

MISSING PAGE

MISSING PAGE

Friends at Court

CLEANINGS FOR NEXT WEEK'S CALENDAR

- February 6, Sunday.—Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany.
 ,, 7, Monday.—St. Romuald, Abbot.
 ,, 8, Tuesday.—St. John of Matha, Confessor.
 ,, 9, Wednesday.—St. Cyril of Alexandria, Bishop, Confessor, and Doctor.
 ,, 10, Thursday.—St. Scholastica, Virgin.
 ,, 11, Friday.—Blessed Virgin Mary of Lourdes
 ,, 12, Saturday.—The Seven Founders, Confessors.

St. John of Matha, Confessor.

The life of St. John of Matha was one long course of self-sacrifice for the glory of God and the good of his neighbor. As a child his chief delight was serving the poor, and he often told them he had come into the world for no other end but to wash their feet. He studied at Paris with such distinction that his professors advised him to become a priest, in order that his talents might render greater service to others; and for this end John gladly sacrificed his high rank and other worldly advantages. At his first Mass an angel appeared, clad in white, with a red and blue cross on his breast and his hands reposing on the heads of a Christian and a Moorish captive. To ascertain what this signified John repaired to St. Felix of Valois, a holy hermit living near Meaux, under whose direction he led a life of extreme penance. The angel again appeared, and they set out for Rome to learn the will of God from the lips of the Sovereign Pontiff, who told them to devote themselves to the redemption of captives. For this purpose they founded the Order of the Holy Trinity. The religious fasted every day, and, gathering alms throughout Europe, took them to Barbary to redeem the Christian slaves. They devoted themselves also to the sick and prisoners in all countries. Worn out by his heroic labors, John died in 1213 at the age of 53.

St. Scholastica, Virgin.

St. Scholastica, sister of St. Benedict, was born at Nursia, Italy, and lived near him in the monastery of Plombariolo, which she caused to be built about five miles from that of Monte Cassino.

GRAINS OF GOLD.

MARY, QUEEN OF PEACE.

We kneel before thee, Queen of Peace,
 All confident to-day
 That Europe soon her strife will cease,
 Her warring hands will stay.

Thine eyes look sadly down upon
 Her dying and her dead,
 Her ruined homes and faces wan,
 And hearts whence joy hath fled.

Ah, Mother! 'tis alas! too true
 Our sins God's wrath provoke,
 And scourge and cross are but our due
 When we despise His yoke.

Yet, if thou pleadest, can He still
 His sword of justice wield?
 Will it not rather be His will
 To thee, our hope, to yield?

Then in the litany, we'll sing
 To 'Mary, Queen of Peace,'
 A title which new joy will bring
 And love for thee increase.

—*Franciscan Herald.*

The Storyteller

ROSEMARY

In the Arlington Cemetery, near Washington, there is probably no monument more simple and yet more impressive than that which marks the grave of an engineer who died in the government service. It is a single large block of rose quartz. Something about its beautiful color and its clear texture makes it seem especially appropriate as a token of affection for one who has gone.

At any rate, so it seemed to Zackary Lurvey, when he visited Arlington Cemetery. Lurvey lived in our county in Maine, and at the time was attending a political gathering in Washington. He was not a man whose heart was easily touched; in fact, at home he was considered a 'hard old citizen,' and few liked him; but beneath his harsh exterior he had one tender spot—the memory of his young wife, Rosemary, who had died at the age of twenty, when they had been married only a year. She was a pretty, blue-eyed girl, with a clear, sweet voice.

Lurvey had been married twice since Rosemary died, and as the years passed he had grown hard and unscrupulous. No one had ever known him to show gentleness or kindness toward anyone in his later years, and his shrewdness in any business transaction had become proverbial in our county.

When old Zackary saw that block of rose quartz at Arlington, memories of blue-eyed Rosemary stirred his tough old heart. He suddenly determined to tear down the granite monument on her grave, and to replace it with a block of that clear rose stone.

His intention was still firm when he returned to Maine; but he had no idea where he could get the rose quartz, for he was a lumberman and had little knowledge of minerals. He had heard, however, that my cousin Addison was interested in mineralogy, and that we boys from the old academy had of late been roaming round up near the boundary.

One day we met him on the road. Usually the old fellow passed us with a surly nod, but that day he pulled in his horse, and remarked that it was 'a fine day for the race,' meaning the human race in general. That was his favorite joke, and was a sure sign that he was in good humor.

'Never told me how much you made off'n that cut of bird's-eye maple you got hold of on the old Cranston farm,' he said, by way of beginning a conversation.

'Oh, we did pretty well with it, Mr. Lurvey,' Addison replied.

'So I hear,' said he. 'Pretty shrewd you were. I intended to buy up that lot of maple myself, but you were too shrewd for me. D'ye mind saying, now it's over, how you found out that them maples was bird's-eye?'

We had learned from past experience never to give away a bit of useful information to old Zack Lurvey. 'Woodpeckers sometimes pick holes in trees,' Addison remarked sagely.

The old man shot a questioning glance at us, and then began to talk of something else. 'I wisht I had your legs to run about up there in the great woods. Heard you found gold up at Megantic. Some say you didn't. Did ye?'

'Oh, a few little nuggets,' Addison said. We knew that old Zack had learned about our finding the nuggets, and had secretly sent a man up over the boundary to prospect the brooks that flow into Megantic Lake.

'When you was rangin' up that way,' the old man continued, 'd'ye ever come across any rock that was sort of pink-colored, rosy like, and clear all through, real pretty rock?'

'You mean rose quartz?' Addison asked.

'I guess that's what ye do call it. Ever see any of that?'

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'Yes, once in a while, on ledges, where granite, mica, and feldspar crop out,' replied Addison, still on his guard. We could not imagine what old Zack was driving at.

'I'd like to git a big piece of that,' said he. 'A nice, big piece that would weigh a ton or two. Wouldn't care if 'twould weigh two or three tons. But I want it to be clear and have a real rosy color to it.'

Something in the old lumberman's tone surprised us. We wondered what he wanted such a huge piece of rose quartz for, but we knew better than to show any curiosity about it. Addison merely remarked that it would not be easy to get a mass of rose quartz of that size, because it usually occurred in not very large outcrops from other rock, and because it was hard to get one without cracking it.

'You don't think you could get me such a piece, then?' old Zack said. 'I'd pay ye well, if you could,' he added.

'Oh, I don't say it couldn't be done,' Addison replied.

'Wal, keep me in mind about this, when you're cruisin' round,' the old lumberman said, and drove on.

'What in the world does he want with that?' Addison said.

We guessed that old Zack had heard that some other mineral substance more valuable was associated with rose quartz, and that he was trying to find out through us where rose quartz abounded.

A year passed. We saw bits and chunks of rose quartz here and there, but none of them very large; indeed the prospect of our ever getting a mass of the size that old Zack wanted was so slight that we soon forgot about the matter.

Time went on until the fall, when typhoid fever broke out at the academy. School closed for several weeks, and a party of us went up to Boundary Camp. While out shooting partridges Hiram Sewell came upon a peculiar boulder. As he was stealing along a little hollow among some cedars, he caught sight of a bit of pink rock almost completely buried in scurf soil and dead leaves. He thought so little about it at the time that he did not even mention it.

But the next spring, when Mr. Kennard, our preceptor, was giving us a talk on mineralogy, Hiram was reminded of it.

'I saw a mighty pretty piece of rose quartz up at Boundary Camp,' he said. 'I don't know how large it was, because I didn't stop to kick the dead leaves away from it. I was after a flock of partridges.' He went on to tell us just where he had seen the rock.

One cloudy day in the following August, while we were at work stacking hay in the meadow below Boundary Camp, Addison set out for the place Hiram had described, to look for the rose quartz. He came back at dark much elated. 'That's a fine piece of rose quartz Hiram saw up there last fall,' he said. 'I found it. It isn't a ledge; there's no ledge there. I think it's a stray mass left by the glacial ice in the drift period. We have never seen any other rose quartz up there, you know.'

'But how large is it?' we asked. 'Will it weigh a ton?'

'More, I think. I didn't dig it entirely out of the gravel. It's fine color—lovely. If old Zackary doesn't want it, I should like it for a specimen, to set by the door at home. It's a beauty.'

A few days later he and I went up there, and took a shovel and a crowbar with us. Addison had not exaggerated either the size or the beauty of the boulder. It measured four feet and an inch in length, by two feet eleven in width, and by almost the same in depth, and there were no sharp angles. It carried the rose tint deep into the glassy clear depths of the stone.

We covered it over with dead leaves and brush, and left it there for the time being. In order to take it out we should have to wait for snow, and then, after swamping a road up through the spruce woods from the hay meadows, drag it out by sled.

The next day we met Lurvey on the road, and Addison asked him whether he still wanted to get the block of rose quartz he had spoken of before.

'Have ye found something of the sort?' the old lumberman asked.

'I think we have about what you want.'

'Where d'ye find it?' he asked.

'Well, it's a long way from here,' Addison replied, guardedly. 'It will take a number of men several days to get it. But it is a beautiful rock. Do you want it enough to make it worth our while to get it?'

Old Zack asked numerous questions about the size and color of the boulder. At last he said, 'If what you've got is as handsome as you tell me, I'll give ye 250 dollars for it. But mind ye, I make no promise till I've seen the stone.'

'That's fair enough, Mr. Lurvey,' Addison replied.

'If it isn't what we say it is, don't take it.'

So the matter rested until late in December, when the old squire gave us the use of a double team, which was going to the meadow stacks for hay, and four men, to get the boulder and draw it home. I was in bed with a bad cold at the time, and Addison went up alone to superintend the task. It took them two days to get the boulder, which they placed in the middle of a load of hay, down to the farm.

Theodora and Ellen were in raptures over it when the men rolled it out of the hay. 'Oh, don't let's sell it!' they exclaimed. The old squire, too, was impressed with the beauty of the stone, but he said at once that we must keep our agreement with old Zack.

We sent word to the old lumberman, and a few days later he drove over to see the stone. We had unloaded the boulder in the wagon house, and it lay there on two pieces of plank. Addison rolled back the door and showed it to old Zack. The old man looked it over, walked round it, and then stood regarding it thoughtfully for some time.

At last he turned to us. 'I'll take it,' he said. Without attempting to argue over the price, he took out his pocket-book and counted out twenty-five ten-dollar notes; he hesitated a moment and then added another to the pile, and handed it all to Addison. He glanced at the stone again, remarked to the old squire that we needed more snow for logging, and drove away.

'Is that really old Zack?' said I.

'Doesn't act like him,' Addison remarked; and the old squire cast a thoughtful look after the departing sleigh.

The next day we delivered the pink boulder to Lurvey at the Mills. We still wondered what he intended to do with it. Collecting mineral specimens was not much like Zackary Lurvey. Later that winter we heard that he had the boulder in his room, at the Mills.

We sent 50 dollars of the money to Hiram, and proceeded to forget all about the boulder. But the following November Willis and Ben Murch, who had been out hunting, told us that they had seen the boulder, set as a gravestone, in a little burial ground a mile and a-half beyond Lurvey's Mills.

Afterward we saw it there ourselves, set handsomely in a granite base about two feet high, on which was cut the single word, 'Rosemary.' The other graves in the little burying ground were neglected, but old-fashioned garden flowers—one a root of rosemary—bloomed about this one, and the grass round it was neatly mowed. There, against a background of young green pines, the rosy boulder of quartz stood, a monument to the blue-eyed Rosemary and to the one tender chord in a hard old heart.

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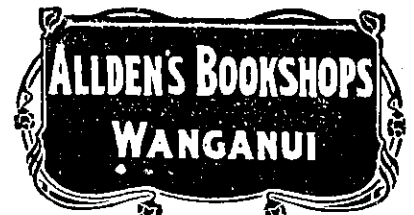
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HOW JOHN MESSMER WON HIS WAY

I.

John Messmer was the son as well as the grandson of a soldier. His grandfather had served in the Revolutionary War; his father was a captain in the regular army, and hoped to see his son in the same profession. But John had never been a studious boy, and always declared that he would never go to West Point.

'I do not doubt it, John,' said the Captain one day. 'A certain amount of intelligence is required to pass the preliminary examination.'

Captain Messmer could be sarcastic on occasions, and this was one.

'Frank, dear!' mildly expostulated his wife.

'Perhaps father's right, mother,' said the sturdy boy. 'I never could bear study; I hate books, except books about mathematics.'

'That makes it so much the worse,' said his father. 'You have an aptitude for the very studies which would serve you best in the profession I should like you to choose. But, then, here you are, allowing every clodhopper to get ahead of you at school. The result would be the same should you get an appointment. However, soldiers' boys somehow stand the worst chance for even that.'

'John, why don't you say just now what you *do* want?' asked his sister and chum, who was two years older and so, perhaps, two years wiser than himself.

'I may as well, I suppose,' her brother rejoined. 'I know you are prepared for it, Jennie; but father and mother will be just heartbroken of course. There is something I've always wanted.'

'What is it?' inquired his father, regarding him attentively.

'I *do* want to be a soldier—I've always wanted to; but my ambition is to go in as an enlisted man, and rise from the ranks to be somebody.'

'O, John!' pleaded his mother.

'How long have you had this in mind?' said the Captain.

'Four or five years at least; and Jennie thinks just as I do about it; don't you, Jennie?'

'Pretty much as you do, John,' said his sister. 'I believe you will really make something of yourself in that way. He's not lazy, father,' she continued, turning to the Captain.

'In a manner, no,' said her father. 'And he has been about a post all his life. He knows what being an enlisted man means.'

'But, Frank,' said Mrs. Messmer, 'think of the hardships, the long waiting for promotion, the loss of—of—'

'Social caste?' queried her husband, again slightly sarcastic. 'Well, look at H— and T— and B—! They have all risen from the ranks.'

'Lots of fellows do it nowadays,' said the boy. 'Of course I shouldn't stay here, you know.'

It need not be said that no son of an army officer who chooses to enlist is attached to the corps under his father's command.

Captain Messmer did not oppose the proposition, and three months later John Messmer entered the United States army as a common soldier. From the first he gave entire satisfaction. He had always been a good boy; and, being naturally very refined, by his gentlemanly manners and soldierly bearing he made a favorable impression on his comrades.

Captain Messmer was not a Catholic, but his wife and children were all faithful members of the Church. One daughter had recently entered the Order of the Sacred Heart, where she had been educated; a son was a professor of mathematics in an Eastern Catholic college. John had never been considered a pious boy, but he would as soon have thought of laying aside his uniform as his Scapular; and he always carried a little rosary in his pocket, seldom failing to say at least one decade every day.

After her boy's departure, Mrs. Messmer gradually grew reconciled to his choice; although she looked forward a little sadly to the years which must elapse before, his conduct and qualifications entirely satisfactory, he could become a commissioned officer.

They were speaking of this one day, when Mrs. Messmer said:

'There are so many things, Jennie. Fancy a hop at the post, for instance, and some of the girls there we all know, and John not being allowed even to put his foot inside the door!'

'The girls will admire him so much the more,' said the brave and loyal sister. 'Besides, he will have all the more time to study. And now that he knows he must study, why he will, mother. John will come out all right. Just wait.'

'That is the hard part, the waiting,' returned her mother. 'During a time of war he might expect promotion; but now, Jennie, it will be very slow. We Americans are always at peace with the rest of the world—except, perhaps, the Indians; and even they don't give us any trouble nowadays.'

She finished with a little sigh. Jennie laughed as she answered:

'If one did not know you, mamma, one might think you very heartless and blood-thirsty after hearing you make such a speech. But I can imagine your state of mind if there should be a war; for I can remember the time of the Indian outbreak at Fort—, when papa's company was so badly cut up.'

'I did not think what I was saying, dear,' said her mother. 'God forbid that my foolish words should ever come back, to reproach me!'

But they did come back, and that very soon. This conversation took place in November, 1897; and in the following May Captain Messmer and his son were both on their way to Santiago de Cuba, though in different regiments. The speedy promotions of war had already made John a corporal, but this was small consolation to his anxious mother and sister. Time will not permit us to recount his adventures, and they were not few; but we will follow him to San Juan, where, after the first day's fight, we find him stretched at full-length near a dying camp-fire, writing a letter on a piece of brown paper, with the merest excuse for a lead pencil. It ran thus:

Dearest Mother and Jennie,—Who knows but that this may be the last time you will ever hear from me? I have been under fire all day,—*we* have been, I should have said. No one need say he is not afraid in his first battle. I wouldn't believe it if he did, and don't you believe it either. It's all well enough till you begin to hear the bullets whizzing and fellows dropping on every side. But after the first few moments there is no thought of fear. You only want to get at them. Every time I took out a fresh cartridge I said a prayer, and then, I tell you, I went at them with a will. Once, on both sides of me the boys were killed; and two or three were wounded afterward just next me, right and left; but, thank God, I wasn't touched. We were not in the first part of the engagement, and to see the almost solid wall of dead bodies we had to walk over at our first fire was sickening to body and soul. I couldn't look down, for fear I should run away; so I just looked straight ahead and fought like mad. Fellows don't talk to one another much about their feelings—they're not like girls and women,—but I'll bet ten to one they all felt as I did. God preserved me through this day's fight, and I hope and pray He will to-morrow.

'I haven't seen father yet: don't know whether his company was in the fight or whether he's dead or alive. There has been an awful lot of sickness here, too; and I want to send a dollar to Jen to have a Mass said for the sick and dying and dead. I hope this letter will get to you somehow. We're sure to have a hard day to-morrow. It's funny, but so often of late I've thought of poor mother lamenting my chances for promotion,—never dreaming war would come so soon. If I get out of this all right, it won't be because I haven't done my duty.'

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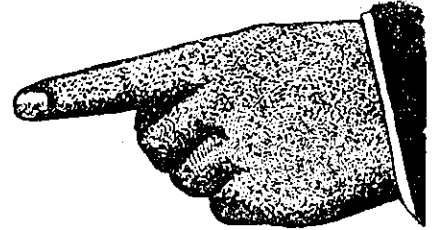
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'The fire is pretty nearly out: I can't see to write any longer. Good-bye, Jennie! Good-bye, mother! I don't feel as if I were not going to see you again. Your loving JOHN.'

A boyish letter, but the writer was barely eighteen.

The next day Corporal Messmer was sent by his colonel, under the hottest fire, with some dispatches to another part of the field. He went and returned in an incredibly short space of time, feeling already like an old, experienced soldier, and bearing himself as one. The colonel complimented him highly, which pleased the boy very much. Later in the day, when the fight was won, and John, with several of his comrades, lay stretched on the bare ground, worn out with fatigue, he saw a pair of legs in the distance which seemed familiar. Springing to his feet, he ran as fast as he could to the spot, to find his father, unwounded and unharmed, in serious conversation with the colonel. They clasped hands in silence; in that moment they were nearer to each other than they had ever been before. The colonel and Captain Messmer had been close friends all their lives. Said the former to John:

'Corporal, I have just been telling your father that I shall recommend you for promotion. He's a born soldier,' continued the grizzled veteran, with a smile, turning again to Captain Messmer.

'That's what I went in for, colonel,' replied the boy, touching his cap,—'to do my duty and get up by degrees.'

'You did not expect to do it so soon, though; did you?' said the colonel.

'No, sir,' replied John. 'The Maine hadn't been blown up when I enlisted.'

Father and son had very few words together, as duty called them both in contrary directions. But the Captain found time to say:

'Were you frightened at first, boy?'

'I was indeed,' said John, without hesitation.

'And what did you do?'

'I prayed,' said the boy, simply.

II.

Mrs. Messmer and Jennie went to Ohio to spend the summer with a cousin. This was after the surrender of Santiago, when their minds felt in some degree relieved, and their anxiety about the dear ones in Cuba was not so keen as it had been a few weeks before.

'John is such a strong fellow,' his mother would say; 'and I'm sure he will be very prudent about drinking water, and all that.'

Then news came that the regiment was returning home; and they began to make preparations to go to Philadelphia, where Mrs. Messmer had a sister, and where she hoped both father and son would be allowed to recruit. Her other children were established in the vicinity, and she counted on the family's being reunited for a short time, at least. They saw by the papers that the transport had already started; that it was due on a certain day. Then there was delay: it had not been heard from, and the hearts of mother and daughter were filled with new anxiety.

One evening, as they were all seated on the piazza, that sometime welcome and often dreaded messenger, the telegraph boy, made his appearance bearing his ubiquitous yellow envelope. It was a summons from the Captain to hasten to Montauk. It read:

'Come as soon as possible. John down with fever.'

The next morning found them on their way. On the evening of the second day they reached Montauk. It had been an intensely hot journey; they were almost exhausted. To add to their anxiety, the Captain was not there to meet them; and they began to fear that he, too, might have fallen a victim to the fever. It was almost dark when they arrived. No one seemed able to give them any information, and they walked helplessly about for some time, until suddenly they espied a burly Negro standing beside an army ambulance.

'Are you waiting for someone?' inquired Mrs. Messmer.

'I was, lady; but they haven't come. Leastways I can't find 'em.'

'Do you know Captain Messmer,—can you take up to his quarters?' asked the lady.

'Don't know as I do; but I reckon I can find him, lady. This here camp is pretty big, and I'm a stranger myself; but if you're willin' to ride round till we come across him, I'll take you.'

The ladies readily assented to this proposition, and for the next hour were driven up hill and down dale, through heaps of dust and hundreds of ruts and holes, till night fell with the blackness which portends a severe storm, and they began to think they would never be able to find the Captain. But just as they were about to despair they heard the sound of a familiar voice. Jennie leaned out of the ambulance, calling, 'Papa! papa!' The next moment she was in her father's arms.

He had not received their telegram. Everything was as yet in confusion at Montauk.

They followed him to his tent, meant for one person only, and were glad to find shelter there. He soon reassured them about John, saying that there was no immediate danger, but also informing them that they could not see the boy till next morning. To this his wife demurred at first; but when the Captain explained that the hospital tents were at a considerable distance, and that visitors were not allowed there after dark, she made no further protest.

The Captain then took them over to the mess tent, where, seated on cracker boxes, they drank tea from tin cups and ate bread and butter with a hungry relish. Then he conducted them again to his tent, which he made over to them for the night, retiring himself to that of another officer. Exhausted by fatigue and worry, they wrapped themselves in his army blankets and slept as well as they could for the great heat until morning. About midnight it began to rain heavily, but fortunately no water penetrated the tent. The sun was already blazing when, after another light repast, they went eagerly forth to visit the beloved son and brother.

* * * * *

'Ah! that can't be John—our John!'

'It is John, Fanny.'

The Captain's arms were around his wife; while poor Jennie leaned, sobbing against her mother.

'Cry all you want to,' said the homely but kind-hearted nurse. 'The boy don't know a bit of you, anyway; though he's been calling "Mother!" and "Jennie!" ever since he come in.'

But the girl checked her sobs.

'How long has he been here?' she inquired.

'Five days,' was the reply. 'He was took with fever on the transport, and he's been ravin' nearly ever since. But he's not been violent ever. This is a fine place he's in. He's fortunate, Miss.'

Jennie looked about her. It was not so bad, compared with what she had already seen, or what her father had witnessed when he wandered about for two long days all over the Point, seeking his boy.

But there were three others in the tent: one at the foot of John's cot, looking even more pallid and gaunt than her brother; and two on the opposite side, who seemed to be recovering,—at least there were signs of intelligence in their wasted eyes.

Mrs. Messmer had sunk on her knees beside the bed.

'John, Johnnie!' she pleaded, kissing the thin yellow hand. 'Don't you know me,—don't you know mother?'

The boy gazed at her vacantly. His lips were dry and black, his nostrils pinched and quivering, his eyes glittering and restless. He looked like a worn and wasted old man.

Some one fetched a box and made her sit down. Jennie knelt beside her; the Captain moved to the foot of the cot. The doctor came in and spoke in a low tone to the nurse.

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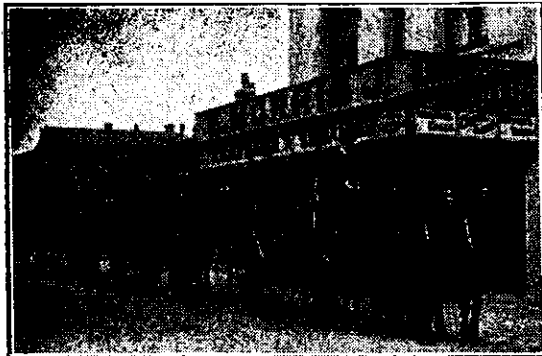
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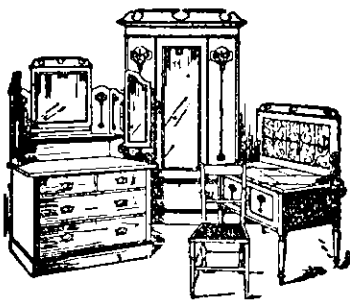


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Mrs. Messmer turned to him.

'O, doctor! can he not be moved?' she asked. 'Can't we have him some place by himself?' 'There is no place, Madam,' he said, gravely. 'He is well situated for the present. There are only four in this tent altogether.'

Mrs. Messmer looked around her.

'All boys?' she inquired.

'All boys,' was the answer. 'And all worse off than your son, if you look at it rightly; for the other mothers can not come to theirs.'

'Oh, I am ungrateful!' sobbed the Captain's wife.

'When will he be well enough to move, doctor?' whispered Jennie.

He looked at her compassionately.

'I am afraid he will not live the day through,' was the slow reply.

Doctor James had gauged Miss Jennie well. She neither trembled nor wept, but regarded him for an instant with tightly closed lips. Then she asked:

'Will he be conscious again?'

'He may; I cannot say,' replied the doctor.

'We are Catholics. He would want to receive the Sacraments. Is there a priest anywhere about, doctor?' she inquired.

'There are several at Montauk, if one could find them. But it is so hard to do that, they are in such demand.'

Just then Mrs. Messmer uttered a little cry. The dying boy had stretched forth his hand; he was smiling. 'Mother!' he said, and two big tears coursed down the gaunt, pale cheeks.

