

MISSING PAGE

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Friends at Court

CLEANINGS FOR NEXT WEEK'S CALENDAR

- December 31, Sunday.—Sunday Within the Octave of Christmas.
- January 1, Monday.—The Circumcision of Our Lord. Holy Day of Obligation.
- „ 2, Tuesday.—Octave of St. Stephen.
- „ 3, Wednesday.—Octave of St. John.
- „ 4, Thursday.—Octave of Holy Innocents.
- „ 5, Friday.—Vigil of the Epiphany.
- „ 6, Saturday.—Feast of the Epiphany.

Feast of the Epiphany.

From the fourth century the Epiphany, or Manifestation of our Lord, has been regarded as one of the greatest of ecclesiastical solemnities. Three events in the life of our Blessed Saviour are commemorated on this day—(1) The manifestation of the Infant Redeemer to the wise men from the East. (2) The baptism of our Lord at the hands of St. John, when a voice from Heaven was heard declaring, 'This is My beloved Son, in Whom I am well pleased.' (3) The changing of the water into wine at the marriage feast of Cana—the first miracle by which Christ showed His divine power.

GRAINS OF GOLD.

THE LEGEND OF THE ROSE THORNS.

Once the Christ-Child had a garden
Full of roses blushing red,
And He planned to make a garland
For His sacred head.

When the roses all were blooming,
Came the Jewish children there,
Plucking each a flaming rosebud
Till each bush was bare.

'How, then, will you make a garland?
Not a rose your path adorns.'
'You forget,' the Christ-Child answered,
'You have left the thorns.'

Of the thorns He made a garland,
Placed it on His sacred head:
And where roses should have blossomed,
Blood-drops bloomed instead.

Men blush less for their crimes than for their weaknesses and vanities.—La Bruyere.

Think not that the tears of penitence are always bitter and gloomy. The mourning is only external: when sincere, they have a thousand secret recompenses.—Massillon.

When the corn is nearly ripe it bows the head and droops lower than when it was green. In like manner when the people of God are near ripe for heaven, they grow more humble and self-denying than in the days of their earlier development.—John Flavel.

Every day that dawns brings something to do which can never be done as well again. We should, therefore, try to do it ungrudgingly and cheerfully. It was designed to be our life, our happiness. Instead of shirking it, we should put our whole heart and soul into it.

A true teacher is a pioneer through the tangled forest, a shepherd who leads to wholesome pastures, a guide who shows the most practicable road, a physician who tells what diet best suits, a captain who inspires the confidence which is half the battle, a friend who makes the long way seem short.—Spalding.

The Storyteller

PHILEAS FOX, ATTORNEY

By ANNA T. SADLIER.

[By Arrangement with the *Ave Maria*.]

(Continued.)

XI.

After Susan O'Rourke had left him, Phileas was so elated that he closed his office half an hour earlier than usual, and allowed himself a brief holiday. If it had not been too late in the afternoon, he would have started at once to follow up that clue which was now the most absorbing subject of his thoughts. As it was, he strolled down toward the Battery, resolved to enjoy a trip to Staten Island. He sauntered through the Bowling Green, once a fashionable residential quarter, upon which the old Fort of Manhattan had looked out, and through which a stream of historical personages had passed in the long ago. It was now a spot frequented by emigrants, where many a forlorn waif, cast adrift upon these alien shores, tasted for the first time the bitterness of exile.

The bay, a splendid sheet of water, lay clear in the descending sunlight. Pale gold, wavering and tremulous, that sunset deepened, as he watched, into warm rose. It touched the distant statue of Liberty, ironic gift of a nation whence true liberty has been temporarily banished. It hovered over the unsightly pile of buildings on Governor's Island and the green-wooded point of Brooklyn.

The sea-breeze came up and fanned his cheeks. It was an invitation and a summons—the summons of the sea that had always appealed to him. He remembered, as he hastened down the plank walk into the ferry-house, with the noise of the elevated railroad overhead, and of the surface cars all about him, how he used to play here occasionally as a boy, and how he had wished to be a sailor, and had been turned from that vocation to this other by the influence of relatives. Ah, well, he reflected, it was no doubt for the best. But the phantom of that old longing haunted him irresistibly at times.

He stepped on board the boat, which was not yet too crowded for comfort, as it would be at a later hour; and, swinging himself up the brass-bound stairs, he passed to the forward deck. He stopped in the shade of the cabin door to light a cigarette, for the wind was blowing sharply outside; and, with a hand to his straw hat to insure its safety, he made his way to a vacant seat near the rail.

As he drew near that point of vantage, he perceived the figure of a girl which seemed to him somehow familiar. She wore a close-fitting suit of gray, whose admirable tailoring displayed to advantage the grace and symmetry of her figure, and that indefinable quality of smartness which the plainest costume frequently accentuates. A sailor hat was kept in place by a veil of gauzy texture, matching the costume in tint. The girl was leaning lightly upon the rail looking seaward and there was in her attitude a suggestion of youth and buoyancy as well as of keen enjoyment. One light spray of hair had become detached from the austere restraint of the veil, and nestled curling upon her neck: a clear pink was in the cheeks. A particularly severe blast from the water caused her to turn aside.

Phileas met the laughing eyes, brightened with enjoyment, of Isabel Ventnor. He caught the look of instant recognition, and the smile that rose to her lips as he hastened to her side with an exclamation of pleasure. He had been seeing the young girl rather frequently of late in his visits to Mrs. Wilson, and there had sprung up between the two a friendliness touched with warmer interest, from the peculiar cir-

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cumstances of their acquaintance. Phileas felt now as if he had encountered an old friend in a foreign land.

'This is good fortune!' he cried boyishly; for the community of interests—or at least Isabel's connection with the one topic which the lawyer found at the time engrossing—gave her a charm in his eyes quite apart from that which lay in her mobile face and frank, sympathetic manner.

'Yes,' she assented to his last remark, 'it is pleasant to see a familiar face in all these crowds. And isn't it delightful here? I just love the salt water.'

'So do I,' agreed Phileas, heartily. 'I was recalling a moment ago that I narrowly missed becoming a sailor.'

'And you are a lawyer instead,' the girl commented, with something that sounded like sympathy in her tone.

'Yes, I am a lawyer, as you have discovered. But do let me get you a chair.'

Having procured two instead of one, Phileas took his place beside her, resuming the conversation at the point where it had been broken off.

'Your tone,' he said laughing, 'does not somehow convey a high idea of the legal profession.'

'Oh, it's a good enough profession, and, as we were saying before, interesting in some respects!' said Isabel. 'But it doesn't seem to suit you.'

'What a set down for me,' cried Phileas,—'for me who have just become the family solicitor!'

'I hadn't the choosing, you know,' retorted Isabel: 'for if I had, I should certainly have chosen the conventional gray hairs.'

'Are you so very conventional?'

'I scarcely know, but I think so.'

'Well, in any case,' continued Phileas, reflectively, 'Mrs. Wilson chose me for a precisely opposite reason: because I had *not* gray hairs.'

'There is no accounting for tastes!' exclaimed the girl. 'If I had legal business to transact, my preference would be all for age and experience.'

'I am sorry that I cannot leap the years,' responded Phileas, cheerfully.

After that they were silent a few moments, looking out over the bay and enjoying the salt breath that blew up from old Neptune. The boat, with a whistle discordant enough to scare the sea-birds that were flying here and there in the clear air, and with a mighty jostling and straining, broke loose from its moorings, and forged onward into the stream, churning the water into white foam.

'As you are in the family secrets far more than I,' said Isabel, once the commotion had subsided and the vessel was proceeding tranquilly upon its way, 'I may say that I have often wondered what they are all about.'

'And *that* Mrs. Wilson will never tell you,' laughed Phileas, 'until you are an old gray-haired matron. Very likely she agrees with you that, in some instances, gray hairs are a pledge of discretion.'

'Don't be afraid,' Isabel said. 'I am not going to ask any awkward questions. I am far too well trained for that. I should never think of asking Mrs. Wilson anything that she did not volunteer to tell me, nor poor old Cadwallader neither. The parrot would willingly tell me if he could, but—'

'So would some of the rest of us if we could,' echoed Phileas; 'but in some way or other there are limitations.'

'The way in which the parrot harps upon that one name,' said Isabel, puckering her brows at the reminiscence, 'is the most maddening thing. But, in fact, the house itself is fairly haunted by John Vorst. I wonder if he is dead? Surely his ghost must walk there by night.'

She gave a slight shiver as she spoke, which might have been caused by the keen salt air, or the superstitious fancies that she had conjured up.

'You see,' she went on, 'besides the servants, who are away in another wing, there are only Mrs. Wilson, myself, and Cadwallader in the main part of the house—except, of course, the parrot, who sometimes

wakes me in the dead of night with that weird cry of "John Vorst." Wouldn't you hate it, Mr. Fox?'

The girl had an appealing little way of taking the young man into her confidence, which quite enchanted him.

'Yes,' he answered, I think I should; though, after all, what's in a name?'

'There is a great deal in that name,' persisted Isabel, half jest, whole earnest; 'and I feel sure that John Vorst, whoever he is, has a good deal to do with the house and all of us.'

Phileas met the laughing eyes unwinkingly. He could not betray by the smallest sign the truth or falsity of her surmise. Under the laughter of the eyes, he saw a shadow that somehow touched him. It spoke of a lonely girlhood shut up in that ancient mansion with old people and their memories. It was wistful, dreamy, pathetic, all in one.

'Oh, I dare say John Vorst is a harmless enough individual,' he remarked lightly, 'and his name chanced to catch the parrot's fancy!'

'But the bird looks so malignant when he says these two words, hopping from one foot to the other, as if he had a horrible recollection of the man.'

'You are getting morbid!' cried the lawyer, cheerfully.

'And, then, that name is on all the documents,' Isabel added, as if she felt that to be a horrible confirmation of her fears.

Phileas leaned over the side of the vessel, as if intent on something in the water.

'Oh, you need not have any fear!' cried Isabel.

'I am not trying to find out anything: I am only following out my own train of thought.'

'Better try to take a more cheerful view of things in general, including the parrot,' laughed Phileas.

Isabel stopped him with a little frown of vexation.

'You are so cut-and-dried!' she said. 'If you had been a sailor instead of a lawyer, we could have spent this lovely hour trying to puzzle out between us this mystery of John Vorst.'

Phileas laughed long and loud at this suggestion.

'If I had been a sailor,' he replied, 'I should not have been able to exchange a word with you for fear of sending my good ship onto rocks or shoals.'

'That is a word from the wise!' the girl retorted.

'I fear I am very far from wise,' said Phileas, and there was something of significance in his tone. 'There are cases where I might be extremely foolish. But I think just now we had better leave carking care behind us and talk about—'

'I am only waiting for Mr. Wiseacre's suggestion.'

'Oh, about anything at all!'

'Which means nothing at all.'

'What do you like best to talk about?' inquired Phileas; and that question led the pair into that personal vein of likes and dislikes, and the probabilities concerning one and the other, which forms the staple conversation of most young people. In this way they made quite a substantial advance in the knowledge of each other, and found the topic so interesting that they were disagreeably surprised when the Island was reached.

'Are you getting off?' Phileas asked, fearing that her reply might be in the affirmative, as indeed it was.

'Alas, yes!' answered Isabel. 'I have a message from Mrs. Wilson to a friend of hers who lives down here. Are you staying on the boat?'

'I had meant to. But—will you be very long in delivering your message?'

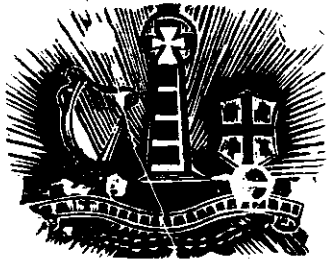
'I shall not be going back,' said the girl. 'I am invited for an old-fashioned high tea, and to spend the night.'

'Then I shall have a solitary sail back,' Phileas said regretfully. 'But perhaps you will let me walk with you to your destination first?'

'If you are not afraid of losing the boat,' Isabel assented.

'I shall take all chances,' the lawyer replied heartily.

Isabel made no objection; for, though the attorney was a comparatively recent acquaintance, he stood in



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the position of family lawyer, honored by Mrs. Wilson's confidence, introduced by Father Van Buren; and, moreover, circumstances had tended to make her better acquainted with him than if they had both pursued, for years the beaten path of ordinary intercourse.

So the two walked together through that garden-like country, past handsome villas with green hedges and verdant, velvety lawns; in the light of the setting sun, in the fresh, cool air, remote from the metropolitan dust and noise and heat. Though they exchanged but few words, and only occasionally a smile or a glance of pure enjoyment, the sail down the bay, and the walk together through that sunlit land, with the water stretched out before them in its glittering beauty, established a perfect friendliness between the two, with the hint of a warmer sentiment that arose from the fresh and unspoiled nature of each. The afternoon remained in their recollection for long after, as a thing apart.

Phileas, hearing the first whistle of the boat just as Isabel's stopping-place was reached, took a hasty leave of his companion, saying:

'This trip altogether was more than I could have hoped for. It has repaid me for the grind of the week.'

And I think it has laid the ghost of John Vorst,' said Isabel. 'The air here, and everything, in fact, is so delicious!'

'Good-bye!' he cried, lingering despite the imperative call of the ferryboat.

'Good-bye, Mr. Fox!' answered the girl, quite overlooking his name's lack of euphony, and the red hair that all too vividly gleamed in the sunlight. For, after all, what do such things matter when two are young, and nature is beautiful, and minds are in sympathy?

Reluctantly Phileas turned away, taking a quick run from the slope of the road to the boat landing, and catching the ferry by a hair's breadth. The solitary sail cityward was filled with the thoughts of his late companion. Once more he smiled reminiscently at her witticisms, and was conscious of an acute sympathy for her loneliness.

(To be continued.)

HOW LOVE FOUND A WAY

I.

'A curse on the same priest-hunters, Una—every mother's son of them; that is, if they ever had a mother. And a double curse on the gold that tempts them to hunt the priest of God through the woods and mountains in order to get the price that's on his head. There's Father Maurice, now, our own poor sagart, hunted from place to place like a wolf, and lying concealed this moment in your father's house, and he wanting to be with his people. He'll be in some other house to-morrow night, and so on all the year round, with those hired brutes on his track, and we can't have a gun or a pike to defend him or ourselves. If we are caught with arms in our hands, or in our homes, it means the hangman's rope for us, or a bullet through our hearts. Oh, it's a curse that's on us, Una, it's a curse!'

And Fergus O'Hara's handsome face darkened, and his hands clenched as he gazed as if with entreaty into the bonny face of the comely girl who stood beside him at the edge of Killarra Wood.

The penal laws were in full swing all over the land, bringing sorrow and desolation to many a one-time happy home, while mongrels, with the greed of gold in their callous hearts, lurked in every woodland and glen and mountain watching for an opportunity of capturing a 'Popish priest,' upon whose head a price was laid by the humane English Government, equal to that set upon the head of a wolf. Two notorious priest-hunters had been seen of late prowling about Killarra, and the people were in momentary dread of losing their beloved Father Maurice, their guide and help in every trouble and sorrow and affliction.

Fergus O'Hara and Una Farrell were plighted lovers, and it was their wont to meet almost every night at the edge of the wood, about twenty perches away from Una's home.

'And Christmas will be here in a week,' Fergus resumed, when his first outburst drew no remark from his companion, who seemed absorbed in thought, 'and Father Maurice can't say Mass with his own people about him for fear of being pounced upon by those scoundrels, and maybe a band of soldiers along with them!'

Una raised her shapely head and directed a half-serious, half-mischievous glance from a pair of sparkling grey eyes on the darkened face of her lover.

'He will say Mass among his own people at midnight on Christmas Eve, Fergus; I'll stake my life on that,' she said, with a knowing little toss of her dark-brown tresses, 'and it's you and I that'll make the coast clear for him and defeat the greedy hounds of the law.'

'Ah, you must be dreaming, Una. How, in the name of Crom Cruach, could the two of us that haven't a weapon better than a stick, hope to defeat those fellows from K—, armed with pistols and swords, and maybe plenty of redcoats at their backs?'

'Oh, I didn't say we'd have to fight them, Fergus, or to kill them, or anything like that. There are more ways of doing away with a dog besides choking him with butter, and there's many a way of hoodwinking a bloodhound in human form. I have a plan, and if you listen quietly to me for two or three minutes, I'll tell you how we can make the coast clear for Father Maurice, without killing anybody, on Christmas Eve.'

'All right, Una, I'll listen; and I know that if ever a plan could be invented 'twould come out of that little head of yours, because there's more cleverness in it than would outwit all the generals of England.'

'Gura maith agat, Fergus! But wait till I tell you what I never told you before. About six weeks ago I was coming through the wood one night after leaving some things with Father Maurice (he was stopping with Neil Regan at the Glen at the time), and I met the two priest-hunters going home after trying to get a sight of the sagart—God preserve him! They stopped and asked me did I know the priest, and I pretended to be very simple, and I hung my head and said I saw him two years ago when my granny was dying. So they laughed at my innocence, and said I was a softy sure enough, and one of them wanted to kiss me (Fergus' hands clenched), but I managed not to allow him. I felt myself shivering when I thought of all the blood that was on the ruffians' hands, but I pretended not to mind, while all the time I was vowing in my heart that I'd pay them off for their impertinence. I didn't mention it to you, Fergus, for I knew you'd be only getting into trouble with them, as many a poor boy had the misfortune to do before. They've often crossed my path since, for some one has told them that I have a dreadful spite in for Father Maurice, because he advised my mother to put back my marriage with you for five years. They heard as well—and it's a big lie—that I swore I'd be revenged on him for it. Last night they met me again by chance, morra-ya, and I saw what they were after, so I pretended to be mad with rage, and I promised to lead them to where he'd be saying Mass in the heart of the wood on Christmas Eve. I told them 'twas better bring no soldiers, as they might be seen, and so be the means of giving Father Maurice time to escape. So they're coming by themselves, and I'm going to teach them as good a lesson as ever they learned, and you'll help me—won't you, Fergus?'

'With a heart and a half, Una. But I'm still in the dark as to the way. How are you going to do it?'

'I'll tell you in a minute. But first I'll start you a question. You're supple and active, aren't you?'

'I am, thank God.'

'And so am I. And there's a pit six feet deep and twelve yards long there below the big elm in the wood?'

A nod of his head was his only answer this time, but his eyes were beginning to twinkle joyously.

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'And Fergus, there's a—Oh, a chroidhe 'stigh, there's mother calling me. She's going to spin, and I'll have to card the wool for her. But I'll tell you the whole plan to-morrow night, and, please God, on Christmas Eve we'll show the pig-headed priest-hunters what an Irish boy and girl can do for the sagart they love. Beannacht leat.'

She was gone before Fergus could answer, and as he watched her lithe figure fitting away into the darkness he murmured, half unconsciously:

'Mo ghradh thu, a Una! Mo ghradh thu.'

II.

'Tis Christmas Eve; and as beautiful a night as ever shed a lustre of glory over the heathery mountains and smiling valleys of Ireland. A mist hangs upon the hills like a fleecy robe of grey. A soft crooning breeze sighs adown the glens like the swelling of fairy music. Sparkling, glittering frost lies over all the earth, resplendent in the bright moonlight, while the stars twinkle joyfully overhead. Oh, sorrow of sorrows! that a land so beautiful should be cursed by tyrant laws, and that its children should be forbidden by these laws even to offer praise to Him Who was born to suffer and die for their redemption! Nowhere does the beauty of the night show to greater advantage than in the noble wood of Killarra, where two men are busily engaged in tying their horses to the gnarled roots of a huge elm that stands in an open space like a mighty monarch of the forest.

The men thus occupied seem to be watching for someone, for now and then they dance hurriedly around and scan with eager gaze the sparkling woodland path that winds through myriad trees like a snake among the tall grasses of some Western prairie.

Suddenly a light sound on the frozen earth causes them to turn quickly around, each one's right hand involuntarily seizing the pistol in his breast. One glance at the cloaked figure standing in the centre of the path, however, seems to reassure them, for they instantly allow their hands to fall once more to their sides.

The drooping head is slowly raised, yet with a kind of business-like gesture, and reveals the witching face of Una Farrell, shaded now with a look of earnestness, whether real or apparent.

'You aren't a moment too soon,' she whispers, hurriedly. 'He's hiding in the old chapel beyond the wood—a good mile away. Mass will commence at midnight, and we must be there before the people begin to gather. It's ten o'clock now. So come along after me and make no noise.'

With a grunt of satisfaction, and after bestowing a parting look on the horses, the two men follow Una, as with quick, light step she plunges into the forest, ignoring the path altogether, and advancing in an easterly direction.

