

The Occasional Sermon.

Then the Monsignor retired to the sacristy. Vested in his robes, he returned to the sanctuary and took up his place on the Epistle side of the altar, his Grace the Archbishop having already taken his place on the Gospel side. In the sanctuary the clergy took their places—Ven. Archdeacon Devoy, Very Rev. Dean Power, Rev. Father T. McKenna (Pahiatua), Rev. Father Kinkead (Carterton), and Rev. Father Guinane. Very Rev. Father O'Connell was celebrant of the Mass. The choir rendered the music of the Mass admirably under the baton of Mr. A. R. Bunny.

After Mass, the Very Rev. Dean Power preached an eloquent sermon appropriate to the occasion. His subject was the dignity of the priesthood. In a telling and pleasing manner the preacher explained to the people the ineffable dignity of a priest of God. The preacher showed the dignity of the priesthood from the tremendous power which the priest has received from God of consecrating bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Christ. The preacher said he would not touch on the other great power of a priest—the power of loosening the sinner from the bonds of sin. Then the preacher went on to show the close relation between priest and people, how the priest is all things to all men—rejoicing in their joy and sympathising in their sorrow, helping the poor, encouraging the weak, and consoling the afflicted. Then the preacher applied his sermon to the Right Rev. Monsignor McKenna, and reminded the people of the long service he had rendered amongst them in the exalted position of priest. In recognition of his sterling qualities he was appointed to the important position of Domestic Prelate to the Holy See.

The Evening Devotions.

In the evening there was another very large congregation. A splendid sermon was delivered by the Very Rev. Father O'Connell.

The preacher took as his subject, 'The ceremonial of the Church.' He first described the ceremonies of the Old Law, how pleasing it was to God, and how God had actually told Moses the very ceremonies he was to use in religious worship. Then the preacher went on to show how ceremonial answers a desire in the human heart to express its feelings towards God, its Creator. He showed how ceremonial was used by the State, by the various societies, and the different clubs, and thus showed how even the State had attached great importance to ceremonials. He went on to show the great love the Catholic Church had for ceremonials from the earliest times, and how much people are impressed when ceremonies are carried out and well performed. He went on to speak of the ceremony of the morning, and he said they felt that morning as if the Pope had come amongst them, for he had conferred a high dignity on their good pastor. He went on to congratulate the people because of the honor conferred on their pastor, and so conferred on them. He congratulated Monsignor McKenna on the dignity bestowed on him, and wished him many long years to enjoy his high office.

His Grace Archbishop Redwood officiated at Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, assisted by Dean Power, of Hawera.

The choir rendered the music exceedingly well, and so the ceremonies closed for the day.

The altar was beautifully decorated for the ceremony, this being the work of the ladies of the parish.

Poor Solomon Stead lay sick in his bed,  
'Twas a cold that he'd contracted,  
With lungs like lead, he was all but dead,  
And his wife was nigh distracted.  
In the stress of her grief she shook like a leaf,  
But such anguish was premature,  
For her mother rushed in, and replaced hot gin  
With Woods' Great Peppermint Cure.

SIDELIGHTS ON THE WAR

GENERAL.

A French nun who arrived in London recently informed a newspaper representative that a large number of Sisters have been killed whilst tending patients at the hospital in Arras, from which city she had just come.

News has reached Victoria that Captain the Rev. Father E. O'S. Goidanich was taken ill with septic pneumonia shortly after he began work in Egypt. It was probably contracted from horses which died of the complaint on the voyage.

A semi-official note published in Rome says that whilst a priest in his ecclesiastical vestments and two medical officers and stretcher-bearers were engaged in burying the corpses of some thirty Austrians and Germans they were fired upon, and the priest and two bearers were wounded.

An English priest, who lived in a Westphalian nobleman's family as a private chaplain for a year before the war, was interned in August, and was released only last July. He states that the Germans are frightened about the money question, and are resorting to the most extraordinary measures to acquire gold.

Mrs. Grady, of Mossley, England, who died early in July, was the mother of nine sons on active service. Six of the sons attended the funeral, while the other three could not be released, these being Francis (H.M.S. Lion), Michael (Manchester Regiment), and William (R.H.A.). The father was a member of the West Riding Volunteers.

Major-General Bulfin, C.B., C.V.O., to whom, according to Sir John French's despatch, is due the credit for planning the successful mining operations which led to the capture of Hill 60, is one of the most distinguished of the many Irish officers chosen for higher command since the commencement of the war. He is the son of the late Mr. P. Bulfin, J.P., of Woodstown Park, Rathfarnham, and after being educated at Stonyhurst and Trinity College, Dublin, entered the army in 1884 at the age of 22. He was military secretary to Sir William Butler at the Cape, and he served with great distinction in the South African War, and afterwards held several important staff appointments in that colony.

Sergeant Alfred Richards, 1st Lancashire Fusiliers, who has been awarded the V.C., is a son of Mr. Charles Richards, ex-color-sergeant 2nd Battalion, Lancashire Fusiliers, residing with a married daughter at Hawthorne, Brisbane, and he has a brother who is a Catholic captain-chaplain with the New Zealand Contingent at the Dardanelles (says the *Catholic Press*). Another brother is serving with the 4th Battalion, Machine Gun Section, 1st Australian Division. He has a sister residing at North Coogee, and a brother, Charles, at Brisbane. Sergeant Richards was wounded at Cape Helles, and at No. 15 General Hospital, Alexandria, his right leg was amputated above the knee. He is now in the 3rd General Hospital, London.

SHRAPNEL HAS NO TERROR FOR THEM.

Mr. Ernest Egan left Australia to fight for freedom as a member of the 6th Battalion Australian Imperial Troops (says the *Belfast Irish News*). His father is a Dublin man residing in that city; and, writing from a hospital in Malta, the young Irish Australian gives his parent a graphic account of the famous landing of the British forces at Gallipoli. The Australians acquitted themselves with amazing gallantry then—and their record has been brightened by subsequent deeds. In the course of his narrative Mr. Ernest Egan wrote:— 'The Dublin and Munster Fusiliers fought splendidly at Gallipoli. They were the first of the regular regiments to land, their landing was far more difficult than ours, but barbed wire or shrapnel had no terror