Jennie clutched the doctor's arm.

'Is it a sign of death?' she asked.

'It may be,' said the doctor.

'Jennie! Jennie!' murmured a faint voice from the bed. He had seen her. But Jennie was gone.

Up and down between the long rows of tents she flew rather than ran, asking everyone she met if he could tell her where a priest might be found. Some of those whom she encountered offered to assist her, others pointed out possible places where she might find the object of her search; and finally a red-headed, good-natured-looking sergeant conducted her to one who was just issuing from a large hospital tent. He accompanied her at once. John was still conscious, but very languid. To her loving greeting he reached forth a trembling hand, which she kissed again and again. Then she led her frightened mother away. Until she saw the priest, the poor woman had not realised her son's imminent danger.

When the visitors left the tent, a screen was placed about the bed, and the penitent was practically alone with the confessor and his God. A few moments later the priest came out, smiling.

'He is ready,' he said. 'In fact, he was ready before I came.'

As they stood for a moment outside the tent, an orderly advanced with a letter, which he gave to the Captain.

'It is for you, Fanny,' he said, handing it to his wife.

'Oh, it is from John—from Cuba!' she whispered, in a choking voice. 'Read it, Jennie: I cannot.'

The girl opened it with unsteady fingers. It was the letter written after the battle, with which our readers are already familiar. She read it aloud, but in a hushed tone of voice. There was not a dry eye in the group when she had finished.

'Father,' she said, handing the priest the dollar bill which was inclosed in John's letter, 'will you say the Mass to-morrow? And, oh, remember my poor brother!' Then she ran away and hid herself for a few moments behind the tent; presently returning, with red eyes but a cheerful countenance. 'I do not believe God will let John die,' she said. 'I believe he will get well, he is so good!'

However illogical this reasoning, it comforted her hearers, who all declared when they went back to the sufferer that he looked better. And so he did, and

so he was. From that moment he began to improve; in a fortnight he was able to be moved.

During that fortnight Jennie showed herself to be a veritable angel of mercy throughout the camp. Her gratitude for the recovery of her brother was so great, and her sympathy for the poor fellows who, like him, were suffering, but, unlike him, had not been fortunate enough to have the loving care of friends and relatives, was so deep that she devoted herself to their service.

And John's cup of happiness was full. The overflowing drop was added when, on the day before their departure for Philadelphia, his father came in to tell him that he himself had been appointed colonel, at the same time placing a large official envelope in the boy's hand. It was John's appointment as lieutenant,—subject to his passing a satisfactory examination when able to undergo it. That he did so is a matter of recent history. He is now in the Philippines. He has won his way.—*Ave Maria.*

THE CATHOLIC FEDERATION AND POLITICS

The following paper by Mrs. M. C. Goulter was read at the meeting of the Wellington Diocesan Council of the Catholic Federation:—

Among all the rocks and shoals which threaten the safety of the barque of the Catholic Federation, none loom so large or so threateningly on her course as her relation to New Zealand politics. It is a three-fold danger, consisting of the nervousness of many Catholics on this point, and their consequent aloofness from the Federation which they would otherwise support; the hostility excited in the public mind by any suggestion of our entry into the political arena as a corporate body of Catholics; and the real difficulty experienced by the governing body of the Federation in steering a true course between rashness and over-discretion in political action.

Already there has been so much talk about the Federation and politics, that the main point has got thoroughly obscured. There has been so much stress laid on the necessary freedom of the Catholic conscience from coercion in political matters, the disastrous results of the interference of the clergy in politics, and the sacred barrier between politics and religion, that we are all apt to forget the real point at issue, which, nevertheless, is insisted upon in the first page of the constitution of the Federation. The point is this: That nobody is more anxious than the Catholic Church to keep the Catholic conscience free in political matters, and to maintain an impenetrable barrier between religious matters and politics; but when that same Catholic conscience is in danger of being tyrannised over, and when that barrier is broken down by legal encroachment, the secular legislation trenches on the province of religion, then political action must be taken to remedy this state of affairs, or, if that is impossible, at least to protest against it. It would manifestly be of no avail in twentieth-century New Zealand, for the Church merely to denounce and forbid evils of this kind, her authority is not recognised outside her own fold. The obvious reply to any complaints of injustice is: You are citizens of a democratic country, and you have the remedy of citizens—political actions. The possibility of successful political action hinges, of course, on the willingness of individual Catholics to place the interests of religion first in a case where they are seriously threatened; but it will easily be recognised that the machinery of the Federation, embracing as it does, or should do, every parish in the Dominion, provides an unrivalled means of pointing out to Catholics any danger that threatens them, and urging them to combat it. That the Federation is far from being a political machine is guaranteed in the constitution, where we read the following plain and definite statement:—'The Federation is an organisation for the purpose of advancing the religious, civil, and social interests of Catholics throughout New Zealand. It is not a political party organisation, and does not seek to touch politics except where politics

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touch religion, or where the civil rights and liberties of Catholics are affected.' In other words, the Federation, like any other reasonable being or organisation, reserves to itself the right of entering the field of politics to safeguard or to advance its own interests. The fact is that for reasonable beings 'politics' as a distinct science simply does not exist; and this we are too prone to forget when we dogmatise about the Federation's relations with 'politics.' There are, indeed, men so infected with the political microbe that they delight in the feverish excitement of party politics purely for its own sake. But such men are the exception, not the rule. Most of us look on the whole machinery of politics, the party system included, as a means to an end; and that end is the obtaining of what we want for our own safety, welfare, and progress. Even if we are party politicians to the extent of voting for candidates not on their individual merits, but simply as the representatives of a particular party, we do so not from unreasoning affection for that party, but simply because we think it likely to carry out certain measures of which we approve. It is all a means to an end, and the desired end is that as many as possible of our views may be put in practice, our wishes carried out, and our interests looked after. And, if the views, the wishes, and the interests we have most at heart be not merely individual, but those of our associates and our class, who blames us for this, or looks upon us as political slaves? Nothing is regarded as more natural or more praiseworthy than that a man should stand shoulder to shoulder with those of his own class, or of his own profession or trade; so it is evidently not to be regarded as intrinsically wrong and degrading for a citizen to use his vote as a means of advancing the interests of a body of which he is a member. Why, then, should the harm and the degradation first make its appearance, when the principles defended and the interests upheld are those of a body, which Catholics firmly believe to be supernatural in its Founder and its origin, and divinely guided and upheld in its attitude on questions of ethical right and wrong? The whole question is surely one of a conflict of interests. A voter is indeed peculiarly fortunate should he discover in one of the candidates for his constituency a man so in harmony with all his principles and ideas as to be an echo of them in every particular. To expect this would be the height of absurdity; and in almost every case a candidate is voted for because his views, or those of the party he belongs to, tally in one or more important points with those of the constituent. Now, the Catholic Federation fully recognises this conflict of interest and principles at the ballot-box; and, unless a religious principle or one of the hardy-won civil rights of Catholics is in jeopardy, a Federationist is perfectly free to safeguard his individual welfare in whatever way he thinks best, or to study the good of any organisation or class to which he may belong. There will inevitably be at every election a conflict of interest in his mind; party prejudices will battle with personal predilections; class, trade, or professional interest will overthrow individual preferences, or be overthrown by them. All that the Federation asks of any Catholic is that when Catholic interests come before the public as an issue, the Catholic voter shall put them first, and serve God and His Church before he serves himself, his friends, his party, or his class.

In a sense, indeed, Catholic interests are always before the public, and the aims of the Federation are always in need of political support. For the Federation stands for 'the Christian life of the nation; for the Christian education of youth; for the repression of intemperance; for the sanctity and indissolubility of Christian marriage; for the safeguarding of the Christian home. . . . It asserts the necessity of Christian principles in social and public life in the State. . . . It seeks to expose falsehoods and injustice.' For these objects every true citizen, as well as every loyal Catholic, is bound to labor at all times, each in the way that seems best to him, but it is only in very

definite and serious emergencies that the governing body of the Federation will urge any concerted political action upon its members, or throw the weight of its influence upon the side of any particular candidate or party. Even then, the Federationist, who dissents from the decision arrived at, can always withdraw from the organisation. There can be no compulsion placed upon him to record his vote in a manner distasteful to him or contrary to his judgment. The Federation is not a tyrannical organisation, instituted to crush the political liberties of Catholics. It is a free association of Catholic men and women, who, believing in the supreme importance of their religion to themselves and to the world at large, have banded themselves together to advance its interests by every means in their power, not excluding political action, when that right of modern democracy happens to be the proper tool to employ. Of course, if a Catholic can seriously uphold the contention that religious interests should give way to political party or class considerations, and that therefore he must run no risks of being asked at a critical time to prefer the former to the latter, all that can be said is that he is probably perfectly right in considering himself better out of the Federation ranks.

There is, it must be freely admitted, a distinct element of danger in the fact of the Federation having any contact whatever, however cautious and infrequent, with politics. The fact that it is, or will be, generally known throughout New Zealand that, in certain cases, the Catholic Federation may conceivably give its support to a particular candidate or party, will be certain to suggest to unscrupulous politicians the possibility of using it as a tool.

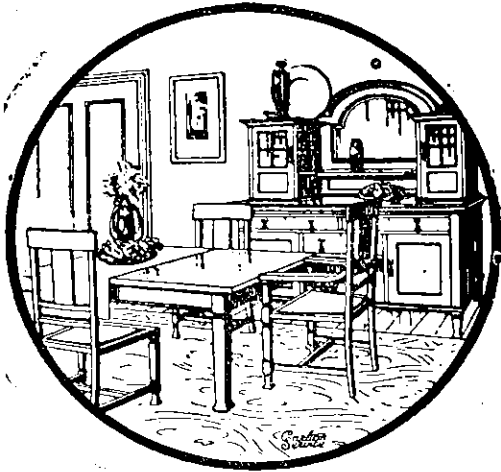
Non-Catholic politicians will seek its support by affecting a sympathy with the Catholic cause which they do not feel, and which they have no intention of carrying any further than empty words. Catholic aspirants to parliamentary honors will endeavor to enlist the official aid of the Federation simply on the ground of their religious belief, though they have not the slightest intention of following that belief to its logical sequence by advocating Catholic principles in the political arena. Zealous but unwise Federationists will push the principles of the Catholic block vote, a practice only to be employed in extreme necessity, to immoderate lengths, and will denounce as lukewarm those who counsel prudence and moderation in the use of this edged tool. Even amongst the wisest, there will be difference of opinion as to whether the particular case under discussion is of a sufficiently grave nature to demand united Catholic action. But can it be proposed that, on account of these too probable complications and difficulties, we Catholics should deliberately disfranchise ourselves as regards the question which should lie nearest our hearts—the interests of religion? It would, indeed, be a strange sight if in these days an organisation should arise, pledging its members to work for the advancement of its objects by every means in their power, save and except the natural and recognised method of influencing the competition and the idea of our assembly of legislators. Yet this is what many New Zealand Catholics would have us do.

Difficulties were made to be overcome, and the Federation, if it is to do any good work at all, will constantly have to solve problems fully as difficult, and evolve lines of action fully as delicate as any question which can arise out of its relations with politics. Therefore, so much the greater is the pressing need of enlisting and retaining in the service of the Federation the most acute and steady brains of our Catholic community. In every parish committee there should be men and women whose presence there will be a guarantee for the prudence as well as for the alertness of their committee. Once secure this happy state of things, and it is a foregone conclusion that the Diocesan and Dominion Councils, elected from the parish committees, will consist of the best possible materials. To those who are nervous about the future

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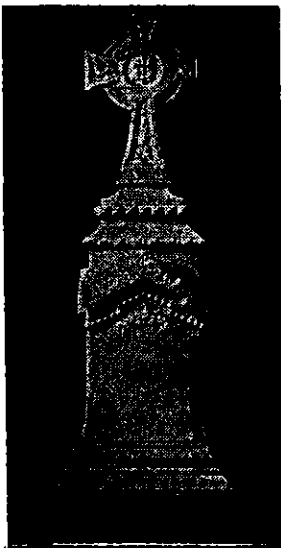
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actions of the Federation, this advice may be given: Use every effort to have suitable men and women elected on your own parish committee, and the governing body of the Federation will take care of itself. But if those whose talents and whose leisure qualify them to take a prominent and useful part in Federation activities stand out and confine themselves to barren criticism, upon them will undoubtedly rest the responsibility of the ruin of a most promising enterprise. The Federation possesses, like a human personality, possibilities for harm in an equal ratio with its almost boundless capabilities for good. This infant born into the world not three years ago will become what the Catholics of New Zealand make it. Its destiny lies in their hands—a destiny fraught with immense power for good in the future of our country, but capable also of becoming a by-word and a reproach among outsiders, and a sad record of the ruin of high and noble designs through the apathy of those who might have brought them to fruition.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY, WANGANUI

The following is the report for the year ended December 31, 1915, of St. Mary's Conference of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, Wanganui:—The work of the conference has been carried out satisfactorily, the attendance of members being good. Cases of relief show a slight increase. In one case of distress which we reported to the officials of a trade union (the person concerned being an ex-member), the union handed over to the society £5 to expend on the family as we thought fit. The conference sent one young woman to the Mount Magdala Home. Our four Sunday schools continue their good work. Ten children made their First Communion, and twelve were confirmed. Four of our members are on active service, one (Captain J. Cameron) being superintendent of the military barracks at Abbassia, Cairo. Six others are going into camp. Our spiritual director (Captain-Chaplain Father Moloney, S.M.) has been appointed to the hospital ship Marama. Financially our position is good, this being due principally to the large increase in donations through the poor boxes, collections, etc. The conference is indebted largely to the ladies' branch (St. Lawrence's) for valuable assistance in supplying persons with clothing, and visiting special cases. Statistics:—Active members, 30; hon. members, 7; families relieved, 28; persons relieved, 92; visits to the poor in their homes, 103; books distributed, 1000; visits paid to hospitals, 52.

The receipts, including a balance of £2 3s 10d brought forward, amounted to £96 14s 6d, the principal items being:—Donations, £25 8s 6d; poor boxes, £22 9s 8d; secret collections, £16 18s 9d; proceeds of entertainment, £14 13s; subscriptions, £7 11s. The expenditure amounted to £66 8s 4d, leaving a balance in hand of £30 6s 2d. The following were the principal items:—Relief in kind, £12 17s 7d; donations to particular council, etc., £8 12s; seamen's mission, etc., £8 3s; other charitable expenditure, £7 5s 5d; milk, £6 1s 8d; Catholic literature, £4 16s; wood and coal, £4 8s 6d.

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OBITUARY

MR. OWEN DENNEHY, LOWER HUTT.

The death of Mr. Owen Dennehy, seventh son of Mr. and Mrs. William Dennehy, occurred on Christmas Day, at his parents' residence, Railway avenue, Lower Hutt. The deceased, who had been ill for eighteen months, bore all his sufferings with great patience, and died fortified by all the rites of Holy Church. During his illness he was constantly attended by the Rev. Father Walsh. The funeral, which took place on Boxing Day, was largely attended. The Hibernians, of which body Mr. Dennehy and three of his sons are members, headed the cortege, and four brothers acted as pall-bearers. The deceased, who was just a little over nineteen years of age, was born at Pukerau, Southland, but the family have been living in the North Island for over fifteen years. He was an enthusiastic footballer and cricketer, and played in several school representative touring teams. After leaving school, he played for the Petone Football Club in all grades, including senior. During the time he played for Petone he scored the most points which have been scored in one season by any member of this redoubtable club. His record still stands. Four brothers of the deceased are members of the Expeditionary Forces. Bert and Edward left with the Fifth Reinforcements, and came through the heavy fighting in Gallipoli in August unscathed. Two other brothers, Daniel and William, are at present in camp, being members of the Tenth Reinforcements. Much sympathy has been extended to the family in their sad bereavement.—R.I.P.

MR. JOHN O'DONNELL, OWHANGO.

The death occurred on December 13 of Mr. John O'Donnell, of Shamrock Farm, Owahango, who passed away in the Taumarunui Hospital after a severe illness. The burial took place at Owahango, the funeral being the largest ever seen in the district. The school children were lined up on the road as the cortege passed to pay their last tribute of respect to the deceased, who was always their friend. A Requiem Mass was celebrated in the local church by the Rev. Father Jansen, who also officiated at the graveside. The pall-bearers included two sons of deceased (Messrs. Lawrence and William O'Donnell). It was mostly through the efforts of the late Mr. O'Donnell that the church was built at Owahango, and in each town in which he had lived he was always noted for his generosity towards the Church, and for his courtesy and charity. He was born in Galway, and came to Dunedin about thirty years ago. Since then he had resided in Lawrence, Oamaru, Ashburton, and Waimate. Later on he went to the North Island, and lived in Dannevirke for some time, after which he settled in Owahango, where he was engaged in farming at the time of his death. During his residence in Owahango he had taken a keen interest in local affairs, being a member of the local school committee since the school was established, also one of the directors of the Kaitieke Dairy Factory, and an active member of the local Domain Board. The deceased, who was 59 years of age, leaves a widow and grown-up family of three daughters and four sons. The daughters are Mrs. J. E. Leydon, Owahango; Mrs. W. Rutter, Tasmania; and Sister M. Leo, of the Sisters of St. Joseph, Wanganui; and the sons are Mr. Lawrence O'Donnell, Taumarunui; Messrs. William and Patrick O'Donnell, Owahango; and Mr. John O'Donnell, Lawrence.—R.I.P.

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SIDELIGHTS ON THE WAR

GENERAL.

It is estimated that more than 50,000 Catholics of the Southwark diocese are serving in the Army and Navy.

The session of the British Parliament now ended was the longest in modern times. It included three Budgets, passed credits for £1,562,000,000, and added 3,000,000 men to the Army.

Captain and Adjutant Dermot Patrick O'Connor, East Surrey Regiment, has been awarded the Military Cross for conspicuous bravery in the advance at Loos. He is the son of Mrs. O'Connor, Southsea.

German agents are conducting a diligent and systematic hunt for copper throughout Switzerland. They are penetrating the mountains to the remotest valleys, and persuading the peasants to part with this precious metal. Taking advantage of the ignorance of these country people, they tell housewives that their copper utensils are burned out, and offer to give them new pots and kettles in exchange, which, of course, prove to be of greatly inferior metal. The business is enormously profitable, since the agents pay only 2d to 4d a pound for copper which they sell to Germany for ten times as much.

NEW ZEALAND CASUALTIES.

An official return gives the following totals up to and including January 24:—Officers—Killed 67, died of wounds 24, died of disease 9, drowned 10, missing 21, wounded 215;—total, 346. Other ranks—Killed 1075, died of wounds 530, died of disease 277, dead (cause unknown) 10, drowned 22, missing 614, prisoners 22, wounded 5274;—total, 7824. Grand total, 8170.

TOLL OF LIFE.

Mr. Asquith, in reply to a written question, stated that up to January 9, in France, 5318 officers and 82,130 men had been killed; 10,217 officers and 245,990 men wounded; and 1691 officers and 52,344 men were missing. In the Dardanelles, 1745 officers and 26,455 men had been killed; 3143 officers and 74,952 men wounded; and 353 officers and 10,901 men were missing. In other theatres, 918 officers and 11,752 men had been killed; 816 officers and 15,165 men wounded; and 101 officers and 2656 men were missing.

A RECITAL IN THE TRENCHES.

When battle lines extend continuously for three or four hundred miles, almost anything may happen somewhere along the way. The following pretty incident is one thing that happened, according to a letter from a soldier in Belgium.

It was a miserable night. A heavy rain had filled the trenches. Suddenly out of the darkness came a voice. It was singing a Welsh ballad called 'Hob y derri dando,' and it was a fine tenor voice. It was the cheeriest sound I had ever heard. At the end, a round of applause came down the trenches; but imagine our surprise to hear clapping and calls for more, in good English, from the German trenches. Thereupon the Welshman gave 'Mentra Gwen.' Meanwhile we realised that not a shot had been fired by either side during the singing. We had forgotten all about war. So a bargain was struck with the Germans, that if the Welshman would give us another song neither side would fire any more until daylight. The third song was 'Hen Wlad fy Nhadau.' It was probably the first time that the stirring Welsh anthem was ever heard on this dismal Flemish morass.

REHABILITATING THE LOUVAIN LIBRARY.

'Louvain and its library,' is the title of a leading article in the London *Spectator*, of recent date. The writer thinks that when the war is over 'some at least of the missing volumes and the missing manuscripts may most righteously be replaced from the stores of the

great German libraries.' The governors of the John Rylands Library, at Manchester, England, hope to start a movement towards re-establishing the Louvain Library. They decided to give practical expression to their sympathy with Louvain, and, as the first step their *Bulletin* prints an account of the literary treasures that perished by fire. The account (says the *Sacred Heart Review*) was prepared by Dr. Van der Essen, the Professor of History at Louvain. He tells how the library was built up and maintained. Among the vicissitudes through which it passed was the seizure of about 5000 books by the French Republic, including some of the most precious manuscripts. Napoleon handed over the library to the municipality, which retained it until the University was re-opened in 1835.

Since then the collection grew so rapidly that at the beginning of the present war it comprised more than 230,000 volumes. In a recent revision of the catalogue, unknown books and pamphlets, many of them dating from the beginning of the so-called 'Reformation,' were brought to light, with the dust of centuries on them. 'The collection of Jesuit literature, as well as of publications bearing on the history of the Jansenists, was perhaps unique,' we are told. Several manuscripts were of the twelfth century. Dr. Van der Essen had borrowed from the archives the official correspondence of the University from 1583 to 1637, and thus these papers were saved.

The governors of the John Rylands Library have voted to give Louvain duplicate copies from their collections, and Louvain has accepted the offer—'one of the very first acts which tend to the preparation of our revival,' remarks Dr. Van der Essen. The Manchester Library donors will house the volumes until Louvain can provide a building; they will also receive for Louvain contributions from other libraries. The names of the donors and of the books they present will be carefully registered.

The *Spectator* approves a general interest in building up the Louvain Library again, and points out to collectors that they will win fame in a greater degree by giving precious books to this library rather than by placing them in their private collections.

TRANSFUSION OF BLOOD.

News comes from Caen, where there are several important military hospitals, of the devotion of a priest the cure of a country village, who is engaged in nursing the wounded soldiers. He heard the surgeon in attendance at the hospital remark that, in order to save the life of a certain soldier, who was dying from sheer weakness after repeated operations, it would be necessary to infuse into his veins the blood of a healthy person. This soldier is the father of seven children, and, although repeated efforts had been made to save his life, no progress had hitherto been visible, and transfusion of blood seemed, at last, the surgeon's supreme resource. The Abbe Godard, a strong and healthy young Norman, immediately offered himself. His proposal was accepted, and the operation was performed. At present (writes a Paris correspondent) the soldier is out of danger, and the brave priest is slowly recovering. At Fontenay le Comte, the same thing occurred a short time ago; three men—two military infirmarians and a soldier—came forward and volunteered to give their blood to save the life of a dying man. Out of the three volunteers the surgeon selected a priest-infirmarian, the Abbe Henri Perrochain, of the diocese of Lucon, and the operation proved successful; the wounded soldier is now almost restored to health.

KINGS AND THEIR INCOMES.

According to reliable reports, the war has brought about a decided diminution in the income of the Kaiser. The tearing up of the little 'scrap of paper' has already cost him personally £5,000,000. Wilhelm, however, has still a respectable fortune left, if a recent calculation by Herr Martin, an authority on German rich people, is correct. Wilhelm was supposed to be worth £7,000,000, but Herr Martin has pointed out that a

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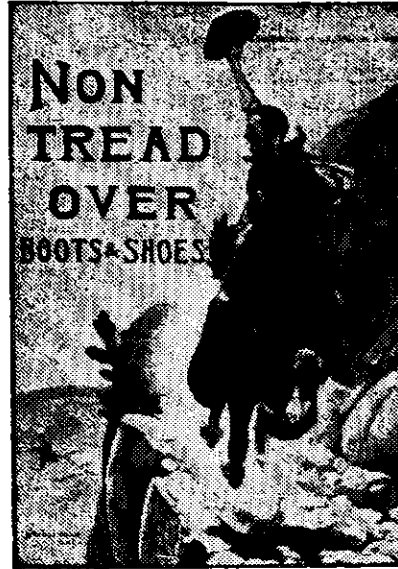
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trifle of, roughly, £13,000,000, the valuation of the Kaiser's forest lands and farms, had been overlooked. This brings up the Royal estate to a total of £20,000,000.

The Kaiser, however, has never been the richest monarch in the world. This honor belongs to the Czar, who, on his accession, came into the Romanoff private estate, yielding about £2,000,000 a year. Beyond that, his salary amounts to another two millions, besides many profitable investments abroad. There are small expenses to be deducted, such as some £500,000 a year to Grand Dukes and Duchesses, but when everything is taken into account the Czar's income is far ahead of that of the Turkish Sultan with his million and a-half, or our own King, who is the poorest in pelf and palaces of all the Old-World potentates. A State grant of £1,500,000, added to his other revenues, brings the Czar's income up to £8,000,000 a year. Out of this he has at least £5,000,000 a year for his private use.

King George receives £470,000 per annum from the State, but little more than a fourth of this goes into the privy purse. It would be naturally impossible for our King to live in a manner befitting his rank on an income of £120,000 or so, but there are miscellaneous revenues from invested funds and other private sources which help to swell the privy purse.

The Emperor of Austria, who is also King of Hungary, draws two salaries amounting to £562,500 each. The King of Italy receives £750,000 a year, but has to make allowances to several members of the Royal Family out of it. King Alfonso has an allowance of £357,500, a sum which is his own to spend as he pleases. Belgium's King receives about £175,000.

LONDON, PARIS, AND ROME IN WAR TIME.

