

following dialogue:—'The Pessimist (morbidly): "I tell yer wot it is. This 'ere War's goin' to last five years." The Other: "Why not make it fifty, and thoroughly enjoy yerself?"'

### Fighting in the Mountains

The correspondent to the *Milan Corriere* sends a vivid account, published in one of the London papers, of the remarkable nature of the surroundings in which Italy is fighting among the mountains. There is the very whiff of the Alps in his sentences:—'In some places the opposing armies are within call. In the silent hours of the night our soldiers hear the Austrians speaking behind their rocky parapets, which seem to defy shells. Here they fight for the possession of bare stony ledges, where it is impossible to dig trenches. Nature offers to the defenders formidable natural positions which have been completed and fortified by constant work. The enemy is hidden behind blocks of rock, the approaches to which are defended by mines and wire entanglements. Everything shows long, careful, and patient preparation. If we had against us only an armed force, if now, as in the classical wars of the past, valor, boldness, and heroism were the greatest factors of victory, we should have long passed the Isonzo. The methods of modern war and the nature of the country force us to patient action, consisting of sudden leaps and waiting, rapid blows and slow pressure measures, above all else, rational, studied, methodic. It is not a question of taking a certain position. There is a great number of positions to be taken on a front of three hundred miles. For every one of these positions there is a little battle, with its surprises, feints, and waiting. The map shows us that the Austrian is always in a higher position than we are. He holds the high mountain and we must ascend, conquering each shoulder of the mountain, one height after another. Our war is an ascent, always higher and higher. Every fight we conquer one step—the next step commands our position. The enemy in retiring stands above us. But what does it matter? Our ascent cannot be resisted. The storm is most violent, most intense and obstinate towards Gorizia. Our guns are beating all the obstacles. From the mountains to the north there comes to us the continuous roar of the far-away firing. Line after line of advanced trenches have been taken. They are fighting now on the border of burning Lucinico, near the acrid flames of the fire. Gorizia is only two steps further. With ordered enthusiasm, with sublime heroism, the men of our infantry have gone against the most formidable field works, and they stand now fearless in their hasty entrenchment a few hundred yards from the enemy.'

### Why in Latin?

A West Coast correspondent having sent us the ever-recurring question, 'Why is Latin used in Church services, especially, at Mass, Marriages, and Funerals,' we handed the query over to our learned contributor 'Ghimel,' who has furnished us with the following comprehensive reply, which we think will prove of general interest: (1) The Church always believes in the same doctrines, and expresses her official, public worship of God in the same fashion. Faith and worship remain the same down along the centuries. So too the surroundings, the setting of public worship must, as far as possible, remain unaltered. Now one of the brilliant settings of our official homage is the language in which it is expressed. And Latin was chosen as the language-setting, because in the early ages of the Church it was spoken all over the Roman Empire, and that was everywhere; it was kept on, because while other languages, living ones, are always changing, it remains the same. An Englishman of the 20th century would find an Englishman of the 15th unintelligible; even a Yorkshire man to-day, I believe, cannot understand his neighbor in Lancashire. But the Latin of to-day is the same as the Latin of the first centuries, and is the same everywhere. This

secures uniformity and the certainty that nothing strange or out of place is introduced into the solemn functions of the Church. (2) I can understand the Anglican Church, that is, the Church of and for Englishmen, using English; but the Catholic Church is Catholic or universal, and therefore has one language which can be readily understood by English, Italian, Germans, French, Turks, Chinese, and all the rest. And somehow there keeps ringing in our ears the command that our Lord gave His apostles to gather in all nations. (3) And after all the Mass is not a sermon, but an official act of worship. Catholics, if they cannot follow the Latin prayers, know what is going on and can easily join in the different parts. The use of Latin at marriages and funerals tends to produce that feeling of sacredness which is so becoming at these solemn functions. But its use on these two occasions is not so pressing as at Mass, for the Mass is the most solemn act of worship we can assist at. Hence it is that the blessings and prayers at the marriage and burial services are at times said in, say, English after being said in Latin, and at times in English alone.'

### HIS LORDSHIP BISHOP CLEARY

A Press Association message from Auckland states that his Lordship Bishop Cleary has made good progress towards recovery from his illness, and the following cablegram was received from Sydney on Friday:—'There is a marked improvement in the Bishop's condition. He leaves the hospital to-day for Archbishop's palace at Manly.'

### DIOCESE OF DUNEDIN

The devotion of the Forty Hours' Adoration began in St. Joseph's Cathedral on Friday morning, when Solemn High Mass will be celebrated at nine o'clock, after which there will be a procession of the Blessed Sacrament. On Saturday morning the Mass *Pro Pace* will be celebrated at nine o'clock. There will be Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament both on Friday and Saturday evenings. The devotion will be brought to a close on Sunday evening with a procession and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

A combined barrier run took place from St. Joseph's Hall on Saturday afternoon. Messrs. C. Moloney (St. Joseph's) and R. McAhan (Caversham) were in charge of the paper. The pack, under the able control of J. O'Farrell (St. Joseph's), with Newell (Caversham) as deputy, had an excellent run, after which the various clubs adjourned to the concert hall, where tea was provided. During the evening Mr. Newell took occasion, on behalf of the clubs represented, to thank the members of St. Joseph's Club, making special mention of the assistance of Mrs. Jackson and her lady friends, for the afternoon's enjoyment. Mr. J. O'Farrell, in reply, thanked the various clubs for their attendance. Mr. Moloney returned thanks on behalf of Mrs. Jackson and the young ladies, and the evening was brought to a close by the singing of the National Anthem.

### Meance

(From a correspondent.)

September 26.

We have had two or three days of splendid rain, which was badly wanted, and will do a great deal of good. There was a sharp frost on Thursday night which did much damage to fruit trees, potatoes, etc.

The Catholic community sincerely regret the departure of Sister Bernardine, who had been here for the past 29 years. She has been transferred to Whangarei, where she has been appointed Superior.