside her was slightly deaf, but he turned with a benevolent smile.

'No, miss,' he imparted pleasantly, 'that is Schubert's.'

FISH AS A BRAIN FOOD.

A young woman from the west was making a visit to an old seaport town. One morning while walking with her host she said:

'What is the diet of all these people?'

'Fish, mostly,' responded the man.

'Why,' spoke the westerner, 'I thought fish was a brain food. These are really the most unintelligent-looking people I ever saw.'

'Well,' replied the host, 'just think what they would look like if they hadn't eat fish.'

A PROBLEM.

When Grover Cleveland's little girl was quite young her father once telephoned to the White House from Chicago and asked Mrs. Cleveland to bring the child to the phone. Lifting the little one up to the instrument, Mrs. Cleveland watched her expression change from bewilderment to wonder, then to fear. It was surely her father's voice—yet she looked at the telephone incredulously. After examining the tiny opening in the receiver the little girl burst into tears. 'O mamma!' she sobbed, 'how can we ever get papa out of that little hole?'

THE DIFFERENCE.

A house-hunter, who had just got off the train, stepped up to a boy hanging around the station, with this salutation:

'My lad, I am looking for Mr. Smithson's new block of semi-detached houses. How far are they from here?'

'About twenty minutes' walk,' replied the boy.

'Twenty minutes!' exclaimed the house-hunter. 'Nonsense! the advertisement says five.'

'Well,' said the boy, 'you can believe me or you can believe the advertisement, only I ain't tryin' to make a sale.'

COULDN'T REMEMBER IT ALL.

Little Robert, says an exchange, rushed into the kitchen one day and asked his mother what kind of pie she was making.

'Lemon meringue pie,' she answered.

The little fellow disappeared, but presently returned. 'Mamma,' he asked, 'what did you say is the pie's middle name?'

THEORY AND PRACTICE.

The pupils were being examined on the subject of personal hygiene.

A boy was asked, 'What have you to do in order to keep your teeth sound and white?'

'Clean them,' was the prompt reply.

'When ought you to clean them?'

'Morning, noon, and night.'

'What are they to be cleaned with?'

'With a toothbrush.'

'Very good; have you a toothbrush?'

'No, sir.'

'Has your father a toothbrush?'

'No, sir.'

'Has your mother a toothbrush?'

'No, sir.'

'But how do you know about the use of tooth-brushes?'

'We sell them, sir.'

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