The editor of *Rome*, the Catholic weekly published in English in the Eternal City, has returned to his post after a somewhat extended sojourn in Ireland. His impressions of London, Paris, and Rome in war time are interesting. He says:—You have read something of how London is darkened at night these times to hide it from the enemy. Hiding London! That sounds grotesque, and yet to-night it is doubly hidden, for not only are the lamps purposely subdued, but the immense human hive is wrapped in its first November fog and you are borne silently from Euston to Victoria through cimmerian spaces which you take on faith to be the streets of London until you are set down, almost miraculously it seems to you, blinking in the light of your hotel. The following afternoon, not before, for the fog lasts all the night and morning, you see a London that is new and strange—a London where every second man you see is a soldier, where a thousand printed invitations call, implore, shout at you from every side to become a soldier, too, in this hour of peril, where everybody seems to read and think and talk only of war. And as you visit the ruins made by Zeppelins and find yourself standing side by side with a tall man in khaki from South Africa on a similar mission, you are reminded startlingly of that famous glimpse into futurity where Macaulay saw the New Zealander sketching the ruins of St. Paul's from a broken arch of London Bridge. But that was to have been some ten thousand years hence. But you have work to do besides surveying ruins. Your passport is all right, but you must waste some weary hours in showing it to various functionaries, who write various things on the back of it, and give you a limited time to resume your journey.

Paris at Night Like a City of the Dead.

At Folkestone you are subjected to the same ordeal; you have to wait for hours in an interminable queue, to show your passport again, to answer the same futile questions, and when you reach Dieppe after five hours the process is gone through a third time, only more tediously, before you are at last free to take your place in the Paris train. And Paris by night is hardly more cheerful than London—the French capital is lit only here and there by dim lamps that hardly pierce the gloom for a few yards around them, the streets are

empty and silent, the shops closed and dark. It is like a city of the dead, but perhaps it will be better in the morning.

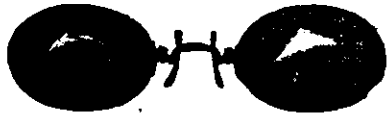
It is better and worse. At least there is sunshine, and the air is mild enough to permit you to have your coffee and rolls *al fresco*, and to watch the teeming life of the great metropolis whirl by you. Your first impression is that, after all, things are much as usual. Trams, motors, cabs, carts are moving in all directions; the streets are alive with busy people hastening to and from their daily tasks. And yet things are not the same, and gay Paris becomes in half an hour the most depressing city in the universe. People here no longer laugh or even smile, chatter or even converse in public in Paris—not one-tenth as much as they do in London.

In London you were obsessed by the ubiquitous appeals inviting you to become a soldier; in Paris it is a different appeal, but an even more obsessing one that meets your eye wherever you turn it. You have already noticed it before swallowing your first sip of coffee, for it is pasted on the wind screen immediately facing you: *Taisez-vous, menez-vous, les oreilles ennemies vous ecoutent*, yet it hardly touches you except as being eccentric and absurd. But there it is also in bold characters staring at you from the opposite wall, and when you enter a tram it is the first thing you see, or when you sit down in a restaurant it is the *hors d'oeuvres* of your meal. 'Don't talk'—that is easy enough for the stranger in Paris; nobody has the slightest desire to talk to you or to listen to you. *Menez-vous*—perhaps it is only your imagination, but the people around seem to distrust you, to be on their guard against you, and soon you find yourself distrusting anybody who looks at you, for he may be a detective or a fanatical patriot who 'sees' spies. So if any enemy ears are really listening to you they have their labor for their pains.

Though it is depressing, you can almost smile on it all—when nobody is looking. But that is before you reflect or note the changes that have taken place in your Parisians. They were the most volatile of citizens; they are now the most serious and determined. Why? My neighbors at the next table are two young soldiers; one of them has his head swathed in white bandages, the other has carefully arranged his crutch before sitting down. A woman in heavy crepe passes at the moment, then another almost immediately and another, and at last you are struck by the great numbers of Parisian women who are in mourning, and by the stern, almost grim look that most of the men of Paris wear. And at once you think of that long line stretching across France in which the defenders and the invaders are engaged night and day in a death struggle.

Rome Less Disturbed.

You are glad enough to leave Paris, even though you have to sit upright the whole night in a crowded railway carriage, and very glad to cross the border into Italy. Italy, too, is at war, but somehow it is different—perhaps because with all its hardships and destruction of human life the war here is not felt to be a question of life or death for the nation. If that is true of Genoa, where you break the journey and pass the night, it is more true of Rome, the goal of your wanderings. By night Rome looks as usual; the lights are burning brightly, the Via Nazionale and the Corso are thronged with placid Romans taking the evening air, there are no signs of mourning or suspicion, and people talk and laugh much as they did this time two years ago. True, in the daytime you will discern the traces of war through the city—in the many large buildings which have been turned into hospitals for wounded soldiers from the front, in the numerous shops in the Piazzi di Spagna and elsewhere that have been closed 'through mobilisation' or for lack of customers, in the absence of pilgrims and tourists, in the empty hotels, in the shrunken cameratas of the ecclesiastical colleges, in the high prices of food. Still, Rome is less disturbed by the war, and if it is not true that the Roman '*se ne fregna*' of the immense conflict, as he does of most human things, it is at least true that he has not been fundamentally afflicted by it.



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Current Topics

Their First Training in Democracy

All educated men who study history with an unbiased mind pay tribute to the Catholic Church for what it has done for the world in past times. A non-Catholic, Mr. Reynold E. Blight, writing in a Los Angeles secular paper, says:— In certain circles it is popular to denounce bitterly the Catholic Church, and in the condemnation forget her splendid achievements and the consecrated service she has rendered to humanity. The long roll of patriots, statesmen, philanthropists, thinkers, heroes, and saintly souls who have drawn their spiritual inspiration from her communion is sufficient proof of the real greatness of her religious teaching. Among the priests are those whose names have become synonymous with purity of life and unselfish effort for the betterment of humanity: Father Damien, Father Mathew, Father Junipero Serra, St. Francis of Assisi, Savonarola. Her countless institutions of learning, her manifold charities, the universality of her spiritual appeal, must awaken the admiration of all men. It must not be forgotten that at her altars the common people received their first training in democracy. Prince and pauper, peasant and merchant, knelt together, equal before God. During the long night of the Dark Ages the lamp of knowledge was kept burning in the monasteries. Tolerance knows that there are two sides to every question, and that a picture that shows only shadows is essentially false.

The Church as a Missionary Power

Here is testimony from another source. The Rev. H. E. Stafford, of Ohio, has been making an impartial study of the history and character of the Catholic Church, and his investigations have resulted in convincing him that it is the greatest missionary force in the world. 'If I were a Catholic,' he says, 'I would date the discovery of America from 1494. That is the date that marks the beginning of the evangelisation of America by the Catholic Church. We are indebted to the great Catholic Church for many contributions which it has made in fostering and propagating Christianity. The first of these is the wonderful organised solidarity and force of the Catholic Church.' He then goes on to say: 'It was this perfect organisation that enabled the Catholic Church to save Christianity when the wild, cruel, barbaric hordes broke through the Roman army and swept down on Rome, destroying everything as they went. No other organisation could have met, Christianised, and assimilated these wild people save that perfect organisation. The intense and corporate union of the Church is another contribution. The Czar of Russia rules over the greatest nation, numerically speaking, on the globe, but the Pope of Rome rules over a body of people which outnumber the Czar's subjects by seventy million. Yet this vast people is bound in perfect unity; while Protestantism is divided into 300 sects and sub-sects. The marvellous missionary zeal of the Catholics is still another inspiring contribution. At no time in their history have they not been missionary. Columbus had hardly returned to Europe after discovering America when representatives met him. As soon as the Church learned that he had discovered a new world, having people, missionaries were sent with him on his return trip two years later. Therefore, if I were a Catholic I would date the discovery of America from 1494.'

A German Grievance

Whilst we in New Zealand are making solemn promises never again to purchase or use goods made in Germany, the Germans themselves are taking steps to ostracise everything made in England. There is one exception among the German towns to this patriotic resolve. Hamburg has a cherished vice to which it clings with all the obstinacy of hardened wickedness. This is nothing less than an inordinate affection for

the toothsome but indigestible plum pudding, and to such a pass have things come, that a local paper feels it a duty to administer a sharp rebuke to the erring city.

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'With feelings of shame (it says) we have to state that the preference for everything foreign which existed among the people in Hamburg at the outbreak of the war, has not been entirely eradicated. One of the largest stores here informs us that ladies insist upon buying clothes of French origin or of fabrics made in England. A famous Hamburg provision store has for years past sold plum puddings and other English delicacies which were really made in Germany, but were enclosed in wrappers which bear English inscriptions. This year the proprietor had the labels covered with a slip bearing the words "Made in Germany." At Christmas these puddings had scarcely any sale because the customers refused to buy them on the ground that they were not "genuine English." A store which recently announced that in future all English "sporting articles" would be replaced by goods made in Germany was at once besieged by people who bought up the whole of the English stock for fear they would not be able to get the "real English sporting goods" at a later date.'

The Brighter Side

America, after dealing with the conditions prevailing in Great Britain immediately preceding Christmas, refers to the manner in which she is fulfilling her obligations. To begin with (it says) she can discount much of the criticism she is receiving at home, because she is fully aware that criticism is an Anglo-Saxon characteristic, which does not argue but rather infers a true love of country. Great Britain by her loans of nearly two and a quarter billions of dollars to the Allies, has supplied the not least necessary sinew of war. Her navy has swept the German merchant marine and commerce raider from the sea, has isolated the German colonies from all intercourse with the Fatherland, has transported thousands of troops with a remarkably small casualty list, has 'maintained business as usual' at home and to an extent on the Continent; and finally, by bottling up a splendid fleet, has made the German navy as idle as a painted ship upon a painted ocean. The battle flag of England now floats over regiments in France, Belgium, the Dardanelles, Egypt, East and Southwest Africa, the Cameroons, and in countries adjacent to the Persian Gulf. The men who write that England is 'lethargic' have not dipped their pens in knowledge. Her actual achievements are great; what she will do is answered by consulting not a prophet but staid history.

Mr. Redmond at the Front

In the early days of the war, in one of the most thrilling of the speeches that were made in the House of Commons, Mr. John Redmond assured the Government that the Irish people were quite prepared to defend their native land against foreign invasion, and all the troops that were stationed in Ireland might with perfect safety be sent for service abroad. After over fifteen months of warfare Mr. Redmond has made another speech, equally thrilling, on the day of his return from a visit to the trenches. The perusal of this speech may be warmly recommended to everybody. Especially it should be read by those who are of a despondent turn of mind. In it they will find recorded Mr. Redmond's profound conviction that at the front there are no pessimists. From the Commander-in-Chief down through all ranks the feeling is one of absolute confidence.

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The Irish leader (remarks the *Manchester Guardian*), addressing an Irish meeting, was naturally bound to refer to the service which the Irish soldiers are giving at the front. He described the duty in a graphic account of his experiences in the trenches. While in those terrible places his heart was filled with hope when he found, in one part of the firing line, a bat-

talion of the Ulster division from Belfast side by side with the Dublins. That is the way, he thinks, to mend the discords of Ireland. Let Irishmen risk their lives together in the battle time and spill their blood together and when they come home there is no power on earth that can induce them to turn as enemies one upon another. That is excellent. But why should this complete unity of Irish effort be confined to the battlefield even to-day? Why should it not extend to the Cabinet? Why should not Mr. Redmond sit alongside Mr. Asquith and Mr. Balfour in Downing street? As the soldiers are brothers in arms, why should not the politicians be brothers in counsel?

War Money

To the many it will not come as a surprise that from January to October of 1915 the known increase of wages to 2,800,000 workpeople in England was £520,000 a week, or more than £27,000,000 a year. These workers (says a writer in the *Universe*) represent about one-third of the total number of wage-earners in the country in normal times. On those official figures it is fair to assume that increases of wages and new wages to others hitherto not in the ranks of wage-earners represent an increased spending power of £100,000,000 a year. One, therefore, has some sympathy with the Government advice that some sort of a practical form of thrift should be observed by the workers, even if this were to be made compulsory. Workers spend, yet a large number are proud to be considered as candidates of thrift. Such, it may be said, are the qualified among the workers. Unfortunately, it is the character of the official mind to impose principles without first practising them. The cry has already been raised up and down the country that whilst the Government trumpets are blaring calls to economy, yet no attempt is being made by the Government to follow the echo of their own calls.

THE CHURCH AND LITERATURE

SOME EMINENT WRITERS, SONS OF THE CHURCH.

(For the *N.Z. Tablet* by 'DALETH.')

INTRODUCTION.

The Church is the great mother of the arts and the sciences—the arts, whereby man's nature is rendered more refined; the sciences, whereby his knowledge is increased and his power extended. Imagination fills in the bare outlines supplied by the intellect; imparts beauty and animation; revels in color, in sound, in grace of form, in the metaphor and simile of poetry; makes life less crude, less rigidly exact.

But the intellect burns more brightly in proportion as the flights of fancy are restrained; and invariably we find that the great imaginative geniuses of the world are as children in its practical affairs. La Fontaine and Rousseau, to whom imagination was as the air they breathed, were both utterly incapable of looking after themselves.

Music, painting, and sculpture are the facets of the great aesthetic diamond; poetry is, as it were, the brilliance that plays over the whole. There is poetry in music as there is in sculpture, and the very spirit of poetry breathes from the canvases of Titian and Murillo, of Raffaele and Rembrandt.

And poetry can give what music, painting, and sculpture cannot give. The harmonies of sound lack definite ideas; they arouse the emotions of the soul, but diversely in different souls; poetry defines the ideas that music vaguely awakens. Painting and sculpture represent nature at one definite moment; poetry, besides going back to the past, leaps forward into the future. Thus, poetry, manifesting itself as music, painting, or sculpture, is something more than these three; besides entering into each, it has a sphere of its own; it breaks

forth in the warlike singing of a Homer; in the materialistic philosophy of a Lucretius, in the visions of a Dante; it may be light and unrestrained, or heavy and solemnly mournful; it may move with airy gracefulness, or linger brooding, stern, and sorrowful, clinging to some one idea with unremitting force; it may be epic or prophetic, meditative or full of ecstasy; changeable as clouds in summer, it is as beautiful and as delicate. Nor is it confined to expression in rhyme and metre. It appears in the rhythmic prose of an Herodotus or a Demosthenes, of a Cicero or a Livy; the greatest prose writers of the world are also among the number of its greatest poets. Sir Thomas Malory's 'Mort d' Arthur,' although a prose epic, is nevertheless a wonderful poem. The prose of Jean Jacques Rousseau is considered by French critics as perfect poetry. Rhythmic and melodious, it has, when read aloud, the effect of music; when read in the study it soothes the mind as only poetry can.

It would take too long to traverse the entire aesthetic world, which stretches before us like a wild and rugged landscape, with here and there a lovely cove through whose recesses tumbles noisily some pebbly-bedded brook. The great musicians tower above us like majestic peaks; the grand medieval painters seem like some far-reaching and magnificent vista, while the sculptors, like the sheer precipices of some North American canyon, terrify us by their gigantic proportions. Leaving the domains of art to enter those of science is like emerging from some old-world cathedral into the glare of the noon-day sun.

But it is not our purpose to discuss the works of science; to pass in review its leaders or examine its import in the life of man. We are to bring before our readers some of the great artists the Church has produced; we are to show that while the Church is ever the guardian of truth, she is none the less warm in her exposition of it; that she is not cold, reserved, and formal, but full of beauty and animated with as keen an aesthetic sense as any of the great nature-worshippers who spurn her. Besides her great doctors she places her great poets; beside her consummate statesmen she places her divinely-gifted painters, and she employs the genius of a Michel Angelo in the decoration of her places of worship. Ever since the Church began she has been the patron of all art; it has grown and flourished under her protection, and to her fostering care the world is indebted for its greatest masterpieces.

Many of the poets and painters who have grown outside her influence still go to her for their inspiration; but most of them have simply relapsed into the paganism of Greece and Rome. While Spenser, bitter and virulent as he is, has in many places an aroma of Catholicism about him, and the very atmosphere of Shakespeare is Catholic; the cold splendor of Milton, repelling, if magnificent, is Puritan in tone and sentiment, with none of the warmth and feeling belonging to the work of the sons and daughters of the Church.

What are Goethe, Wordsworth, Lamartine, but brilliant pagans occupied only with perishing nature and corrupt mankind? They are like the man with the muck-rake in Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress*; they go scouring among the refuse while angels offer them golden crowns which their down-turned eyes refuse to see; or, like the dwellers in Plato's cavern, who, seeing the shadows of images, take the shadows for the reality, and on their fancied knowledge build their lives.

One way in which the war has affected agricultural shows is that there is a difficulty in maintaining the number of entries of stock (says the *Dominion*). The reason is that there are not now the number of men there formerly were to prepare the stock for shows and tend them on the grounds. The fact was mentioned by Mr. Massey at the Levin Show on Wednesday. 'We all know,' he said, 'that all the shows in the Dominion have suffered through so many men going to the war, and Levin has experienced this along with other portions of the country.'

Diocesan News

ARCHDIOCESE OF WELLINGTON

(From our own correspondent.)

January 29.

Mr. E. W. Gibbs, of Thorndon, returned to Wellington last Monday after an extended tour of the United Kingdom.

Mr. W. F. Healy, of Brooklyn, has received advice that his son, Private M. Healy, of the 25th Battalion, Queensland Reinforcements, is in hospital at Alexandria, suffering from frost bite.

The funeral of the late Private George F. Stewart, who died at Trentham Camp through drinking formalin by mistake, took place to the Karori Cemetery this afternoon. The Trentham Band headed the cortege, and a firing party was present from Trentham Camp. Chaplain-Captain Daly conducted the burial service, and Captain J. A. Shand, of A Company 11th Reinforcements, represented the Defence Department.—R.I.P.

Sergeant R. P. Smyth, ex-secretary of the Thorndon branch of the Catholic Federation, and a past president of the Thorndon branch of the H.A.C.B. Society, son of Mr. and Mrs. P. Smyth of Howick, Auckland, was married last Wednesday to Miss Eileen D. Mulhane, of May street, Thorndon, by the Very Rev. Dean Regnault, S.M., Adm. Sergeant Smyth, before joining the Rifle Brigade, was an officer of the Police Commissioner's Department. He sails with the next draft for active service.

Master Albert Scanlon, a pupil of the Marist Brothers' School, Thorndon, has been awarded a three years' scholarship at the Sacred Heart College, Auckland, of the annual value of 40 guineas. The scholarship was open for competition to boys attending Catholic schools throughout New Zealand. Master Scanlon is a son of Mr. W. B. Scanlon, of Island Bay, formerly of Featherston terrace. The Segrief scholarship, tenable for two years at St. Patrick's College, Wellington, has also been secured by a pupil of the Marist Brothers', Thorndon, the winner being Master Roy Knight, a son of Mr. C. Knight, of Wadestown.

Last Thursday evening a concert party, organised by Miss Marie Fix, and consisting of Misses Marie Fix, Teresa McEnroe, S. Morrison, Vera Lynch, and Messrs. Hamilton Hodges, Laslett Exton, and John Carr, journeyed to Trentham and gave an excellent entertainment to the men in camp at the Catholic Federation hall. The Rev. Chaplain-Captain Daly, on behalf of the men, thanked the entertainers for their kindness, and for their high-class entertainment, which was appreciated by himself and the men. The Hon. T. W. Hislop very kindly placed his car at the disposal of the party and drove them out himself.

Last evening Mr. H. E. Nicholls, secretary of the Harbor Board, on behalf of the tally clerks employed on the wharf, made a presentation of a travelling rug and suit-case to Mr. W. F. Healy, who has been in the employment of the Harbor Board since 1876, and who, for two years prior to his recent retirement, was wharfinger at the King's Wharf. Mr. Nicholls referred, in terms of high praise, to Mr. Healy's long connection with the waterfront. Mr. Healy had been a valued servant in every capacity in which he had been employed, and, although they were all sorry to lose him, they hoped he would live long to enjoy his retirement. There had been many changes since Mr. Healy first joined the service, not only in personnel, but in the direction of the vast increase in business. On replying, Mr. Healy was given a very cordial reception by the assembled tally clerks.

For a considerable time past the Superior Council of Australasia of the St. Vincent de Paul Society has consistently advocated the establishment of a central council for the society in New Zealand in order to unite the various particular councils already established and the isolated conferences under one head,

in addition to carrying on an active propaganda for the extension of the society throughout New Zealand. The Superior Council also suggested that the headquarters of the proposed central council should be in Wellington, as being the central city of the Dominion. For several months past the Particular Council of Wellington has been moving in the matter. His Grace Archbishop Redwood gave the project his heartiest approval and blessing, and the approval of his Lordship the Bishop of Dunedin and the Administrator for Christchurch as well as that of the various conferences in these dioceses was also obtained. Last Friday the election of officers took place, and resulted as follows:—President, Bro. M. Kennedy; vice-presidents, the presidents of the Particular Councils of Christchurch, Wanganui, and Wellington; secretary, Bro. B. Ellis; treasurer, Bro. M. O'Connor; board—Bros. P. Fagan, T. Fouhy, P. Cairns, Johnson, and Wells. The first meeting will be held next month on the return of Bro. Kennedy to Wellington, and the officers non-resident in Wellington will be notified in due course.

The annual meeting of St. Patrick's branch of the Hibernian Society took place at St. Patrick's Hall last Monday evening, under the presidency of Bro. F. W. Whitaker. The following officers were elected for the ensuing term:—President, Bro. F. W. Whitaker; vice-president, Bro. P. Sherlock; treasurer and assistant secretary, Bro. J. J. L. Burke; warden, Bro. A. W. Godsell; guardian, Bro. M. M. Mahon; auditors, Bros. H. McKeowen and J. P. McGowan; sick visitors, Bros. M. Condon and P. O'Callaghan. The newly-elected officers were installed by Past-President Bro. J. P. McGowan. Advantage was taken of the occasion to present Bro. McGowan, the retiring president, with a past-president's set of regalia and framed certificate. Bro. Whitaker made the presentation, and eulogised the sterling work performed for the advancement of the branch during his term of office by Bro. McGowan. The December quarterly returns and annual returns for 1915 were read and presented. They disclosed a very satisfactory state of affairs. The sick pay for the year was abnormal—no less a sum than £306. The amount paid for medical attention and medicine totalled £274, whilst the levies to the funeral fund, which is consolidated, totalled £79. The branch's contribution to the district supplementary sick fund totalled £52. Some twenty members of the branch are serving with the Forces, and already some have sacrificed their lives for the Empire's cause. These men's contributions are being paid out of the district guarantee fund. Advice has been received that the annual district meeting will take place at Auckland, on Tuesday, 25th April. The remainder of the evening was spent socially, the following contributing items: Bros. Whitaker, McGowan, Burke, J. J. McKeowen, Glavin, and O'Kane.

The schoolhouse in Boulcott street was transformed on Saturday evening into a veritable hall of gaiety, the occasion being a festival founded by the Very Rev. Father O'Connell, in aid of the funds of St. Mary of the Angels' parish. The appointments were artistic in every respect, with a frequent outbreak of patriotic colors; the stalls were well furnished with a tempting array of goods of all descriptions, and the numerous army of saleswomen worked hard to ensure the success of the undertaking. The Mayoress (Mrs. J. P. Luke) opened the festival in a characteristic speech. It was, she said, always a pleasure to her to assist in any object that tended to the uplifting of our social life, and especially one which was for the benefit of the children. There was quite enough sorrow in the world at present, and they did not want the burden of the little ones to be any harder than they could possibly help. She wished the enterprise every success, and was loudly cheered on resuming her seat. Among those present were his Grace Archbishop O'Shea, the Mayor, and several of the local clergy and visitors from other parishes. The evening was chiefly occupied with a very pleasant entertainment. A juvenile orchestra, directed by Master Ben O'Brien, played remarkably well, and the Waterside Workers' Band played some very welcome selections; while the Sports Pierrots kept

the audience amused for quite a long time with an excellent selection of songs and choruses. The Pierrots are—Mr. Frank Eller (director), Misses Dorothy Theobald, May Butler, Stella Simon, and Mona Butler, and Messrs. J. Clements, Jack O'Brien (pianist), Chas. Houston, and Jack Dunn. The following were in charge of the various stalls:—H.A.C.B. stall—N. McCarthy, M. Morrison, K. Griffin, B. Craig, M. Brennan, M. Cotter, I. Gregory, N. Fuller, B. Delaney, M. Delaney, W. O'Neill, L. Barry, G. Butler, A. Lyon, E. Doyle, M. Tarabochia, M. Griffin (secretary). Tea kiosk (Brooklyn Altar Society)—Misses Ross (2), Steadman, Monahan, Pearce, Jennings (2), Greaney, and Harte, Mesdames Burke, Odlin, Thorburn, McKeowen, Taylor, and Homes. Children's stall—Misses O'Brien, Curtis, O'Regan, O'Driscoll, Ryan, Moran, Pearce, Black, McMurich, Halpin, and Clisby. Altar Society's stall—Mesdames Scott, O'Driscoll, Phelan, and Misses Kent, Walker, Smith, Little (2), Eason (2), Pearce, Keeny, assisted by the flower sellers—Misses Davis (2) and Sheridan. The amusement parlor is in charge of Messrs. Turner, Fitzgerald, De Muth, Godsell, Tustain, Hicker, Gallagher, and O'Driscoll. Mr. F. J. O'Driscoll is secretary to the committee, which consists of the Very Rev. Father O'Connell and Messrs. T. O'Brien, J. D. McPhee, L. Carroll, and H. McKeowen. The festival will conclude on Tuesday, after a very successful run of eight nights.

A sale of work in aid of the presbytery furnishing fund commenced on Tuesday evening at the Marist Brothers' School, Thorndon.