In single file they go quickly on through the wood, then out among hedgerows covered with dew and fields glittering with frosty stars. Una goes silently and quickly, and the same rule is followed by her companions, who are too busy with their thoughts of success to give heed to anything else. Now the old chapel looms up in front: they are beside it, and the leader treads more cautiously, by a shake of her finger entreating silence on the part of her attendants. Suddenly she gives a start, stops abruptly, and gazes eagerly towards the far side of the chapel. Then she says in a passionate whisper:

'They've seen us! they've seen us! There's the priest running down the far breen. They think we don't see them, and none of the boys are going with him, in case they'd attract our attention, and they think he'll reach the hiding-place all right. I know where he's going, and if you keep close to me, one on each side—that way—we'll run him down in fifteen minutes.'

She turns suddenly, with wild, eager eyes fixed on a stooped black figure that has started out from the chapel and is making all speed to gain the wood just at the point where she had emerged from it, leading the priest-hunters.

The latter keep close to Una, according to directions, and follow her light form as she bounds over

ditches and gaps and stiles in pursuit of the black figure which seems to drag itself along with much difficulty.

Into the wood the figure goes, scarcely three hundred yards in front, and visibly failing, while the others gain with every step.

On, on through briar and swamp and heather they go, pursued and pursuers, in the race for life and liberty on the one side, and greed of gold on the other. He is scarce two hundred yards ahead now, and is struggling along like a man about to fall.

Past the big elm and the affrighted horses they dash, the doomed victim heading for a belt of sedge grass about a dozen yards long, with a tree at each end like a silent sentinel, while a little nodding sapling in the centre of the shimmering grass seems to bend its head in approval of the whole thing.

Right by the little sapling he dashes—out beyond he struggles bravely on for a few paces—then, with a wild, despairing cry, falls heavily to the earth and lies, a black dot, on the glorious landscape.

'Hurrah! we have him!' cries Una, in exulting tones. She can hear the half-suppressed gloating of her companions as they race along, one at each side.

Up to the belt of sedge they dash, puffing, gloating, almost breathless after the exciting chase, and—

Splash!

Splash!

Una is out beyond the sedge now. She has left the sapling stretched at full length on the grass with the impetuous swing of her little foot.

She hears a splash; a murky spatter has fallen to either side of her on the frozen earth, and then she looks around.

There, panting, struggling, cursing in a seeming network of white grass, over which a black murky substance is quickly oozing, are her late companions of the chase, glaring at her like caged lions.

'Why don't you come on,' she says mockingly, when laughter allows her to speak: 'sure we have him safe and sound!'

A cry for mercy is the only reply to her exhortation.

'You won't come? Well, I suppose we'll have to coax you. Come here with the ropes, Fergus boy, and don't be lying there on the frozen ground famishing the life out of yourself.'

The black figure moves, then springs to its feet with a bound, and reveals the stalwart form and laughing face of Fergus O'Hara, while two other robust friends of his jump up from behind a ditch. From beneath his coat Fergus draws a pair of stout hempen cords, and he and his companions approach the spot where Una stands enjoying the discomfiture of her dupes.

A running noose is placed upon each cord and these are then thrown over the head and shoulders of the priest-hunters, securing their arms tight to their bodies. Then, after a good 'plunging,' enlivened with the scorching satire of Una, they are drawn to earth and the ropes wound tightly around their bodies.

'You see,' says Una, and the mischievous eyes of her are brighter than the stars: 'you see, somehow or other the grass grew over that pit last night, and the board grew across it. If you followed after me you were all right; but it was just a bit of bad luck. You didn't run in the right place.'

They are lifted on to the horses, the bridle-reins are taken out, and with these their legs are bound securely to the saddle.

'And now,' Una says, when the horses have been led out upon the high road, and Fergus has turned their heads towards K——, 'I hope this little adventure will teach you better than to make bargains ever again with "softies" of country girls; and you may tell every black-hearted son of your tribe that's how they'll get their blood-money when they come to look for it in the woods of Killarra!'

'Let the poor fellows go home, Fergus.'

And Father Maurice said Midnight Mass that Christmas Eve in Killarra wood, and the two happiest hearts there, it need not be said, were those of Una and Fergus, the betrothed lovers.—*Catholic Columbian*.

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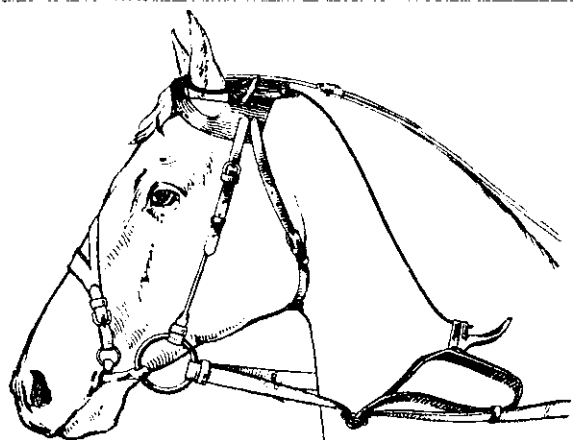
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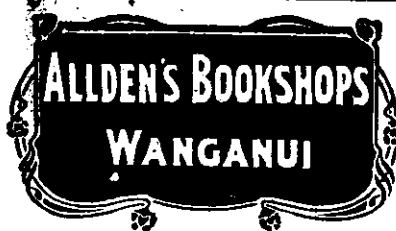
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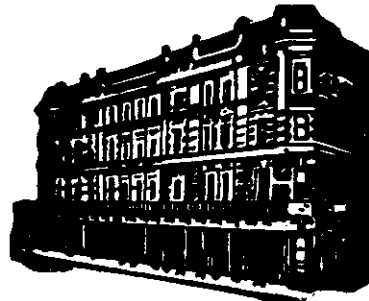
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READINGS IN IRISH HISTORY

By 'SHANACHIE.'

IRISH MONASTIC SCHOOLS OF THE SIXTH CENTURY.

ST EUDA OF ARAN.

'You'll see the home of holy men
Far west upon the shoreless main
In sheltered vale, on cloudy Ben,
Where saints still pray, and scribes still pen
The sacred page, despising gain.'

The Isles of Aran, with which the name of Euda is so intimately associated, stretch across the entrance to Galway Bay, forming a natural breakwater against the wild Atlantic waves. They are three in number. Aran Mor, the largest and most westerly of the three islands, is called in Irish, Aran of the Saints, 'for it is the holiest spot on Irish soil.' In days past it was the chosen home of the saints of God where they loved to live and die. One hundred and twenty-seven saints sleep in the little graveyard around Killeany Church, 'and we are told that it will never be known until the Day of Judgment the countless number of saints whose relics are mingled with the sacred soil of Aran.' Tradition tells us that Euda came across from Connemara and landed in the little bay under the village of Killeany, to which he has given his name. Who, then, was St. Euda? Euda, or Eudeus, was of royal blood, one of 'the sons of the Kings of the Scots,' who embraced the monastic life even during the time of St. Patrick. His father, Conall Derg, was King of Oriel—a wide territory extending from Lough Erne to the sea at Dundalk. His mother was Evin, the granddaughter of a king. He had a sister called Fanchea, a devout maiden, who is said by some to have received the veil from St. Patrick himself, and to whom her brother owed his conversion to the religious life. The young prince succeeded his father as chieftain to the men of Oriel, and although high-minded and pure-hearted, he took a chieftain's share in the wild work of mutual pillage and slaughter to which these Irish chieftains were always too much prone. His pious sister had founded a convent of nuns at Ross Firthir, which is in all probability identical with the old church and cemetery of Rossory, in the parish of the same name by the shores of River Evin on its left bank near Enniskillen. Here it was St. Fanchea had her oratory and nunnery, when it happened that her brother led the clansmen past the convent to attack their enemies. Shortly after a wild song of joy told the terrified maidens that they were returning home triumphant. The young prince stopped to see his sister at the convent gate; but she forbade him to approach, stained as he was with the blood of his fellow creatures. Euda said it was his duty to defend his people and conquer their enemies. 'I have not killed any man,' he said; and then it seems he asked his sister to allow him to take to be his wife one of the young ladies under her care who was remarkable for her beauty. Fanchea knew she was powerless to resist if her brother persisted in his purpose. So she bade him stay where he was, and going into the convent, called the maiden before her, and said, 'My Sister, a choice is given you to-day—wouldst thou love the Spouse Whom I love, or rather a carnal spouse?' 'I will always love thy Spouse,' said the maiden. Then Fanchea brought her to an inner chamber, and bade her lie down in the bed. She did so and soon after fell quietly asleep in the Lord. Then Fanchea put a veil on the face of the dead, and bringing in her brother, she said, taking the veil suddenly off, 'Come and see her whom thou lovest.' He started at the sight, but not thinking her dead, he only said, 'She is awfully pale and ghastly.' 'It is the paleness of death,' said his sister; 'and so shall you be if you repent not your sins.' The young man retired conscience-stricken, and Fanchea

so used the auspicious moment to remind him of the torments of hell and the joys of heaven, that he at once resolved to renounce his principality and become a monk.

From Rossory Euda went to Killany, in the County Louth, and there within the bounds of his own principality he set about the construction of a monastery for himself and such religious men as might join him in the service of God. Euda, however, was still only a novice in the religious life, and, therefore, not well qualified to be a guide for others. So his sister said to him, 'Go thou to Britain, to the Monastery of Rosnat, and there become the humble disciple of Mancenus, the head of that monastery.' 'It is difficult to fix the period when Euda went to study at Rosnat. It was probably about the year A.D. 475, for he was still a young man, and as he died very old, about A.D. 540, we may assume that he was born about A.D. 450, and would thus go to Britain between A.D. 470 and 480.' From Rosnat Euda, like Ninian and several other saints at the time, is said to have gone to Rome; but his sister, who loved him dearly, is said to have followed him thither, and induced him to make her a promise that he would return home within a year; and this promise he fulfilled.

(To be continued.)

THE AIR RAIDS ON VENICE

FULL TEXT OF POPE'S LETTER.

The full text of the Holy Father's letter to the Patriarch of Venice on the air raid that recently took place there—a communication in his own handwriting—is published in the *Difesa* of that city. The letter is as follows:—

Monsignore,—The new causes of grief given to us by the sad experience of Venice prompt fresh expressions of sympathy.

Continuing in your purpose of making known to the head of the Church the happenings—so far, alas, unfortunate—in your Patriarchate, you inform us in your letter of the 13th inst. of the aerial attack made the previous night on that city, so dear to our heart, and so full of interest from the point of view of religion, history, and art, communicating to us the fact that the Church of SS. John and Paul has not escaped hard blows and has been injured though happily the damage is repairable.

This fresh misfortune, preceded only a few days before by the dropping near the facade of St. Mark's, of a bomb, the fall of which, thanks to Providence, has not had sad and memorable results, reminds us of the lamentable incident at the Church of Santa Maria Formosa, as this in its turn reopened in our heart the bitter wound inflicted by the occurrence at the Church of the Scalzi.

The paternal soligitude, which, as you are aware, we have exerted with the view of preventing such doings has not, unfortunately had the effect which our soul so ardently desired. And as it is not granted us to divert this heavy burden from the heads of our children, we, without inquiring into its causes, must limit ourselves to deploring also this new kind of calamity, which is for us not the least grave among the consequences of the war.

Meanwhile it is a pleasure to us to assure our beloved Venetians that, as we share all their sufferings, so we are and shall be near them with compassion, with comfort, and, as far as we can, with succor as well, and we pray the Lord with all insistence to put an end to their distresses which are indeed universal sorrows.

Hoping that the words one day addressed to the Evangelist St. Mark—*Pax tibi Marce*—may be soon repeated as an announcement of remedial favors to the city entrusted to the patronage of the same Evangelist, we gladly impart to you and to your faithful the apostolic Benediction.

From the Vatican, September 16, 1916.

BENEDICT XV., Pope.

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SIDELIGHTS ON THE WAR

BISHOP OF NAMUR'S DIGNIFIED REBUKE TO GERMAN GOVERNOR.

The *Vingtieme Siecle* states that the following is an extract from the reply sent by the Bishop of Namur to a letter in which General von Bissing, the German Governor-General of Belgium, complained to him that the priests were hostile to German authority, and requested that action should be taken:—

'The maintenance of tranquillity is not fostered by acts of intimidation and violence, but would be more effectively brought about by conduct in harmony with the temperament of the Belgian people. Rigorous measures do less harm to the honor and dignity with which the churches are surrounded, in the eyes of the world, than to the authority of the German army. German authority has also certain duties to fulfil. We had no less a right than Germany to appeal to the Hague Convention, which was made not only in the interests of an occupied country. To an occupied country it assures that respect shall be paid to that which is the highest and noblest sentiment in the human soul—namely, love of country, and it imposes on an army of occupation the duty of avoiding all insults to patriotism. But it is just in this regard that we have had to suffer painful violence, and it is just this aspect of the German occupation that we lament with the greatest bitterness.'

AMERICA PAYING HER DEBT TO FRANCE.

More than 125,000 dollars already have been subscribed by a group of prominent men toward a fund of 130,000,000 dollars which the recently organised American Society for the Relief of French War Orphans is raising as a practical expression of America's gratitude to France for her aid at the time of the founding of the republic. The organisation, which was conceived during the summer, is international in scope, having a committee of seven in Paris to co-operate with the national organisation and the officers and directors in this country. The Society has been incorporated for a period of fifteen years (says the *Sacred Heart Review*). Many notable men have accepted active and honorary offices in the society, including Edward D. White, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, who is an honorary vice-president; William D. Guthrie, who is president; J. P. Morgan, who is vice-president, and George F. Baker, jun., Cornelius N. Bliss, jun., James M. Beck, R. Fulton Cutting, Willard D. Straight, Frank A. Vanderlip, George W. Wickersham, and many others who are acting as directors. Other honorary vice-presidents of the society are Cardinal Farley, Bishop David H. Greer, Robert Bacon, Nicholas Murray Butler, John Grier Hibben, and John H. Finley. The society has issued a statement, giving the report from France that there are already more than 200,000 children in France, who are innocent victims of the war and are in need of help.

THE NEUTRALITY OF THE HOLY FATHER.

Though his position as the head of the Catholic Church and his personal character should save the Holy Father from the imputation of violating the rule of neutrality, the passions aroused by the war have given rise to many attacks upon him on this score (says the *Catholic Times*). One of the latest of these attacks has been made by the central executive of certain Italian societies which are federated for the purpose of prosecuting the struggle against Austro-German influence in Italy. They have called upon the Government to suspend the Law of Guarantees during the remaining period of the war. Enjoying the sympathy and support of the Catholics of the whole world, his Holiness need not be disturbed by the antagonism of a comparatively small number of men, some of whom, no doubt, are influenced by anti-religious fanaticism. The Italian Government is not likely to lend a ready

ear to suggestions which would, if adopted, enormously increase its troubles. It knows that it would stand to lose by a quarrel with the Holy See. The Pope can safely count upon its desire not to reopen the question of its relation with the Vatican, but his Holiness has reason to complain, as he does in the letter which he has addressed to Cardinal von Hartmann, of the perversity with which his motives are misinterpreted on one side and the other. When the war is at an end and passions have subsided it will, we feel sure, be recognised by all that the part played by his Holiness Benedict XV. in connection with the conflict has been worthy of a large-hearted, humanitarian Pontiff.

FOOD SHORTAGE IN GERMANY.

The Germans no longer conceal the sufferings caused by the British blockade. Their papers are full of complaints regarding the difficulty of procuring sufficient food. It is not too much to say (remarks the *Catholic Times*) that both in Germany and Austria famine has made its appearance. The food regulations, particularly in Germany, are most elaborate, but the people are, notwithstanding, in sore distress. The prices for all the necessaries of life are almost prohibitive in the case of the poorer classes, and families have to cultivate a Spartan spirit of endurance. When Bulgaria joined the Central Powers in the war the German papers boasted that the food supplies which they could procure from the East would go far to enable them to defy the efforts of their enemies to reduce them to starvation. Now that source of confidence is drying up. Rumania, from which came bread and cereals, is closed to the Central Powers, and their prospects of being able to feed their armies and populations during the coming winter are becoming darker and darker. Mr. Philip Gibbs, in one of his latest letters, notes that the moral of the men opposed to the forces of the Allies in the front trenches is not at all what one would expect. Probably the difficulty of obtaining food supplies is beginning to affect the German troops.

A FINE TRIBUTE TO OUR FIGHTING MEN.

Mr. Philip Gibbs, describing in the *London Daily Telegraph* the fighting on the Somme, tells of a great bayonet charge by the New Zealanders:—

'It was not the end of the fighting here. In the afternoon the enemy came again in strong numbers—sent forward by their High Command; men at the end of far telephones, desperate to retake the ground, and ordering new assaults which were sentences of death to German soldiers not at the end of far telephones, but very near to British bayonets. They came on thickly, these doomed men, shoulder to shoulder, and it was again the captain of the Canterburys who led his men against them in a great bayonet charge right across the open. It was bayonet against bayonet, for the Germans stood to receive the charge, though with blanched faces. For the New Zealanders came upon them at the trot, and then sprang forward with bayonets as quick as knitting needles. . . . The Germans cried out in terror. Down the hillside, beyond, those who could escape ran, and fell as they ran. It was a rout, and the end of the counter-attack.

'The New Zealanders were now sure of themselves. They knew that with the bayonet they can meet the Germans as their masters. So scornful are they of their bayonet fighting that they have it in their heart to pity them and say "Poor devils!" To my mind, and to others, the finest heroism was shown by the New Zealand stretcher-bearers. They did not charge with the bayonet. All their duty was to go out across open country in cool blood to pick up men lying there in blood that was not cool unless they had lain there too long. They had to go through salvos of five-point-nines, which tore up the ground about them, and buried them, and mangled many of them. And they went quite steadily and quietly, not once or twice, but hour after hour, until more than sixty of them had fallen, and hour after hour they carried out their work of rescue quite careless of themselves.'

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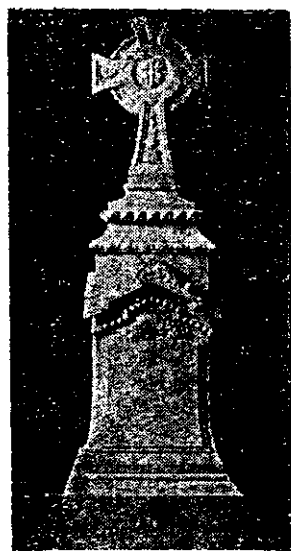
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A WAR-TIME FIRST COMMUNION.

Quartered at the time in a charming old French farmhouse, of which the proprietor is a venerable and pious French woman, a young Irish officer serving at the front 'somewhere in France,' who, with the men of his regiment, after some hot engagements has been given a brief breathing spell of rest, writes as follows in a letter to his family received early this week (says the Liverpool *Catholic Times* of September 23):—

'I will tell you of a Sunday I never can or will forget. "Maman," as I call my hostess (she is nearer to being my gran maman), told me on Saturday that the children of the village would make their First Communion on Sunday, and so Sunday would be "un jour de fete"; truly it was.

'At 10 a.m. the "petits enfants" paraded outside the chateau (our headquarters) as a procession. Three little boys—two clad in red soutane-capes with white fur edges (young Cardinals) and in dark purple silk soutane, bordered with white fur, with surplice—carried the large silver crucifix in the centre. Then came the boy First Communicants dressed in black suits, with long trousers, with white rosettes on their arms and wreaths of white rosettes on their heads. After them came the girls, dressed much as our girls at home when making their First Communion. Chanting the "Magnificat," they wended their way through the gates of the chateau to the church opposite. Our sentry at the gate stood rigidly at attention while the procession passed, and all the senior officers who stood at the gate saluted. God bless the regiment!

'I did not see the church ceremony, as I was taking my company to the regimental Mass at twelve o'clock, which Major— and a private soldier served. The First Communicants remained for the regimental Mass. The inhabitants were very much impressed—especially when a fanfare of trumpets (our regimental call) was sounded at the church door at the Elevation. This is a custom with our regiment during the Elevation. That night at 7.30 there was a torchlight procession to the local Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes. About 500 wax candles were lit—each inhabitant, each soldier, and each officer participating carrying one. Our band played the "Ave Maris Stella," and all joined in singing that beautiful hymn. At Benediction in the open at the Grotto the band played the accompaniment for the "Tantum Ergo." Even the non-Catholic officers were present at this ceremony. At its close the band played the regimental march, and all dispersed, the civilians to their homes and the soldiers to their quarters, deeply impressed by the solemn rites and the demeanour of those who assisted at them.

'Rumor hath it that we shall enjoy a period of rest, as the Divisional General thinks we have "done our bit" for the present, and "done it very well" to say the least of it. I see shining in the newspapers the name of the place we did it, as well as the names of other places where the British army is working its way through; but I must say no more on "shop" topics.'

FRANCE AND PEACE.

From the trenches back to the separation-law days in France isn't a very long stretch. But what a wonderful change has been wrought in the twelve intervening years.

In that day M. Combes was riding triumphantly the wave of anti-clericalism. M. Briand, the present Premier, was putting the wind into the sails of the Combes boat. The crucifix had disappeared by official order from the schools. Church and institutional property had been confiscated and criminal looters were secretly dividing the spoils. Priests and nuns were impoverished and driven into exile. An odious system of secret reports kept the Minister of War informed of the names of army officers who attended Mass. These were the days of separation: the days when anti-clericalism was at its zenith; the days when M. Combes was Premier of France.