The Dominion Executive of the New Zealand Catholic Federation met last Wednesday evening, there being present Messrs. J. J. L. Burke (in the chair), J. Duggan, P. D. Hoskins, R. Sievers, L. T. Reichel, and M. Walsh. It was decided to erect a hall for church and social purposes at the new camp at Featherston for the use of the Catholic soldiers in training, and subsequently, at the conclusion of the war, for Territorial purposes. With this object in view, plans and specifications have been prepared, and tenders are invited, to close at the office of the New Zealand Catholic Federation on Saturday, February 5. A site has been set apart by the camp authorities fronting the main Tauherenikau road, in the vicinity of the Wairarapa Patriotic Society's clubroom, and a substantial building is to be erected, equipped with all conveniences for the use of the men. The newly-appointed Catholic chaplain, who will be in charge of this church-hall, is the Rev. Father Segrief, who accompanied the hospital ship Maheno on her first voyage. A large amount of routine business was put through. The date of the next Dominion Council meeting was fixed for March 1.

DIocese of Christchurch

(From our own correspondent.)

January 31.

Good progress is being made with the erection of the magnificent marble altar in the Cathedral, and the entire work is expected to be completed well in advance of the pending important ceremonies.

St. Bede's Collegiate School re-opens on Monday, February 14, and it is earnestly hoped that the number of pupils presenting themselves for the new scholastic year will answer a largely increased roll call, and thus encourage the devoted Marist Fathers in the splendid work they are doing in this city in the advanced education of our Catholic youth.

A first meeting of the Catholic Red Cross Society for the new year, was held in the Hibernian Hall on last Sunday afternoon. Mr. M. Grimes (vice-chairman) presided, and amongst those present were Mrs. J. C. Palmer (president of the ladies' section), and a number of her fellow-workers. Blocks of the greater Christchurch area previously outlined were allotted to those willing to assist in collecting regular periodical payments, and all were urged to keep the movement well in the forefront, so that the Catholic record in the good and necessary work would compare more than

favorably with the efforts of other denominations. An acknowledgment was made of the receipt of £40 3s from the pupils of the Sisters of the Missions (Sacred Heart College), resulting from the Christmas entertainment given in the Convent School, Lower High street, and £13 8s from St. Mary's Convent pupils, Colombo street, derived from the sale of sweets etc., at an entertainment prior to the Christmas vacation.

The executive committee in connection with the reception of his Excellency, the Most Rev. Archbishop Cerretti, Apostolic Delegate, was held in the episcopal residence on last Monday evening. The Very Rev. Dean Hills, S.M., presided. The Very Rev. Father Price, Adm., was also present. It was decided to issue tickets for admission to the Cathedral for the episcopal consecration ceremonies, on Sunday, February 27, allotting seats to the adult Catholics of the city and vicinity to the number of 2000. Of these, 250 provide special places for Cathedral regular seat-holders, and 250 are reserved for representatives of each parish in the diocese. A number of matters of detail were arranged and the following order of ceremonies was adopted:—

Saturday, February 26.—Arrival of his Excellency at Lyttelton by the Maori, and met by the reception committee. 7.30 a.m.—His Excellency to be met at Christchurch Railway Station. Procession to episcopal residence along route lined by school children from all Catholic schools. 8 a.m.—Mass in Cathedral celebrated by his Excellency at which the children of the combined Catholic schools will render music.

Sunday, February 27.—8.45 a.m.—Procession from episcopal residence. 9 a.m.—Mass. Consecration of Right Rev. Dr. Brodie by the Apostolic Delegate. Ceremonies commencing at 9 a.m. prompt. Occasional sermon by the Very Rev. Dean Power, rector of Hawera. Admission to Cathedral by ticket only, to be obtained at the episcopal residence, St. Mary's presbytery, Manchester street, and at Mr. O'Connor's Catholic book depot, Barbadoes street. 3 p.m.—Opening of new main building of Lewisham Hospital, Bealey avenue, by his Excellency the Apostolic Delegate. 7 p.m.—Cathedral, devotions. Presentation of addresses and testimonials from the clergy, laity, and Hibernian Society to his Lordship Bishop Brodie. His Lordship's reply. Pontifical Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

Monday, February 28.—7.15 p.m.—Procession from the episcopal residence. 8 p.m.—Theatre Royal. Public welcome to his Excellency the Apostolic Delegate. Presentation of addresses from the clergy and laity. His Excellency's reply. Selections by combined Catholic choirs.

Tuesday, February 29.—3 p.m.—Ceremonial opening of new wing of Mount Magdala Institute, at which his Excellency the Apostolic Delegate will preside.

Timaru

(From our own correspondent.)

January 31.

The priests of the parish returned on Friday from Christchurch, where they had been making their annual retreat.

The schools of the parish have resumed work. The opening ceremonies were attended by Very Rev. Dean Tubman, who gave the children some kindly words of encouragement and advice.

His Excellency Archbishop Cerretti passed through Timaru on Saturday by the second express from the south. Whilst the train was at the station he was welcomed by Very Rev. Dean Tubman and the local clergy, and by some of the members of the congregation.

After a few weeks' interval for the holidays the ladies of the Catholic Patriotic Society have again resumed their weekly sewing meetings in the work-room of the convent technical school. On Tuesday evenings also, the young ladies of Mrs. Loughnan's Red Cross Guild meet in the same place, and much

useful work is accomplished for the benefit of the wounded soldiers.

DIOCESE OF AUCKLAND

(By telegraph, from our own correspondent.)
January 31.

Our primary schools opened to-day, and the attendances were excellent.

His Lordship Bishop Phelan, of Sale, is to preach at Vespers at St. Patrick's Cathedral on Sunday, February 6.

The reception committee in connection with the visit of his Excellency the Apostolic Delegate are actively engaged in arranging their plans. They are working most zealously and constantly, and no detail, however minute, is overlooked. This is the way to assure success. The reports of the southern welcomes, especially that accorded his Excellency in Dunedin, have stirred up the local committee to still greater efforts.

The committee, which have the arrangements in hand for the reception of his Excellency the Apostolic Delegate, had intended that High Mass was to be celebrated in the Domain Cricket Ground during his Excellency's visit, but abandoned the idea. The Orange Society took alarm, and at the last meeting of the Auckland City Council a letter was received from one of the lodges, requesting that any application made by the Catholic Church for permission to celebrate High Mass on the Domain be refused. There was a second letter from the Protestant Federation on the same subject, and another Orange lodge objected to the holding of a street procession of a religious character as well as against the celebrating of Mass in the Domain. The letters were 'received.'

The Devonport Convent High School, having been superseded by a parochial institution, a well-attended meeting of parishioners was held on Sunday, January 30, to consider ways and means for subsidising the parish school. Ultimately, it was decided to appoint a St. Leo's school committee, consisting of Messrs. T. P. Gilfedder, J. P. Wright, A. Cowan, Jas. V. Lawes, C. E. Cuming, McGann, and Siever, to formulate a scheme. At a subsequent meeting of the school committee, Mr. Lawes was elected secretary. On the motion of Mr. Gilfedder, the following principle was adopted for submission to a general meeting:—(1) That all householders having children attending the school contribute a uniform stipulated yearly fee on a basis of say less than half the present amount; (2) that adult wage-earners, who have no children of school age, contribute £1 per annum.

In the University and public examinations the Catholic colleges still continue to hold their own with other secondary schools. The Sacred Heart College is well represented in the successes of 1915. Six boys passed matriculation—M. Reddington, M. Sayegh, M. Flynn, M. Rodgers, P. O'Connor, J. Foley, T. Carroll, Reddington, Rogers, and Sayegh passed the medical preliminary and solicitors' general knowledge. In the public service entrance examination, passes were secured by Bailey, Carroll, Duggan, Counery, Foley, Flynn, O'Connor, and Reddington. Reddington, who won his scholarship at the college from the Marist Brothers' School, Christchurch, gained a place of great distinction, coming second in Auckland, and 20th for all New Zealand—a place of which he should be proud, when one considers that 670 passed the examination. In the intermediate examination, by which a boy is entitled to a senior free place, the following students were successful:—K. Champion, B. Goldwater, R. Hodge, J. Martin, S. McLoughlin, S. McMillan, M. O'Rorke, P. O'Connor, D. Palmer, J. Woodley, J. O'Rorke.

A meeting of the representatives of the city and suburban Catholic parishes to make arrangements for the celebration of St. Patrick's Day was held yesterday afternoon in the Hibernian Hall, Mr. P. J. Nerheny being in the chair. There were also present Very Rev. Chancellor Holbrook, D.S., Rev. Fathers Murphy (Adm., St. Patrick's), and Bleakley (Ponsonby), and Rev. Brothers Calixtus and Phelan. The officers for this year's celebration were chosen as follows:—President, Right Rev. Dr. Cleary; vice-presidents—Messrs. P. J. Nerheny, T. P. Gilfedder, and J. J. O'Brien; general secretary, Mr. A. J. Woodley; treasurer, Mr. M. J. Sheahan. Sub-committees were set up to deal with the sports and concert. Adult sports were eliminated this year in consequence of the war, and the sports are to be confined to the children. A resolution congratulating the Right Rev. Dr. Brodie, who had assisted numerous St. Patrick's Day celebrations, upon his appointment as Bishop of Christchurch was passed. The secretary was directed to secure the use of the Domain Cricket Ground and the Town Hall for March 17. Brother Calixtus was appointed chairman of the sports committee.

A general meeting of St. Benedict's Club was held on Monday last, when there was a large attendance of members. The president (Mr. F. G. J. Temm) presided, and there were present Right Rev. Mgr. Gillan, V.G., and Rev. Fathers Carran, Kelly, and Flynn. The president explained that before dealing with the formal business of the meeting, Monsignor Gillan, patron of the club, desired to formally introduce the new chaplain to the club in succession to the Rev. Father Forde. The chairman welcomed the Right Rev.

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Mgr. Gillan to the clubrooms, and thanked him for the great interest he had always displayed in the welfare of the club. He also extended a very hearty welcome to Rev. Father Carran, of Ponsonby, and explained that at the conclusion of the ordinary business a little social entertainment in honor of the visit of Father Carran and the accession to office of the new chaplain would take place. Monsignor Gillan then introduced the Rev. Father G. Kelly, as chaplain to the club, and expressed the hope that under his guidance the club would continue to prosper. Father Kelly briefly replied, thanking Monsignor Gillan for the confidence placed in him, and for the cordial welcome extended to him by the members. At the conclusion of the general business, refreshments were partaken of. A short musical programme was rendered, and was interspersed with the usual toasts. Rev. Father Carran briefly addressed the members of the club, and thanked them for the hearty welcome tendered him. He assured them that he had always taken a great interest in the welfare of the club, and wished it every success.

IMPRESSIONS OF VICTORIA AND NEW SOUTH WALES

(From our Wellington correspondent.)

Your representative interviewed Mr. John Duggan, member of the Dominion Council of the Catholic Federation, who returned by the Ulimaroa on January 17 from a visit to Victoria and New South Wales. Whilst in these States he came in contact with many Catholic personages, and had the pleasure of visiting many Catholic institutions. During his stay in Melbourne, Mr. Duggan was present at the meeting of the State Council of the Victorian Catholic Federation, whose president (Mr. F. E. O'Connell) extended him a cordial welcome, and invited him to address the council with reference to the progress of the Federation in New Zealand. Mr. Duggan had also the honor of being received by his Grace Archbishop Carr and his Grace Archbishop Mannix. He also met a fellow-New Zealander, who is shedding lustre upon his native land, in the person of Rev. Father W. J. Lockington, S.J., parish priest of Richmond, where the corporate life of the Catholic community is developed to a remarkable degree. The parishioners, amongst other things, own a picture show, the profits of which are devoted to the upkeep of the schools. Mr. Duggan, in company of Mr. Kerin, of the staff of the *Austral Light*, visited Abbotsford Convent, conducted by the Sisters of the Good Shepherd, which is almost a township in itself, containing a population of over 800 persons—a monument of the care of the Church for the social needs of the nation. Through the good offices of Mr. T. Burke, late president of the A.N.A., Mr. Duggan had the pleasure of meeting the Hon. Messrs. Tudor, Mahon, King O'Malley, and Tate, members of the Federal Ministry.

Whilst in Sydney, Mr. Duggan had the honor of being received by his Excellency Archbishop Cerretti, Apostolic Delegate. He addressed both the State Council and the State Executive of the Catholic Federation of New South Wales. The special campaign for the securing of 70,000 members commenced at the beginning of the New Year, and Mr. Duggan had the honor of being associated with Mr. P. S. Cleary (president of the N.S.W. Federation), at a splendid general meeting held in the Franciscan Church at Woollahra, the community of which includes Rev. Father J. Bartley, formerly resident in New Zealand. Mr. Duggan had also the pleasure of renewing acquaintance with his old teacher, Brother Borgia, who is at present director of St. Joseph's College. In the company of Mr. John Hughes, LL.B. (president of the Old Boys' Union), a visit was paid to St. Ignatius' College, Riverview, presided over by Very Rev. T. Gartlan, S.J.

Mr. Duggan was introduced to the Catholic Club, whose energetic president is Mr. Mynahan, M.L.A.

The Lord Mayor of Sydney (Mr. R. D. Meagher) evinced much interest in Catholic affairs in New Zealand. The Westmead Home for boys, which was visited, showed the great hold that the St. Vincent de Paul Society has upon the sympathies of the Catholic body. A visit to Sydney would not be complete without a call at the historic Church of St. Patrick, in the care of the Marist Fathers, who are noted in Sydney for their zeal and earnestness. Mr. Duggan bore tribute to the excellent work being done by such representative Catholic newspapers as the *Advocate* and the *Tribune* (Melbourne), and the *Freeman's Journal* and the *Catholic Press* (Sydney). The Catholic Federation was in full vigor throughout the States. Already the Victorian Federation had started a fighting campaign for educational rights. A splendid recruiting effort had resulted in a total of over 70,000 members, which achievement had heartened both the hierarchy and the laity for the long and stern fight that lay ahead. A fact borne in upon a visitor to the several States is that the social and political conditions of each beget the particular line of action adopted by the Church in the advocacy of her claims. In New South Wales the Federation is proceeding along non-political lines, and has achieved great successes. This Federation is now busy striving to emulate Victoria in raising the total membership to over 70,000, with every prospect of success.

In conclusion, Mr. Duggan spoke enthusiastically of the great kindness that he had received everywhere, especially from Messrs. T. O'Brien and C. Lawlor, the general secretaries respectively of the Federations of Victoria and New South Wales. Through them he had been enabled to glean many facts and ideas that might prove useful to our own Federation. The work of the Federation in New Zealand was closely observed by the sister organisations in Victoria and New South Wales, and the success of the recent campaign against objectionable cinematograph films came in for favorable comment. The establishment of hostels for Catholic women was the subject of inquiry by the Catholic Women's Association, and arrangements are being completed for the establishment of a similar institution in Sydney.

THE BREHON LAW

In ancient Ireland (says *Notes and Queries*) judges were called Brehons; and the law they administered is now commonly known as the Brehon Law. The Brehons had collections of laws in volumes or tracts, all in the Irish language, by which they regulated their judgments. Many of these have been preserved, and of late years some of the principal ones have been published with translations. The most important are the 'Senchus Mor,' chiefly on Irish civil law (published in 3 vols. by the Brehon Law Commissioners, Dublin, 1865-73), and the *Book of Acaill*, on the criminal law and the law relating to personal injuries.

The Brehon code forms a great body of old Irish civil, military, and criminal law; it regulated the various ranks of society from the monarch down to the slave, and defined their several rights. Minute rules are given for the management of property; for the several industries—building, brewing, mills, watercourses, fishing weirs, bees, and honey; for seizure of goods for tithes; trespass and evidence; the relations of landlord and tenant; the fees of professional men—doctors, judges, teachers, builders, artificers; the mutual duties of father and son, of foster parents and foster children, of master and servant; and the law of contracts. In criminal law the various offences are set out—murder, manslaughter, wounding, theft, and every variety of wilful damage; and accidental injuries from flails, sledgehammers, and all sorts of weapons. Injuries between man and man were atoned for by a compensation payment; homicide, whether by intent or by misadventure, was atoned for by a money fine, or 'eric,' adjudged by

a Brehon. The principles of the seawards are laid down in the *Book of Acaill*.

The language of the Brehon Law is archaic, indicating a remote antiquity; the early books have been long lost, but successive copies were made from time to time, with commentaries and explanations appended. Among the distinctive features of the Brehon Law three deserve special notice: (1) Eric, the price of a life, by which a murderer was bound to pay compensation to the family and sept of his victim. Like the Anglo-Saxon *were-gild*, the *eric* varied in amount according to the rank of the slain. (2) Tanistry, by which the successor of a chief was not necessarily his eldest son, but was elected during his lifetime from among his near relatives, the ablest man being chosen at *tanist*. (3) Gavelkind, by which a man's landed estate was divided equally among all his sons. The cursory notes above, leaving many features untouched, may induce students of old legal codes to include in their ambit the ancient law of Erin.

THE CHURCH AS PROMOTER OF PEACE

At the quarterly theological conference of the priests of the archdiocese of New York, held in Conference Hall, Cathedral College, the Rev. Francis X. Albert, pastor of St. Boniface's Church, and a former professor at St. Joseph's Seminary, read a paper on 'The Church and Peace.' It was a timely and carefully prepared account of the position the Church has taken as a potent factor in the promotion of peace throughout the ages. The paper was listened to with special interest by the assembled priests and was favorably commented on by his Eminence Cardinal Farley. Father Albert's paper was as follows:—

The first ecclesiastical institution in behalf of peace of which we read in the history of the period under discussion (the tenth century) is known as 'The Peace of God,' which exempted from the evils of war all consecrated persons, clerics, monks, virgins, and cloistered widows; (2) all consecrated places, churches, monasteries, and cemeteries with their dependencies; (3) consecrated times, Sundays and ferial days, all under the special protection of the Church, which punished transgressors with excommunication. At an early date the Councils extended

The 'Peace of God'

to the Church's proteges—the poor, pilgrims, crusaders, and even merchants on a journey. Together with the Peace of God, 'Leagues for the maintenance of peace' were formed at Poitiers, A.D. 1000, and a militia to maintain peace and order was established at Bourges in 1031. This remarkable movement, begun in France, slowly extended itself to the North and into Germany. After 1030 the Popes officially joined their efforts with those of the Kings of France and Germany. It is difficult to imagine the wide influence of this movement, the spirit of fraternal charity that governed these associations where lords and peasants swore treaties of peace, the wonderful humanitarian character of these leagues that protected the poor and their possessions, the profound Christian sense which animated these new institutions, and finally the love of justice which their statutes revealed. In them we find the germ of a 'people's right.'

These leagues, however, were limited in their good effects. They could not pretend to oppose indefinitely wars that were just, for that would have been against good order, nor could they reach the powerful and mighty lords, the kings to whom war was as their life's-breath. War had to be checked, muzzled, so to speak. And so the 'Truce of God' was established, a fact which appears for the first time at the Council of Elne in 1027. This Council declared it illicit to attack an enemy from 9 a.m. Saturday until 1 a.m. Monday. This prohibition was later extended to the days of the week consecrated to the great mysteries of Christianity, viz., Thursday in memory of the Ascension, Friday in honor of the Passion, and Saturday in honor of the Resurrection. Still another step included Advent and Lent. Efforts were thus made to limit the scourge of private wars without suppressing it outright. The penalty was excommunication. The truce soon spread from France to Italy and Germany, and the Oecumenical Council of 1139 extended it to the whole world.

The Spirit of Faith, Justice, and Charity, fostered by the Peace and Truce of God, was further cultivated by the splendid religious Orders of St. Francis and St. Dominic, which originated about the beginning of the Middle Ages. The Third Order of St. Francis, like the Third Order of St. Dominic, was recruited exclusively from among the people living in the world and was imbued with the peace-loving spirit of its founder, St. Francis, and his disciples, the mendicant friars. If the Third Order of St. Francis and St. Dominic succeeded in spreading with such marvellous rapidity throughout the world it was because it responded to the supernatural aspirations of souls longing for closer union with God; but also because it was wonderfully adapted to the times and offered to the masses, enervated by continuous warfare, social peace, the object of their most ardent desires. It is no exaggeration to state that the Third Order of St. Francis was one of the most effective institutions of the Middle Ages, the grandest effort to introduce more justice among men. In addition to the Third Order, there appeared in the same period the Order of the Humiliati, the Order of Poor Catholics, both consecrated to the same purpose. A little later the Militia of Jesus Christ, founded by St. Dominic, also consecrated itself to the cause of peace and justice. Thus from the eleventh to the thirteenth century, a grand endeavor was made by the Church in favor of peace and the ultimate triumph of justice. Popes, bishops, and monks, the only ones capable of governing the world, fulfilled their mission of peace and responded to the hopes of the people. Notwithstanding the zeal and activity of the Church in favor of peace, the various institutions of which we spoke did not and could not touch the root of the evil—the warlike and brutal nature of the lords. The Church understood this, and therefore created, or rather appropriated to herself, chivalry. Finding herself face to face with an institution of Germanic origin which grouped about itself the elite of feudal nobility, she penetrated it with her spirit instead of destroying it, and succeeded in making of the brigand, very often hidden beneath the armor of nobility, the type of the Christian soldier. The character of the true Christian Knight is well traced by Leon Gautier. (1) Thou shalt believe all that the Church teaches and observe all her commandments; (2) Thou shalt respect the weak and constitute thyself their pro-

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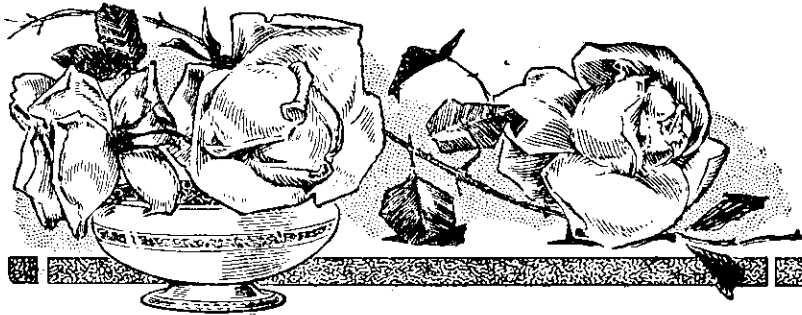
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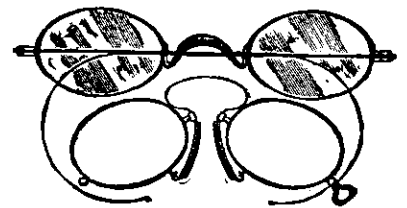
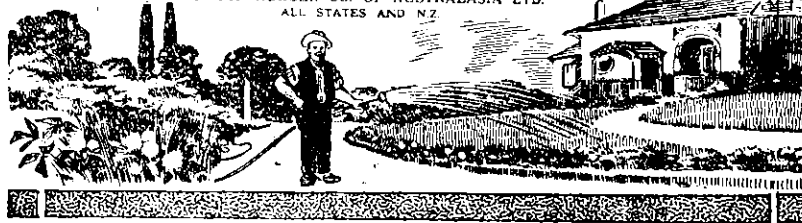
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tor; (3) Thou shalt always be the champion of good and right against evil and injustice. The character of the Christian Knight may also be learned from the formula of the blessing of the sword: 'Bless, O Lord, this sword that Thy servant might be the defender of churches, widows, orphans, and of all who love God, against the cruelty of heretics and pagans.' It was her sense of justice and right that prompted the Church to create other military Orders for the defence of human dignity and justice against brute force. For example, the military Order of the Faith and Peace, established in 1229 and confirmed in 1231 by Amaneve, Archbishop of Auch; the Order of the Temple, founded by Hugo des Payens and introduced into the Church by St. Bernard. 'There is no law,' says St. Bernard, 'which forbids a Christian the use of the sword. The Gospel recommends moderation and justice to the soldier, but it is nowhere stated: "throw down your arms and renounce the life of a soldier." Unjust war alone is forbidden, especially among Christians.' The statutes of this Order were framed by St. Bernard himself.

And now we come to

The Crusades,

concerning which some have maintained that they were not just wars in the sense taught by the Doctors of the Middle Ages. And among the Crusades we shall include not only those for the conquest of the Holy Land, but also the Crusades against the Moors, Albigenses, the Hussites, and the Turks. Just a few words to show that these wars were justified. As regards the Crusades for the conquest of the Holy Land, it has been stated that they were undertaken for the mere pleasure of spilling blood upon the relics. Against this objection we can set various just reasons in defence of these Crusades—(1) They were undertaken to defend Christianity menaced by the invasion of the Saracens; (2) to deliver the Christian inhabitants of the Holy Land from the constant annoyance and persecution to which they were subjected; (3) to answer their just appeal; (4) to avenge the maltreatment suffered by pilgrims to the Holy Sepulchre. The Crusade against the Moors of Spain was a merely defensive war. The Crusade against the Albigenses was undertaken in defence of human society in general, for their doctrines concerning the family, marriage, property, and country made these heretics veritable anarchists who were a menace to society. That this was the sole reason for this Crusade is also proved by the fact that Innocent III., when he saw that the Crusade had developed into a war of conquest and that the Crusaders had lost sight of its original just purpose, at once endeavored to stop it. The same must be said concerning the Crusade against the Hussites, which was directed by Martin V., and the Crusade against the Turks, who threatened to submerge Christian Europe. It thus appears very clear that these Crusades, including that of Leo IX. against the Normands of Sicily, were undertaken for the defence of Christian civilisation against barbarism and anarchy, and in this light were justified. On the other hand,

The Church was Always Solicitous

about checking and putting a stop to wars that were really unjust. Thus in 1203 the Pope forbade the Crusaders to march against Constantinople. Innocent III., as we saw, put a stop to the Crusade against the Albigenses when it overstepped the limits of a just invasion. Martin V., after the Sicilian Vespers, excommunicated and deposed Peter of Aragon, saying: 'He has made himself chief and leader of the rebels; his malice is evident, and the justice of the Roman Church stands against him with all power.' Finally, the Sovereign Pontiffs personally refused to make peace with those who enjoyed benefices that were the fruit of war. We shall now refer briefly to the principal instances of intervention on the part of Sovereign Pontiffs in the interest of peace. One of the first instances is that of Alexander II., who excommunicated Harold, King of England, who was found guilty of perjury. Gregory VII. espoused the cause of Ru-

dolph against Henry IV. Clement III. sought by all means at his command to reconcile England with France so that they might join forces in the third Crusade. Gregory IX. excommunicated Frederick II. as a persecutor of the Church and oppressor of public liberty. Boniface VIII. writes to Philip the Fair to respect the truce signed with England. Eugene IV., addressing the whole Christian world and inviting all to rise together against the Crescent, desires and ordains in virtue of his supreme authority that the whole Christian world be at peace. Those individuals refusing obedience are threatened with excommunication and communities with interdict. Pius II. commands the subjects of Ferdinand of Naples to be subject to their prince, and declares that peace is a duty. Paul II., seeing himself obliged to inveigh against the King of Hungary because he had disturbed the peace in declaring war against Podiebrad, and who on the other hand seeing Florence, Naples, and Milan, in spite of his efforts, unwilling to lay down their arms, proceeds against them with his supreme power, and under pain of interdict commands them to lay down their arms within thirty days. When we pass from the Middle Ages, however, mediation and arbitration on the part of the Church become rarer as

The True Christian Spirit Vanishes,

and the reasons of State take the place of a 'just cause.' But still in 1514, when pagan right, sanctioned by the Reformation, legitimized the bellicose principles of princes, the Lateran Council once more proclaimed to the whole world that nothing is more pernicious, nothing more sorrowful to the Christian Republic than war.