But Combes is gone; Briand is Premier; France has a different war on her hands; the priests—hundreds of them—are in the trenches serving as common

soldiers; nuns are nursing the wounded; the nation is aflame with religious fervor; and the close of the sanguinary struggle will likely see the last of anti-clericalism.

Speaking of conditions that are to follow the declaration of peace President Briand is reported as saying: 'It is always possible to come to an understanding with Paris. As to the provinces you know I have sources of information. Well, I can tell you that the spectacle they offer is admirable—no more divisions nor local tyrannies; no more hatred of church steeples. There is only one heart, there is only one France.'

No more hatred of church steeples. What could the Premier have meant? What can those words mean if they do not mean the end of anti-clericalism? This we do know, that Premier Briand's bitter hostility to these steeples is gone. If it were not such words could not have escaped his lips, because such sentiments have not heretofore laid in his heart. And even if they were there he would not have dared to express them unless he knew they were also shared in by those who travelled politically with him.

Apparently, therefore, the coming of peace will mean the coming of old France—the re-establishment of the fairest daughter of the Church.

THE IRISH ON THE EVE OF BATTLE.

A correspondent in the *Daily Chronicle* gives the following picture of the way in which the Irish troops spent the night before the attack on Guillemont:—

There was no uncertainty in the minds of the men as to the result of the attack which they were about to make. 'It's all right—we shall have Guillemont tomorrow.' That is what they said, and they said it with a conviction which was impressive and still without boasting or arrogance. At the same time, these men, so gay and light-hearted, are filled with the deepest and purest feelings of religion. The majority of these Irish soldiers are Catholics. On the particular night the writer refers to, just as the camp fires were dying down and the men were preparing to wrap themselves in their coats for rest which they might be able to snatch, an officer came over the side of the hill and down to the centre of the camp. It was the Catholic chaplain—a devoted priest who had been with the Irish troops in Ireland, in England, and in France, and whose never-ceasing work is keenly appreciated by all ranks. In a moment he was surrounded by the men. They came to him without orders—they came gladly and willingly, and they hailed his visit with plain delight. He spoke to them in the simple, homely language which they liked. He spoke of the sacrifice which they had made in freely and promptly leaving their homes to fight for a cause which was the cause of religion, freedom, and civilisation. He reminded them that in this struggle they were most certainly defending the homes and the relations and friends they had left behind them in Ireland. It was a simple, yet most moving address, and deeply affected the soldiers. When the chaplain had finished his address he signed to the men to kneel and administered to them the General Absolution given in times of emergency. The vast majority of the men present knelt, and those of other faiths stood by in attitudes of reverent respect. The chaplain then asked the men to recite with him the Rosary. It was most wonderful, the effect produced as hundreds and hundreds of voices repeated the prayers and recited the words, 'Pray for us now and at the hour of our death. Amen.'

THE UNSCATHED IMAGE.

The following from a despatch of the *Times* special correspondent at British Headquarters in France has reference to a paragraph which we printed a few weeks back:—

In my despatch of September 16 I spoke of a statue of the Blessed Virgin which still stood by the shattered graveyard, on its pedestal in a niche in a ruined angle of two stumps of wall: a statue which had somehow survived the wreckage of everything else around and, in robes which are still pink and blue and gold-em-

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broidered, remained with outstretched, pleading hands, and a face of sweet and patient gentleness amid all the horrors of the desecrated graveyard and the battlefield. To-day pious hands are at work—the hands of soldiers of our own Army—restoring some order in the graveyard. They have straightened some of the fallen monuments which were yet unbroken, have filled in the shell-holes, where the human bones protrude, removing other dreadful memorials of the fighting, and, having pulled down the two ragged stumps of wall behind the Virgin, have raised her on a higher temporary pedestal, where all can see her with her pleading hands and gentle face.

OUR SCHOOLS

CHRISTIAN BROTHERS' SCHOOL, DUNEDIN

The annual concert in connection with the Christian Brothers' School attracted a large attendance to His Majesty's Theatre, on the evening of December 18. The well-wishers of the school have come to regard this entertainment as something to be eagerly waited for. The large audience present on the occasion were not disappointed, for though the rehearsals were carried on under difficulties, the examination having interfered somewhat with them, the programme was one well calculated to suit all, as has been the case during the past years. The school choir have figured prominently, and the manner in which they sang was very pleasant. The choir numbered about 50, and the pieces contributed were 'Merry June' and 'Where go the Ships.' They also gave, with the assistance of a number of ex-pupils, the pieces 'Across the Bar,' 'Simple Simon,' and 'Adeste Fideles.' An excellent string orchestra, led by Mr. G. B. Laidlaw, was responsible for the overtures, and rendered valuable assistance in the production of the operetta, 'The Bell in the Forest'—an innovation, and a successful one, at these functions,—which was staged with deserving success. The characters were: Prince Percival (Prince Regent), F. Sadler; Count Rupert and Count Leopold (friends of the prince), F. Cotter and P. Vallis, respectively; Alexis Forster (the gamekeeper's son), M. O'Connor; Paul Krag (poacher), M. Fenton; Bluster (police commissioner), J. Rowe; Old Screech (town crier), V. Spain; Franz Stoom (a wanderer), J. Yule; Sticheem (tailor), J. Smith; Chopem (butcher), F. Moloney; Waxem, (shoemaker), M. Wakelin; Kneadem (baker), D. Moloney. The burden of the acting fell on Masters M. O'Connor, F. Sadler, M. Fenton, and V. Spain, and all displayed a keen appreciation of their parts. An action song by the juniors was very pretty. Exhibitions with dumbbells and wands by the juniors and with clubs by the seniors provided plenty of interest. A double quartet, consisting of Masters J. Yule, F. Sadler, D. Moloney, M. O'Connor, V. Spain, F. Cotter, A. Smith, and R. King, gave a splendid rendering of 'Angels' and 'The Fiddler.' Miss Clara Hughes acted as accompanist in her usual efficient style.

The distribution of prizes took place in the school hall on Tuesday morning. In the unavoidable absence of his Lordship Bishop Verdon, the Very Rev. Father Coffey, Adm., presided, and the Rev. Fathers Corcoran and O'Neill were also present. Before calling on the chairman to distribute the prizes the Rev. Brother O'Ryan read the annual report, which stated that early in the year Mr. T. H. Gill (one of the secondary school inspectors) paid a visit of inspection. His report stated, *inter alia*:—This school comprises a primary and secondary department. All the boys were orderly and attentive, applied themselves with diligence to their work, and were well behaved in the school and grounds. There is ample accommodation for the secondary classes, two class rooms and a laboratory being set aside for them. The methods of teaching are on sound lines, and skill and earnestness are shown in applying them. The boys appear to be keenly interested in their work. Latin is good in the highest form, and very satisfactory in the intermediate. English language is taught in a thorough fashion. A good programme of work is done in Standard VI. The arithmetic is set out by the boys in a methodical manner, and bears evidence of careful treatment. The secondary department of this school is efficient. The number on the roll was up to the usual standard. The attendance, with a few exceptions, was very satisfactory, while the conduct of the boys on the whole had been very good. Four boys passed the Public Service entrance examination. Although Master Stephen Spain had only one year's preparation, he obtained one of the best passes among the Dunedin candidates. Master Charles Woods won the University prize for physics at the Technical College. Regret was expressed that so few of the boys remained to complete their secondary education. A few weeks ago Mr. Bossence and Mr. Hendry conducted the annual examination of the primary depart-

ment. Their report commented most favorably on the work in the various classes. Twenty-five boys succeeded in obtaining the proficiency certificate—numerically the highest but one of the suburban schools. A list of old boys who had volunteered was being compiled. This, though incomplete, contained the names of over 200 old boys, many of whom had made the supreme sacrifice. In due time an honors board would be erected in the school.

The following is the prize list:—

Matriculation.—Dux, Stephen Spain; mathematics, S. Spain; history and geography, John Noonan; French and Latin, S. Spain; special prize for Christian doctrine, S. Spain.

Public Service.—Dux, Sebastian Vallis; mathematics, Terence O'Brien; English and French, S. Vallis; history, Vincent Pledger; geography, Frank Kennedy; arithmetic, John Miller; handball, T. O'Brien.

Junior Secondary Department.—J. Smith (dux), H. O'Reilly 2, R. Marlow 3, B. Todd 4, F. Maloney 5, W. McDowall 6.

Standard VI.—F. Sadler (dux), V. Spain 2, H. Cullen 3, M. Wakelin 4; arithmetic, J. Hally; English composition, E. Smith; history, R. King; arithmetic, G. Shiel; history, J. Yule; elocution, M. O'Connor.

Standard V.—H. Baker (dux), A. Fogarty 2, G. Maynard 3. General list—W. Curtin (arithmetic), J. Thompson (composition), P. Shiel (composition), G. Reeves (composition and arithmetic), T. McAllen (arithmetic), F. Dwyer (arithmetic), P. Trail (composition and arithmetic), H. Brown (geography and history), A. Todd (history and geography), P. Roughan (composition).

Standard IV.—Christian doctrine—D. Crichton 1, T. O'Connor 2; dux—J. Devereaux and D. Russell (equal) 1, J. Allum 2, B. O'Reilly 3; J. Burnes (general progress), J. Paul (English), R. Thompson (composition), J. Day (home work), J. Watkins (drawing and color work), W. Brown (general progress).

Standard III.—Christian doctrine, E. Rumble and T. McCarten (equal); good conduct, P. Egan; penmanship, B. Donaldson and T. McCarten; first place, M. Quinn; second place, J. Barwick; third place, B. Carter; general efficiency—F. White, H. Coughlan, F. Cullen, C. Power, A. Kennedy.

Standard II.—Christian doctrine, P. Lemon; good conduct, B. McCutcheon; good attendance and neat home work, P. Foster; first prize, F. Baker; second prize, M. McAlovey; third prize, B. Lynskey; fourth prize, J. Phelan; general efficiency, E. Brown, N. Cantwell, K. Maloney, R. Shiel.

ST. DOMINIC'S COLLEGE, DUNEDIN

The annual distribution of prizes took place at St. Dominic's College in the spacious glass cloister on Wednesday, December 13. His Lordship Bishop Verdon presided, and in the presence of a large number of friends of the pupils presented the prizes to the happy young people, who looked radiant in anticipation. At intervals during the presentation musical selections, vocal and instrumental, were given by the various candidates who at the recent examinations in music distinguished themselves by securing high marks.

The following is the prize-list:—

Preparatory.

Grade I.—Class prize, L. Carroll; next in merit, E. Grave; good conduct, M. Petre; reading and recitation, T. McGrath; recitation and handwork, M. Hudson; arithmetic and general improvement, P. Brown; writing and composition, G. Elbery; arithmetic, B. Burrell; reading and spelling, K. Tipping; handwork and drawing, E. Gawne.

Class IV.—Class prize, M. Hussey; next in merit, B. Burnes; reading and recitation, D. Sheehy 1, R. Menzies 2; handwork and drawing, M. McLoughlin; reading and spelling, T. Grave; number, D. Roche; general improvement, R. O'Connor; number and writing, F. Strang.

Class III.—Class prize, J. Vallis, F. Sligo (equal); drawing and modelling, C. Shiel; paperwork and neatness, R. Forest; reading and spelling, V. Rodgers.

Kindergarten.

Class II.—Number, E. Galvin; reading, R. Vallis; recitation, J. McGrath; writing, K. Kennedy; handwork, V. Vallis; paperwork, N. Bezer.

Class I.—Number and reading, E. Strang; number, J. O'Reilly; reading, M. Buchanan; story telling, T. Blanchard; modelling, K. Merchant; sticklaying, D. Roche; brickbuilding, J. Brown; phonics, E. Clark; games, R. O'Reilly; phonics, A. Coughlan.

Junior.

Grade 4.—Christian doctrine, A. O'Neill (medal); good conduct, K. Hickey (medal); class medalist, S. Todd; attendance and catechism, M. Condon; general excellence, M. Hartstonge; physical culture, M. Major; history, A. McGrath; application, E. Tipping; drawing, S. Thomas; needlework, N. Millar; general improvement, R. McKendry.

Grade 3.—Class prize, G. Beath; attendance (1), English (2), I. Woods; arithmetic, D. O'Connor; English lessons, R. Langley; improvement in music, E. Moroney.

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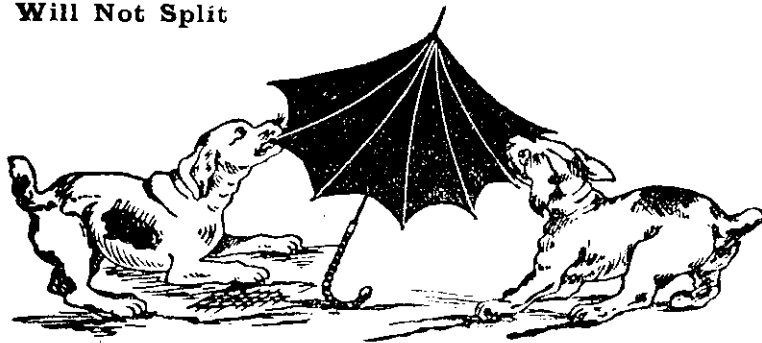
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Junior.

Grade 2.—Class prize, T. Brown; English, A. Sligo; drawing and improvement in studies, M. Coughlan; oral composition, M. Galvin; reading and comprehension, C. Rodgers; writing, R. Sutherland; brushwork, T. Scott.

Grade V. and VI. Prizes.

Grade V.—Christian doctrine (silver medal), Gerty Shiel; Christian doctrine (second prize), D. Harbour; class prize, Gerty Shiel; next in merit, V. Campbell; arithmetic, M. Perry; English composition, U. McKendry; history and geography, M. Bastings; drawing and mental arithmetic, Gona Shiel; application, C. Clarke.

Grade VI.—Class medallist, M. Cullen; next in merit, L. Gourley; arithmetic, L. Flannery; mapping and drawing, K. O'Reilly; application, C. Jefferson.

Intermediate and Senior.

Form III.—Class medallist, M. Finlayson; mathematics T. Hutton; French, G. Coles; commercial subjects, C. McLoughlin 1, S. McCloy 2; Scripture, M. Finlayson.

Form IV.—Class medallist, R. Biggins; mathematics, N. Flannery; French and Latin, R. Biggins 1, K. Green-slade 2; history, M. Clark; science, H. Collins; elocution, O. Pierce; application, M. Clark; attendance, A. McKee-fry; needlework (silver medal), N. Finnegan.

Form V. (b).—Class medallist, A. Bell; French, A. Vallis; mathematics, M. Cotter.

Form V. (a).—Dux (gold medal), M. Todd; nearly equal, M. Dunne; French, M. Todd; Latin (second division), Z. Henderson.

MUSIC EXAMINATIONS.

Elementary Grade.—Associated Board (distinction), M. Major.

Junior Grade.—Trinity College (honors), A. Walshe; harmony (honors), A. McGrath.

Lower Division.—Associated Board (distinction), A. McGrath.

Intermediate Grade.—Trinity College (honors); Singing, D. Kelly; piano, E. Smith, J. Hunt; violin, M. Leslie; harmony, E. Smith.

Higher Division.—Associated Board (distinction), T. Hutton.

Senior Grade.—Trinity College (honors); Piano, W. Hunt; singing, A. Cunningham (gold medal presented by Begg and Co.).

Licentiate (Practical).—Trinity College (honors); Singing, E. Lynch (gold medal presented by the Bristol Company).

General Prizes.

Christian doctrine, N. O'Connell (gold medal); good conduct, C. McLaughlin (boarders), C. Cullen (day pupils); wreath (awarded by the votes of the pupils to the most amiable girl), J. Hunt.

After the report had been read his Lordship addressed the pupils, congratulating them on the good work they had done, and especially on their marked application to Christian doctrine. He reminded them that the Sisters who devoted their lives to the service of their pupils prepared them not only for prosperity in this life, but for eternal happiness in the next, and the children had the good example of the nuns as well as their instructions to help them forward. His Lordship expressed his good wishes for the coming holidays, and told the children to enjoy them thoroughly, as relaxation and change were necessary for everyone at times. He advised them to give some portion of the vacation to good reading, and to be observant of the duties of their religion while fully enjoying their free time.

Music Examination Results.

The following candidates were successful in the Associated Board examination (in practical music) held at St. Dominic's Priory by Mr. Arthur Hinton:—

Primary.—Pass: Sheila Todd, 123; Kathleen Field, 115; Mildred Pearson, 119; Nora Pearson, 122; Maimie Smith, 119; George Spiers, 110; Margaret Hoare, 115.

Elementary.—Marietta Major (distinction), 137; Jenny Griffiths (distinction), 130.

Lower.—Adelina McGrath (distinction), 132.

Higher.—Tui Hutton (distinction), 132; Nora O'Connell, 117; Kathleen Green-slade, 114.

Local Centre.—Advanced, Agnes Cunningham, 105. Intermediate, Annie McKee-fry, 110.

The following candidates were successful in the practical musical examinations held at St. Dominic's Priory by Mr. Meyerscough, Trinity College, London:—

Licentiate (Practical Work).—Evelyn Lynch (singing), 80.

Associate (Practical Work).—Rosalie Chiaroni, 73.

Higher Local Division.—Elizabeth Millar, 60.

Senior Division.—Honors: A. Cunningham (singing), 90; W. Hunt, 88. Pass: K. Todd, 76; E. Robertson, 75; M. Dales (singing), 72.

Intermediate Division.—Honors: Roberta Simpson, 91; Esme Smith, 87; Margaret Kelly (singing), 86; Margaret Leslie (violin), 86; Florence Simpson (singing), 82; Jennie Hunt, 80. Pass: Gona Shiel, 78; Katie O'Reilly, 77; F. Duthie, 73.

Junior Division.—Honors: Annie Walsh, 90; Adelina McGrath, 88; Marie Major, 85; Dorothy Sweeney (singing), 82; Cyril Pickett, 80; Leila Biggins, 80. Pass: Gerald Shiel (violin), 77; M. Deehan, 77; B. O'Reilly, 77; F. Maloney, 76; J. Hally, 70; E. McKewen, 66.

Preparatory Division.—G. McTigue (honors), 84; D. Leslie (Lawrence), 73; M. McMullen (Lawrence), 72.

First Steps.—M. D. Hudson, 82; C. Richmond (Lawrence), 77.

ST. BEDE'S COLLEGE, CHRISTCHURCH

St. Bede's College terminated its scholastic year on December 15, when the progress report was presented by the Rector, the Very Rev. C. Graham, S.M., M.A. Following the custom established since the outbreak of the war, certificates were presented to the successful students in lieu of prizes. The following is the prize list:—

Form IV.—General excellence, Richard Barrett; next in merit—Malcolm Handisides, Percival Marshall. Christian doctrine and Holy Scripture, Malcolm Handisides; next in merit—Richard Barrett, Joseph O'Reilly. English essay, Richard Barrett; next in merit—Malcolm Handisides, Joseph O'Reilly. English, Percival Marshall; next in merit—Richard Barrett, Malcolm Handisides (ex aequo). Latin, Percival Marshall; next in merit—Richard Barrett, Malcolm Handisides. French, Richard Barrett; next in merit—Percival Marshall, Malcolm Handisides. History, Malcolm Handisides; next in merit—Percival Marshall, Richard Barrett. Geography, Malcolm Handisides; next in merit—Percival Marshall, Richard Barrett. Arithmetic, Robert Higgins; next in merit—Malcolm Handisides, Percival Marshall; hon. mention, Frederick Khouri. Algebra and geometry—hon. mention, Frederick Khouri. Spelling and dictation, Percival Marshall; next in merit—Richard Barrett, Malcolm Handisides. Book-keeping, Robert Higgins; hon. mention, Frederick Khouri.

Form III.—General excellence, Henry Smith; next in merit—Ceil Ashton, Bernard Rundle. Christian doctrine and Holy Scripture, Henry Smith; next in merit—Patrick Barrett, George Blogg. English essay, Patrick Barrett; next in merit—Henry Smith, David Christie. English, Henry Smith; next in merit—Leo McMullan, Cecil Ashton. Latin, Cecil Ashton; next in merit—Henry Smith, Bernard Rundle. French, Cecil Ashton; next in merit—Henry Smith, Edward Barrett. History, Henry Smith; next in merit—Nicholas Kelly, Cecil Ashton. Geography, Henry Smith; next in merit—Bernard Rundle, Patrick Barrett. Arithmetic, Henry Smith; next in merit, Cecil Ashton, Leo McMullan. Algebra, Cecil Ashton; next in merit—Patrick Barrett, Bernard Rundle. Geometry, Henry Smith; next in merit—Bernard Rundle, Cecil Ashton. Spelling and dictation, Edward Barrett; next in merit—James Jacques, Henry Smith. Book-keeping, David Christie; next in merit, James Jacques.

Junior Form.—General excellence, Martin Darby.