In conclusion, it is quite clearly established from what has been said that the Catholic Church has been throughout the ages, but particularly in those ages most needing a guiding influence, the most potent factor in the promotion of peace and the preservation of the moral order among men. True to her divine mission, she has persevered in her appointed task to spread the message of peace and goodwill among men. And if to-day she stands powerless amid these smoking ruins of a desolated Europe, it is not because her sympathies have changed, but because governments have become deaf to the gentle persuasion of a mother's voice that calls them to peace and security.

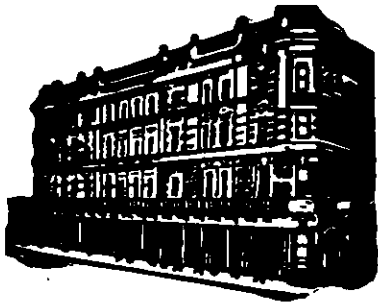
Mr. W. H. Skinner, Commissioner for Crown Lands for Hawke's Bay, who has just returned from an inspection of the Gisborne, Wairoa, and Waikura districts, stated to a *Herald* reporter that he was very much impressed with the appearance of the country and the stock, and also with the quantity of feed, which appeared abundant everywhere.

The principle of co-operation has been put to good use by New Zealand farmers this year (says the *Dominion*). When a shortage of shearers threatened some districts the farmers overcame the difficulty by co-operating, and the same was done in certain localities respecting the harvest. In both instances the results are said to have been excellent.

A rather unusual offer was made to the secretary of the Wanganui Charitable Aid and Hospital Board last week. A farmer living in the country offered to take, free of charge, a child of a married man who was willing to go to the front, but was prevented by family ties. The farmer offered to maintain the child at his home for the period of the war, or until the father was able to take up his home duties again.

Feilding is one of the most substantial and prosperous towns on the coast, the magnificent country surrounding it being a great producer of wool and mutton, apart altogether from butter and other products (says the *Wanganui Chronicle*). As a stock centre it is unsurpassed, and, in order to give some idea of the tremendous value of exports, it may be stated that during the five week ended January 22 about 30,900 sheep and 2400 bales of wool were trucked away, the approximate value of wool and mutton being over £80,000.

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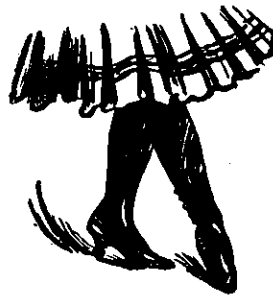
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FULL-CREAM



Brown Caramels

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HIGHLANDER MILK

RECIPE:—

| | |
|------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1 cup brown sugar | 1 cup Highlander Milk |
| 1 cup treacle | (1 part Highlander to 3 parts water) |
| 1 tablespoon glycerine | 1 tablespoon butter |
| 1 cup graded chocolate | |

METHOD:—Boil 20 minutes, add chocolate, and boil another 5 minutes. Test to see if brittle (it is better to remove just before this point is reached). Add chopped nuts or coconut.

Highlander Milk—Made in N.Z.—Full Cream.



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GODBERS.

COMMERCIAL

The High Commissioner reports as follows, under date January 29:—

The frozen meat market is very quiet, with no change in prices. There is little demand for New Zealand meat, although the home-killed supplies are decreasing.

Mutton.—Canterbury, 7½d for lightweight; medium 7¼d; other brands than Canterbury, not quoted; ewes, 7d.

Lamb.—The market is very dull. This season's Australian arrivals at the market are selling at 7½d to 7¼d, and affects prices. Canterbury, 7½d for all weights; second grade, 7¼d; other brands than Canterbury, 7¼d for best quality; ordinary quality, 7¼d.

Beef.—New Zealand beef is not available. Chilled hinds, 7½d; fores, 6d.

Butter.—The market is firmer. Danish (market very quiet), 156s to 158s; New Zealand (market closes firm), 144s to 148s; unsalted, 158s to 162s; Australian (market quiet, but firm), 140s to 146s; Siberian (market quiet), 124s to 130s; Argentine, 136s to 150s).

Cheese.—The market remains firm. Canadian (market quiet but firm), white and colored, 99s to 100s; New Zealand (firm at close of market), white and colored, 98s; United States (fair demand), white and colored, 97s; English Cheddar, 104s to 106s; Cheshire, 114s to 120s.

Hemp.—The market is steadier, with a good demand for all descriptions. Prices are firm. New Zealand, good fair on spot, £47 10s; fair, £46; Manila, new graded, fair, £55; coarse, £50. February to May shipment: New Zealand good fair, £46 10s; fair, £45; Manila, new graded fair, £54; coarse, £49. The output from Manila for the week ended 29th inst was 16,000 bales.

Tow.—Second grade, on spot, £25; forward shipment, £24.

Wheat.—The market is slightly weaker, with less demand. Canadian, arrived, 66s 6d per quarter; February to March shipment, 65s 6d; Australian shipment, per steamer, 65s; per sailer, 64s 6d.

Oats.—The market is dull, and very little business is doing. Argentine, on spot, 31s 6d per quarter; February to March shipment, 33s.

Hops.—The market is firmer, and holders are not anxious to sell. English, 120s to 140s; Californian, 80s to 100s.

Wool.—The market is firm, and prices continue to advance for crossbred, which is scarce and in active demand at full prices.

Messrs. Stronach, Morris, and Co., report for week ended Tuesday, February 1, 1916, as follows:—Rabbit-skins.—We held a sale yesterday, when we submitted a small catalogue to the usual attendance of buyers. All lines were keenly competed for, and late values were fully maintained. Quotations: Prime winter does, to 26½d; second winter does, to 23½d; first winter bucks, to 21½d; second winter bucks, to 19½d; racks, to 11d; first blacks, to 36d; second winter blacks, to 26d; fawns, to 18½d per lb. Horsehair, to 18½d per lb. Catskins, 4½d to 6d each. Sheepskins. Our next sale will be held on Tuesday, 6th inst. Hides.—We held our fortnightly sale on Thursday, when there was the usual attendance of buyers. Competition was good, and late values were maintained. Stout heavy ox, to 11½d; medium, 9½d to 10d; light, 8d to 8½d; cow hides, stout heavy, to 9½d; best calfskins, to 10½d; medium, from 5d to 9d; damaged and inferior, 3d to 6d per lb. Oats.—There is still good inquiry for oats, and prime lots coming to hand meet with a prompt sale. Quotations: Prime milling, 3s 6d to 3s 7d; good to best feed, 3s 4d to 3s 5d; medium and inferior, 2s 9d to 3s per bushel (sacks extra). Wheat.—The only business passing is in fowl wheat, and as there has been a large offering lately, prices have eased. Good whole fowl wheat, 5s to 5s 3d per bushel (sacks extra). Chaff.—The market is still well supplied, and prices remain as last quoted. Best oaten sheaf, £5 to £5 5s; medium

to good, £4 12s 6d to £4 17s 6d; light and discolored, £4 to £4 5s per ton (sacks extra). Potatoes.—The market at present is well supplied with Oamaru, Peninsula, and Taieri grown potatoes, all of which meet with a fair local demand. Quotations: Prime lines, £7 5s to £7 10s per ton (sacks in).

Messrs. Donald Reid and Co. report:—We held our weekly sale of grain and produce on Monday, when values ruled as under:—Oats.—There is still good inquiry for oats for immediate delivery, for shipment. Any suitable lots coming to hand meet with prompt sale. Prime milling, 3s 6d to 3s 7d; good to best feed, 3s 4d to 3s 5d; medium and inferior, 2s 9d to 3s per bushel (sacks extra). Wheat.—Only a limited quantity is offering, and buyers are not disposed to give the price asked by growers. Fowl wheat is arriving more freely, and in consequence prices have eased slightly. Good whole fowl wheat, 5s to 5s 3d per bushel (sacks extra). Potatoes.—The market at present is well supplied with Oamaru, Peninsula, and Taieri-grown potatoes, all of which meet with fair local demand. Good, well-grown table potatoes, £7 5s to £7 10s per ton. Chaff.—The market continues to be well supplied. Shipping operations are practically at a standstill, and no improvement in prices can be reported. Prime oaten sheaf, £5 to £5 5s; medium to good, £4 10s to £4 15s; light and discolored, £4 to £4 5s per ton.

INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

Only a few of our common fruits are native, and even fewer—none, indeed, except certain varieties of berries—are useful unimproved. The Persian apple came originally from Persia; the quince from Cydonia in Crete; the chestnut (*Castanea*) from Castana, a town of Pontus; the plum from Syria and Damascus, an origin still indicated in the name of the damson, or damascene, variety. The filbert, an old chronicler records, was 'so named of Philibert, a king of France, who caused by arte sundry kinds to be brought forth.'

Pliny testifies that cherry trees were first planted in Britain twenty-six years after their introduction into Italy by Lucullus, who, after the war with Mithridates, brought them from the King of Pontus's city of Cerasus. Their French name—*cerise*—and their botanical one—*cerasus*—show this origin more obviously than our word cherry, although the derivation is the same. During the Saxon period, the cherry in England was allowed to run out, and it was not reintroduced until the gardener of Henry VIII. brought it from Flanders, and planted the first of the famous Kentish cherry orchards.

The Romans rightly valued the introduction of new fruits and flowers.

'The great captains, and even consular men,' Sir William Temple has recorded, 'those who first brought them over, took pride in giving them their own names, as in memory of some great service or pleasure they had done their country; so that not only laws and battles, but several sorts of apples and pears were called Manlian and Claudian, Pompeyan, and Tiberian.'

These services of the Roman captains were, however, merely incidental; none of them rival in horticultural devotion the act of the elder Tradescant, gardener to Charles I., who enlisted on board a privateer armed against Morocco solely with a view to finding an opportunity to steal apricots into Britain. He succeeded; at what cost of battle, bloodshed, diplomacy, or exchange under a flag of truce, we do not know.

There is often no possibility of tracing the origin or introduction of vegetables—less esteemed and therefore less noted than fruits. We do know, however, that Sir Walter Raleigh introduced the potato into Ireland, and that Sir Anthony Ashley, of Wimborne St. Giles, Dorsetshire, first planted cabbages, which he got from Holland. It was a useful innovation, and he deserved the large and neatly sculptured cabbage that is placed at his feet upon his tomb.

J. M. J.

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Candidates for admission are required to present satisfactory testimonials from the parochial clergy, and from the Superiors of Schools and 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.

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DEATH

McKEARNEY.—At sea, about January 9, 1916, Michael, eldest son of Mr and Mrs D. McKearney, of Dannevirke; aged 36 years.—R.I.P.

IN MEMORIAM

GRIFFEN.—In loving memory of Patrick Griffen, of Makauri, who departed this life on January 27, 1915.
On whose soul, Sweet Jesus, have mercy.

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, FEBRUARY 3, 1916.

THE PRESENT AND THE FUTURE

AMONGST thinking people it has been a well-founded belief that, though kings and rulers in the past had been nominally responsible for wars, yet the real wire-pullers were the financiers, as for them international conflicts meant times of extraordinary prosperity, whilst for the masses they meant periods of industrial depression and national suffering. The difficulties of nations were the opportunities of capitalists. Nations engaged in war had to provide the money necessary to carry on such conflicts, and, as their treasuries were not often equal to their ambition, they had to have recourse to the financial magnates to tide them over their difficulties. This they were only too ready to do at an exorbitant rate of interest. Countries that have

great difficulty in ordinary times to make their revenue balance their expenditure embark on costly wars without apparently giving a thought as to how they are to be financed, yet, somehow, they get the means without any serious effort. Austria is a case in point. It is well known that for many years the Dual Empire has been on the verge of bankruptcy, yet, as one of the Central Powers, it has been engaged for a year and a half in the most expensive war the world has ever known. The only way to account for this is that it has been borrowing money wholesale from European financiers at ruinous rates of interest. Even if peace were declared to-morrow, and if Austria were permitted to escape paying an indemnity, it would apparently be an utter impossibility for it to carry on the work of government under the staggering financial burden which its people will be called upon to bear.

*

In nearly all the wars in which England had been engaged the wealthy classes did not experience any inconvenience, whilst in most cases the industrial classes suffered severely. The present war is, perhaps, the only great conflict in which the British people have been engaged, that a wave of prosperity has reached all classes in the United Kingdom. Returns which were prepared recently showed that most of the manufacturing companies and syndicates were making abnormal profits. Wool-growers, agriculturists, ship-owners, ironfounders, cloth manufacturers, and proprietors of coal mines were enjoying a period of prosperity which was unequalled for many years. We know that this was due to the extraordinary and unprecedented expenditure of public money in connection with the war. The National Debt is mounting up at the rate of about five millions sterling a day, and what it will be when peace is declared is impossible to say, and even if we could give a rough estimate in figures, it is not everyone who could realise what such a huge sum would mean. There is one thing that we can understand, and it is this, that the annual interest on our future National Debt will tax the resources of the United Kingdom, and that all classes will have to bear their share in proportion to their ability. Another disquieting feature of the war is that at its termination there is sure to be great industrial depression throughout Europe, from which the United Kingdom cannot escape. It is contended that Great Britain as a manufacturing country will then be in a position to capture the markets of the world, provided it has not been anticipated by the United States. But, providing that Great Britain will be in a position to extend her manufacturing industries when peace is proclaimed, where will be the benefit should there be no markets for its goods? Every nation engaged in this titanic contest will then have to practise the most rigid economy in order to meet the interest on its public debt. It is very probable that people, instead of indulging in the luxuries of the twentieth century, will have to revert to the simple life of their forefathers of a couple of centuries ago. So far there is no indication that the people of the United Kingdom and its colonies are making any provision for the future. A note of warning as to the necessity of economy has been sounded in Great Britain and Ireland by far-seeing persons as to the conditions which are likely to prevail at the close of the war, but so far it has, generally speaking, fallen on deaf ears. There is, apparently, the customary extravagance amongst the upper classes, and a complete want of thrift amongst the masses. Money and employment are plentiful to-day, and, consequently, the industrial classes trouble not about the morrow. It is only stern necessity that will force them to do that which they should have practised as a precautionary measure.

*

Sir Gilbert Parker, in the course of a severe arraignment of English extravagance and self-indulgence, repeats what a woman friend told him about a northern watering-place. 'She said that in the big

hotel filled with people where she was staying the display of diamonds and expensive gowns, with bottles of champagne at dinner every night, made her ashamed of her fellow-countrymen.' Sir Gilbert has a weighty comment on this lavishness: 'This luxury means that there are people making much money out of the war, even with the hands of the Chancellor of the Exchequer on their profits. They are making more than they did before the war, and they and their women folk forget the horrors of Flanders and the slaughter of the Dardanelles in the self-indulgence of the table and the theatre.' There is another significant statement: 'It is the people a little higher up who are the cause of waste and of England's bad reputation for production. This much must be said for the industrialists and the labor class that they do get up early and that they do work their honest eight hours a day, or at any rate their eight hours a day. There is a vast population, out of the factories and in the commercial and mercantile world and public employ, who could, by two hours' work more a day, add immensely to the nation's wealth and serve the cause of economy and set free the labor of others.' He adds this: 'As for waste, the waste in the homes of our working people is appalling. It is largely not the fault of the people themselves. In our fanatical individualism we have never organised our social life properly; the poor have never been taught how to cook, to make clothes, to conserve their humble resources, to make the best use of what they have.'

*

His Eminence Cardinal Logue, speaking some time ago at a Gaelic festival in Dundalk, emphasised the necessity of providing for the future. He said: 'I agree thoroughly with a number of people who are moving at present to induce the people to practise thrift and economy. These immense sums of money that are being raised must be paid back with interest, and this interest, according to calculations made as to the cost of the war, will be £150,000,000 sterling.' Hence, when money was plentiful, his Eminence emphasised, it was time they should lay up something for the rainy day, because when the war was over there would be a slump. They would be taxed for the war, and if the people wasted now there would be a terrible reckoning hereafter. This was a thing that could not be too prominently kept before the minds of the people at the present time.

*

We in New Zealand should take this warning to heart. This Dominion is at present enjoying an unprecedented period of prosperity, owing to the great demand for our staple products, but should industrial depression set in in Great Britain our markets would be restricted, and the prices of frozen meat, butter, cheese, and wool would suffer a set-back which would react on all classes in the community.

Notes

The Cost of War

The cost of the war is about five millions a day, 1800 millions a year, against a total of national income of 2400 millions. The enormous significance of these figures may be seen by comparison with other wars (says an English authority):—The Crimean War—Total cost about what we are spending in two weeks. Boer War—Total cost about what we are spending in eight weeks. Twelve Years' Napoleonic War—Total cost less than we are spending in nine weeks.

The Future of Nations

The Germans are at present devoting much attention to the birth-rate question, knowing that whatever the results of the war may be the future of nations will be decided by the growth or decline of their populations. Comparing the growth of the German

population with that of Russia, they are alarmed. Whilst Russia's population between 1897 and 1912 increased by forty-seven millions, the increase in Germany during the same period was only twelve millions. The Russian increase was nearly four times as great as the German. Theodore Masaryk, an Austrian statistician, has calculated (says the *Catholic Times*) that in the year 2000 the population of Italy, now thirty-five millions, will be fifty-eight millions; of France, now thirty-nine millions, sixty-four millions; of Austria-Hungary, now fifty-one millions, eighty-four millions; of England, now thirty-six and a-half millions, one hundred and forty-five millions; of Germany, now sixty-five millions, one hundred and sixty-five millions; and of Russia, now one hundred and seventy millions, four hundred millions in Europe and five hundred millions in Asia. The Germans are therefore afraid of being so outnumbered in the years to come that they will be unable to hold their own against the Slavs, especially as the tendency of the German birth-rate for some time past has been to decline. They are taking measures to prevent the decline.

The Fate of Armenia

The barbarous and entirely unprovoked treatment which the Armenians have received at the hands of their Turkish oppressors was the subject of a largely attended meeting in Liverpool early in December. The principal resolution was moved by Mr. T. P. O'Connor, M.P., who said that the massacres were not inspired by religious fanaticism, which, as they knew in the history of the Turkish Empire, had often accounted for one of those campaigns of wholesale murder. They were systematic, political, and unprovoked. The responsibility did not lie at the door of the Turk alone, and they took place in districts remote from the battlefield. The speaker gave a moving and detailed description of the sufferings of the Armenians, a nation with whom the standard of intellectuality and education was high. The Armenians had prospered in many parts of the world. They had been the brains to a large extent of Turkey and Russia. Their intellectuality, in fact, was one of the counts in the indictment against them. The figures of the massacre were as yet a matter of conjecture. Some people put the loss of life at 500,000, others at 800,000, but at any rate the determination was to destroy a whole race. They have not succeeded, and no sovereign of ours or of our Allies would ever be called upon to shake the bloody hands of the rulers of the Turkish Empire. One of them had boasted that in nine months they had exterminated more Armenians than Abdul Hamid had done in twenty-five years. The Turkish Minister who made that boast had just received the highest decoration which the Kaiser had it in his power to bestow.

DIOCESE OF DUNEDIN

Holy Cross College, Mosgiel, will re-open on February 19.

Masters H. O'Neill, J. Fenton, J. Butler, of Holy Cross College, Mosgiel, passed the matriculation, solicitor's general knowledge, and medical preliminary examinations.

On Sunday, January 23, the Rev. Fathers O'Sullivan, C.S.S.R., and Byrne, C.S.S.R., began a series of missions, lasting for three weeks, in the parish of Milton. On February 13 they proceed to Wrey's Bush to conduct a similar series of missions.

Rev. Father Bans, Crusade of Rescue, London, writes to us as follows, under date December 7:— 'Would you please convey to the Ladies' Guild of Dunedin my sincere thanks for their generous thought of our little ones, also to the subscribers whose names are mentioned. . . . We have been and are passing through a time of great anxiety, and the children will not forget in their prayers those benefactors from distant New Zealand who have helped to cheer and comfort

them at Christmas. We and they send our best wishes to all, yourself included.

Private Patrick J. Joyce, a returned trooper, who died on Thursday, was accorded a military funeral on Sunday afternoon. A large number of returned soldiers and friends of the deceased were present. The cortege left the Kensington Drill Hall at 2.30 for the Southern Catholic Cemetery. The band of the Fourth Regiment was in attendance, and the Defence Department was represented by Lieutenant S. S. George. A squad of 'Anzacs,' under Sergeant-Major Tustain, formed the firing party, and the 'Last Post' was sounded over the grave. The Rev. Father Corcoran officiated at the cemetery.—R.I.P.

THE APOSTOLIC DELEGATE

As was mentioned in our last issue, his Excellency the Apostolic Delegate, his Lordship Bishop Verdon, Right Rev. Mgr. Mackay, V.G., Rev. Dr. Ormond, Rev. Dr. Kaldewey, Rev. Father Sherin, and the Very Rev. Father Coffey, Adm., left for Queenstown on Wednesday morning. They had beautiful weather for the trip, and his Excellency and the other visitors were greatly pleased with the country through which they passed. The trip to the head of the Lake was made in splendid weather, and all were delighted with the beautiful scenery. They returned to Dunedin on Friday evening, and on Saturday morning his Excellency, accompanied by his Lordship Bishop Cleary, Rev. Dr. Ormond, Rev. Dr. Kaldewey, and Rev. Father Sherin left for the north by the second express. Right Rev. Mgr. Mackay, V.G., accompanied them as far as Oamaru. They were seen off at the station by his Lordship Bishop Verdon, Very Rev. Father Coffey, Adm., Rev. Father Delany, Rev. Fathers Morkane, Corcoran, and D. O'Neill, and a number of the Catholic laity.

BLESSING OF A CHAPEL.

In the forenoon of Tuesday of last week his Excellency the Most Rev. Archbishop Cerretti, Apostolic Delegate, blessed the new chapel at the Sacred Heart Home, Anderson's Bay. There were present his Lordship Bishop Verdon, his Lordship Bishop Cleary, and a number of the local and visiting clergy. Considering that it was a week-day, there was a good attendance of the laity at the ceremony.

An event of considerable interest to the community and the inmates of the Sacred Heart Home for the Aged at Anderson's Bay has been the erection and completion of a beautiful little chapel. Since the erection of the main building, a large room in the building itself has been used as a chapel, but the Little Sisters of the Poor had always looked forward to having a permanent chapel erected. The work of designing the new chapel was entrusted to Mr. H. Mandeno, architect, Dunedin, and, judging by the appearance of the chapel, and the comments of visitors, the result has been most satisfactory. The style adopted is Norman or English Romanesque. This, besides being the type usually adopted by the Order of the Little Sisters of the Poor, is peculiarly adaptable to this type of building. The exterior is finished in picked, pressed red bricks, and some interesting detail has been introduced by the use of clinker bricks and herring-boned pattern round the upper part of the sanctuary. The cornice is carried out in concrete, and has the well-known scalloped Norman ornament. The roof is covered with tiles, and is surmounted by a wooden ventilating turret and a neat belfry, the latter being built in reinforced concrete. Turning to the plan of the chapel, the principal entrance is from the main floor of the old building. The porch here is tiled with black and white tiles, that make a pleasing entrance. The main body of the chapel measures 60 feet by 30 feet, and is surmounted by a most beautiful barrel ceiling, which was specially modelled in fibrous plaster by Mr. R. S. Wardrop, of the Dunedin Fibrous

Plaster Company, from designs supplied by the architect. In this ceiling bold carved ribs, enclosing the roof trusses, span the ceiling at centres of twelve feet. The infilling is kept fairly plain, with the exception of an arcading design, which is in harmony with the rest of the architectural design of the building. The whole of the ceiling is tinted a delicate cream, and this gives a very soft and pleasing effect. The floor is in narrow red pine, which has been all hand-dressed and oiled. A small gallery is provided for the convenience of the invalids, who will be taken in in their chairs. The walls are panelled up about five feet with picked kauri, and this forms a pleasant contrast to the plastered walls. The mouldings, columns, and decorations are carried out in Keene's cement, which allows of the arrises being kept sharp and true, a feature which is essential in all Gothic work. The sanctuary is the chief point of interest. It is semi-circular in plan, with a groined ceiling, also executed in fibrous plaster. It is lofty, and a pleasing feature is obtained by the introduction of leaded-light windows on either side, which throw a soft diffused light on to the altar. The floor of the sanctuary is of oak parquetry of herring-bone pattern, which, when polished, gives a very pleasing effect. The altar rails are of kauri, and the arcading is the motif of the design. The sanctuary is flanked on either side with octagonal sacristies, finished in red pine oiled, and provided with safe, lavatories, cupboards, and all conveniences. The color scheme of the chapel has received very careful attention. The long circular headed sashes are glazed with soft amber glass, the walls are tinted a light amber, the woodwork is oiled, and the whole, with the soft tinting of the ceiling, produces a delightfully soft effect. The building is heated with hot water, and lit with electric light, a special feature of the latter being the introduction of electrically lighted candles and similar fittings for the illumination of the various statues. A small mortuary chapel, with a tessellated tile floor, is provided under the building. Messrs. Wood and McCormack are the contractors, and they are to be complimented on the care and interest that they have shown in their work, the woodwork being deserving of especial praise. Mr. Denis O'Connell has carried out his duties as clerk of works very satisfactorily. Altogether, the Little Sisters of the Poor are to be complimented on possessing such a beautiful little chapel.

About 100 farmers and thrashing mill owners met at Invercargill on Saturday afternoon to consider the rate of pay to be given mill hands this season (says the *Southland News*). After discussion, it was decided to increase it from 1s an hour and found, to 1s 3d an hour and found, this being the wage paid in Canterbury. It was stated that, according to rumour, the mill hands had decided not to accept employment unless they were given the increase which the meeting said they were entitled to this season owing to the price of grain. Mr. John Deegan, of Oreti, stated that owing to the rise in the value of belting and oil the mill owners had decided on the following rates of pay by farmers:—7s per 100 bushels for oats, 7s per hour for grass seed, and 8s per hour for wheat. In regard to oats, the new rate is 1s per 100 bushels more than that ruling last season.

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THE LAW'S EXPENSE

The London *Universe*, in the course of an article pointing out where certain reforms would be desirable and should be insisted upon in the post-war period, selects the legal profession as one to which the pruning knife could be applied with advantage. It says:—We are paying yearly three-quarters of a million alone to 330 men engaged in the administration of the law, all receiving salaries of over £1000. Some of this expenditure is wasted in sinecures; some in salaries grossly in excess of services rendered; some in pensions to persons already possessing sufficient personal wealth. First lay the axe of economy to the roots of your own cumbrous and encumbering professional tree, before attacking our little vines.

It is when we institute a comparison between the sums paid to our judges and those paid to American judges that the full significance of our expenditure strikes us. The Chief Justice of the United States receives £3000 a year, and the other eight judges of the Supreme Court receive £2900 each. Our Lord Chief Justice is paid £8000 a year; nine of his associates receive £6000, and fifteen others £5000. Take another comparison. Judges of the High Court on retiring receive a pension of £3500 a year (twelve of them are now drawing such pensions), which is £500 more for doing nothing than American judges get in full work, and it must not be forgotten that the latter has longer hours, has fewer holidays, and above all—in order that the comparison may be perfectly fair—are men of as distinguished probity, rectitude, honor, and fairness as any that adorn our own Bench.

The President of the United States—probably the hardest-worked man in the world (he has certainly been the most harassed and anxious since the outbreak of hostilities)—is paid £15,000 a year, only £5000 more than we pay to the Lord Chancellor, who can hardly be described as overworked. Of his £10,000, he receives £4000 for presiding over the debates of the House of Lords, and on retirement he receives £5000 a year. (Three of them are now enjoying their dignity and ease and this large pension.) Considering that a Lord Chancellor has previously had a large practice at the Bar, drawing huge fees for his advocacy, this pension, paid whether he has been a short or a long time in office, is decidedly in excess of requirements.

Parliament, Government, and people are dominated by the ubiquitous lawyer-politicians. They assist in framing the laws in the Cabinet, they assist in passing them in Parliament, and they draw large sums of money from the public in wrangling over their own created densities in the law courts. So badly is the work of law-making done in Parliament that the majority of our laws are judge-made, and the people are getting heartily tired of a dominance which, while it is so well paid, gives such sorry service in return. A Government should be a business proposition, and the barrister is not a business man—the whole of his training and traditions do not make for his becoming one. He acts only on instructions, and the etiquette of his profession fixes a great gulf between him and the public, even between him and the person for whom he is paid to plead. His utter lack of ordinary business perspicacity is abundantly shown in the conduct of the war. It may be only a coincidence that the gigantic blunders and muddles connected with it have been perpetrated by a Government dominated by the lawyer-politician. If that be so it is a bad coincidence for the profession. The people have been, will continue to be, loyal to its rulers while hostilities last, but when they cease and the bill has to be made up and met, those who will have to meet it will remember the class of men whose mistakes have cost them so dear. The lawyer-politician has enjoyed an ample sufficiency of the sweets; he must not make a wry mouth at having to take some of the sour. They may, however, lessen a resentment none the less keen because it is not opportune to openly manifest it, by themselves insisting on the members of their own profession being

content with fewer dippings into the depleted pockets of the State, and thus set an example of that economy they are so constantly dinning into the ears of others.

AN ALLEGED INTERVIEW

The *Berliner Tageblatt* published on November 27 what purported to be an interview with the Pope. It would not, perhaps, have been worth while even to mention it (writes the Paris correspondent of the *Irish Catholic*) had it not been for the fact that the rather excessively long declarations put into the mouth of Benedict XV. have been reprinted in all the leading German newspapers, and have thus reached not only Switzerland and the other neutral States, but through their intermediary the belligerent countries, amongst whom the interviewer, who is described as 'a neutral personality engaged in the political movement,' evidently seeks to create discord, and even disunion, among the Allies. It is also necessary not to lose sight of the coincidence of the publication of this anonymous interview with the Pontifical audience granted Cardinal von Hartmann, Archbishop of Cologne. In any case, the prolixity of the language, as well as the nature of the alleged replies of the Sovereign Pontiff to the unnamed interviewer's questions, rendered the document suspicious. Moreover, the declarations attributed to Benedict XV. on the situation of the Papacy, the difficulties which for the time being prevent the formation of a just opinion concerning the conduct of the Germans in Belgium and France, and also in maritime warfare, the bombardment of towns, and even on the appointment of a French General, are of a nature to create misunderstandings and engender strife between the French, the Russians, and the Italians to the benefit of the Germans, and especially of the German Catholics, which the Kaiser's Government is evidently anxious not to make discontented at the present moment. The authenticity of the alleged interview has been already officially denied. Indeed, according to a telegram from Rome the *Osservatore Romano* of December 3 contains the following short note, which frustrates the vile attempt to misrepresent to the world the sentiments of the Holy Father:— 'We are authorised to declare that the alleged interview with the Pope published in the *Berliner Tageblatt* on November 27 is devoid of all foundation. It is the continuation of the deplorable system of fantastical inventions of which it is easy to guess the origin and the aim.' The writer's object in mentioning the spurious document and the official denial of its authenticity is to put Catholics on their guard against crediting a single word of the present spurious document, and of others which, it may be taken for granted, will be manufactured and circulated by the Germans to disturb the equanimity of mind of the Catholics of the Allied nations, great and small, fighting for the triumph of right and justice.

The death has occurred at Killiney, in his 66th year, of Mr. David Talbot-Crosbie, a member of the well-known family of Mount Talbot. He formerly resided at Cloonca, County Roscommon, where, as a landed proprietor, he was much respected. A Liberal in politics, he became closely associated with popular movements in regard to land reform, and like his brother, the late Mr. Lindsey Talbot-Crosbie, of Ardferf Abbey, County Kerry, who died about twelve months ago, he was prominently identified with the land purchase scheme, and strongly advocated the sale of the land to tenant farmers. He was one of the group of popular landlords who became identified with the Irish Reform Association, and, like his late brother, who was one of the leaders of that body, he devoted much of his energies and influence to forwarding the scheme of popular reforms, including a measure of self-government which composed the programme of the association.

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WEDDING BELLS**DORGAN—SHINE.**

(From our Timaru correspondent.)

The Sacred Heart Church, Timaru, was the scene of a very pretty wedding on December 14, when Mr. James Dorgan, son of Mr. John Dorgan, O'Common, County Kerry, and Miss Mary Shine, second daughter of Mr. and Mrs. David Shine, Adair, Timaru, were united in the bonds of Matrimony. The ceremony was performed by Rev. Father Murphy, S.M. The bride, who was given away by her father, wore a charming gown of crepe-de-chine and a veil arranged in mob-cap style, and carried a bouquet of roses and maiden-hair fern. Miss Dorgan (sister of the bridegroom), who acted as bridesmaid, was prettily attired in a cream dress and dainty white hat relieved with black, and also carried a shower bouquet. Mr. D. Shine, brother of the bride, acted as groomsman. After the ceremony the guests were entertained at breakfast at Hutchinson's tea-rooms, where Mrs. Shine, mother of the bride, received the guests. The customary toasts were honored, that of the bride and bridegroom being proposed by Rev. Father Murphy, and that of the parents of the bride by Mr. Angland. A number of valuable presents were received by the happy couple. The bride and bridegroom left by the afternoon train for the south, where the honeymoon was spent.

JAMES--BACON.

(From our Auckland correspondent.)

At St. Joseph's Church, Grey Lynn, on January 3, a marriage was celebrated by the Very Rev. Chancellor Holbrook, the contracting parties being Miss Dorothy Isabel Bacon, youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. T. Bacon, of Auckland, and Mr. Cyril Joseph James, youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. R. James, also of this city. The bride, who was given away by her father, looked charming in a travelling costume of crepe-de-chine. The bridesmaid (Miss Gladys Bacon, sister of the bride) was tastefully dressed in a frock of white voile. The bridegroom was attended by his cousin (Mr. Geo. L. Sheahan) as best man. After the ceremony, which was a quiet one, only the immediate relatives of the bride and bridegroom being present, the guests motored to the residence of the parents of the bride in Dunedin street, Ponsonby, where the wedding breakfast was served, and the customary toasts were honored. The happy couple were the recipients of many handsome presents.

SMITH—CHILD.

A pretty wedding took place at Mangakarama on December 15, when Mr. Frederick Smith, eldest son of Mr. W. E. Smith, of Tangihua, was married to Miss Mabel Child, eldest daughter of Mr. Oliver Child, of Oak Farm, Mangakarama. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. Father Bowen, assisted by the Rev. Father McDonald. The bride was dressed in white embroidered voile, with the usual veil and orange blossoms, and carried a white ivory prayer book with lovely streamers prettily finished at the ends, and a small spray of flowers. The bridesmaid (Miss Eileen Child, sister of the bride) wore a costume of white embroidered muslin. The bridegroom presented the bride with a handsome pearl necklet, and his gift to the bridesmaid was a lovely gold brooch. The bride was given away by her father. The gifts were numerous and costly, many valuable cheques being received. At the breakfast after the wedding ceremony upwards of eighty guests sat down. The toast of the bride and bridegroom was proposed by Rev. Father Bowen and responded to by Mr. T. Smith, best man. Mr. T. O'Carroll proposed that of the host and hostess, to which Mr. Child responded.

THE PAN-SOUTHLAND GATHERING

(From our Invercargill correspondent.)

As the 9th February draws closer the interest in the third Pan-Southland gathering of the Catholic Federation increases. Arrangements are now practically complete, and the event promises to be a great success. On the arrival of the last train at Riverton, the usual procession will take place from the station to the recreation grounds. The Invercargill Hibernian Band will lead off, followed by the school children, the Hibernians in regalia, the Children of Mary, the clergy vested for the High Mass, and the congregations of the various parishes. The Mass will be celebrated in the open. After the luncheon the programme of sports will be carried out. There will be an abundance of toys and sweets for the smaller children. Accommodation in an adjoining paddock will be provided for traps and motor cars. In all probability there will be a booth on the grounds where luncheon and refreshments may be obtained. The Invercargill train tickets will be on sale at the church doors next Sunday, and also at St. Joseph's Schoolroom on Monday and Tuesday evenings from 7.30 to 9 o'clock. The people are specially requested to purchase their tickets early, and thus avoid a rush on the morning of the gathering. The fares from Invercargill will be—Adults 2s 3d, and children 1s. For the convenience of people who join the train at Grasmere and Wallacetown, some members of the local committee will have tickets for sale at the churches on Sunday at Waikiwi and Rakahouka.

Mr. Henry O'Reilly, the energetic and capable Winton secretary, has informed the local secretary that the Winton committee has decided to donate a special prize of £2 10s for the tug-of-war event, which always proves such an attractive item of the sports programme.

Gore

(From our own correspondent.)

January 26.

Arrangements are well in hand for the Pan-Southland gathering to be held at Riverton on the 9th of February, if good weather prevails, a most enjoyable outing is anticipated.

The quarterly meeting of the H.A.C.B. Society was held in the convent schoolroom on last Thursday. There was a good attendance of members, Bro. A. P. Hoffman presiding. The following were elected officers for the ensuing term:—President, Bro. Owen Kelly; vice-president, Bro. A. Hoffman; past president, Bro. A. P. Hoffman; secretary, Bro. M. A. O'Neill; treasurer, Bro. P. Kelly; warden, Bro. F. Hutton; guardian, Bro. E. Columb; sick visitors, Bros. F. O'Connor and J. Quirk. Bro. A. P. Hoffman officiated as installing officer, and congratulated each of the newly-installed officers. On vacating the chair he thanked the officers for their assistance during his term of office, and hoped they would rally round their new president, and have a most successful term.

Occasionally one hears of people who live all their lives in their native town and never leave it even for a day, but with such rapid travelling as is possible nowadays such cases are few and far between. Although not quite so remarkable, the case of a licensed porter at Lyttelton is interesting. In conversation with a representative of the Christchurch Press, he mentioned that on the last occasion that he had visited Christchurch the present tramway system had not been installed, so that, although the city is separated from the port by a stretch of about seven miles, accomplished by train in 20 minutes, he had not yet seen the municipal electric cars.

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CATHOLIC FEDERATION

DUNEDIN DIOCESAN COUNCIL.

The half-yearly meeting of the Dunedin Diocesan Council of the Catholic Federation was held in St. Joseph's Hall, Dunedin, on Tuesday evening, January 25. The Very Rev. Father Coffey, Adm. (president), presided, and the following delegates were present:—Lawrence, Very Rev. Mgr. O'Leary; Wrey's Bush, Very Rev. Father Lynch; South Dunedin, Rev. Father Delany and Mr. Miscall; Mosgiel, Rev. Father Mor-kane; Riversdale, Rev. Father P. O'Neill; Gore, Mr. D. L. Poppelwell; Riverton and Otautau, Mr. Bourke.

After some preliminary remarks, Very Rev. Father Coffey called upon the secretary (Mr. J. Hally) to read the half-yearly report of the executive, which was in part as follows:—

Your executive have much pleasure in meeting once more the representatives of branches, especially at a time when his Excellency the Most Rev. Archbishop Cerretti, Apostolic Delegate, has honored us with a visit. The diocesan council has contributed £20 towards the erection of the Catholic hall at the Trentham military camp, and the branches £19 1s, making a total of £39 1s from the Federation in this diocese. Your executive desire to congratulate the Right Rev. Dr. Cleary, Bishop of Auckland, on his recovery from his serious illness, and earnestly pray that Providence will long spare one whose sterling abilities, force of character, and wonderful activities have won for him the highest encomiums from Catholics and non-Catholics alike. This being the half-yearly meeting, a review of the branch membership is not advisable, but some have practically completed their canvass, and the progress reports are very favorable. It is to be hoped that office-bearers will see that this necessary work is systematically done for the annual meeting in June. The receipts, including a credit balance of £55 5s 6d brought forward, amounted to £113 9s 9d. The expenditure was £62 19s 10d, leaving a credit balance of £50 9s 11d.

Catholic Education.—The fight for the removal of some at least of our disabilities continues, and delegates will be pleased to notice that the esteemed members of our hierarchy are not standing 'at ease' in this all-important matter. To know that our efforts have such a backing is extremely encouraging. It has been carefully calculated that a sum of £62,000 annually represents the amount we are saving the Government by educating Catholic children. Surely, in common justice something ought to be done to lighten our double educational burden, especially when no favors are solicited but simply the enjoyment of similar privileges with our neighbors in the matter of primary, secondary, and university education. In connection with the question of education, your executive extend their heartiest congratulations to the Very Rev. Father Coffey, Adm., our worthy president, on opening, free of debt, the fine new school of the Christian Brothers, Dunedin, during the past half-year. To do this speaks volumes for the generosity of the people generally, and the result is a veritable monument to the tireless energy which Father Coffey brought to bear on the enterprise from first to last.

The Apostolic Delegate.—Through Mr. Poppelwell, the president of the Dominion Council of the Catholic Federation, his Excellency the Apostolic Delegate congratulated the Federation on the success achieved in such a short time; expressed the hope that the beneficent work might, under the direction of the hierarchy, be continued; and blessed all the members of our organisation.

Federation Activities.—During the period under review, your executive make no claim to having accomplished much. Catholic women's hostels have been established in other centres, but, so far, the question has not made any progress here. The establishment of such an institution would require a considerable sum of money, as to embark on such an undertaking without adequate capital would be a serious mistake.

Given some encouragement by delegates, a beginning might be made in the near future as the necessity and advantages of a Catholic women's hostel become better known and appreciated.

Censorship of Cinematograph Films.—On December 18, a very representative conference of delegates from city and borough councils, education boards and institutes, and various Church and social welfare societies met in Wellington at the instance of the Dominion Executive of the Catholic Federation to consider the question of how to deal with objectionable films. The unanimity of the conference in condemning the evil effects of certain films on children, and in strongly urging the Government to exclude objectionable ones altogether, was remarkable. Our central body was sincerely congratulated for initiating the movement, and a deputation who interviewed the Minister of Internal Affairs received a very sympathetic reception and a promise that he would urge the Government to introduce the necessary legislation next session.

The secretary, in the absence of the treasurer, read the balance sheet, which was considered satisfactory. Both the report and balance sheet were adopted without discussion.

In reply to a question by a delegate the secretary stated that the financial year would end on June 30, and it was most desirable that branches should send in their returns before that date.

Very Rev. Father Coffey said that by direction of his Lordship the Bishop a collection had been made in the diocese in aid of the fund for the erection of a hall for the use of Catholic soldiers at the Featherston military camp. The quota of Dunedin's contribution was fixed at £100, and a cheque for this amount had been forwarded some time ago to the proper authorities.

The following resolutions which were passed at the last meeting of the Wellington Diocesan Council were then considered:

1. That Rule 8, Section b, be amended by deleting the words "and shall hold office respectively at the discretion of the Dominion Council," by inserting the following words—"Nominations for every office in the Dominion Council, and for the elected members of the Dominion Executive, shall be made in writing, signed by two members of the council, and shall bear the consent of the person nominated. Nomination papers shall be in the hands of the general secretary twenty-one days before the date of the annual meeting, and the secretary shall cause a list of the persons so nominated to be posted to each member of the Dominion Council at least fourteen days before the meeting referred to. Should the number of persons so nominated be not sufficient to fill the offices required, nominations shall be received at the meeting." 2. 'Life members of the Dominion Council may be elected at the annual meeting from persons who have been members of the council for not less than five years, provided that not more than one such member be elected in any one year. Nominations for life membership may be made at the annual meeting.'

On the motion of Mr. Poppelwell it was decided to allow the delegates to the meeting of the Dominion Council to have a free hand in dealing with the first, and that they be instructed to oppose the second.

With regard to the question of establishing a Catholic women's hostel in Dunedin, it was pointed out that the necessity for such an institution in this city was not so pressing as in the other centres. After an informal discussion it was decided that the matter be left over until the annual meeting, and that in the meantime inquiries be made as to the support it would be likely to receive.

After matters of detail had been attended to, the meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to the Very Rev. Father Coffey for presiding.

The crops in the Methven district (says the *Christchurch Press*) are expected to yield as under:—Wheat, 20 to 25 bushels per acre; oats, 30 to 35 bushels.



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HOW THE CHURCH IS GOVERNED

Next to the Pope in the Church's hierarchy, come the Cardinals. They are the counsellors of the Pontiff in many important matters which pertain to the government of the universal Church, and some of them exercise much jurisdiction in the various 'Congregations' and tribunals which have been instituted for the administration of Church law. They form, so to speak, the Senate of the Church (says the Rev. J. F. S. in the *Providence Visitor*).

The word Cardinal is derived from the Latin 'cardo,' a hinge. They are, as it were, so necessary to the Government and discipline of the Church that it may be said to revolve around them as a door on its hinges.

Their origin was as follows: In the time of Pope Marcellus, early in the fourth century, the priests in charge of the various parishes of Rome were called cardinal priests. The city of Rome was divided into fourteen wards or districts, in each of which a deacon was appointed to care for the sick and poor; these were called cardinal deacons. The bishops of the sees in the immediate neighborhood of Rome were accustomed to sit in council with the Pope and consult with him for the good of the Church; after a time these were known as Cardinal Bishops. Later on, these three grades were united into one body, still preserving their respective ranks of bishop, priest, and deacon, and they became the counsellors and assistants of the Sovereign Pontiffs.

The College of Cardinals.

The Cardinals are appointed solely by the Pope. Their number, by a law made in 1586, is not permitted to exceed seventy, and generally there are several vacancies. Taken collectively, they are called the 'College of Cardinals.' They are chosen from many nations, although the number of Italian Cardinals is usually greater than that of all other combined.

They are still of three grades: Cardinal Bishops, who are six in number, being the bishops of certain suburban towns around Rome; Cardinal Priests, so-called, although they are bishops also—these may number fifty; and Cardinal Deacons, of whom there are fourteen. These last are priests, or may be merely in minor orders.

The garb of Cardinals is scarlet, with a biretta or cap of the same color. Chief among their insignia is the red hat, which also forms a prominent feature of their armorial bearings. A Cardinal is usually addressed as 'your Eminence.'

Their principal duty is to assist and advise the Sovereign Pontiff in the governing of the Church. This is done in many ways—in 'Papal Consistories,' in which details of Church administration are discussed and settled, and in 'Congregations,' so-called, by which they decide questions of discipline, subject to the approval of the Holy Father. They have also a most important function when the Holy See is vacant, for they elect the new Pope.

The Roman Congregations.

The Cardinals residing in Rome have many duties. They are appointed to various committees known as congregations, in which they assist the Holy Father in the administration of Church law. The Roman Curia or court is made up of the following Congregations:—

The Congregation of the Holy Office, which guards faith and morals, judges heresies, legislates concerning indulgences, and has certain powers in regard to matrimonial impediments.

The Consistorial Congregation has power over dioceses in parts of the world which are not 'missionary countries': it can institute and divide them, and it examines the reports of bishops.

The Congregation of the Discipline of the Sacraments, as its name denotes, attends to the practical details of the administration of the Sacraments.

The Congregation of the Council has the care of the universal discipline of the secular clergy and of the laity. It exercises watchfulness over the observance of the precepts of the Church, over ecclesiastical property, sodalities, etc.

The Congregation for the Affairs of Religious has jurisdiction over all Religious Orders and communities of men and women throughout the world.

The Congregation 'de Propaganda Fide' (for the Propagation of the Faith—usually known as 'the Propaganda') exercises authority in nearly all matters over those parts of the world which are considered to be missionary countries. A branch of this Congregation has special charge of the 'Affairs of Oriental Rites.'

The Congregation of the Index examines, and, if necessary, condemns books submitted to it, and instructs Bishops throughout the world regarding the prohibition of harmful writings.

The Congregation of the Sacred Rites regulates the details of the Church ceremonies and music.

There are also other committees of lesser scope, such as the Ceremonial Congregation, which attends to the ceremonies of the Pontifical Court; the Congregation for Extraordinary Ecclesiastical Affairs, which considers chiefly the relations of the Holy See with the civil power; and the Congregation of Studies, which supervises the work of Universities and empowers them to confer degrees.

The Roman Tribunals.

Among the tribunals, or 'offices,' so-called, are the Sacred Penitentiary, which decides matters of conscience submitted to it by confessors or Bishops; the Segnatura, before which come many appealed cases; the Dataria, in charge of benefices and dispensations; the Chancery, which attends to the sending of letters, etc.; the Rota, to which civil or criminal cases are referred for trial; the Apostolic Camera, which cares for the property of the Holy See; the Secretariate of State, and the Secretariates of Briefs and of Latin Letters.

We see, then, that the government of our holy Church is a complex and thoroughly organised body. So numerous and so varied are the matters submitted to it that the Holy See has found it necessary to establish all these committees and tribunals, that every doubtful point, be it great or small, may undergo prompt investigation.

Christchurch North

January 31.

The Rev. Father Hickson, S.M., is at present on a short visit to Wellington.

The Rev. Father O'Farrell, S.M., of Greenmeadows, celebrated the 7 o'clock Mass at St. Mary's on Sunday, and preached in the evening.

The concert, under the auspices of the Hibernian Society, which was organised for the benefit of the widow and family of a deceased member, was held in the Choral Hall on Wednesday, January 26, and proved very successful. The audience showed its appreciation by generous applause after each item, and encores were frequently demanded. Messrs. H. J. Johnston and F. A. Roche (joint secretaries) carried out their duties in a creditable manner. The following was the programme:—Song, Mr. A. McDonald; monologue, Miss Lissack; violin solo, 'Le cygne,' Mr. R. Clark; song, 'Come sing to me,' Mrs. F. O'Brien; recitation, Mr. F. McDonald; song, 'The devout lover' (with violin obligato by Mr. R. Clark), Mr. B. Renell; Irish jig, Miss Egan and Master Darragh; song, Miss Olga Wacked; humorous selection, Mr. F. Dickie; song, Miss Main; song, Mr. C. Dickie; humorous recitation, Mr. F. Rowe; musical monologue, Mr. F. Cordery; gyroscope revolutions, Master Handisides (of the Marist Brothers' School). Mr. T. B. Riordan's orchestra played selections during the evening, and Mr. P. Augarde acted as accompanist.

The Pope has founded a school of artistic tapestry at the Vatican. The Cardinal Secretary of State has written to the director, Commander Peter Gentili, conveying the thanks of the Holy Father for the presentation of copies of his publications on *The Art of Tapestry*.

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GARDENING NOTES

(By **MR J. JOYCE**, Landscape Gardener, Christchurch.)

WORK IN THE GARDEN FOR FEBRUARY.