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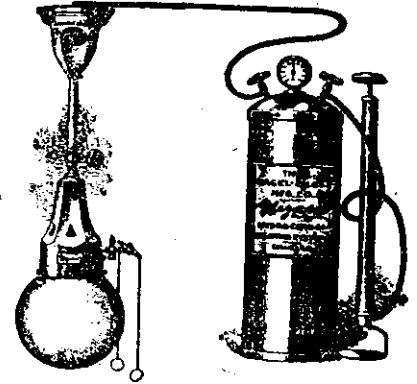
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Current Topics

The Summery of 1918

This is the latest date fixed by a competent authority for the conclusion of the war. General Brussiloff some time ago expressed the opinion that by August of 1917 something like a decisive result would be visible. Mr. Frank H. Simonds, the American journalist whose brilliant and exceptionally accurate and reliable articles on the war have been often referred to in our columns, now places the fateful and eagerly looked-for period some twelve months later. Writing from the western front to the *American Review*, he declares definitely that 'Germany is in retreat. We have seen the end of the summer campaign. It was on June 4 that Russia struck her first blow in Volhynia. Since that time there has been a steady rise in Allied prospects; there have been great victories in Galicia; material advantages scored in Picardy and north of Trieste; there has been a decline in German stock which cannot be mistaken, and an ever-widening conviction that the end of the war will be reached on German soil. But I desire to say that I do not believe that such a victory can be won before the summer of 1918; and I think the degree to which Germany is exhausted has been grossly exaggerated in recent weeks. Almost two years lay between Gettysburg and Appomattox, and it seems unlikely that a shorter distance will separate Verdun from the final German surrender.'

Germany and the Pope

Official Berlin is dissatisfied with the Vatican, as we learn from French papers, because of the persistence of Cardinal Gasparri in sending as Nuncio to Belgium an ecclesiastic whose sympathies are openly with the cause of that country's independence. Monsignor Locatelli, the Nuncio in question, presented his credentials to the foreign office which many months ago fled from Brussels to Havre. He conceives it his duty to remove 'all suspicion' and 'all misunderstanding' in the Belgian mind as regards the policy of the Holy See. Reports appeared in Paris papers that he will labor for the complete restoration of the independence and sovereignty of the Belgians, and he has not authorised any contradiction. These reports have been taken up in pan-German organs at Berlin and have led to more negotiations with Cardinal Gasparri at the Vatican. There was at one time a rumor of Monsignor Locatelli's summary expulsion by the German authorities at Brussels. His continued presence there is interpreted in the *Gauleis* as proof of the determination of the Vatican to recognise Belgium as a sovereign state, whatever happens. Under no circumstances, declares the French paper, will Benedict XV. acquiesce in the extinction of a Catholic nation by the vicissitudes of the present war.

The Present Policy of Pope Benedict

The efforts of a section of the press in Europe to spread misconception of the policy of Benedict XV. were reprieved and refuted by Cardinal Gasparri in a recent talk with the representative of the *Paris Journal*; and we give the substance of his Eminence's timely utterance. The *Temps* has been scolding the Pope for 'subtlety' and 'cleverness,' but nothing, said the Cardinal, could be simpler in its essentials than the aim of his Holiness. In the first place, Benedict XV. prays for the restoration of peace at once; but he wants a just and permanent peace. Hence it must be a peace that leaves no nation oppressed, a peace that takes into account the aspirations of all peoples so far as such aspirations can be realised. Otherwise the peace would be no peace, for it could not be permanent. While awaiting this peace, the Holy See maintains an absolute neutrality among the belligerents. This neutrality is benevolent as it affects the Catholic peoples, to be sure, but that is because the Catholic peoples are the very ones who have suffered most—France, eldest daughter of the Church; Poland, the Slav child; Bel-

gium, most precious to the Holy See because she has endured the worst.' Yet the impartiality of the Pope must not be construed as one that draws distinctions of race or creed. Jews, Protestants, and Atheists have the right to call upon the Holy See to do what it can to alleviate their sufferings, and the Pope will listen to such appeals and do what he can to meet them regardless of pains or expense. The Holy See has denounced violations of international law. It has reminded the most powerful of the belligerents that there are laws of war. That is a policy and programme that will increasingly commend itself to the fair-minded members of all nations.

'Modernising' Our Hymns

America abounds in freaks, literary and religious, and one of the latest of these to inflict himself upon a much-enduring public is Prof. Simon N. Patten, of the University of Pennsylvania. Prof. Patten has been rash and foolish enough to undertake the 'Revision of Old Hymns to Meet Modern Needs'; and the attempt is, as it deserved to be, a flat and unqualified failure. Prof. Patten is a more or less eminent economist, and his 'poetry' is of about the level that might be expected from a professor of 'the dismal science.' Midas is said to have turned everything he touched into gold; Professor Patten reverses the process and turns everything he touches into lead. A fair illustration of Professor Patten's method is afforded by his treatment of Bishop Heber's very fine hymn, 'The Holy Trinity.' Here is the original version:

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee:
Holy, Holy, Holy! Merciful and Mighty!
God in Three Persons, blessed Trinity.

Here is what Professor Patten makes of it:

Holy, holy, holy, Creative Energy!
Earth and sky and heav'n show forth Thy will and
honor Thee:
Holy, holy, holy, wonderful in beauty,
and also surpassing are humanity!

Equally vapid and banal is his handling of Newman's beautiful and finished lines, 'Lead Kindly Light.' The hymn begins:

Lead Kindly Light amid th' encircling gloom,
Lead Thou me on!
The night is dark and I am far from home,
Lead Thou me on:
Keep Thou my feet, I do not ask to see
The distant scene; one step enough for me.

These classic lines become under Professor Patten's hands:

Lead Kindly Light, thro Heaven's trackless maze,
Lead Thou me on!
Where roams the star, where suns in splendor blaze,
Lead Thou me on!
My heart and hand on service ever true
Would much endure to bring Thy light to view.

If this is Modernism as applied to hymnology, Heaven preserve us from it!

Science and Industry

Last session the Government voted the expenditure of a sum of money—ridiculously small, but still at least a beginning—for scientific research in New Zealand, along practical lines connected with the industrial and commercial life of the community. Three schemes of work have now been definitely decided upon. One is for research in connection with the discovery of phosphate rocks in the provincial district of Canterbury. The second is in connection with the cool storage of fruit, as to its effect on the keeping qualities of the

fruit. The third is in connection with experiments in electricity as a means of warding off damage to orchards by frosts. These proposals are to be handed over to three separate investigators who will, during the coming season, carry out their research studies in connection with them. The scheme is a very modest beginning, but it gives promise of tangible and useful results.

It is none too soon that the Government have decided upon this departure, for to-day in other countries industrial miracles are being wrought by the scientist and the chemist, and it is high time that New Zealand got into line with the rest of the world. The trouble over dyestuffs in various countries has aroused the public to the importance of chemical science in the textile industries, but Waldemaar Kaempfert, editor of *Popular Science Monthly*, tells in the *Philadelphia Ledger* of some of the achievements that have been wrought by American chemists in some less conspicuous industries: 'A company which conducts three bakeries in Pittsburg finds that, although the same materials and the same methods are employed by all three, the bread produced is not uniform in quality. It consults a chemist. He finds that the water supplied to the three bakeries is not the same. He prescribes the addition of certain salts where they are needed. Forthwith, the bread of all three bakeries is standardized in quality! A soda-water bottler is unable to produce a marketable beverage, although he has not varied a hair's breadth from his regular method. He has the good sense to call in a chemist. That worthy analyses the ingredients employed and finds nothing wrong. Since he is a scientist he is not content with that. He summons a bacteriologist to his aid. A bacterial growth is discovered in the water. The bacteriologist advises the use of distilled water. At once the trouble disappears. A glass manufacturer, struck by the complexity of his processes, consults the chemical department of a university. A young post-graduate student is assigned to the study of glass-making. He finds that his manufacturing client has employed a formula which specifies no less than 24 compounds for the making of glass. A few months' research results in a process for making glass with only four. . . . One thousand five hundred dollars paid to a chemist for a laboratory study of the chemical treatment of wood gave a shrewd business man a wood finish which is not only brilliant and resistive to ordinary corrosives, but is 43 times harder than varnish and is applicable as a resisting coating to steel and cement.'

Chemical research applied to industry is apt to lead to unexpected results. The discovery of mauve, the first coal-tar dye, paved the way to the whole dye-industry of Germany. Start a manufacturer on the road of industrial research, and he is sure not only to reach his intended goal, but to enter a new Eldorado, the existence of which he never suspected. In all this there is a tinge of adventure. Instruct a metallurgist to discover why barbed-wire fencing rusts, and you may find yourself branching out as a maker of automobile steel. Try to discover what can be done with a vile smelling fish-oil, and you may become a soap-maker. Employ a chemist to find a use for your lumber mill waste, and you may decide to engage in the making of alcohol or artificial silk. Every manufacturer is a potential Columbus. He has but to embark on the ocean of industrial research and to steer his course by the star that a chemist will indicate in order to reach that golden Cathay of which he has always dreamed.

Christchurch North

December 18.

The following is the list of goods sent in from St. Mary's Red Cross class for period ending December 11: 68 pairs socks, 22 pyjamas, 10 shirts, 7 under pants, 2 balaclavas, 9 bed jackets, 1 doctor's coat, 28 washers, 73 handkerchiefs, 2 bed socks, 4 under vests, 6 pairs shorts, 28 pillow slips, 17 scarves, 4 limb pillows, 1020 swabs.

ROME AND RUSSIA

The marvellous popularity of Russia, which has been evoked as by a miracle during the last twenty-eight months, has focussed a good deal of attention on the religion of that country. For Russia is nothing, if she is not religious. Religion permeates the whole life of the people (says the *Catholic Magazine* of South Africa).

The Anglican Bishop Bury, who paid frequent visits to Russia, tells us what constitutes its religious atmosphere. 'It is the vivid consciousness of God in Christ which her people possess; their conviction that He has the first claim upon their lives and service; their belief that He is the greatest of all the Realities this world can bring; that they know Him in daily life as sharing their devotion, their toil and recreation, and that He speaks to them distinctly in the depth of their own souls. It is all this which gives us the feeling that we find in Russia a real, strong, and living consciousness of those spiritual forces which help to form the highest character, and provide the loftiest ideals.'

Knowing all this the Protestant bishop is able to look indulgently upon the habit of venerating the ikons, which is so distinctively Russian. The ikons are sacred pictures on wood or metal, which are to be found in every house, shop, factory, road, public place, and church throughout the country. The veneration paid to them is usually labelled as superstition by the average Protestant tourist. At least, this was the case before we became allied with Russia in the present war.

But Bishop Bury admits that the habit of venerating these pictures at stated times during the school hours, has its spiritual fruit in the after lives of the Russian children. 'This must in many young lives be the foundation of a prayerful life—it cannot be otherwise, the principle of education being what it is—making the Russians in childhood, youth, and manhood, a praying people.'

The Anglican prelate does not, however, seem to notice, that this general habit of prayer is most to be found where the reality of the Sacramental system exists. Prayer and the Sacraments are inseparably united. And the Russians (though the large majority of them have repudiated the authority of the successor of St. Peter) have preserved the valid succession of the priesthood and valid Sacraments; and in this they differ from the Anglicans.

It would be a blessed day for religion throughout the world if the large flock of Russian Orthodox Christians could be reunited to the Catholic and Roman Church. It is estimated that there are 110 millions of Greek Orthodox in Russia. They have exactly the same Sacraments as ourselves, the same Mass, the same devotions, the same priesthood, and the same festivals.

The principal difference between us lies in the question of the supremacy of the Pope. A splendid chain of evidence, in favor of this supremacy, can be woven out of the sayings of the Greek Saints whom the Russians venerate.

Sozomen, one of the most revered of early Greek historians, speaks as enthusiastically of the Pope's power as does St. Augustine in the famous words so often quoted. Referring to the heresy of the Macedonians and the letter of Pope Damasus, Sozomen writes: 'When the question was moved, and when the quarrel grew from day to day, the Bishop of the City of Rome having heard of it wrote to the Eastern Churches that they must confess the Trinity, consubstantial, equal in honor and glory, just as the Western bishops do. When he had done this all were silent, as the controversy was ended by the decision of the Roman Church, and the question was seen to be at an end.' All we ask of the Russians is that they should follow their forefathers in acknowledging the power that Christ gave to St. Peter and his successors.

The stock answer given by the ordinary Greek theologian to these considerations is that they will not give up their liberty to become the servants of the Pope. What a commentary on this objection is pre-

sented by the history of the Russian Church! No church in the world, not even the Anglican Church, is so tied to the chariot of the state, as the Russian. And who will say that the yoke of the Czar is lighter than that of the Pope.

On this subject it is not possible to tell the whole truth, until the War is over. Russia is our largest ally, and we are anxious to follow the current custom of saying nothing but good of our allies, big and small. But we shall content ourselves with saying that before the war all Britishers were agreed that the Czar's government of the Russian Church was not quite as desirable as that of the Pope, from the point of view of reasonable liberty.

In fact the Russian Church is governed by a body called the Holy Synod, which is above all the bishops, singly and collectively. All the members of the Holy Synod are practically nominees of the Czar; and the only member of the Synod who counts in practical decisions is the Procurator, always a layman and generally a soldier. He is more powerful by far than the English Prime Minister in regard to the Anglican Church of to-day. For the Prime Minister, although he exercises an enormous influence over Anglicanism in the appointment of the higher clergy, and especially the bishops; yet he generally refrains from the exercise of any other pressure that he might be legally entitled to exert.

But the Procurator of the Holy Synod is the real Pope of the Russian Church. As he really represents the Czar, Dr. Fortescue is justified in saying: 'If the Church is to have any visible government at all, one would imagine that, even apart from any consideration of theology or antiquity, the first Patriarch (i.e. the Pope) would be a more natural governor than the Czar or the Sultan.'

This reference to the Sultan constitutes really the crowning shame of the Greek Orthodox Church, since it became the servant of the State. Although the Patriarch of Constantinople has not real jurisdiction over the Russian Church, he is the first and highest in honor of the Orthodox Patriarchs. But he must be a subject of the Sultan in order to occupy this position, and he must be confirmed in it by the authority of the chief son of Mahomet: and he remains in power only as long as the Sultan chooses to have him there. This is not usually very long; because the Sultan has a pecuniary interest in changing the Patriarchs. The result has been that the average reign of a Patriarch of Constantinople is eighteen months. This is a sample of the liberty that the Greeks have acquired by breaking away from communion with the Church of the West. It is not the kind of liberty that will appeal to those who know what religious liberty means.

The only hope of Russian religion is that it should be emancipated from the golden chains of the state, and then united to the historic Christianity of the West under the jurisdiction of the Pope. As yet there is no great body of Russian opinion which advocates this course. There is, however, one Russian theologian, who has set himself the task of advocating reunion with Rome. Vladimir Soloviev has been called one of the most profound and inspiring writers that Russia has produced, and his writings have become the philosophical test-books in the universities of the Empire.

A remarkable forecast was made recently by Dr. Sarolea, the editor of *Everyman*, regarding the probable outcome of Soloviev's work. 'I believe,' he said, 'that the dream of Soloviev is likely to be realised in the near future. There will be formidable obstacles to overcome. But the fusion is in irresistible logic of events. When it does come it will be the greatest revolution of modern history, and it will be the political and spiritual salvation of Europe. For only through a reunion of Rome and Russia will the spiritual life of the individual soul have at its command the spiritual power of a world-embracing community.' Russia is indeed one of the last examples of that danger to religion whereby the State strangles it by embracing it.

No one cares to predict yet what will happen in Russia when the war comes to an end. Great changes there certainly will be, because the Muscovite Empire has been shaken as never before. It would be pleasant, if we could be sure that one of these results will be that contained in the above prophecy. At any rate

we can pray for this result. What is holy in Russia has much affinity with what is characteristic of the Catholic and Roman Church. When writers like Vladimir Soloviev are able to convince the Russian people that they will be all the better Russians and Christians if they become Roman, then the much-desired reunion will be well in sight. This was one of the spiritual projects most dear to the great-hearted Leo XIII. He did not live to see even the beginnings of its accomplishment. We shall be happy indeed if some prospect of it emerges from the chaos of the great War.

DIOCESE OF CHRISTCHURCH

(From our own correspondent.)

December 25.

Christmas Day (Feast of the Nativity of our Divine Lord) was celebrated in the Cathedral with befitting solemnity. Masses, which were numerous, were celebrated at 6, 7, 8, and 9.30 a.m., and the greater portion of the various congregations approached the Holy Table. There was Solemn Pontifical Mass at 11 o'clock. His Lordship the Bishop was celebrant, Very Rev. Father Graham, S.M., M.A. (St. Bede's College) assistant priest, the Rev. Fathers Morkane (Mosgiel) and Berger, S.M. (St. Bede's College), deacons of honors at the throne, the Rev. Fathers Long and Washington (Lismore) deacon and subdeacon respectively of the Mass, and Rev. Father Murphy, B.A., master of ceremonies. His Lordship the Bishop imparted the Papal and Episcopal blessings, and from the text, 'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men of good will,' gave a forceful address. The words of the text quoted (said his Lordship) were significant of the great festival they were that day celebrating, and manifested the infinite goodness of God. This holy peace of which the angels sang on the first Christmas morn, was, to the sorrow of mankind, absent from the world to-day, and international strife alone appeared to exist. The reason of this sad condition of humanity was because the lesson conveyed in the incarnation of our Divine Saviour in the mystery of Nazareth had not been heeded. Those at the war front to-day would be thinking of their cherished homes, and those near and dear to them, so, too, would our prayers and thoughts be for all those who were facing tribulations, and enduring sufferings in their direst form. In conclusion, his Lordship said that on this, his first Christmas in the midst of the flock entrusted to his episcopal care, he was filled with gratitude to Almighty God for the truly loyal and zealous priests, religious, and people, with whom he finds himself surrounded. He had now visited every parish of the diocese, and had received the kindest possible welcome on all sides. In his own Cathedral parish real earnest workers were evident in every department of religious, educational, and social activity, and to all, singly and collectively, he desired to express his sincerest gratitude, as also to all Cathedral attendants—choir, Altar Society, and sanctuary staff. The music sung by the choir was a beautiful new Mass by Plumpton. The rendering was exceedingly meritorious. Miss Ward was organist and Mr. A. J. Bunz conducted. A 'Grotto of Bethlehem' was erected in realistic detail in one of the side chapels, and proved a continuous centre of devotional attraction. The high altar and sanctuary were as usual most tastefully adorned. In the evening there were Vespers and Solemn Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. The attending clergy with his Lordship the Bishop were from among those assisting in the morning. His Lordship the Bishop occupied the pulpit and addressed the large congregation on the subject of the day's festival.

After Vespers the choir was entertained by his Lordship the Bishop at the episcopal residence, and tendered special thanks for much appreciated service rendered during the year, and warmly complimented on its fine musical achievement of that day.

Three Masses were celebrated in the Church of the Sacred Heart, Addington and there were also evening devotions. In the churches at Sumner, Woolston, and Halswell, attached to the Cathedral parish, an early Mass was celebrated.

CARE OF THE WOUNDED

NOBLE WORK OF FRENCH CATHOLICS.

A book has just been published (writes the Paris correspondent of the *Catholic Times*) that throws an interesting light upon the part played by the Catholics of the diocese of Paris in the alleviation of the miseries caused by the war. Its author is M. Paul Delay. The first volume of his work treats of the diocese of Paris; the others, that are soon to follow, will show the Catholics at work in the other dioceses of France, at the front, in the regions held by the enemy, and among the prison camps of Germany. The book has its use and importance. Its title, *Les Catholiques au Service de la France*, informs the public of the author's purpose; in a country where the anti-clerical Government naturally influences a certain section of the public, it is useful to enlighten opinion as to the services rendered by the maligned and oppressed Catholics at a moment of supreme trial. He reminds his readers that, during the years that preceded the war, the Government did its best to substitute official for private charity. The tendency still exists, but the tremendous demands created by circumstances have favored the development of individual charitable works, suggested and directed by Catholics.

The French Red Cross Society.

Thus, although the French Red Cross Society has gratefully acknowledged the generous assistance extended to it by Protestant and Jewish associations, yet it would be childish to deny that the majority of its workers are believing and practising Catholics. The seminaries and convents of the diocese of Paris were, from the outset of the war, put at the disposal of the military and Red Cross authorities for the use of the wounded. M. Delay quotes the words of the superioress of a community of Sisters of Charity, who, when the first batch of wounded soldiers arrived, exclaimed: 'I never could have believed that I should have had so great an honor and so great a happiness.' The feeling thus expressed was general: the wounded soldiers were received as martyrs, whose sufferings are the safeguard and ransom of our country. M. Delay underlines the utter absence of bitterness with which the religious, banished and robbed by the French Government, forgot their grievances: the men eagerly flocked back to serve as soldiers or chaplains; the women, with the same generosity, took up their stand at the bedside of the wounded fighting men.

The Military Chaplains.

M. Delay devotes some pages to the question of the military chaplains. Before the war, there were four official military chaplains for a 'corps d'armee,' that is to say, for 30,000 men. It is true that, 22,000 priests being called upon to serve as soldiers, their mere presence brought a religious element within reach of many fighting men, but the soldier-priests had military duties to perform, and their apostolate was thereby hampered. Count Albert de Mun interpreted the desires of the French Catholics in August, 1914, and, through his influence, M. Viviani, President of the Council, an open freethinker, consented to permit voluntary chaplains, provided with the consent of their bishops and the approbation of the highest military authorities, to proceed to the army zone. He objected that no fund existed out of which they might be paid, whereupon a subscription was opened that, in the space of a few days, brought in 100,000 francs. Since then the Comte de Mun has closed his noble life, but his work is now carried on by M. Geoffroy de Grandmaison, who directs the 'bureau' where voluntary chaplains offer their services with a good will, an ardor, an apostolic zeal that, given the age of the candidates, is inexpressibly touching. They have to be restrained rather than encouraged; as all the able-bodied men under forty-five are subjected to military service, the chaplains are necessarily middle-aged men. The direc-

tor of the 'bureau' often marvels at the joyous courage with which they go to meet fatigues that have shortened the lives of many brave volunteers. The fact that a large number of them have been mentioned in despatches and decorated at the front proves with what utter self-forgetfulness they have fulfilled the duties of their calling. M. Delay reminds his readers that the voluntary chaplains are now paid by Government; it has recognised the value of the moral influence that keeps up the soldier's courage and inflames his spirit of sacrifice. This is a consequence of the war that is worth noting. It is among the happy symptoms that lead us to believe, not indeed in the wholesale conversion of the nation, but in the destruction of many false ideas and in the enlightening of many sincere minds, hitherto hampered by prejudice or ignorance.

The Germans and 'Missing' Frenchmen.

The uncertain fate of those among our fighting men who are reported as 'missing' is a sore trial in many homes. The other day, in the Cathedral of Blois, where he was presiding over a meeting of soldiers, a military chaplain, the Abbe Rotier read a letter which he had received from a friend, reported 'missing' since August 22, 1914, two years ago. This soldier relates how, having been wounded and made a prisoner three weeks after hostilities were declared, he was transferred to a prisoners' camp in the French provinces which the Germans hold. Here he found 800 other soldiers, who were employed in digging trenches: if they attempted to resist they were put in prison, starved, or bound to a post. They were strictly forbidden to communicate with their families. Indeed, they had no means of doing so: it was impossible for them to make their condition known to their former comrades; they were, in fact, cut off from all communication with the outer world. They were delivered, a month ago, when the French troops took possession of the village where this camp was situated. The fact that the writer gives his name and the number of his regiment, the 113th Infantry Regiment, added to the publicity given to his letter by a military chaplain whose name carries weight, leads us to believe in the authenticity of the letter. It may raise hopes among parents and wives whose loved ones are missing, but, on the other hand, it opens vistas of unsuspected suffering that will be fully revealed only when the regions now held by the enemy have become ours once more!

Wounded German Prisoners.

It is pleasant, when we read of the hardships inflicted by the Germans on our soldiers, to recall certain incidents that prove the difference in the treatment extended to the wounded German prisoners in France. An account has just been published in Germany, where a supposed eye-witness related the cruel usage of the German wounded who were brought into Paris two years ago, during the night of September 14, 1914, after the battle of the Marne. They were over three hundred in number, and were taken to the Val de Grace. A young surgeon, who was present on the occasion, protests against the German assertion that these helpless men were uncared for, that they were given neither clean linen nor a drop of water to quench their thirst! He and his comrades relate that these Germans, who had been left for five days without care, were discovered by the French troops and were in a pitiable condition when brought to the Val de Grace. 'We removed them from their stretchers with infinite care, and endeavored to save them unnecessary pain. Some among them, who could not speak, kissed our hands in gratitude.' It would be unfair to regard as applying generally the accusations that roused the French doctor's indignation.

Thanks from German Officers.

Two German lieutenants who were tended at the Val de Grace in September, 1914, wrote to thank the head surgeon for the 'exceptional and cordial' care bestowed upon them at the incriminated hospital. Knowing that the surgeon to whom the letter is addressed had a brother, who is a prisoner in Germany, the two officers added these words: 'We hope that our

German comrades will act towards him with the same large-heartedness that you showed towards us and towards all our German wounded.

Another wounded officer had written, at the beginning of the war, a pamphlet in which he taught that the German victory must be built up with tears, death, ruins, and suffering. He was brought terribly wounded to the Val de Grace, where, beyond remarking that, after advocating suffering so earnestly, he was well served, the doctors made no difference between him and others, saved his wounded limb, and earned his lasting gratitude. It was expressed in verses celebrating the 'Gnadenthal'—valley of grace—of which the injured German vowed that he would keep an ever-grateful remembrance. These testimonies more than compensate for the unproved charges brought forward by an unknown pamphleteer against the French surgeons of the big Paris hospital.

THE HOLY FATHER TO THE GERMAN BISHOPS

Meeting in the usual Annual Congress at Fulda, under the presidency of his Eminence Cardinal von Hartmann, the German Bishops sent a message of homage to the Holy Father, to which his Holiness has thus replied:—

'Reading your letter, which reached Us on the very day of the second anniversary of Our election to the Supreme Pontificate. We have felt a true sense of comfort because We see, first of all, you have understood and well interpreted Our views in a matter of such high importance. For indeed, while Our heart still bleeds at the sight of this long and cruel slaughter of Our children. Our grief is the more increased at seeing how Our incessant appeals for peace have given rise to unworthy suspicions among some people, and have provoked expressions of discontent among others, almost as if Our exhortations were not prompted by a wish for the public good, but by some design for Our own interests, or as if We wished that the war might finish in a peace not founded on the principles of equity and justice. Truly, if passion had not clouded understanding, this thing could not be obscure—this thing which in itself is supremely evident—that the Supreme Pontiff, Vicar of the King of Peace and Father of all Christians, cannot, through his high duty of conscience, counsel, suggest, teach aught else but peace: and that in doing so He does not favor the cause of *any men*, but of *humanity*, and that specially in a war so murderous that, if anyone could shorten it even for a single day, he would deserve the gratitude of the human race.

'Waiting meanwhile for the peace which We invoke, We shall continue to alleviate, at least in part,

by every possible means, the awful load of misery, the unhappy consequence of the war. And it is in this field of charity that We see you distinguishing yourselves with works of enlightened zeal, whether it be in federating all the Catholic societies in Germany devoted to charity, in order to bring more ready and efficacious succor to the innumerable miseries of the unfortunate, whether with the beneficent institutions of Paderborn, which have the scope of improving the conditions of all the prisoners in the Empire. Wherefore, while, We praise this effort of Christian charity, We in that are praising both the unfailing kindness of the Bishop and clergy of Paderborn, and the liberality of all the Catholics of Germany. But in truth to-day the highest duty of charity (which you are doing, and We exhort you to persevere), is this:—That each man should strive to make brothers again the peoples whom the war

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has divided, not making hatred more acute, but softening it little by little in mutual works of pity.

So, almost naturally, the way will be prepared for the peace which is in the aspirations of every honest man, a peace which will be the more lasting in that it will have roots deep down in men's hearts. Cease not then to implore, as you are doing, the Divine aid with new expiatory prayers and by calling the children frequently to the Eucharistic Table, for none can estimate the value before the Lord of humble and suppliant prayers, especially when they are strengthened by penitence and innocence.

Meanwhile, as pledge of celestial favors and testimony of Our benevolence, to you, Our beloved son and venerable brothers, and to the clergy and people entrusted to your care, We impart in the Lord the Apostolic Benediction.

Rome, the 7th September, 1916, the third year of Our Pontificate.

CATHOLICISM IN CHILE

The growth of radicalism and atheism, frankly, the supposed failure of Catholicism to hold its own, was given as the reason of the recent gathering of Protestant Missionary societies at Panama (says a writer in the *New World*). The conference was to discuss the South American field and lay out plans of possible missionary campaigns in that land. Among other things that were carried from Panama to the United States, while the 'missionary conference' was holding its sessions, were reports delivered before the delegates of the 'awful' conditions supposed to exist in South America.

The delegates went south to hold their gathering, but apparently they did not go quite far south enough to learn the true state of affairs existing in the southern continent. Others have made thorough journeys through South America, and the reports they present of the religious and moral status of the nations do not fit in with those that the Panama Protestant Congress was delighted to hear. One of the most recent travellers, and likewise one who had every opportunity to learn just what conditions prevail in South America, is J. A. Zahm. So his name appears on the cover of a most interesting book, 'Through South America's Southland,' dealing with journeyings that he has just completed. This journey of J. A. Zahm is most interesting because of two reasons: First of all, J. A. Zahm was the companion of Ex-President Roosevelt on the South American Expedition, and the book relates some of the experiences of the Colonel and J. A. Zahm on this occasion; then again, equally interesting, is the fact that J. A. Zahm is a Catholic priest, and that on the title page he appears as 'Reverend J. A. Zahm, C.S.C., Ph.D., Author of' quite a number of interesting books.

Now Father Zahm had exceptional opportunities to study everything in South America. He knows that country as well as a housewife knows every nook and cranny of her house. Father Zahm, too, is most reliable. Remember that what he saw, Colonel Roosevelt saw likewise. And remembering that Colonel Roosevelt is the author of the Ananias Club, do you think that Father Zahm would be foolhardy enough to put anything in his book that might prompt the Colonel to propose him for membership in that over-crowded organisation?

So read a few extracts from Father Zahm's books, dealing exclusively with Chile. There is a great deal of other information in the volume in relation to the other countries of 'South America's Southland,' but these extracts are limited to his remarks on the Republic of Chile.

But the National University is not the only institution for higher education in Chile that deserves special notice. I should ignore one of Chile's noblest homes of learning if I did not bear witness to the splendid work being done in the Universidad Catholica, which, thanks to the munificence of a number of wealthy Chileans, was founded in 1888 by the late Archbishop of Santiago, Don Mariano Casanova. Its magnificent buildings, which are unsurpassed by any of the numerous

and superb educational structures in South America, are among the most imposing edifices in the national capital. Its teaching corps is composed of eminent men in every department. Many of them are distinguished professors from Europe. Others, especially in the faculty of law, are leading members of the senate and of the chamber of deputies. Its industrial and agricultural schools are admirably conducted, and, when the present programme of its regents is fully carried out, its medical school will be a credit both to the university and to the nation. The people of Santiago are justly proud of this latest addition to their institutions of higher education, and well they may be, for it is not only an ornament to their city, but also an honour to the entire republic.

But I must say that the institution which I examined with most pleasure was

THE ECCLESIASTICAL SEMINARY.

The building, which is very large, is surrounded by enchanting beds of flowers and inviting groves of umbrageous trees, and is an ideal place of study for young aspirants to the priesthood. And the course of study in this institution is not only thorough, but is admirably adapted to equip the young priests for their divers and important duties in the world as parish priests, missionaries, and educators.

The beneficent results of the thorough training which these young Levites receive in the seminary are manifested in the most striking manner in the present religious and social condition of the people. The churches are crowded on Sunday, with men as well as women. The throngs that fill the streets, from early morning until mid-day, on their way to church, have been likened to a romeria—a pilgrimage. And these multitudes frequent the places of worship not to see and to be seen, but as a religious duty which they never think of neglecting.

THE CHURCH AND CLASSES.

But in nothing is the influence of the Church on the masses more manifested than in the success of her efforts in the preservation of peace and in composing the differences between the aristocracy and the proletariat—between the roto—the half-caste labouring man, a descendant of the Spaniard and the Indian—and the great land proprietor.

Many people in our country imagine that Chile, like Haiti, is constantly in the throes of revolution. The fact is that there has been only one revolution in nearly sixty years. Indeed, there are few other countries that have been so free from internecine strife as Chile. This is due, in great measure, to the far-reaching influence of the clergy, which is always exerted in behalf of peace. Their untiring efforts, a few years ago, to prevent a threatened war between their own country and Argentina were, to a great extent, instrumental in securing that peace which was cemented by the erection of that noble statue of Christ the Redeemer on the summit of the Andes.

It is only recently that socialism—especially in the great mining and industrial centres—has become a menace. The failure of socialistic agitation thus far is, in some measure, due to the absence in Chile of a bourgeois class: for such a class would bridge over the wide chasm that separates the rotos, or peons, from the aristocrats. The quasi-feudal system, on which Chilean politics for a century has been based, is daily becoming less adapted to modern social and economic conditions; and the patriarchal habits of life, which have so long prevailed on the great haciendas, are sure, at no distant day, to undergo important changes. The problem confronting the statesmen of Chile is to have these changes effected without exposing the country to convulsions of a social revolution. The question of capital and labour is also demanding attention, as is also that of trade-unionism, which has only recently begun to assert its power. Fortunately, the influence of the clergy on the labouring classes is so potent and so far-reaching that there is, at least for the present, but little to be apprehended from the propaganda of socialistic agitators. The priests of Chile, under the leadership of the venerable Archbishop of Santiago, Monsignor Ignacio Gonzalez Eyzaguire, make the study of social questions, and the instruction and relief of the poor and

the labouring classes, an important part of their ministry. Through the agency of *La Federacion Nacional de las Obras Sociales Catolicas*, they have already accomplished wonders for the elevation of the submerged tenth and for the amelioration of their condition. In order that the clergy may be properly prepared for intelligent action in dealing with all social problems which may demand solution, special chairs of sociology have been established in the seminaries of Santiago and Concepcion, as well as in the Catholic University. Might not some of our ecclesiastical institutions in other countries do well to imitate the example of Chile in this respect?

Through the courtesy of the venerable Archbishop of Santiago, who gave a breakfast in our honour, I was able to meet many of the priests and laymen who co-operate with him in all matters of social progress among the labouring classes; and truth compels me to say that I have never met anywhere a more earnest or intelligent body of men, or men more devoted to the uplifting of the poor and the lowly. While conversing with these learned and self-sacrificing men regarding their various activities as educators, missionaries, and social workers, I could not but recall the splendid tribute paid to them some years ago in the Chilean Congress by one of its ablest and most eloquent representatives. In a stirring discourse, which still thrills every true Chilean, the gifted orator declares that: 'The clergy are the honour of our country,' and that 'no other nation possesses a similar body of men who are more enlightened, more virtuous, and more respectable.' This judgment is ratified by Prince Louis d'Orleans-Braganca, the grandson of the late Emperor Dom Pedro, of Brazil, who, in speaking of the Church in Chile, asserts that 'The Church has never been more flourishing nor more powerful than in our day' (1912).

Under the guidance of such learned and saintly prelates as the late Archbishop of Santiago, Monsignor Mariano Casanova, who was the founder of the Catholic University, and the present metropolitan who is affectionately spoken of among his people as 'The Father and the Apostle of Workingmen,' the Chilean clergy could not be other than a dominant force in all that made for the progress of religion and knowledge. In his zeal for the welfare of his people, in his interest in higher education, in his initiative and enterprise, in his broad spirit of charity, irrespective of colour or creed, Archbishop Gonzalez is the same type of man as Cardinal Manning. He has always been an ardent champion of the press, and places a high value on its apostolate. He is the founder of *La Union*, which, with *El Mercurio*, is the most important newspaper in Chile. It is a daily paper, and is published not only in Santiago, but also in Valparaiso and Concepcion. To give an idea of the Archbishop's appreciation of the value and influence of the press, which he calls the pride of his country, it suffices to relate a characteristic incident. The thirteenth of February, 1912, was the centenary of the foundation of *La Aurora*, the first journal printed on Chilean soil. In a truly noble letter he calls on his people to prepare to solemnize in a worthy manner 'an anniversary which is a glory for national thought.' He asks the pastors of parishes to address their flocks on the importance of the press, and prescribes that at the exact hour, half-past six in the morning, when *La Aurora* first appeared, there should be a general ringing of bells in all the churches within his jurisdiction.

DIocese OF CHRISTCHURCH

(From our own correspondent.)

December 24.

His Lordship the Bishop recently officiated at the ceremony of profession of religious of the Order of the Good Shepherd at Mount Magdala. His Lordship was attended by the Rev. Father Bell, S.M., chaplain of the institution.

The annual spiritual retreat for the diocesan secular clergy, to be conducted by the Very Rev. Father Taylor, S.M., is to commence at the Cathedral on January

is to be conducted at St. Mary's, Manchester street, by the Rev. Father Piquet, S.M., of St. Patrick's, Sydney, and is to commence on January 12. The annual session of the diocesan synod is to take place on the same date.

The committee of the Catholic branch of the Red Cross Society wish to acknowledge with grateful thanks the sum of £16 16s, received from the Sisters of Mercy, Colombo street, proceeds from sale of sweets at their annual concert and prize money which the children willingly donated to the good work of the Red Cross Society, also 10s from Miss Roughan, and 3 pairs socks from Mrs. E. Whelan. The following articles have been forwarded to the main depot for the past six weeks' work:—40 shirts, 30 pyjama suits, 11 under pants, 9 vests, 25 bed jackets, 6 shorts, 3 doctors' coats, 30 pillow cases, 22 knitted washers, 50 wringers, 10 veils, 30 jug covers, 16 diet cloths, 10 face cloths, 40 square swabs, 131 bandages, 94 handkerchiefs, 25 scarves, 2 balaclavas, 2 pairs bed socks, 1 pair operation socks, 3 slings, 2310 swabs, 7 treasure bags, 5 limb pillows, 17 operation cloths, 6 fomentation cloths, and 147 pairs socks.

ST. JOSEPH'S SCHOOL, DUNEDIN

The annual break-up and distribution of prizes at St. Joseph's School, took place on Wednesday, December 20, in the presence of the Very Rev. Father Coffey, who presided, the Rev. Father Corcoran, the teachers, parents, and other visitors interested in the school. The children provided for the entertainment of their friends a bright and varied programme, consisting of choruses, recitations, short scenes, fancy drills and music, all of which were fully appreciated by the audience. After the performance of the various items, the Very Rev. Father Coffey presented the prizes in the different standards, and then addressed the children in a few earnest and sympathetic words. He congratulated the fortunate prize-winners on their diligence and success, complimenting in a special manner the recipients of the medals for good conduct (Miss G. Ross) and Christian doctrine (Miss E. Paul). Father Coffey also congratulated the school, as a whole, on the excellent work done, and especially on the marked improvement shown this year in the matter of regular attendance. Continuing, Father Coffey sought to impress on parents and children the importance of regular attendance, without which the school could not be maintained at a high level of efficiency. Speaking of their religion and its sacred duties, the Very Rev. Father reminded the children that the obligation of attending Mass on Sunday binds as strictly during the holidays as at other times, and warned them against neglecting their duty in that respect. The senior girls, especially those who might then be leaving school, the Very Rev. speaker wished particularly to impress with a due sense of their responsibility with regard to the practice of their religion. As only in that way could they best show loyalty to the school in which they had been educated, and gratitude to the teachers who with patience and painstaking care had taught and trained them. In concluding, Father Coffey hoped that the children would thoroughly enjoy their holidays, returning to school refreshed and ready for further strenuous work, and on their behalf, he also wished the Sisters a restful and enjoyable interval.

The following is the prize list:—

General Prizes.—Christian doctrine (medal), E. Paul; Christian doctrine prize, K. Wilson; good conduct (medal), G. Ross; good conduct prize, E. Finnesy.

Special Prizes.—Good conduct and proficiency in general school work, M. Lauren; proficiency in school work, H. Salmon.

Standard VI.—English grammar, composition, reading, recitation, singing, G. Ross; English, arithmetic, drawing, brushwork, I. McDonald; arithmetic, brushwork, English, drawing, A. McAra; regular attendance and sewing, K. Moloney; English, composi-

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tion, drawing, brushwork, H. Salmon: regular attendance, and arithmetic. M. Lauren: diligence and improvement, L. Deehan: regular attendance, English, and history, M. Hessian: attendance, diligence, and arithmetic, C. Pledger.

Standard V.—English, geography, arithmetic, recitation, and improvement in music, M. Kennedy: arithmetic, sewing, drawing, and brushwork, A. Smith: arithmetic and home lessons, A. Lettoof: arithmetic and improvement in music, K. Field: reading, comprehension, and arithmetic, K. McKenzie: improvement in studies, N. Spillane: reading and recitation, M. Bleck: punctuality and improvement in studies, M. Phelan: reading and arithmetic, R. Wylie.

Standard IV.—Class prize, B. Sheehan: knitting, A. Boreham: improvement in music, G. McFigue: brushwork and drawing, F. Fogarty: composition, M. Quinn: sewing, A. Fulcher: home lessons, M. Piper: general improvement, N. Smolenski.

Standard III.—Class prize, M. Wilson: recitation, M. Stobie: reading, R. Stobie: arithmetic, S. Quinn: reading, recitation, and brushwork, M. Wylie.