Kitchen Garden.

Continue the planting of cauliflowers, broccoli, and savoy, also borecole or kale, which is a very useful spring vegetable, as there is not a great variety to choose from at that season of the year. The planting of celery should be finished now, and that which has been planted earlier may need moulding up. Turnips for winter and spring use may still be sown in well cultivated ground. They must be kept thoroughly free from weeds, as it is difficult to get rid of weeds when the wet weather sets in and the land is saturated with moisture. Winter spinach, silver beet, and a little lettuce seed should be sown now. The hoe should be kept constantly going among the crops during fine weather. When weeds are kept in check during the hot, dry weather, they give less trouble later on. Onions which have finished their growth ought to be lifted and stored away, especially if the weather is inclined to be wet. Give growing crops a good supply of water if the weather is dry, and an occasional application of liquid manure would be very beneficial.

The Flower Garden.

The mowing and rolling of lawns must be attended to, and they should get plenty of water in dry weather. The roller should always be put on after the lawn is watered, but not whilst the ground is soft. The roller makes most impression whilst the ground is moderately soft, after rain. Rolling keeps the lawns nice and even, and causes the grass to root better. Check the weeds in the beds and flower borders by keeping the Dutch hoe going. The hose should be kept going during dry weather. Give plenty of water at the time, a sprinkling being of no use. After a good watering the ground should always be stirred up with the hoe or rake, when the soil gets dry, which would be in a day or two later. Now is a good time to clip garden fences. It will be much easier work now than later on, when the wood is very hard and dry. A better job can be made now, as the wood is soft and easily worked. Always trim in as close as possible to the previous year's cut. Many people make the mistake of leaving two or three inches of the new season's growth on from the last cut. This causes the hedge to get out of shape in a few years, whereas, if it is cut close in each season it keeps in good form for a long time. Dahlias and chrysanthemums and other tall-growing plants ought to be made secure by neatly tying them to stakes, which should not stick up out of the plants in an unsightly manner. If possible, the stake should be always hidden from view, and the plants should not be tied up too tightly. They should always look as natural as possible. Water should be given when necessary, and if there are too many shoots or branches they ought to have some cut away. Fewer branches will give better results in the flowering season. Hardy annuals and perennials should now be sown for making a show in the spring and later on. They should be sown in patches of well-prepared ground in the borders, or in a nursery bed to be afterwards transplanted out in due season. The time is now at hand to commence the planting of spring flowering bulbs, such as the different kinds of daffodils, anemones, crocuses, and tulips. Freesias may be planted in pots to flower indoors. Now is a good time to bud roses and young fruit trees, or any other class of trees which needs propagating in this manner. Pinks and carnations can now be propagated by layering and cuttings. In some of my former notes I explained the mode of propagating in this manner. Cuttings of pelargoniums can now be put in. They will strike freely in the open, and can be potted or boxed later on. Well-seasoned wood should always be chosen for geranium cuttings. The young soft shoots usually rot away when put in the ground. Watering newly planted cuttings must be

avoided. They like a good supply of sharp sand in which to strike, and the soil need not be very rich. In fact geraniums always do best in poor, dry soil. They are always seen in full bloom against the side of a house, or by a sunny verandah where they seldom get a shower of rain.

Fruit Garden.

In the fruit garden the necessary work is summer pruning, if it has not been done already. The early pears and plums must be attended to. They should be picked before they are dead ripe; if not the first blast of wind will bring them down. After the raspberries are picked, the old canes should be cleared away. Tomatoes should be attended to, such as cutting away the lateral shoots and, when necessary, stopping the bearing shoots, so as to throw all the strength into the fruit. Do not cut away all the leaves, as some people do, as the plant wants some of its leaves to assist it to keep growing.

ST. MARY'S SCHOOL, GISBORNE

Prize for Christian doctrine, Dominica Hale; good conduct (medal presented by Mrs Keaney), awarded by votes of pupils to Eileen Hall; dux of the school (medal presented by Sisters), L. Boswell; highest marks at musical examination (gold medal presented by the Sisters), V. Keaney. First class attendance—Standard VI.: A. Alley, F. McDonald, A. O'Donnell, and A. Haisman. Standard V.: H. Drube, C. Drube, and R. Smith. Standard IV.: K. Walters. Standard III.: I. Maloney, C. McDonald, and R. Benney. Standard II.: V. Cloustan, B. Manson. Standard I.: E. Lindon, M. Snell, W. McDonald, and A. Manson. Second class attendance—Standard VI.: J. Hale and N. Neenan. Standard V.: D. Hennessey and M. O'Connor. Standard IV.: J. Parker and C. Haisman. Standard III.: H. Martin, R. Stephensen, and A. Lockett. Standard II.: G. Lockett, R. Benny, A. Stewart, and W. Drube. Standard I.: L. Reed and K. Malcolm. The silver watch, presented by Rev. Father Lane, for full attendance was won by Master Vernon Cloustan. First prize at summer show for vocal solo, Eileen Dower; piano solo, Annie Hudson; essay (19 entries), 'How I intend to earn my living,' K. Connery; third prize for writing, L. Dunphy.

The following pupils were successful in obtaining certificates at the annual examination held in December in connection with the National Business College, Sydney:—Book-keeping—Intermediate: H. Hackett, 96; J. Stewart, 99; E. Hall, 99; N. Walls, 98; E. Beer, 99. Elementary division: E. Dower, 100. Shorthand—Advanced: (50 words per minute) H. Hackett, 94; (75 words per minute) E. Hall, 98; E. Dower, 97; J. Stewart, 97; (100 words per minute) E. Beer, 100.

In Standard VI., proficiency certificates were gained by H. A. Alley, A. Brosnahan, C. Dower, L. Boswell, J. English, C. Fanning, J. Hale, F. McDonald, E. Alyward, A. Colbert, M. Dumphy, G. Fanning, A. Haisman, M. Hedley, M. Lette, G. McKenzie, N. Neenan, E. Manson, M. Neill, A. O'Donnell, M. O'Grady, K. Parker; competency, D. Edwards; junior free places—A. Haisman, J. Hale, L. Boswell.

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The Catholic World

ROME

THE FOREIGN COLLEGES.

The colleges in Rome opened, after a long vacation, with mutilated lists (says *Rome*). It is easy to understand that the usual course is impossible for Austro-Germans, Ruthenians, and Poles; the French College has less than half the number of students it had two years ago; its professors, too, have been called on. The American College has one or two less than last year. If the Scots College is down one or two the Irish is up; if the venerable English College is stationary the Beda this year receives a large and valuable influx of former Anglicans, aspirants to Holy Orders. While the lecture room at Propaganda may not show much difference, those at the Gregorian will, it is estimated, have little more than 500 instead of their 1100 quota.

UNITED STATES

THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY.

The student registration at the Catholic University of America has reached the figure of 625. Of these, 402 are lay students. The ecclesiasticals, secular and regular, number 223, of which number about 70 belong to the secular clergy, the rest being novices of the religious communities. The faculty of theology registers this year 76 students, 43 of whom are going on for advanced degrees, among them two doctors of theology and one in canon law. Nine religious communities are represented in the faculty of theology, whilst the other faculties have on their rolls a number of clerical students who are preparing to teach the higher branches in various colleges throughout the United States and Canada.

ITALIANS IN NEW YORK.

At the fifteenth New York diocesan synod held in St. Patrick's Cathedral, official announcement was made of the appointment of the Right Rev. Monsignor Gherardo Ferrante, D.D., as Vicar-General for the Italians of the archdiocese. It is estimated that the Italian population of the archdiocese is close on 500,000.

THE EXTENSION SOCIETY.

An account of the splendid work accomplished by the Catholic Church Extension Society during the past decade of years is given in the tenth anniversary number of the *Extension Magazine*. Within less than fully ten years the society has helped to build 1097 chapels in 77 dioceses. The amount generally given in these cases has been 500.00 dollars, a sum which was meant to serve at least as a nucleus for a building fund, while the additional few hundred dollars were ordinarily raised by the congregation itself. Larger sums were likewise donated, but all gifts were made exclusively to poor places and to missions in dire need. The generosity of the faithful has made possible these marvellous results.

GENERAL

THE FOUNDER OF THE SALESIANS.

The centenary celebrations of the birth of the Venerable Dom Bosco still continue. The zeal of the saintly man first displayed itself in the teaching of catechism to boys (says *America*). Soon there followed the establishment by him in Italy and elsewhere of festival oratories, day and evening schools, homes for poor children, schools of arts and trades, churches, institutions for emigrants and missions for the conversion of the heathen. He is the founder of the Society of St. Francis of Sales or the Salesian Fathers,

of the Institute of the Sisters of Mary Help of Christians and of the Association of Salesian Co-operators who assist by prayers and alms in all the undertakings of the Salesians. *Rome* thus recounts the work accomplished by them in North and South America within the short space of forty years:—'In Buenos Aires the Salesians have over 5000 pupils and eight public churches in their two huge parishes of over 200,000 souls. In the Argentine there are 46 Salesian colleges, with public churches attached, containing over 15,000 pupils. Uruguay, Paraguay, Brazil, Chili, Bolivia, Peru, Ecuador, Colombia, Venezuela, Panama, Costa Rica, San Salvador, Mexico, and the United States have witnessed their fruitful work. There are 360 institutions of Salesians and 250 Institutes of the Sisters of Mary Help of Christians across the seas, mainly occupied with work for emigrants. There are churches, oratories for festivals, elementary schools, secondary and professional schools, containing 100,000 boy pupils and 80,000 girls. There are 20 printing offices, 25 farm colonies, 200 clubs for old pupils, 120 secretariates for immigration, 80 committees of direction, and for the future of the work 30 novitiates and training schools for new directors and teachers. Salesian co-operators in all these works number over 200,000. And this in 40 years!'

POLAND AND CATHOLICITY.

Paderewski, the world-famous pianist, made a striking declaration at a recent Convention of the Polish National Alliance of the United States. Pleading for funds for his war-devastated country, in the course of an impassioned patriotic speech, he made the following declaration:—

'As far as I know I have been very successful in my task of helping out the needy ones in our fatherland. To date, I have been able to gather a great deal for the starving Poles in Europe. The largest part of the fund has been obtained through the Catholic churches, and the churches of Buffalo have contributed the most. Poland is like a kernel, the shell of which is the Catholic religion. Without it Poland would have been lost many years ago. My best comparison of the Poland of to-day is with a tree whose top has been broken off and only the roots have remained. . . . I come from people who left me no inheritance. All I have, or rather had, is what I made myself and for which I have worked hard. Some days I have worked as much as eighteen hours. All I have is the country's, and I will always work for it.'

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SYMPATHY.

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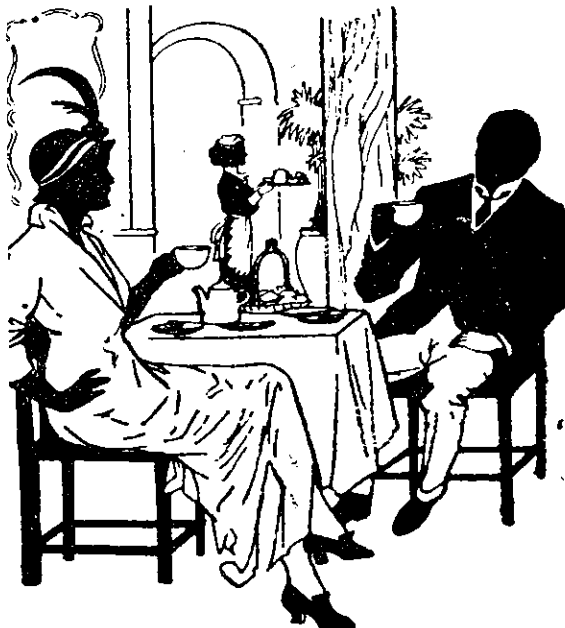
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ROME LETTER

(From our own correspondent.)

November 28.

CHRISTMAS IN ROME.

Christmas in Rome! Here, as in every capital in Europe, the idea conjures up memories of a grinning skeleton. Too much sorrow lies in the future and in the past for Europe to enjoy Christmas festivities. At every table in the greater part of this Continent one chair will be vacant at the Christmas dinner. So it will be in Italy when a couple of million young Catholics under arms yearn to be present at the 'cenone' or 'big supper' of abstinence fare at home. No, there can be no spontaneous merry-making this Christmas in Europe.

But still the Southerners will not omit any of the customs that have been observed on the Seven Hills of Rome for over 1500 years. On December 23 every Roman thinks it his duty to buy a basket filled with a dozen kinds of fish from the Mediterranean Sea for the 'cenone' of next evening. His great-grandfather vowed that he should never again spend an hour jostling and haggling among thousands in the fish-markets. But next year found him there as 1999 will find the great-grandsons of Romans of 1915. Customs die hard in Rome.

But if Christmas be not so happy in Europe as it might be, many have reason to thank Benedict XV. that conditions are not worse. The sick, the wounded, prisoners of war, and civilian prisoners, families which had lost all trace of missing members, Belgians and French who had been condemned to death, all these categories have to thank the influence of the Holy Father in tens of thousands. But, sad to say, no hope for a peace in the near future exists in the Vatican.

In the Apostolic Palace, as everywhere else, it is simply waiting, weary waiting. Little help is given to the Pope to blow any spark into a blaze, even though all look to his Holiness for courage and initiative to make a faint glow to develop into the sun of peace. 'If,' said a foreign diplomatist, a convert to the Church, 'if I felt sure that the Pope were neutral in the European war, I should return to Protestantism.' And one of the Roman Cardinals, on hearing of these words a few weeks ago, remarked in a quiet voice: 'Then that gentleman has already ceased to be a Catholic.' To the credit of Italy, it must be said, her Government and her people fully and publicly appreciate the Pope's neutrality. Even Italian writers, who for political reasons can rarely afford one favorable word about the Papacy, laud the firmness, the prudence, and statesmanship of Benedict XV. amid the storms of the past fifteen months.

IRISH PRIESTS AS CHAPLAINS.

But what a pity it is the Irish priest does not get full credit for his love of souls shown in following the Catholic soldiers to the field of battle! In a week or so we may expect to hear a pharasaical murmur raised from a Catholic quarter on the plea that Irish chaplains cannot be got to go in sufficient numbers to the front, a murmur that ought to keep dumb where the name of Irish zeal is concerned. Let us go into facts. All other things in an argument are not worth an unsound straw. One charm of life in Rome is the relative certainty with which one can speak of other countries. Other nations' affairs seem to cling to the wall of the Eternal City.

The number of Catholics in Ireland totals 3,238,000. The number of her secular and regular priests is 3600. This makes one priest for every 900 Catholics. What, now, of across the Channel? It is this: The number of Catholics in England and Wales is 1,891,000, and they have 4000 priests, secular and regular, to choose from. This makes one priest for every 470 Catholics.

And yet one-half the chaplains in the British Army hail from Irish dioceses—viz., priests lent to the English mission and those gone to the front directly

from Ireland; but there is another fact to be noted—viz., about 15 per cent. of priests in Ireland are engaged in the secondary schools, a work which for the most part is done by laymen in England. Leaving all question of the war out of the matter, I assert this is a fine monument to the proverbial love of souls in the priests of Irish blood at home or abroad.

AN ATHEIST'S CREED.

Since the war began atheists and indifferentists and bad Catholics have opened their eyes to religion by the roar of the cannon. Here is the latest 'Credo,' that of Lovredan, the famous litterateur, who, by the way, moots the question as to whether France will be Catholic after the conflagration is extinguished.

'The past of France is great,' he writes. 'It was a France that believed. The present of France is a calamity. France feels that she could no longer believe. Will things be better in the future? This lies in the hands of God. Oh! a people dead cover the fields. How terrible it is to be an atheist before this national cemetery. I deceived myself, and you who read my books, of what do you sing? France, France, return to the faith of your most glorious days. To abandon God is to be lost. I do not know if I shall be alive to-morrow; but I must say to my friends, "Lovredan dares not die as an atheist." A thought oppresses me: a God exists, and you are far from Him. Rejoice, my soul, since the hour is come when, on my knees, I can say, "I believe, I believe in God. I believe, I believe."'

LE BON PERE.

I must not forget another Frenchman, one who lived an honor to his Church and his country, and has just died at the age of 100 years—Leo Harmel, Leo XIII.'s old friend. Would that Leo Tolstoy used his brilliant parts for the elevation of the poor as did Leo Harmel. A wealthy manufacturer, Harmel organised in Val des Bois a Christian Artisans' Co-operative Society, where the multitude of laborers and their families dwelt, worked, and prayed with aged Harmel as their chief. It reminded one of a Utopia, so well did the 'Bon Pere'—as Harmel was known over France—rule. For many years he headed a pilgrimage to Rome, where Leo XIII. greeted with deep affection the great apostle of labor. But Leo Harmel was growing old when Leo XIII. died twelve years ago. He was then near 88, so he retired into private life and lived with his daughter ever since.

NOTES.

It is expected Monsignor O'Riordan, Rector of the Irish College, will return from hospital one of these days.

In order to accommodate the wounded soldiers at Tivoli for a time, the municipality has obtained the use of the summer villa of the Irish College.

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[We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by our correspondents.]

H.A.C.B. SOCIETY.

TO THE EDITOR.

Sir,—I am afraid Bro. Kane (district secretary) is so obsessed with the injustice of the district executive in moving the postponement of the triennial movable meeting for 1916, that he has not taken time to read or digest my last letter in your columns. If he will re-read that letter he will find that I have never hinted at or suggested anything so absurd as asking the branches to reverse their votes of August last, and now vote for the triennial movable meeting to be held in Westport. The action of the district executive in bringing forward their motion at a half-yearly meeting of proxies, and the subsequent neglect of the district secretary in referring to the Registrar of Friendly Societies the appeal lodged by branch No. 95 against the postponement, have effectively killed any hope of holding the meeting at Westport this year. What I urged on the branches to do was to send a direct representative to the annual meeting, which should be held in Auckland next month (but which I now learn has been postponed until late in April), and thus enable the business of the society to be carried out in an efficient manner, and I still urge on branches to do this. In order that branches may fully understand my reasons for such an appeal I would ask the district secretary to immediately circulate the order paper so that they may see the important business to be brought forward, which business should command something better than the silent vote of selected proxies.

The magnanimity of the district executive in refraining from voting on the postponement question reminds me very much of the little boy, who, knowing where there was a decent boulder near the top of a hill, and one day wishing to see it roll down the hill, called some of his friends to see the fun. He gave it a push, and started it on its downward course, relying on his friends to see that it reached the foot of the hill. When the resultant damage was assessed, the boy denied all responsibility, as he only started it rolling, whilst the other fellows pushed it down the hill. The district secretary has made much of the branches having voted for the postponement, but if members will take the trouble to look at the half-yearly report of the meeting in August, 1915, they will note on pages 3 and 4, that 61 branches were represented at the meeting when the roll was called, of which number I take it some dozen members, whom the president specially welcomed (pages 4 and 5), were direct representatives. A vote taken from such a full meeting would have been interesting, but we find that through some bungling on the part of some member or members of the district executive the meeting was adjourned until the following evening (page 7), and that when the vote was actually taken only 46 branches, instead of 61, were represented (page 13), the voting being 23 branches (counting 33 votes), for the postponement of the triennial meeting, and 13 branches (counting 22 votes) against. An analysis of the voting shows that out of the twelve delegates welcomed by the president (presumably direct representatives of their particular branches), only two voted for the motion, whilst five voted against, the remaining five not being present when the vote was taken. Of the 23 branches supporting the postponement I would like to ask the district secretary to say: (a) How many were directly represented at the meeting; (b) how many were represented by proxies; and (c) of the proxy representatives, how many were selected or chosen or suggested by the district secretary or any member of the district executive. Perhaps the district secretary would also oblige by saying what became of the appeal from branch No. 95, and whether it has ever been sent to the Registrar, and, if so, what was his decision. I regret, Sir, the necessity which compels me to so encroach on your valuable space.—I am, etc.,

J. J. L. BURKE.

Wellington, January 16, 1916.

THE LOVE OF GOD

I sought Thee all the eve among the roses,
For a light was moving there,
Where the flower of lonely twilight droops and closes
O'er the heavy rose-heads fair.

And all the eve among the roses wandering,
I was coming to Thee still,
And stopping still, and just a little pondering,
As one mid roses will.

Meseemed my feet were treading through the ages
To the love that lured me on,
As the heart beats o'er the long alluring pages
Of the dreamers that are gone.

Pursuing still, I saw Thee still receding
In a circle in the air,
And bliss it was to follow Thee unheeding
The heart that followed there.

And all night long I wander 'mid the roses
To the wandering of Thy feet,
And my heart in that long wooing now reposes,
And finds it, oh, so sweet.

—WILLIAM BYRNE.

The death from pneumonia has taken place at New Ross, of the Right Rev. Dean Kavanagh, D.D., V.G., New Ross. Born at Scar Castle, Duncoormack, 75 years ago, he early evinced a desire for the priesthood, and, entering Maynooth, he had a most distinguished college career. After ordination he was appointed Professor at St. Peter's College, Wexford, and in 1888 to the pastorate of New Ross. There he effected vast improvements, among other monuments to his name and abilities being the beautiful parish church and presbytery, erected at a cost of £30,000. Two years ago he celebrated the golden jubilee of his priesthood and the silver jubilee of his pastorate of New Ross.



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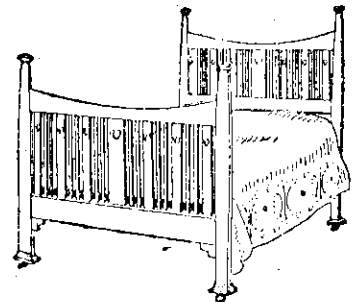
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CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

SCHOLARSHIPS AND FREE PLACES.

(From our Wellington correspondent.)

Some important points of policy were mentioned by the Minister for Education (Hon. J. A. Hanan) in replying to a deputation representing the Catholic Federation, which interviewed him with regard to the rights of denominational schools. The deputation included his Grace Archbishop O'Shea, their Lordships the Bishops of Dunedin and Auckland, the Bishop-elect of Christchurch, Messrs. J. J. L. Burke and Geo. Girling-Butcher (chairman and secretary, etc., of the Dominion Executive of the Catholic Federation). The speakers reminded the Minister that they had not yet received replies to all the points raised on a previous occasion, and they mentioned some of the recommendations of the Council of Education regarding scholarships and leaving certificates.

Scholarships.

Under section 103 of the Education Act, 1914, said the Minister in the course of his reply, 'it is provided that the holder of any junior or senior scholarship shall be required to pursue his studies diligently to the satisfaction of the director at a secondary school or its equivalent approved by the Minister. Acting on this section the Minister for Education in the past in exceptional cases approved of a school of secondary education not coming within the description of a secondary and endowed school as defined by the Act, district high schools and technical high schools, on the ground that the educational standing of the institution was undoubtedly good and its staff, equipment, and curriculum conformed to all reasonable secondary school requirements. In view of the fact that privileges to private schools in the way of national scholarships have thus been granted under the said section 103, I am not disposed to recommend the National Government to amend the Act in such a way as to cancel all such concessions that might be given thereunder.

Leaving Certificates.

With regard to leaving and other secondary school certificates, I am quite prepared, so far as is permissible, to adopt the recommendation of the Council of Education and grant these certificates where the educational standing is sufficient to warrant them. I propose, therefore, in anticipation of amending legislation correcting a limitation which was really not intended to be made by the Act of 1914 to continue the practice followed in previous years, and the Department will accordingly be prepared to receive recommendations as before from recognised secondary schools for courses completed at the close of the year 1915.

Medical Inspection.

The national need of medical inspection of all children of the Dominion is recognised. The recommendation to Cabinet of an extension of the present system of inspection to all schools is deferred on account of the insufficiency of the medical staff to undertake the work. This insufficiency cannot at present for various reasons be remedied. The shortage of medical officers during the duration of the war and for some time after, and unavoidable questions of finance bar the way for the time being of any needed extension.

Swimming and Life-Saving.

There is no invidious discrimination in this matter. The apparent discrepancy to which attention has been drawn arises out of the classification of

swimming and life-saving as a subject of manual instruction on which capitation on grounds of general principle is payable in the case of public primary and secondary schools only. An amended classification which would place the subject in the same category as physical training at present to be dealt with in the same way would meet the case. The matter will be kept in view for adjustment in amending regulations under the Act, which will be issued as soon as financial conditions permit.

Selection of School Books.

Before approval is given of books of general reading for class use as proposed from time to time by various education boards, a careful scrutiny is made so as to avoid as far as possible those that contain anything objectionable from a religious or other point of view, and the same care will continue to be exercised. It is not thought, however, that examples of literature of acknowledged repute and generally recognised as of special interest to young people should be rejected simply because they reflect a habit of thought and feeling characteristic of the period to which the events they deal with relate, especially if the circumstances are widely removed in point of time and otherwise from existing circumstances. In any case to which reasonable objections might be taken to apply representations made to the education board concerned will doubtless be effective.

Other Matters.

The Minister said that a claim that free places should be tenable in the denominational schools, and that the *School Journal* should be issued free to scholars of denominational schools, would have to be considered by Cabinet.

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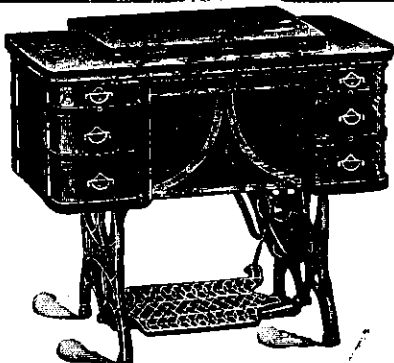
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The Age of Trees.

Inquiries as to the general age of trees have shown that the pine tree sometimes attains 700 years as a maximum length of life; 425 years is placed as the allotted span of the silver fir; the larch lives, as a rule, about 275 years, the red beech 245, the aspen 210, the birch 200, the ash 170, the elder 145, the elm 130. The heart of the oak begins to rot at about the age of 300 years. Of the holly, it is said that there is a specimen 410 years old, near Aschaffenburg, Germany. A count of the annular rings in a gigantic Californian redwood tree felled, shows that it began to grow in 550 A.D., 1366 years ago. It had reached a height of 350 feet, and a circumference of 90 feet at the base.