Standard II.—Class prize, G. Langley: 2nd class prize, B. Quinn: neatness, D. Wilson.

Standard I.—Class prize, M. Hessian: handwork, H. Ryan: singing, P. Lauren.

SACRED HEART SCHOOL, N.E. VALLEY

The annual distribution of prizes took place in the Sacred Heart School, North-East Valley, on Wednesday, December 29. Very Rev. Father Coffey, Adm., presided, Rev. Father Corcoran being also present. Father Coffey complimented the children on the success of their year's work, and wished them a very pleasant holiday.

At the examination held by the Government inspectors (Messrs. Bossene and Don) the following gained proficiency certificates—Imelda Hawke, Stella McCleary, Mary Fitzgerald, John Leyden.

The children of the upper standards attend the Technical College for cooking and carpentry lessons.

The following is the prize list:

Class Prizes.—Standard VI., Peter Klimick: Standard V., George Pearson: Standard IV., Monica McEntree: Standard III., Mary Diamond: Standard II., John Ryan: Standard I., Patrick Ryan.

Special Prizes.—Religious knowledge, Muriel Dwyer 1 (medal presented by Rev. Father Corcoran); Arnold Lucas 2, Inez McElroy 3. Good conduct, Mary Deudle: attendance, Ina O'Sullivan: music, Nellie Pollock.

The infants were entertained with a Christmas tree.

SACRED HEART PRIMARY SCHOOL, TIMARU

The annual concert of the pupils of the Sacred Heart Girls' Primary School took place in the school hall on Thursday evening last, before a large attendance of pupils, parents, and the general public, which was very gratifying considering there were several counter attractions in the town. The programme (writes our Timaru correspondent, under date December 18) was a lengthy one, but every item was thoroughly enjoyed and the audience showed full appreciation of the performers' merits. The manner in which the pupils acquitted themselves, both senior and junior, reflected the highest credit on the untiring efforts of the nuns who had trained them. The pianoforte items by the pupils were of the highest order of merit, and reflected great credit on teachers and pupils. The programme was pleasantly varied, consisting of choruses by the elder girls, action songs by the younger pupils, Highland fling and sword dance to the accompaniment of the bagpipes, dumb-bell-drill and minuet dance in costume, and recitations by children of the various standards. A noticeable and very pleasing feature of the programme was a number of tableaux, the dressing and arranging of which were very cleverly done, so that when the colored

lights were thrown on the different scenes represented from the life of our Lord the effect was strikingly beautiful. The singing of 'God Save the King' by the children brought a very pleasant evening's entertainment to a close.

CONVENT OF THE SACRED HEART, TIMARU

The annual distribution of prizes at the Convent of the Sacred Heart took place on Tuesday afternoon, his Lordship Bishop Brodie giving them away. The reception hall, where they were given out, was prettily decorated for the occasion, and the proceedings were very pleasant, a most attractive musical programme preceding the prize distribution. The following is the prize list:—

Decorations.—Second medallion and ribbon of merit, Madge Craighead: third, Madeline Hooker and Bernardine Goulter: sixth, Lucy Kennedy: seventh, Betty Petre: eighth, Kathleen Craighead: next in merit, Cecilia Wareing and Mary O'Shaughnessy. First green ribbon, Edith Daly: second, Ruth Nottingham: third, Irene Hayward: fourth, Grace Goulter: fifth, Nora Nottingham: next in merit, Annie Ardagh. Pink ribbon—Jessie Mackenzie, Mona Ardagh, Agnes Connolly, Elsie McCutcheon, Winifred Harris, Rita Connolly, Madeline O'Shaughnessy, Jean Loughnan, Gladys Oldfield, Marjorie Whitehead, Phyllis McCormac, Sadie Sutherland, Nellie Charles, Myra Moore, Ruth Fitzgerald, Lucy Nottingham, Mary Mackenzie, Margaret Inkson.

General good conduct—Madge Craighead, Madeline Hooker, Bernardine Goulter.

Christian Doctrine.—First division—Madge Craighead, Bernardine Goulter: second division—Kathleen Wareing, Lucy Kennedy: third division—Irene Hayward, Grace Goulter, Nora Nottingham, Patricia Caesar, Mona Ardagh: fourth division—Helen Barrett, Betty O'Connor, Jean Loughnan, Gladys Oldfield.

First Class.—English subjects, Madge Craighead: science, Madeline Hooker, Cecilia Wareing. Second class—English subjects, Mary O'Shaughnessy: science, Betty Petre. Third class—English subjects, Bernardine Goulter, Kathleen Craighead: geography, Lucy Kennedy, Bernardine Goulter. Fourth class—English subjects, Winifred Mahar, Mary Craighead: science subjects, Mary Craighead, Veronica Inkson. Fifth class—English, Nancy Whitehead, Dearmar McCormac: history, Nora Nottingham, Grace Goulter: geography, Grace Goulter, Eileen O'Leary: diligence, Patricia Caesar, Annie Ardagh. Sixth class—English, Agnes Connolly, Helen Barrett: history, Elsie McCutcheon, Agnes Connolly: geography, Jessie Mackenzie: diligence, Jessie Mackenzie, Agnes Connolly. Seventh class—Reading, Madeline O'Shaughnessy, Margaret Carl: sacred history, Madeline McQuilkin, Jean Loughnan: diligence, Gladys Oldfield, Sadie Sutherland. Eighth class—Reading, Monica Carney, Marie Skinner: sacred history, Marie Skinner, Sarah Meyer. Ninth class—Reading, Margaret Scanes, Joan Scanes: numbers, Ruth Fitzgerald.

Elementary.—Encouragement, Cecily Skinner: Arithmetic—Fifth division, Annie Ardagh, Stella Hayward: sixth division, Helen Barrett, Nancy Whitehead: seventh division, Christobel Preston, Clare Wareing.

Needlework.—First division, Lucy Kennedy: second division, Ruth Nottingham, Kathleen Craighead, Eileen Fitzgerald: third division, Lizzie Anderson, Eileen O'Meegan, Patricia Caesar, Nora Nottingham: fourth division, Phyllis McCormac, Gladys Oldfield, Margaret Inkson, Lucy Nottingham.

Orders.—First division, Cecilia Wareing, Bernardine Goulter: second division, Edith Daly, Grace Goulter, Ruth Nottingham, Irene Hayward.

Junior School.—Writing: Seventh class, Sadie Sutherland, Margaret Loughnan: eighth class, Nellie Charles: ninth class, Myra Moore, Margaret Scanes: elementary, Mary Mackenzie.

French.—Second class, Madeline Hooker, Cecilia Wareing: third division, Veronica Ward, Mary O'Shaughnessy: fourth division, Kathleen Wareing,

Kathleen Craighead; fifth division, Mary Craighead, Mary Mahar; supplementary division, Cecilia Barrett, Betty O'Connor; sixth division, Jessie Mackenzie, Ronagh Hoben; seventh division, Mary McQuilkin, Madeline O'Shaughnessy; elementary division, Audry McCormac. Domestic economy, Ruth Nottingham.

Special prizes presented by Rev. Dean Tubman for Christian doctrine—First division, Mary O'Shaughnessy, Bernardine Goulter; second division, Winifred Mahar, Lucy Kennedy; third division, Veronica Inkson, Nancy Whitehead; fourth division, Helen Barrett, Clare Wareing.

Music—Madeline Hooker, Nora Nottingham, Grace Goulter, Margaret Loughnan, Rita Connolly.

Mending.—First division, Kathleen Craighead, Cecilia Barrett; third division, Marjorie Whitehead, Phyllis McCormac.

CONVENT HIGH SCHOOL, WANGANUI

The prize-giving ceremony in connection with the Convent High School took place at the Convent, St. John's Hill. The following is the prize-list:—

Antiability Crown (chosen by vote of companions).—C. Thurston.

Good Conduct (gold medal, gift of the Sisters).—E. M'Davitt.

Christian Doctrine (gold medal, gift of the Rev. Father Mahoney).—Senior Division: Minnie Johnstone 1, Eileen M'Davitt 2, Eileen Long 3. Junior Division: Maggie Fake 1, Margery Missen 2, Helen Missen and Eileen M'Donald 3.

Dux (gold medal, gift of the Sisters).—Kathleen Carroll.

Proxime Accessit to Dux. Maggie Cleary. Matriculation (gold medal, gift of Mr Greenwood).—Rita Dennis.

Physical Drill (gold medal, gift of Mrs Gellatly). M. Spillane 1, H. Rhodes 2, M. Gower 3.

Instrumental Music (Pianoforte).—L.T.C.L. (gold medal, gift of Mr M'Brearty), Olive Martin. A.T.C.L. (gold medal), Rita Foster. Next in merit, Winnie O'Connell.

Advanced Division.—Nora Dowling 1, Thelma Trevehic 2.

Intermediate Division. Thelma Kaganski 1, Gladys Heinold 2, Doris Martis 3.

Junior Division.—Nan Piper 1, Ray Duncan 2, Hilda Rhodes 3.

Singing (gold medal, gift of Mr O'Hara).—Ruby Curran 1, Winnie O'Connell 2, Nora Kelley 3.

Higher Grade (theory). Winnie O'Connell 1, Rita Foster 2.

Local Centre Rudiments.—Rita Dennis 1, Florrie Mullins 2. Junior Grade: Victorine Ruscoe 1, Margery Missen 2, Hera Scott 3.

Painting (pencil).—Mavis Carn 1, Ellen M'Cartin 2, Winnie Jensen 3.

Drawing (black and white). Gretna Piper 1, Minnie Johnstone 2, Winnie Jensen 3.

Art Needlework. Senior Division: E. M'Cartin and W. O'Connell 1, M. Carn and F. Mullins 2, E. Rhodes and S. Punch 3. Junior Division: M. Missen 1, D. Beck 2, M. Gower 3.

Mount Mellick and Embroidery.—Senior Division: W. Jensen and E. Rhodes 1, M. Carn and W. O'Connell 2, F. Mullins and M. McCormack 3. Junior Division: H. Missen 1, O. Gryls 2, P. Macfarlane 3.

Plain Sewing and Dressmaking. Senior Division: W. Jensen 1, F. Mullins 2, E. M'Cartin 3. Junior Division: M. Missen 1, H. Missen 2, G. Rhodes 3.

Science. M. Johnstone 1, K. Carroll 2, A. Anderson and M. Cleary 3.

Cookery. K. Carroll 1, R. Foster 2, F. Mullins and M. Carn 3.

Politeness.—W. O'Connell 1, V. Ruscoe and E. M'Davitt 2, A. Anderson 3.

Commercial Course (gold medal, gift of Business College, Sydney).—B. Rhodes.

Bookkeeping.—Senior Division: A. Anderson 1, W. O'Connell 2, E. Rhodes 3.

Typewriting.—Senior Division: M. Carn 1, E. Rhodes 2, E. M'Cartin 3.

Shorthand.—Senior Division: E. Rhodes 1, M. Carn 2, A. Anderson 3.

Bookkeeping.—Junior Division: M. Henaghan 1, V. M'Laughlin 2, B. Engel 3.

Typewriting.—Junior Division: C. Thurston 1, M. Piper 2, I. Bruce 3.

Shorthand.—Junior Division: B. Engel 1, C. Thurston 2, M. Piper 3.

Essay Writing (gifts of Mrs Mackay).—E. M'Davitt 1, F. Mullins 2, M. Spillane 3.

Languages.—Senior Division (French and Latin): K. Carroll 1, M. Cleary 2, V. Ruscoe 3. Junior Division (French): V. Vance 1, E. Long 2. Preparatory Division (French): F. Mullins and E. Rhodes 1, E. Richardson 2.

House Prize. C. Thurston.

Attendance. Eileen M'Donald.

Class "D" (partial pass already secured by Matriculation). Rita Dennis and M. Johnstone.

Matriculation Class (general excellence in all subjects).—K. Carroll.

Intermediate and Preparatory Matriculation Class.

1 arithmetic, 1 algebra, 1 geometry, 3 Latin.—E. Long. 1 Latin, 1 French, 3 history, 2 geography, 3 essay writing, 1 English language and literature. 1 arithmetic, 1 algebra, 1 geometry. M. Cleary. 2 history, 1 hygiene, 1 drawing, 2 essay writing. Alice Anderson. 2 history, 3 English language and literature. 2 Latin, 3 French, 2 algebra, 2 geometry, 2 arithmetic.—V. Ruscoe. 1 history, 1 geography, 1 essay writing, 2 English language and literature. E. M'Davitt.

Form IV. A. 2 essay writing, 1 English language and literature, 1 arithmetic. M. Spillane. 1 essay writing, 2 English language and literature. Florrie Mullins. 3 essay writing, 3 arithmetic. Mavis Carn. 3 English language and literature, 2 arithmetic. Ella Rhodes.

Form IV. B. 1 arithmetic, 1 English language and literature, 1 algebra, 1 geometry, 3 history, 3 geography, 2 essay writing, 1 penmanship. Edith Richardson. 3 arithmetic, 2 English language and literature, 2 history, 2 algebra, 3 geometry, 2 geography, 1 essay writing.—Mary Henaghan. 1 algebra, 2 geometry, 1 geography, 3 essay writing, 2 penmanship, 1 history. Beryl Guylee. 2 arithmetic, 3 English language and literature.—Ellen M'Cartin. 3 algebra. Mary Breen.

Form III. A. 1 English language and literature, 1 essay writing, 2 geography, 2 arithmetic.—Maud McCormack. 1 arithmetic. Vera M'Laughlin. 3 English language and literature, 2 penmanship.—Winnie O'Connell. 1 penmanship, 1 elocution. Rita Foster. 2 English language and literature, 3 penmanship, 2 essay writing. Gretna Piper. 3 geography, 3 essay writing. Mona Piper. 3 arithmetic. Margaret M'Elroy. General Improvement: Marie Avery, Belle Engel, Cecilia Thurston.

Form III. B. 1 English language and literature, 1 essay writing, 1 history, 3 arithmetic, 3 geography, 1 reading and comprehension. Valerie Vance. 3 English language and literature, 2 arithmetic, 2 history, 2 drawing, 2 penmanship, 2 reading and comprehension.—Hera Scott. 2 English language and literature, 2 essay writing, 1 arithmetic.—Doris Bennett. 3 essay writing.—Mary Leamy. 3 history, 3 drawing, 1 penmanship.—Dorothy Law. 3 penmanship, 3 reading and comprehension. Winnie Seed. 1 geography.—Sara Punch. 2 geography. Mary Story. 1 drawing.—Winnie Jensen. General Improvement: Kitty Delehanty, Sheila Kelly, Thelma Law.

Form II. 1 arithmetic, 1 English language and literature, 2 geography, 2 elocution, 1 history, 2 penmanship, 2 drawing, 1 essay writing.—Dorice Beck. 2 arithmetic, 2 English language and literature, 1 geography, 1 elocution, 1 penmanship, 1 drawing, 2 history.—Margery Missen. 3 English language and literature, 3 geography, 3 elocution, 3 penmanship, 3 history, 3 essay writing.—Hilda Rhodes. 3 arithmetic, 2 essay writing.—Eileen M'Donald. 3 drawing.—Eva New. General Improvement: Annie M'Laughlin, Mary Bourke, Ellen Harrington, Ida Bruce, Rita Death.

Form I. A.—1 English language and literature, 2 geography, 2 arithmetic, 1 essay writing, 2 penmanship

—Maggie Fake. 1 geography, 3 English language and literature, 2 essay writing, 1 history, 1 penmanship—Helen Missen. 2 English language and literature, 2 drawing—Gertie Rhodes. 3 geography, 1 arithmetic, 1 reading and elocution—Phyllis M'Farlane. 3 arithmetic, 1 drawing—Isie Bruce. 3 penmanship, 3 drawing—Ivy Hall. 3 essay writing, 3 reading and elocution—Olive Gryls. 2 reading and elocution—Ruth Lisette. 1 arithmetic—Mary Harrington. General Improvement: Marion Gower, Annie Johnstone, Beulah Lewis, Mary Harrington, Moira Jackson.

Form I. B.—1 English language and literature, 1 reading and elocution, 1 essay writing, 2 penmanship, 2 drawing—Margery Gomer. 2 English language and literature, 1 arithmetic, 1 penmanship, 2 essay writing, 3 drawing, 3 reading and elocution, 3 geography—Moira Punch. 1 geography, 2 reading and elocution, 3 penmanship—Veronica Sussmilleh. 2 geography, 3 English language and literature, 3 arithmetic, 3 essay writing, 1 drawing—Lena Punch. 2 arithmetic—Mary Shodroski.

Preparatory Classes.—1 arithmetic, 3 penmanship, 2 drawing, 3 Christian doctrine—Doris Hellawell. 2 arithmetic, 3 reading and recitation, 1 Christian doctrine—Patricia Punch. 3 arithmetic, 1 English, 2 reading and recitation, 2 Christian doctrine—Patricia Vance. 2 English, 1 reading and recitation, 2 geography—Rene Nixon. 3 English, 1 drawing, 3 Nature study—Doreen Palmer. 2 penmanship, 1 drawing, 1 Nature study, 3 geography—Coral Davis. 1 penmanship—Ione Hammond. 1 geography, 2 Nature study—Phyllis Rhodes. 1 Christian doctrine, 2 reading and recitation, 2 penmanship, 3 Nature study—Mary Smith. 3 Christian doctrine, 1 arithmetic, 2 geography, 1 Nature study—Guy Vance. 2 Christian doctrine, 1 English, 1 reading and recitation, 1 penmanship, 2 drawing, 3 geography—Mary Missen. 2 arithmetic, 2 English, 3 penmanship, 3 drawing, 1 geography—Kathleen Fetzer. 3 arithmetic, 3 English, 3 reading and recitation, 1 drawing, 2 Nature study—Daisy Nixon.

Primer Classes.—Zoe Connor, Leon Missen, Josephine Anderson, Thelma Morrin, Nina Palmer, Rita M'Donald, Kitty Smith, Doris Nixon, Mary Fake, Bernard Death, Thomas Nixon, Lorna Cameron, Nancy Chavannes, Charlie Chavannes.

The Sisters gratefully acknowledge prizes from the following:—The Very Rev. Dean Holley, the Rev. Father Mahoney, the Rev. Father Vibcaud, Mrs Mackay, Mr Greenwood, Mrs M'Brearty, Mr O'Hara, and Mrs Gellatly.

THE CONCERT.

The Opera House was well filled when the annual concert in connection with the Wanganui Convent Schools took place. These concerts are always looked forward to with pleasure, as the Sisters train the children so well that the various items on the programme are thoroughly enjoyed. Last night's concert was in every way a success, and the high standard of efficiency shown further emphasised the splendid work of the Sisters, who, together with their pupils, are to be heartily congratulated. The programme was long and very diversified, consisting of overtures, part songs, pianoforte solos and duets, choruses, marches, songs, tableaux, dance, recitation, and a play. The last-named took the form of Act ii., scene 2, of 'Midsummer Night's Dream,' being the quarrel scene between Titania and Oberon. This was splendidly done. The part-singing, of which there was a good deal, was delightful, the children having evidently been very carefully trained. Two very fine tableaux were shown—viz., 'The Dream Man' (by wee children from St. Joseph's School) and 'Revel of the Naiads' (by pupils of the Sacred Heart School). 'The Lily March,' by pupils of St. Joseph's, was also very effective, as was the dance 'Tally Ho,' by the Convent pupils. The accompaniments were played by Miss Ruby Curran, while the orchestra was under the conductorship of Mr Ralph O'Hara. From beginning to end the concert was a complete success, and reflected credit on all concerned.

SISTERS OF MERCY

In its issue of August 6, the Los Angeles Times had the following editorial tribute to Catholic nuns:—

A modest little news item tells us of an agreement between Russia, Germany, and Austria to allow 24 nuns from their respective countries to inspect the prison camps in each other's domains and remain to nurse and care for wounded prisoners of war. It is a small enough concession, perhaps, but is bright with the evidence that concessions are possible.

The cloistered nun has played a much larger part in this war than is suspected. In every war book published there is some reference to her amazing courage, her persistent good offices for friend and enemy alike, her calm pursuance of duty and mercy, her readiness with the soft answer that turneth away wrath. The wrecking of her convents, her churches, even the violation of her person, has not meant the wrecking of her faith, and in all the terrors and carnage that beset her she calmly continues to live the gentle ethics of the Sermon of the Mount.

The fact that nuns have been chosen by the respective countries for the mission of inspection, report and mercy is a splendid testimonial of their integrity, of the faith which the belligerents place in their wisdom and understanding.

There is a sweet calm about the cloistered nun which is rarely found elsewhere. Those of us who have had the good fortune to meet with them, to be the unfortunate recipients of their ministrations, have never failed to be impressed with their amazing serenity, come what tribulations may. Their whole creed is to serve God and humanity: whatever their hands find to do, to do it with all their might. During the Boer War the writer well remembers how educational convents were turned into first-class hospitals over night, to which Boer and Briton were equally welcome, to which any one in any sort of trouble from anywhere could turn with the assurance of asylum and mercy. Quietly, persistently, unostentatiously, but with the implacable faith in righteousness which brooks of no denial, they establish themselves where terror and horror are fiercest, where misery is deepest and danger dire, fearless of death, careless of life, but always ready and capable to serve the torn heart of the broken body.