Spider Silk.

The silkworm is by no means the only creature that produces silk. Spiders make their webs, nests, and egg-cocoons of a kind of silk that is well adapted for certain of man's uses. The filaments of spider-silk are much finer than those produced by the silkworm, but they are relatively stronger. The webs of some of the large spiders of tropical countries are strong enough to entangle small birds. In the seventeenth century, travellers in Paraguay found that the natives made clothing from the webs of a species of Epeira, the genus to which the common garden spider belongs. Spider-silk has been used for centuries in China, India, and West Africa; notably in the Chinese province of Yunnan, where the so-called 'silk of the Eastern Sea' is produced. In the year 1708 a French jurist, Monsieur Guenau, of Montpellier, succeeded in making several pairs of gloves and stockings from the silk of garden spiders. The first really practical experiments, however, were made by an Englishman named Rolt. By his process he drew the silk directly from the body of the spider; and the material he obtained was much stronger than that spun under normal conditions. The end of the filament he attached to a bobbin, which was revolved by steam. The process does not seem to incommode the spider. After she has been robbed of all her silk, she rests for ten days, and is then ready to yield another supply. As the silk comes from the spinnerets it is covered with a viscous substance, which is washed off in running water. The filaments are very fine; from eight to twenty-four must be combined to form a single thread. The fabric that these threads produce is much lighter than ordinary silk. For that reason, cords of spider-silk are especially suitable for the nets that enclose balloons. At present the most promising experiments in the production of spider-silk are carried on in Madagascar. They use a large spider called the halabe. At the school in Tananarivo they pay the natives a few pence a hundred for the spiders, each of which yields a filament from 1000 to 1300 feet long. The silk is of a superb glossy yellow, but its color is not permanent.

Intercolonial

After labouring successfully for 13 years in Australia, Brother T. J. Murphy, of the Christian Brothers, Lewisham, has been recalled to Dublin, Ireland. During his sojourn in Australia he made for himself many friends.

The Very Rev. Father Ryan, S.J. (Provincial), received word recently of the death of the Rev. Oliver Daly, S.J., who passed away in Ireland at the age of 72 years. Some score of years ago, the deceased priest gave missions in various parts of Victoria, the other States, and New Zealand. He was an effective preacher, and his labors were most fruitful.

The popularity of the new Lord Mayor of Sydney (Ald. R. D. Meagher) has been evidenced by the thousands of congratulatory sent from all sections of the community, while far-away prominent politicians and representative public men of the other States also forwarded messages of warm regard (says the *Freeman's Journal*). Included among the callers were his Grace the Most Rev. Dr. Kelly (Archbishop of Sydney), members of the District Board of the Hibernian Society, a number of the clergy, and many members of the State and Federal Houses.

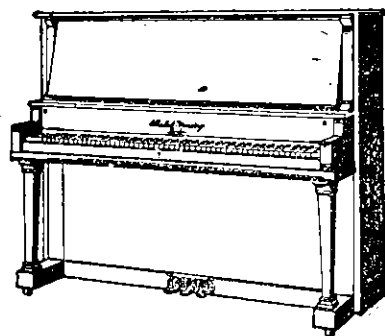
Rev. Father Fahey, who has been in the Blue Hospital, Malta, recently wrote from that institution to Archbishop Clune, of West Australia: 'When the campaign started in Turkey, the Blue Sisters placed their hospital at the disposal of the War Office. Hundreds of officers have been through here, and they all speak most highly of the way they have been treated by the Sisters. The majority, of course, were Protestants, but they have all gone away converted from the non-Catholic to the Catholic view of convents and nuns.' The Malta Hospital was built by Mother Xavier, now of Lewisham Hospital, Sydney.

We cannot pass by without remark the devotion of our old boys to their religion (says *Our Alma Mater* of St. Ignatius College, Riverview, Sydney). A striking instance comes to mind. On the voyage from Australia to Egypt, we know that on at least three transports old Riverview officers and men conducted church parade on Sundays. One officer, since killed in action, Captain Barlow, actually had a congregation of 500 to 600 at each service. Four others on another transport were not content with Sunday services alone; they must needs have one every night: the Rosary and—never forgotten—the 'Hail, Queen of Heaven.' On yet another transport an O.R. officer preached each Sunday to the Catholic soldiers.

The heroism and zeal of the Rev. Father J. Fahey (Western Australia), chaplain to the Expeditionary Forces, has moved the Imperial authorities to award to the devoted priest the Distinguished Service Order (says the *Freeman's Journal*). Father Fahey has sent to his Grace Archbishop Clune, of Perth, several communications giving graphic details of the life and dangers in the trenches, but modestly omitted all reference to any of his own acts of devotion. Particulars of these became known from other sources. We know that the zealous chaplain landed with a covering party at Gallipoli, and spent many months ministering to the wounded and dying in the danger zone. He was finally wounded and conveyed to Malta, and subsequently was sent as a convalescent to London. Father Fahey spoke very highly of the glorious work of his fellow-priests, many of whom have been wounded on the heights of Gallipoli. Rumors were circulated and published that Father Fahey had won the V.C. for leading the soldiers in a charge after all the officers had been killed, and high tributes were paid to his bravery, etc. As a matter of fact, according to his own words, Father Fahey was too busy consoling the dying to think about rushing any of the heights at Gallipoli.

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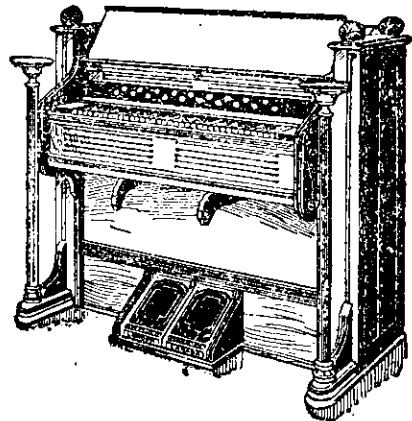
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Domestic

(BY MAUREEN.)

Biscuits.

Work a half-pound of butter well with the hand for about ten minutes; then add a half-pound of castor sugar, and work ten minutes longer. Mix in two well-beaten eggs, and as much baking-powder as will cover a shilling, add eight drops of essence of lemon and ten ounces of dry flour; drop the mixture from a forcing bag and pipe on to a baking sheet into pieces the size of a penny. Bake in a moderately-heated oven.

Pineapple Jelly.

There is no jelly like pineapple. See the pine is quite ripe, then cut off the outside and cut into small pieces, lightly bruise or crush them, and to each pound allow a cupful of water. Put it into a preserving pan over a clear fire, cover the pan, and let it boil for 20 minutes. Strain it through a sieve, then press through muslin. To each pound of fruit allow one pound of sugar, adding a cup of water to each pound. Set it over the fire until it is dissolved, then add the pineapple juice. For each quart of syrup clarify one ounce of the best isinglass, and then stir it into the syrup or jelly, let it simmer until (by taking some on a plate to cool) you find it stiff as jelly. Pour into well-oiled moulds. This jelly may be used as a garnish, or may be used to screen tipsy cake, or for filling cold paste-lined tins.

Apple Cream.

Pare and core a dozen apples, stew them, and sweeten with lump sugar, add the juice and shreds of a fresh lemon; let it all stew to a pulp. Place in a pie-dish. Pour four well-beaten eggs into a stew-pan, with a good tablespoonful of flour, and add a pint of new milk. Flavor with grated nutmeg, let it thicken over a clear fire, but do not allow to boil. Pour the

mixture over the apple pulp. Set in a moderately hot oven until the top is of a golden color.

Orange Snow.

Half an ounce of gelatine, half a pint of water, six ounces of sugar, one lemon, two oranges, two whites of egg. Cut some thin strips of orange rind from the fruit, and put them into a white saucepan with water, sugar, a grate of lemon rind, and the leaf gelatine (eight sheets). Bring slowly to boiling point, stirring carefully to dissolve the gelatine before boiling. Beat the white of egg to a stiff froth, then when boiling strain the mixture from the saucepan on to the whipped white, whisking all the time. This will not set the whites of egg, as might be supposed, but will make them increase much apparently in size. Continue whisking in a cool place until the sponge commences to stand in peaks and leave the mark of the whisk. Set at once, if liked, in a mould rinsed with cold water, but it is prettier to place the snow in large spoonfuls in a crystal bowl, and thus pile it up in a pyramid. It will keep its shape.

Household Hints.

To frost a window, make a clear solution of gum arabic, dissolve some Epsom salts in hot water to make a very strong solution, and add it to the gum arabic. Apply the mixture to the glass with a soft brush.

Put into a clear white glass bottle a small quantity of pulverised alum and fill the bottle with alcohol. In clear weather the liquid will be perfectly clear; but on the approach of a rain the alum will be visible at the bottom of the bottle in a spiral cloudy form, gradually clouding the whole bottle.

Coppers which are made of a cheaper and inferior metal often cause the lime of the water to form a very thick curd, which boils into the clothes and makes them very unsightly. Such a copper should be coated with a layer of whitewash after each time of use, and while the copper is still warm. In addition to this precaution, it is well to make a large bag of unbleached calico for holding the clothes and keeping them from contact with the copper.

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On the Land

GENERAL.

The sale of a 50-acre farm in the Bunnythorpe district at £72 10s per acre is reported by the *Manawatu Standard*. For another property, which was brought six years ago for £40 per acre, an advance of £20 per acre was refused.

Speaking at the Levin Show of the expansion of New Zealand fruit export trade, the Prime Minister said that while in 1909, 161 cases were exported, last year's exports totalled 62,164 cases. New Zealand had got a market, and it did not need a prophet to deduce a further increase.

'It will be a calamity to the dairying districts if the war lasts much longer,' remarked a Nireaha dairy farmer to a *Wairarapa Age* reporter, 'as already the greatest difficulty is found in securing the necessary labor, and any further strain will compel many to relinquish the industry.'

A sheep race of novel and ingenious pattern, the conception of Mr. Duncan Sutherland, has been successfully installed at Omarama (says the *Oamaru Mail*). One side of the race carries vertical 3in rollers at short intervals, and the other is adjustable, so that the width of the race may be altered to suit circumstances. The race narrows gradually from the entrance to the exit, where are the familiar three-way gates, and the advantage of the whole arrangement is that two sheep cannot jam at the wide end, because the sheep on the roller side always has the advantage of the other. The more the sheep on the plain side pushes the more the rollers help his competitor to keep ahead and eventually to show him his tail. Sheep cannot damage each other in the race by crushing. The adjustable width permits of the advantages of the race being utilised whatever size of sheep is being handled.

At Burnside last week fat sheep and lambs sold at prices on a par with the previous week's rates, whilst fat cattle showed a slight decline. Fat Cattle.—170 yarded. A medium yarding, of fair quality. A freezing buyer was operating, and secured some pens, but the yarding was slightly in excess of the requirements. Quotations: Best bullocks, £15 10s to £17; extra, £17 17s 6d; medium, £13 to £14 10s; others, to £12; best cows and heifers, £11 to £12 10s; extra, to £13 17s 6d; medium, £9 to £10; others, £7 to £8. Fat Sheep.—2283 penned. A large yarding of medium quality. The sale opened with prices about 1s per head below previous week's quotations, but as it progressed, the freezing buyers secured a few pens, and competition became keener. Quotations: Best wethers, 26s 6d to 29s; extra, to 33s 3d; medium, 21s to 22s 6d; unfinished, 18s to 19s; best ewes, 23s to 25s; extra prime, to 31s 3d; medium, 18s to 19s 6d; others, to 15s. Fat Lambs.—832 penned. There was good competition between butchers and export buyers for good-quality lambs, and prices were firm at last week's rates. Inferior lambs were not in demand, and were hard to place. Quotations: Best lambs, 20s to 22s; extra, to 28s; medium to good, from 17s to 19s; inferior, 14s to 15s.

OUR EXPORTS.

Speaking at the Levin show last week the Prime Minister said: 'Last year our exports exceeded by £5,500,000 the exports in the previous year. Last year's exports were £32,000,000; the previous year's were £26,500,000. These, of course, are round figures. I predict that this year we will exceed that £32,000,000. An important point is that a large proportion of the exports I refer to were the product of the soil.' Mr. Massey quoted the following export figures for last year:—Mutton, £2,893,000; lamb, £3,004,000; beef, £1,626,000; wool, £1,375,000; butter, £2,770,000; cheese, £2,730,000; hemp, £571,000;—total, £23,952,000. So that practically £24,000,000 worth of our exports were agricultural products.

'Mind you,' Mr. Massey continued, 'we are experiencing the high prices which are due to the war. That has got to be admitted. However, as producers (and like yourselves, I am a producer) we would very much prefer peace, an honorable peace, with moderate prices, than war with extreme prices.' The value of the meat supplied to the Imperial Authorities, Mr. Massey said, was somewhere about £7,000,000 to date, the supply was still going on, and our exports in this connection would be limited only by the capacity of our ships. He felt pretty confident that we would be able to get away this season the goods that required insulated space. Two or three months ago the Imperial Government said it was necessary to requisition for 15,000 tons of cheese—about one-third of the country's export quantity. The price was 7½d per lb, which was now below the market price, but there had been hardly a grumble. The producers had entered enthusiastically into the scheme, and New Zealand was getting all the cheese it required without the slightest difficulty.

SOIL FERTILITY.

Soil fertility is a term that lends itself to many interpretations. Expressed in practical terms, it can only ultimately mean productive power, and can only be really measured by the capacity of a given soil for crop production (says an exchange). It has long been a matter of common knowledge that plants need at least ten different chemical elements for full and perfect growth. These are carbon, hydrogen, oxygen, nitrogen, sulphur, phosphorus, potassium, lime, magnesium, and iron. Four other elements are to be found in plants, but they are not generally considered as indispensable to the plant's well-being. These are sodium, chloride, aluminium, and silicon. Plants extract either from the air, from the soil, or from water these various substances, and, after a series of complex changes, build them into new tissue. Of the ten substances that are considered essential to the plant's welfare, seven are usually present in fairly large quantities, whilst three are commonly deficient—namely, nitrogen, phosphoric acid, potash. This, it must be understood, does not of necessity imply that the total amount of these substances present in the soil is inadequate for the needs of heavy crops. It does imply, however, that at any given time the total amount of what is termed available phosphoric acid, nitrogen, and potash is insufficient for the plant needs of heavy crops.

Indeed, there is every reason to believe that only a very small proportion of the total amount of phosphates, nitrogen, and potash can be regarded as immediately available for the use of the crop. And the whole practice of manuring is based on the fact that these deficiencies in the available food supply of the soil must be made good if heavy crops are to be reaped.

From the standpoint of the chemist, the fertility of a given soil is measured by the amount of these three substances present compared with some arbitrary standard of fertility. It may be assumed, for example, that a good average soil would contain about .1 per cent. nitrogen, .1 per cent. phosphoric acid, and .2 per cent. to .4 per cent. potash. Lime is looked upon as a most desirable and valuable mineral ingredient in the soil, not so much because it is a necessary plant food, as because the presence of a fair proportion of lime is usually indicative of a satisfactory physical and biological condition. The amount of lime actually present varies very considerably, but we may assume that a good average soil would contain from 2 per cent. to 5 per cent. It must not be supposed mere chemical analysis alone will give an infallible indication of fertility. The weak point in an analysis obviously is that, while it reveals the proportions in which the several constituents are present, it cannot state with accuracy just how much of the plant food is available—i.e., fit for assimilation by the plant. It does, however, reveal the approximate total quantity of the several essential constituents, and thus indicates the sufficiency or deficiency of the essential elements, and, consequently, affords a rational basis for inaugurating a series of tests with fertilisers.

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To go to this store, I pray,
And buy your actions every morn—
Enough to last all day?

THE PICTURE.

It was a rainy Saturday afternoon, but Betty had no idea of letting a little thing like that spoil her party.

'There are lots of things to do indoors,' she said. 'I'm sure some of them are more fun than the frolic we were going to have in the leaves that John raked up yesterday.'

Betty's party was not so large as it would have been had the sun been shining, but four of her friends were there: Louise, who wore her hair in two braids, tied with big black bows; Lester, a fat little boy with curly hair, whose sailor blouse had stars on the collar; Fred, a taller boy, with closely cropped hair; and Dorothy, whose fluffy hair formed a pretty frame for her red cheeks and bright eyes. All were quite willing to follow any plan that Betty might suggest.

And so Betty thought hard. She looked about her, and walked from one room to another. The game must be a new one, and not something that they had all played again and again. What should it be? In the long hall she sat down on a sofa and looked at a great painting on the wall near by. She had seen it every day—the picture of a young woman and a little boy near a large tree. The young woman was leaning on a large hoop. A bird perched on the upraised hand of the little boy.

Betty looked at the familiar picture a moment without thinking much about it. But suddenly she cried, 'I have it! Here is the game for this afternoon! What is the story that the big picture tells? Let each of us say what we think it is—not all at once, but in turn! You first, Louise.'

They gathered in front of the painting, and Louise, with her hands on her hips, looked at it hard before she began her story.

'Well,' she said at last, 'I think it is something that happened a long time ago. You can tell that by the way the little boy is dressed, though his sister—I think it is his sister—does not look so old-fashioned. They lived in a beautiful house, with a great park all round it. Perhaps it was a castle. They had many pets, and one of them was a wonderful green parrot that their father had brought home from a land beyond the sea. One day the parrot flew off among the trees of the park. They ran after it, but could not find it, and they both felt very bad. Then the next day the boy was rolling his hoop in the park, and his sister was with him, because he was too young to go far from the castle alone. All at once they heard a whirring noise in the leaves overhead, and the parrot came right down and perched on the boy's hand! Probably it was hungry, and so was ready to go back to its cage again. The sister picked up the hoop that the little boy dropped, and just then the camera man caught them—though I suppose that it was a painter, for there were no cameras so long ago. I think that is the story of the picture.'

'Good!' cried Betty. 'Now it is your turn, Fred.'

'I think they are prisoners,' began Fred, promptly. 'That is what makes the girl so sad. They live in a castle, but it is a prison just the same. The girl is a princess and the boy is a little prince. He would be a king some day, but men who do not want him to be king have taken him far from home and put him into prison. They took his sister, too, and let them play together in the grounds round the castle; but they watch them all the time, so that there is no chance for them to get away or to send word to their own people. But they have a plan to send a message by tying a little note to the leg of the pet-bird. They hope that the bird will fly away and that some one will find the note and send it to their own country. I think that is the story, and I think that they got away from the prison, and that the little boy became a great king.'

'That is more exciting than the story Louise told,' said Betty. 'What is your story, Lester?'

'They are not in a prison at all,' said Lester. 'They are near the ocean. They are watching a ship that has sailed away. Their father is on it, and he is going on a long voyage to the other side of the world. On his last voyage he brought home the parrot. He has promised the little boy that he will bring home a pet monkey the next time, and he has promised his sister that she shall have silks and jewels and many other beautiful things; but she does not like to have her father go so far away, and that is why she looks so sad.'

'Now, Dorothy,' cried Betty, when Lester had finished, 'what do you think is the story that the picture tells?'

'It is different from all the others,' said Dorothy, 'though of course mine may be all wrong. But I believe that is a little girl and not a little boy. They dressed differently in the old times, and I think it looks more like a little girl than a boy. And the young woman is not an older sister, but the mother. Anyway, she looks as old as my mother does, and it makes the story better to have her the mother. The father had gone off to the war, and the mother is very lonesome. She has taken the little girl out into the park to play with her hoop, and the pet parrot has gone along, too. I do not believe that it would fly away or that it would carry messages. They have just stopped in the shade of a tree to rest, and pretty soon they will go back home to tea.'

When Dorothy ended her story, each of them had something new to add to his or her own story, and each found thing to like in the stories that the others had told.

'I suppose if there were fifty of us here instead of five, each of us would see something different in the picture,' said Betty. 'But it's a good game. Let's take the next picture.'

So they passed the rainy afternoon, and not one of them missed the frolic in the leaves.

HOW CARL WON THE PRIZE.

The master of a village school once offered a prize to the boy who, by the end of the following week, should bring him the most beautiful thing. The things were to be brought to the school, so that the boys might help the master to award the prize.

So the boys spent that week in looking over their toys, pets, and other little possessions. It seemed to them at first that it would be an easy thing to find such treasure for their master, but each day the task became more difficult. They changed their minds again and again, and in the end almost every boy who had attempted the task of selection gave it up.

When, on the appointed day, the boys assembled at the school, only two of their number carried parcels.

Maximilian, who was a very rich boy, walked up proudly to the master's desk and placed on it a casket containing a dazzling jewel which had once adorned a crown worn by his royal ancestors. All the pupils exclaimed in admiration of this beautiful thing; all felt sure that Max would receive the prize.

'Is there anything more?' inquired the master. A fat boy, whose name was Otto, brought up a huge parcel. When the master opened it, there appeared an immense sugared cake. At this sight, the boys' mouths watered; many of them would rather have had Otto's cake than Maximilian's jewel.

'Is there nothing else?' asked the master again. There was no answer.

Then in at the door of the schoolroom came little Carl.

'How is it that you are so late, Carl?' said the master. 'You have never been late before.'

'On my way, sir,' replied Carl, 'I saw a hawk pounce down upon a poor little white dove and carry it off. When I clapped my hands, the hawk dropped the dove and flew away. I picked up the dove, washed its wounds in the brook, then wrapped it in my handkerchief. That is what made me late, sir.'

'Where is the bird now?'

'I left it in the shed.'

'Bring it in.'

Carl obeyed. He brought the dove to the master's desk. The eyes of the wounded bird looked up at Carl so imploringly that two big tears rolled down the boy's cheeks on to the dove's back.

'Look at these tears, children,' said the master. 'A tear shed for others is the most beautiful thing in the world. Love—sympathy—is far more precious than jewels or cakes. But I leave the decision to you. To which of these three boys shall we give the prize?'

Every voice shouted, 'Carl! Carl! Carl!'

HALL-MARKED SILVER.

In England long ago, silversmiths were required to bring their wares to the guild-hall where they were examined. If approved the maker's mark and also the 'King's mark'—a crowned leopard's head were stamped on the pieces. Thus originated the expression 'Hall-marked silver'—a guarantee of quality.

A writer says that there are marks to determine the genuineness of man as well as of silver—hall-marks of character. The first mark of a gentleman (says the *Sacred Heart Review*) is gentleness; then he is willing to serve; he has a clean soul; he is honorable. Any boy may be a gentleman and any girl a lady 'displaying even amid the most sordid surroundings like chivalrous King Arthur, the white flower of a blameless life.' The writer might have added that King Arthur served 'God and our Lady'—hence his chivalry, his nobility of soul.

VAIN LABOR.

Some years ago the members of an archaeological society had a gathering at the home of a certain one of their number. While they were roaming about the house, the host called the attention of his guests to an old clock, a great favorite of his.

He told his friends of his great attachment to this ancient timepiece, and grew quite pathetic at certain points in his remarks, which he brought to a close by saying, in a voice full of emotion:

'Gentlemen, I have wound up that clock every night for more than forty years.'

He had evidently made an impression on his visitors, when one old fellow, who had been carefully examining the clock, turned the tide of feeling evoked by the story by saying, dryly:

'Well, I always did think you were something of an idiot! That's an eight-day clock!'

HE KNEW THEIR WEAKNESS.

During the reign of Louis XV. of France, the light chaise came into fashion, and great ladies of Paris were accustomed to drive in them about the city. But beautiful hands are not always strong one; accidents began to occur more and more frequently in the streets. Consequently the King besought the

Minister of Police to do something, since the lives of pedestrians were constantly in danger.

'I will do whatever is in my power,' replied the Police Minister. 'Your Majesty desires that these accidents cease entirely?'

The King replied, 'Certainly.'

The next day there appeared a royal ordinance that ordered that, in future, ladies under thirty years of age should not drive chaises through the streets of Paris. That seems a mild restriction; but it is said that scarcely a woman from that time on drove her own chaise. The Police Minister knew that few women would care to advertise the fact that they were over thirty, and that the rest would probably be too old to drive anyway.

HE GUESSED CORRECTLY.

An old circus man tells this story:

'The usual crowd of small boys was gathered about the entrance of the tent in a town in Illinois. A benevolent-looking old gentleman standing near by watched them for a few minutes with a beaming eye. Then, walking up to the ticket-taker, he said, with an air of authority:

'"Let all these boys in, and count 'em as they pass."

'The gateman, thinking that the benevolent-looking old gentleman was indulging in a bit of philanthropy, did as requested. When the last lad had gone in, he turned and announced: "Twenty-four, sir."

'"Good," said the benevolent-looking old gentleman, as he walked away, "I thought I guessed right."

OF NECESSITY.

The father of a family presented himself at an emigration office, and asked for tickets.

'How many are you?' inquired the agent.

'Three—myself, wife, and child.'

'Your age and profession?' went on the clerk.

'I've just turned thirty; profession, carpenter; my wife, a needlewoman.'

'Three of you, you said?' inquired the man.

'What about the child—sex and age?'

'Boy; seven months.'

'Profession?'

The father's eyebrows were raised so much that they almost formed Gothic arches on his forehead.

'His profession, I say?' repeated the agent.

The astounded father paused just a moment longer wondering where red tape would stop; then, as if inspired, he said:

'Bachelor!'

CONDENSED ESSAYS.

Philosophy reconciles us to the misfortunes of others.

The less work a man does the more he tires others.

The height of some men's ambition is to pull other men down.

Truth is stranger than fiction because there's less on the market.

Don't wait until you are broke before you begin to mend your ways.

Many a man has found himself in a tight place because he didn't remain sober.

It's easy to convince the lone man at an afternoon tea that there is no place like home.

A man seldom wants to arbitrate unless he is morally certain of his inability to lick the other fellow.

LADIES!

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