The writer was once in a shipwreck when two nuns were on board. In the first terrible panic that ensued they both knelt on the tottering deck, offered a short prayer, then touched the captain quietly on the arm and asked for orders. One could never forget the relief with which the captain saw their serene faces. 'Gather the women and children at this end of the deck,' he said, 'and calm those frantic men.' It seemed a tall order, but without more ado they moved gently among the wretched crowds, smiling, soothing, commanding, with such amazing results that in a few minutes chaos was reduced to order, wild misery transformed to calm. And the fact that not a soul was lost on that ship was certainly due to their persistent gentleness.

If 24,000 nuns instead of twenty-four could be exchanged between the belligerent countries, all who know the strength and influence of the gentle nuns could safely bank on an early peace.

MUSIC EXAMINATIONS.

In the practical examinations in music, conducted by visiting examiners of Trinity College and the Associated Board Royal College of Music, the following Southland pupils of the Sisters of Mercy were successful:—

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St. Xavier's Convent, Gore.—Junior—Honors T.C.L.—Myrtle Stephenson, 84. Primary Division, R.A.M.—Thurzia Warring, 122; Dottie Casey, 113.

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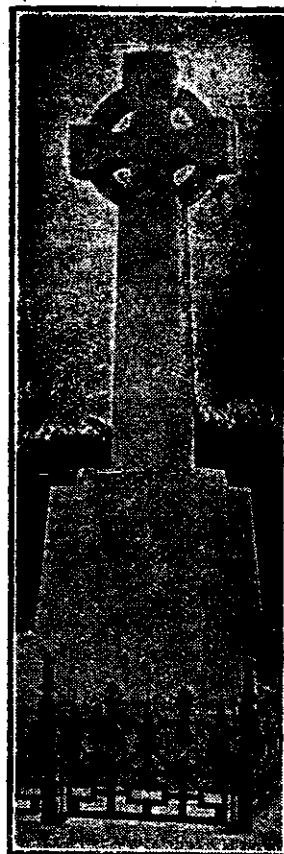
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The Pension is £35 a year, payable half-yearly in advance. It provides for Board and Lodging, Tuition, School Books, Furniture, Bedding, and House Linen.

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

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

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SUB-EDITOR

APPLICATIONS are invited for the position of Sub-Editor to the *N.Z. Tablet*.

Applications are to be forwarded to the 'Chairman of Directors,' stating age and qualifications. Schedule of duties, etc., will be forwarded to Applicants.

DEATHS

HUGHES.—On December 12, 1916, at Fitzroy, New Plymouth, Daniel Hughes, of Manaia: aged 71 years.—R.I.P.

McLOUGHLIN.—On November 4, 1916, Johanna, the dearly beloved wife of Patrick McLoughlin, of Patutahi: aged 51 years.—R.I.P.

IN MEMORIAM

McNEILL.—In loving memory of Stephen Laughlan McNeill, who departed this life on December 27, 1912. May Jesus have mercy on his soul.

O, Sacred Heart, our home lies deep in Thee,
On earth Thou art an exile's rest,
In heaven the Glory of the blest,
O, Sacred Heart.

—Inserted by his loving wife and family, Kumara.

WINDERS.—Of your charity pray for the repose of the soul of Catherine Winders, who died on December 27, 1915.

O, Immaculate Heart of Mary,
Your prayers for her extol;
O, Sacred Heart of Jesus,
Have mercy on her soul.

—Inserted by her loving sister and family.

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The **ANNUAL SPIRITUAL RETREAT** for Ladies will begin at 7 p.m. on **MONDAY, JANUARY 1, 1917**, and end on **SATURDAY MORNING, JANUARY 6.**

The Retreat will be given by the Rev. J. Sullivan, S.J.

Ladies who wish to make the Retreat can stay at the Convent. They should let the Rev. Mother Superior know as soon as possible.

CONVENT OF THE SACRED HEART
TIMARU

The **ANNUAL SPIRITUAL RETREAT** for Ladies will begin at 7 p.m. on **MONDAY, the 1st day of JANUARY, 1917**, and will end on the morning of **SATURDAY, the 6th day of JANUARY.**

The Retreat will be conducted by a Jesuit Father. By applying in time to the Rev. Mother Superior, ladies wishing to make the Retreat can find every accommodation at the Convent during the time above specified.

CONVENT OF THE SACRED HEART
REMUERA, AUCKLAND.

THE ANNUAL SPIRITUAL RETREAT
—FOR LADIES—

Will begin at 7 p.m. on **MONDAY, JANUARY 8**, and end on the morning of **SATURDAY, JANUARY 13.** It will be preached by the Rev. Father Corcoran, S.J.

Ladies wishing to attend should let the Rev. Mother Superior know as soon as possible.

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 rivas 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, DECEMBER 21, 1916.

RELIGION AND THE WAR



BOSWELL tells us that Dr. Johnson laughed at Lord Mames's opinion that war was a good thing occasionally, as so much valor and virtue were exhibited in it. 'A fire,' said the Doctor, 'might as well be considered a good thing. There are the bravery and address of the firemen in extinguishing it; there is much humanity exerted in saving the lives and properties of the poor sufferers; yet, after all this, who can say that a fire is a good thing?' The analogy holds; and after two and a-half years' experience of the present

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upheaval there are few who, even after making due allowance for all its compensations, will maintain that war—least of all from the religious point of view—is a good thing. The evidence regarding its effect upon religion, both at home and amongst the men in the field, becomes increasingly melancholy. Long ago London papers complained that the first outburst of religious fervor in England had already fizzled out—the sudden rush to the churches had proved little better than a flash in the pan. Up-to-date testimony respecting the religious—or rather non-religious—spirit dominant in the actual fighting ranks tells the same tale. In this connection, a very remarkable letter from Rev. E. Glyn Evans, of Dudley, who has spent many months in France as a private in the R.A.M.C., appears in the *Inquirer*. He has seen many of the worst horrors of the war at close quarters, and is struck chiefly by the absence of religion in the Army. With all the bravery and the fine spirit of comradeship he has found hardly any interest in spiritual things, and Christian belief either in the providence of God or the immortality of the soul is, for the most part, absent. So far as the men whom he has seen facing danger and death have any faith at all, he tells us that it is a kind of Stoical fatalism. 'There is a strong feeling among many of the men that the whole war is a demonstration of the futility and impotence of Christianity and the churches, since most of the nations now at war are Christian, and Christianity is understood to be the religion of love and universal brotherhood!' adds Mr. Evans. The pre-war impotence of the Christian churches and the actual anti-religious effects of war experience, these are the two main factors in the present situation as I see it, and after the war, when demobilisation is completed, this situation will become so serious that the churches will have to fight for their very existence.'

*

In France and Italy the outlook is notably brighter, but from Germany there comes the same story as to the disappointing effect of the war on the religious life of the nation. It will be remembered that at the outset a section of the Germans endeavored to give to the war a distinctively religious stamp and declared it to be virtually a 'crusade' for the advancement of that German civilisation (*Kultur*), in which the religious and the ethical elements were regarded as the chief factors. On the evening of the day when the war was declared, the Emperor closed his speech, delivered to the tens of thousands around his castle in Berlin, with the admonition that they should go to their churches and on their knees pray to God for help in the great struggle for the right that was awaiting them. The revival of religious life throughout the Fatherland, the crowding of the churches, the flocking to the Lord's Supper, the popularity of religious hymns and literature in the army—these and kindred facts led godly-minded Germans to believe that with the war was coming a rejuvenation of religious life such as the country had not seen since the Napoleonic period. Now, at the close of the second year of the great struggle, the church periodicals of Germany are asking themselves the question whether this was a genuine and healthy revival or only a passing phase; and the majority of the church papers are constrained to express their deep disappointment both as to the thoroughness and as to the permanency of this movement. Probably the most noteworthy utterance of the kind is that of Pastor I. Greiner, of Frankfurt, delivered at the Great Church Council in Eisenach and published in the *Allgemeine Lutherische Kirchen-Zeitung*, of Leipzig. In outline his ideas are these: 'There can be no doubt that when the war broke out there was what seemed to be an enthusiastic demand for a restoration of the faith of the fathers throughout the churches of Germany. The nation seemed to feel that it needed the support of strong religious principles and high ethical ideals. There is also no doubt that this was honestly meant. One of the most marked features of this was the sudden silence on all religious differences within the churches. The Catholics joined with the Protestants in singing Luther's great battle hymn of the Reformation, "A

Mighty Fortress is Our God"; Catholic, Protestant, and even Jewish clergymen joined in religious exercises and services in the army. After the passing of two years it must be openly acknowledged that in all this there was more religious froth and foam than substance. It appears that it was not the expression of a specifically Christian revival so much as of the natural religious emotions of the human heart and its instincts. It is for this reason that those who deny the supernatural element in Christianity now make loud and long assertions that the religious upheaval in Germany during the past twenty-four months is an evidence that only their type of theology can satisfy the needs of the human heart in a really critical period. Pastor H. Förster, a leading exponent of this type of theological teaching, now speaks of this "amazing victory of modern theology." The views of Pastor Greiner are not held by the more conservative alone. The chief organ of the 'advanced' religious thinkers, the *Christliche Welt*, of Marburg, in a recent issue says: 'The war has been a justification of Jatho.' (Pastor Jatho, of Cologne, was deposed from office about five years ago for teaching an ultra-liberal and rationalistic type of theology.) The *Welt* continues: 'We now see realised on a grand scale those things in real religious life that Jatho tried to picture to us so prophetically, namely, that the essence of God is to be found in mankind all around and about us.' Dozens of citations from religious periodicals in the Fatherland could be quoted, representing different types of theological bias, all uniting in the one conviction that only natural religion, but not specifically positive Christianity, has profited by this religious revival inaugurated by the war; and the moral decay, especially in sexual matters, so much deplored in the German army, is pointed to as an evidence that real Christianity has not gained by the events of the past two years.'

*

The Churches referred to in Mr. Evans's letter, quoted above, are, of course, the Protestant Churches, who are exhorted, appropriately enough, to 'turn away from their ecclesiastical divisions and doctrinal disputes' and 'to unite without delay' to defend and vindicate their title to existence. The call will be made in vain, as all similar calls have been made in vain since the great Protestant principle of unrestrained private judgment was first promulgated. After the war there will be, so far as the Churches are concerned, something akin to a survival of the fittest; and what the fittest is we know, and all the world knows, right well. There is only one Church that can stand with a solid and united front—only one Church to which the unflinching promise has been given: 'The gates of hell shall not prevail against it.'

Notes

God in the Garden

Last week we published in this column a very fine poem by Theodore Maynard dealing with the subject of God in nature, and the new American *Catholic Calendar* contains the following dainty stanza, by Thomas Edward Brown, on the same theme:

A garden is a lovesome thing, God wot!
 Rose plot,
 Fringed pool,
 Fern'd grot—
 The veriest school
 Of peace: and yet the fool
 Contends that God is not—
 Not God! in gardens! when the eve is cool?
 Nay, but I have a sign:
 'Tis very sure God walks in mine.

The Chestertons and the Army

Louis H. Wetmore, writing to *America*, gives some interesting particulars regarding the Chesterton brothers and their efforts to get to the front. Mr. Cecil

Chesterton, who is, as everybody knows, a convert to the Catholic Church, has at last been able to join the English Army. Since the beginning of the war he has repeatedly tried to become a recruit, but each time, owing to a physical defect, he was rejected. But Mr. W. Walter Crotch, the President of the English Dickens Society, lately announced that Mr. Chesterton has now been accepted. His brother, Mr. Gilbert K. Chesterton, made similar attempts, but each time his elephantine form was rejected by the Board. 'Indeed,' he remarked after one of his failures, 'I think these fellows are right. I really don't think that I would be of much use on a battlefield, except to act as a barricade!' 'I am sure,' concludes the writer, 'that Mr. Cecil Chesterton's admirers and friends in this country, those who know him through his articles or who met or heard him while he was lecturing in this country two years ago, will remember him in their prayers now that he has entered upon another and, as always, gallant adventure. Mr. Gilbert K. Chesterton assumes the editorship of the *New Witness*.'

DIocese of Dunedin

On New Year's Day Masses will be celebrated in the Cathedral at 6, 7, 8, and 11 o'clock. This will give an opportunity to all to assist at Mass on the Holy Day of Obligation.

The Rev. Captain-Chaplain, Bartley, M.A., who came to Dunedin to assist at the devotions for Sunday and Christmas Day, preached in the Cathedral on Sunday evening. The Rev. Father returned north by the second express on Christmas Day. He expects to be leaving for the front with the 21st Reinforcements.

On Christmas Day Masses were celebrated at St. Patrick's Basilica, South Dunedin, at 6, 6.30, 7.30, 9, and 11 o'clock; in the North-East Valley Church at 7, 8, and 9 o'clock; Kaikera at 8.30 o'clock, and at Mornington at 10 o'clock. Midnight Mass was celebrated in the Chapel of the Dominican Nuns, Dowling street, and also at the Home for the Aged, Anderson's Bay.

On Wednesday of last week Constable Drury, who has retired on superannuation, was presented by the residents of St. Clair and Caversham with a Mosgiel rug and an umbrella, and a handbag for Mrs. Drury, these gifts being bestowed as mementoes of respect and as a mark of appreciation in regard to the way the retiring constable has performed his duties in the district. The gathering at the Waterloo Hotel was large and representative.

At St. Joseph's Cathedral on Christmas Day Masses were celebrated continuously from 6 to 9 o'clock. At 11 o'clock Pontifical High Mass was celebrated by his Lordship the Bishop, Very Rev. Father Coffey, Adm., being assistant priest, Rev. Father Kavanagh deacon, and Rev. Father Graham subdeacon. The sermon on the day's festival was preached by Very Rev. Father Coffey. The music, Gounod's 'Messe Solennelle,' was splendidly rendered by the choir, under the conductorship of Signor Squarise, Mr. A. Vallis presiding at the organ. The cantors were Messrs. Vallis, Poppelwell, and McGrath. As an offertory Novello's arrangement of the 'Adeste Fideles' was sung. Very large numbers approached the Holy Table at the

early Masses both at the Cathedral and the suburban churches. The high altar was beautifully decorated, this being the work of Misses Murphy and White.

On Christmas Night St. Joseph's Choir, in conjunction with the choir of St. Patrick's Basilica, rendered the following very fine programme of sacred music in the Cathedral:—Solo, 'Invocation' (Mozart), Mr. F. Woods; solo, 'Noel' (Adam), Miss E. Murphy; solo and chorus, 'Ave Verum' (Lutgen), Mr. J. McGrath and choir; solo, 'The Lost Chord' (Sullivan), Mrs. R. A. Power; solo, 'Star of Bethlehem' (Adams), Mr. H. Poppelwell; solo, 'Salve Maria' (Garcia), Mrs. E. J. Mee; solo, 'Now Heaven in Fullest Glory' (Haydn), Mr. J. Atwill; solo, 'Ave Maria' (Luzzi), Mrs. R. Fraher. The choral items were the 'Kyrie' and 'Gloria' from Mozart's Twelfth Mass, 'O Glad-some Light' (Sullivan), and Novello's arrangement of the 'Adeste Fideles.' Mr. A. Vallis presided at the organ, and Signor Squarise conducted. At the close of the programme, Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament was given. After devotions the members of the two choirs were entertained in St. Joseph's Hall by the Bishop. The Very Rev. Father Coffey, who presided in the unavoidable absence of his Lordship, thanked the members for their work during the year, and in especial for their very fine rendering of the music of the Mass in the morning and of the sacred concert that evening. He paid a special tribute to the work of Mr. A. Vallis (organist and choirmaster) and Signor Squarise (conductor). He also thanked the members of St. Patrick's Basilica Choir for their very valuable help on this and on former occasions. Advantage was taken of the gathering to present Miss F. Gardiner, prior to her departure from Dunedin, with a silver-mounted manicule set. In handing Miss Gardiner the gift, Father Coffey mentioned the splendid services rendered by the recipient to the choir since her residence in Dunedin. She was, he said, one of the best members the choir had possessed. Unfailing in her attendance, and ever willing to lend the charm of her beautiful voice to the work of the choir, her departure from Dunedin would be a distinct loss. Signor Squarise replied on behalf of Miss Gardiner. Mr. H. Poppelwell (secretary) also paid a meed of praise to the departing vocalist. A few words from Mr. W. Atwill (conductor of the Basilica Choir) and the singing of 'She's a Jolly Good Fellow,' brought a very pleasant evening to a close.

TO OUR SUBSCRIBERS

The Managerial Department join in wishing our numerous Subscribers a very Merry Xmas and a Bright and Prosperous New Year, and trust for the continued support and loyalty of our Subscribers during the coming year.

REPRESENTATIVES' MOVEMENTS

The approximate dates of our Representatives' movements will be advised in our next issue. Subscribers are requested to remit direct to the office in the meantime.

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Mr. Michael Fleming, New Plymouth, should be Mr. and Mrs. M. Fleming, Pungarehu.

All Subscriptions to be sent to Manager or Editor 'N.Z. Tablet,' Octagon, Dunedin

DIocese OF AUCKLAND

(From our own correspondent.)

Mr. Stephen Nerheny, son of Mr. P. J. Nerheny, returned by the hospital ship *Maheno* from the front during the week. He had been on active duty in France.

Rev. Dr. Ormond, secretary to the Papal Delegate, arrived from Sydney, via Wellington, during the week to spend the holidays with his family. He said Mass on Thursday morning at St. Mary's Convent Chapel, Ponsonby.

The annual spiritual retreat at the Convent of the Sacred Heart, Remuera, will begin on Monday evening, January 8, and will terminate on the following Saturday morning. The exercises will be conducted by the Rev. J. Corcoran, S.J., from Riverview College, Sydney. Ladies desirous of attending should apply as soon as possible to the Rev. Mother. These splendid annual retreats are now eagerly looked for, and incalculable and lasting good follow in their train.

'The Church and Labor' was the subject of an interesting discourse by the Rev. Father Murphy to the men's Holy Family Confraternity on Tuesday evening. He referred to the various writers and thinkers—men like Carl Marx and Renan—who always either intentionally or otherwise, misrepresented the Church's attitude towards labor. To understand the Church's attitude and influence towards labor it was necessary to study the life of Christ on earth. Rationalists and freethinkers had studied it, but their deductions led them into dangerous channels and conclusions. They denied His divinity, ridiculed His great work amongst the people, and charged Him with the mercenary desire of founding a world-wide empire. Writers to-day, partly theological and partly social, were proving the Church's love and sincerity for the workers. Of this school Bishop Kettleley was the great pioneer, and suffered much for it. Father Murphy announced that he would resume the subject on another occasion.

STRATFORD CONVENT

Nine pupils of the Stratford Convent School were presented for the recent sixth standard examination, eight of whom were successful in obtaining proficiency certificates. The following are the names of the successful candidates in their order of merit:—Eileen Kilbride (dux of the school), Eileen Kelliher, Mabel Geraghty, Edmund Harrington, Frank Quayle, Evelyn Sullivan, Olga Taylor, Isabel Kirkwood.

DEATH OF THE BISHOP OF WILCANNIA

As we go to press we learn from a Press Association message of the death of Bishop John Dunne, of Wilcannia. The Right Rev. John Dunne was consecrated Bishop of the diocese of Wilcannia, at Goulburn, on August 14, 1887. Wilcannia was one of the new dioceses which were formed at the Provincial Council of Australasia, held in Sydney in 1885. The diocese is a very extensive one, and the working of it entailed considerable labor on the part of the bishop. As an instance of this we may state that to get from one part of the diocese (Bourke) to another part (Broken Hill) the Bishop—to save time and money—had to come down to Sydney and then take boat or train to Adelaide, and from there train again to Broken Hill. This work Dr. Dunne has carried out unremittingly for practically thirty years. In doing so he has earned the reward of the faithful servant, which we feel sure he has now received.—R.I.P.

OBITUARY

MR. WILLIAM MALONEY, MAHINAPAU.

There died at Mahinapau on December 20 (writes a Ruatapu correspondent), William Maloney, a native of Tipperary, Ireland, at the age of 76 years. Deceased was one of the pioneers of the West Coast, and always followed the occupation of mining. In the early days of Otago he was a police constable in Dunedin and districts. He was a single man and a fine specimen of manhood. The interment took place at Hokitika on the 22nd inst. He has numerous relatives and friends in Otago.—R.I.P.

The perambulating musicians that are now known as Waits, and who still appear at Christmas time in some parts of England, are the successors of the ancient minstrels that travelled or were retained by princes and nobles. The name Wayte or Wait was first applied to a minstrel in the reign of Edward III. In more modern times, city corporations employed bands of Waits to act as musicians and watchmen. One of such bands, it is said, once made a tour round the world with Drake.

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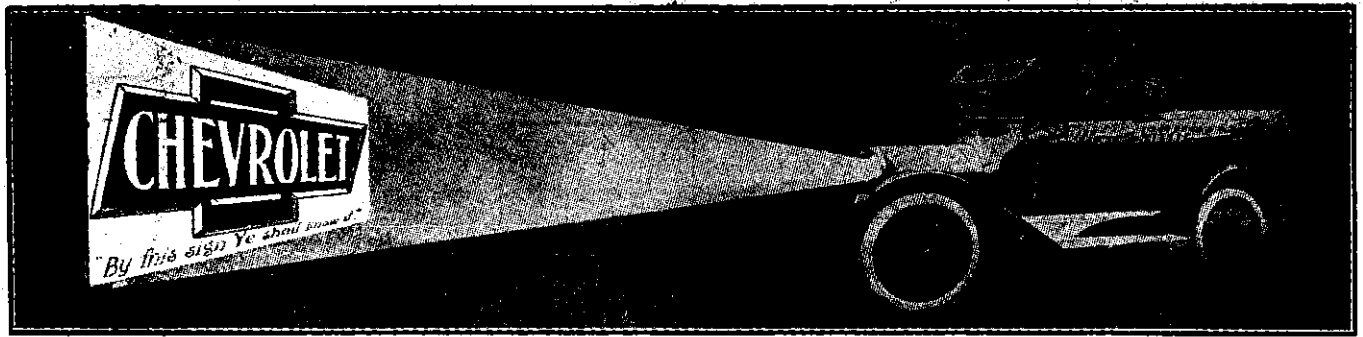
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Irish News

GENERAL.

Lieut. T. M. Kettle, in a letter written to his widow a few days before his death, said that 'it needed all the folly of England and of Ireland to produce the situation' existing in Ireland at present. 'In the name and by the seal of the blood given in the last two years' he demanded 'Colonial Home Rule for Ireland as an essential prologue to the reconstruction of Empire.' He also pressed for immediate withdrawal of martial law in Ireland and an amnesty for the Sinn Fein prisoners, adding—'If this war has taught us anything it is that great things can be done only in a great way.'

Mr. R. Hazleton, M.P., and Mr. John O'Neill, a leading business man in County Dublin, have been appointed members of Lord Balfour of Bureleigh's Committee on Commercial and Industrial Policy. Mr. Hazleton, although now a journalist by profession, has had a comprehensive business experience. His people were drapers in business, and before entering Parliament he had gained much experience as a member of local boards. In committee work also he is no novice, having acted as chairman of the National Holiday Committee. It was he who defeated Mr. Healy—at a second try—in Louth in 1910.

Lieutenant J. Holland, who was awarded the V.C. a few weeks ago, is an Irishman by birth. At the outbreak of the war (says the *Scotsman*) he was employed in the Chief Mechanical Engineer's Department of the Central Argentine Railway at Rosario. Although, as a resident in Argentine, he was not liable for service, he voluntarily joined the Army in 1914, his company granting him special leave to serve. Lieut. Holland has the distinction of being the first volunteer from the Argentine to be awarded the V.C.

IRISH PRISONERS.

The following cable, dated London, December 21, appeared in the Dunedin papers last week:—'In the House of Commons, Mr. Dillon moved the adjournment of the House, and urged the release of the Irish prisoners before Christmas, which would create a better atmosphere in Ireland. Mr. Duke, Secretary for Ireland, said the rebellion had been prepared all over Ireland. The policy had been that if a man's release would not detract from the peace he be allowed to go. Lately there had been an improvement in the appeasement. He could not authorise wholesale releases, but the Premier authorised him to say that he would approach the subject with a desire to release the prisoners. The Government hoped to reach an immediate decision.'

A MANLY APPEAL.

The *Morning Post's* malignant puerilities and the vindictive attacks on Ireland and her people made by some letter writers (mostly anonymous) in the *Diehard* press were strongly countered on Tuesday by a remarkable appeal from Lord Henry Bentinck in the *Times* for a frank and manly recognition of Irish national sentiment and of the Irish people's right to a full and free expression of their own national ideals (writes the London correspondent of the *Irish Weekly*, under date October 28). The letter was all the more interesting and significant as coming from a Unionist M.P. and the half-brother of the Duke of Portland, who, by the way, was one of the great pillars of Toryism in the House of Lords. The Duke's brother has no delusions about the possibilities of recruiting in Ireland under present conditions; but he is hopeful for the future not only of recruiting but of the permanent relations between the two countries if the English mind can be divested of its proclivity for assuming that the intellects of other people are attuned with its own. Lord Henry made a special appeal to the people of

Ulster. His letter was one of the most 'sensational' yet contributed from any side to the discussion of Irish affairs, and it was a topic of discussion in political circles during the day and in the Lobby of the House of Commons that evening. 'We are all Home Rulers now,' said a prominent member of Sir Edward Carson's War Committee; and he was right in the sense that there are very few 'Unionists' now, apart from a bitter little group of irreconcilables gifted with a wonderful capacity for advertising themselves, and consequently possessing influence over certain jelly-fish politicians in inverse proportion to their number. A great, wholly satisfactory, and permanent settlement could be made under present conditions if there was at the head of the Government a man big enough and brave enough to formulate it on broad and bold lines, and say plainly that it must be done. But it is to be feared the Prime Minister and his colleagues will run away from their opportunity. Many Liberals have somehow received the impression that Sir Edward Carson is meditating a dramatic 'stroke': but on this point there is no authentic information.

FRANCISCAN ARMY CHAPLAIN'S FUNERAL.

The remains of the late Rev. Father Raphael McAuliffe, O.F.M., chaplain to the Forces, whose death was recently announced, were conveyed from Netley Hospital to Limerick, and were met on arrival by a great concourse of citizens. The coffin, covered with the Union Jack, was borne from the railway station to the Franciscan Church in Henry street, and following the remains were Sir Anthony Weldon, D.S.O.; the band and service companies of his regiment, the 4th Battalion Leinsters; the battery of Artillery quartered at the Ordnance Barracks, and the local Constabulary in charge of District Inspector Craig. There were some thousands in the procession, including several clergymen; and as the remains were placed on the catafalque before the high altar, the trumpeters of the Leinster Regiment sounded the 'Last Post' and the troops presented arms. The funeral took place the following morning, in Mount St. Lawrence Cemetery, after a Solemn Requiem Mass at the Franciscan Church.

THE CAUSE OF IRISH DISCONTENT.

It is rather surprising to note the frank expressions of dissatisfaction with England's policy in various aspects that appear in our English exchanges. A case in point is offered by the *Mouth*, in a reviewer's comment on a book, *State Policy in Irish Education*, from 1536 to 1816, written by the Rev. T. Corcoran, of the National University of Dublin. We quote from the review:—

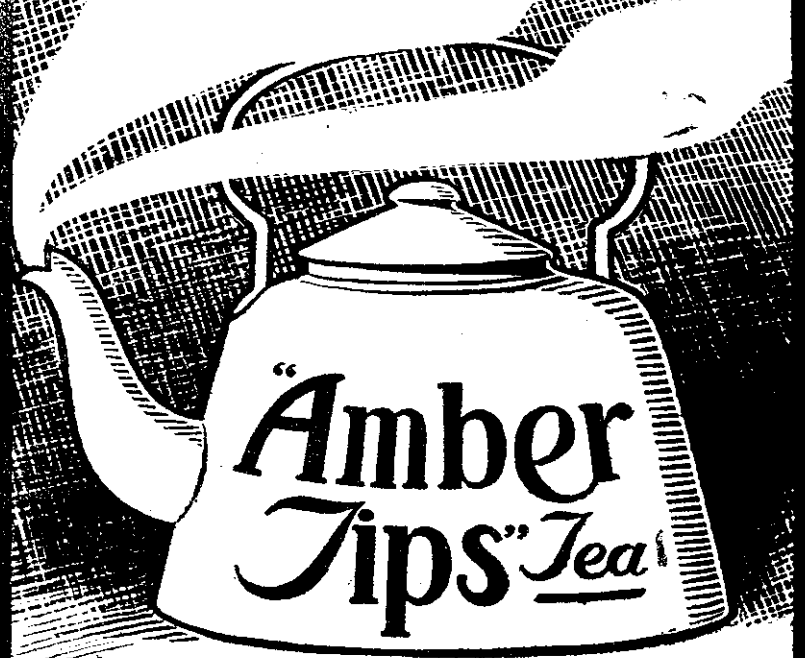
The perusal of such a volume is apt to fill the reader with amazement and indignation. For the volume contains, besides a record of native educational effort, a collection of official documents of various sorts, wherein are stated openly aims and projects so grossly contrary to religious and political justice as to call to mind Gladstone's denunciation of another policy—'the negation of Christianity raised to a system.' The authors of these various papers clearly proceeded on an assumption which no one would dare, to-day, to formulate as basis for action—viz., that zeal for Protestant ascendancy warranted the reduction to poverty and the intellectual starvation of those inhabitants of Ireland who chose to adhere to the Catholic faith. On these educational principles—to say nothing of persecution in other directions—the Protestant Government, sometimes through its own, and sometimes through the colonial Parliament, acted consistently during almost the whole period embraced by Professor Corcoran's researches; and yet people are astonished at what is called Irish discontent. It may be urged that these unhappy practices are by-gones and should be left in oblivion. We believe that the Irish would willingly forget if England would only remember, and that Ireland only remembers because England insists on forgetting. In any case a clear understanding of Irish history is requisite before one can fairly judge of present conditions.

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ST. MARY'S COLLEGIATE HIGH SCHOOL, CHRISTCHURCH NORTH

The annual break-up of the infants of St. Mary's Collegiate High School, Colombo street, took the form of a matinee performance on Tuesday, December 12. The Very Rev. Dean Regnault, S.M., presided. A large number of parents and friends of the children were present. The schoolroom was very prettily decorated for the occasion. The following programme was gone through, the little ones making a favorable impression by the very clever manner in which they carried through their little performances:—Opening speech, Master Kim Kearne; pianoforte duet, 'Mother Hubbard,' Misses D. O'Brien, M. O'Brien, M. Darby, B. Holly, P. Smith, J. Carter, C. Costelloe, M. Bown; chorus, 'Chatterbox,' pupils; ribbon march, pupils; pianoforte duet, 'Good Night,' Misses Q. Mulheisen, J. Ferguson, M. McGill, G. Merfield, S. O'Brien, J. Prendergast, A. Holley, K. Keane; recitation, 'Grandma's Angel,' M. Bown; rose dance, Misses A. McCombe, M. Hardie, A. Barrett, C. Costelloe; chorus, 'Merry Maidens,' pupils; instrumental selection, 'Alpine's Farewell,' 1st violins—C. O'Malley, N. Middleton; violins—E. Neate, J. Carter, M. Hardie, R. Young, W. Barnard, W. Foster; piano—M. Neate, A. Young; chorus, 'You'd Better Stay at Home, My Lad,' pupils; dance, 'Merry Maidens,' Misses M. Bown, I. Haigh, B. Holly, M. Dailey, V. Martin, E. Ewing, M. Darby, E. Nutt; action song, 'Our Khaki Daddy,' pupils; pianoforte duet, 'Reverie,' Misses M. Rodgers, E. Nutt, B. Holly, I. Haigh, A. McCombe, Q. Mulheisen, M. Buckridge, D. Middleton; the gunners' march, pupils; dance, 'The Cachuca,' Miss C. Costelloe; chorus, 'Off for the Holidays,' pupils; 'God Save the King.'

At the conclusion the Very Rev. Dean Regnault, S.M., thanked the Sisters and their small pupils for their very enjoyable and meritorious entertainment. He wished them all the joys and blessings of a holy and happy Christmas, and spoke of the self-sacrifice and noble work of the Sisters, to whom we should be eternally grateful for the sound training, both socially and morally, they impart to those placed under their charge. He drew a vivid picture of the ideal home life, and asked the parents for their co-operation with the Sisters to obtain this end.

SENIOR SCHOOL.

On Wednesday afternoon the senior pupils of the same school gave their matinee performance, at which his Lordship Bishop Brodie presided. Very Rev. Dean Regnault, S.M., Rev. Father Cooney (Lyttelton), Rev. Father Godinger, S.M., (St. Patrick's College, Wellington), Rev. Father Aubry, S.M. (Waimate), Rev. Father Cronin (Darfield), Rev. Fathers O'Hare, Baurahan, Murphy, and Long (Cathedral), Rev. Fathers Hoare, S.M., and Seymour, S.M. (St. Mary's), were also present. The children have this year again given up their prizes to the Red Cross and Belgian funds, and this, with the sale of sweets and contributions following the singing of the Belgian children's song, realised the amount of £20 6s. The programme submitted was most enjoyable, and evidenced careful training. It was as follows:—Chorus, 'Song of Welcome,' pupils; prologue, Miss M. Buckridge; pianoforte duet (4 pianos), 'Salut d'Amour,' Misses V. Dwyer, K. Cassidy, M. Leigh, C. O'Malley, N. Middleton, M. McManaway, K. Corrigan, M. Neate; Irish reel, pupils; recitation, 'The Land of my Birth,' Miss Thelma Turner; pianoforte solo, 'Tarentella,' Misses N. and D. Middleton, M. O'Brien, J. Carter; action song, 'We Red Cross Nurses,' pupils; pianoforte duet, 'Valse' (Moskowski), Misses L. Timbrell, T. Cosgrove, M. Hartle, B. Hoare, E. Couzins, V. Haigh, D. Carter, E. Carter; chorus, 'Belgian Children's Song'; pianoforte trio, 'Echo de Montagnes,' Misses E. Malaney, M. McManaway, D. Kiver, M. Austin, A. Young, E. Moore, D. Hardie, K. Cassidy, N. Burns, F. Spray, V. Nutt, R. Nutt; glee, 'Hail Smiling Morn' (orchestral accompaniment), senior pupils; march and drill, 'Summer Garlands,' pupils; pianoforte solo, 'Romance,' Misses V. Haigh, N. Kelly, C. White, V. Dwyer; action song, 'Knit, Knit, Knit,' pupils; epilogue, Miss M. Delany; chorus, 'Let Erin Remember,' pupils; 'God Save the King.'

His Lordship addressed the children and the large audience present. In his address Bishop Brodie said:—I do not think it would be fair on our part to allow this occasion to pass without expressing our thanks to the young performers for their very delightful programme. In the commencement of the programme we had a little recitation expressing the wish that the various items would bring applause and give us pleasure. They have certainly given the greatest pleasure. The items were indeed most enjoyable and delightful. If I were to say which item I liked best I would have to say a word or two on each; each item was excellent, and the programme certainly deserved the praise which it got. I am very thankful to the children and to those who have assisted them. Now, I see you have a second page to your programme; it is called 'Synopsis of work done during 1916 in the schools conducted by the Sisters of Mercy, Christchurch,' and we find in all the schools conducted by the Sisters that the work has merited the highest praise, and I am sure this is a source of gratification to your good priests and also to the good Sisters for the great work they are doing in the sphere of education. You will notice on this third page that words of

praise come from our Government School Inspectors. They are non-party gentlemen who are interested in the work of education, who are ever ready to acknowledge good work wherever it is done, and you see here the words of praise meted out to our different schools. Regarding St. Mary's Collegiate School, Mr. J. B. Mayne, Government Inspector, says: 'A very satisfactory measure of success has attended the efforts of the staff, and the good progress made in the various classes indicates efficient instruction and supervision. The tone and discipline are excellent, and the pleasing attitude of the pupils towards their work is the result of the stimulating and inspiring influence of the teachers.' Now you really could not have words of higher eulogy than you have expressed here, and it is certainly a compliment to the schools and to our zealous teachers that you have a Government School Inspector using such high words of eulogy. And we find the primary school gets an equally good report. This is the eulogy and praise given by the Inspectors of the Government School System, and we have reason to feel pleased that the work is being attended with such a measure of success. And now I notice the last page—there is no writing at all on it—but I think there is something more to be said regarding our work of education. What we have seen so far practically equips our young people for the battle of life, but Archbishop Carr said on one occasion in connection with the secular system that if we were created for this life only the work of the secular school would be very fitting for us, but there was something higher to be considered—that for the next world, the great life to come, it is necessary that the work of education should have associated with it the work of preparation for the next world, that is that religious influence should be associated with the secular. Now I think in connection with this last page it is my duty as Bishop to say that we find this work—the work of religious instruction—equally well done. I have on various occasions visited the parish; and your worthy pastor, Very Rev. Dean Regnault, has often told me of the pupils' efficiency in religious knowledge. Recently, too, I paid my official visitation to the parish, when I administered Confirmation, and the answers given on that occasion were I think ample evidence of the thorough teaching of religious knowledge. I think it my duty to express my appreciation of the important work done by your devoted priests and the good Sisters in this parish. I can only say in connection with this last page that the work has been exceedingly well done. In conclusion his Lordship asked the children to remember the sacred lessons instilled into their minds by the good Sisters, and trusted they would enjoy all the blessings of a holy and happy Christmas and a glad and joyful New Year.

SACRED HEART COLLEGE, AUCKLAND

The Concert Chamber of the Town Hall was crowded by the parents and friends of the students at the Sacred Heart College, when a very attractive musical and dramatic programme was presented as a preliminary to the annual distribution of prizes. The selections rendered by the college choir and the scenes from Shakespeare were particularly good. The scenes chosen were the trial scene from 'Much Ado About Nothing,' the recruiting scene from 'Henry IV.,' and the scene between Lady Anne and the Duke of Gloucester from 'Richard III.' All the passages were well rendered and enthusiastically received.

The records of the year's work and play were embodied in a very attractive book of 120 pages, which included essays by students, letters from old boys at the front, an account of Bishop Cleary's journey abroad, the very favorable report of Mr T. H. Gill and Mr E. K. Mulgan, Government Inspectors, and other interesting information. The illustrations contained in this well-edited 'Students' Magazine are excellent. Besides pictures of school life, there are included portraits of the Apostolic Delegate and the New Zealand bishops.

The annual report of the director, Brother Benignus, showed that there are 175 students on the roll. Ten candidates passed the matriculation examination, and 25 the Civil Service examinations; one of the ten scholarships open to New Zealand candidates for the Royal Military College was won by M. Reddington, a student at the Sacred Heart College. It provides £200 a year for four years, with a lieutenantancy in the New Zealand Staff Corps at the completion of the course. In the Civil Service examination one student was first in science, dictation, and handwriting out of 1500 New Zealand candidates; and another student was second in arithmetic. The director spoke strongly of the disabilities under which the Catholic secondary schools suffered in relation to scholarships, and urged continual agitation to obtain an amendment of the law so that these scholarships may be held in Catholic schools.

The prizes, which included many handsome gold medals, were presented by the Right Rev. Monsignor Mahoney, Vicar-General, who congratulated the director and the Marist Brothers on the success which had attended their work. He said, in reference to the Shakespearian work presented by the students, that he was of opinion that the work of Masters J. Mackie and M. Reddington com-

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pared most favorably with some of the shining lights in the dramatic firmament that he had seen in his various travels in other lands. He also endorsed the remarks made by Brother Benignus on the subject of scholarships. The chancellor of the diocese, Rev. H. F. Holbrook, added his congratulations, and made a vigorous appeal on behalf of secondary education.

Following is the list of prizes:—

Special Prizes.—Coolahan gold medal for good conduct, presented by the Bishop—S. McLoughlin. Gold medal for Christian doctrine, presented by Monsignor Hackett—S. McLoughlin. Dux of the school, gold medal presented by the rector—M. Flynn. Aggregate merit in Form V., gold medal presented by Mr. Wright—J. Molloy. Essay, gold medal presented by Old Boys' Union—M. Flynn. Oratorical competition—senior, gold medal presented by W. E. Hackett, LL.B., B. Goldwater; junior, prize presented by the rector, V. Mulgan. Val. Blake Memorial gold medal for science—B. Goldwater. Prize for languages in Form V., presented by president of Old Boys' Union—J. Molloy. Sports championship—senior, J. E. Maclaren; junior, J. Carter.

Form VI.—Aggregate—M. Flynn, M. O'Rorke, M. Reddington, M. Rogers. Christian doctrine—M. Flynn, M. Reddington, M. O'Rorke. Good conduct—M. O'Rorke. English—M. Reddington, M. Flynn, M. Rogers. French—M. Rogers, M. Flynn, M. Reddington. Latin—M. O'Rorke, M. Flynn, M. Reddington. Algebra—M. Flynn, M. O'Rorke, M. Reddington. Geometry—M. O'Rorke, M. Flynn, M. Reddington. Trigonometry—M. O'Rorke, M. Flynn, M. Rogers. History—M. Flynn, M. Reddington, M. O'Rorke. Science—M. Reddington, M. Flynn, M. O'Rorke. Precise writing—M. Rogers.

Form V.—Good conduct—S. McLoughlin, O. Robertus, J. O'Rorke. Christian doctrine—S. McLoughlin, J. Molloy, E. Mulgan. Aggregate—J. Molloy, P. McQuilkin, J. Woodley. English—J. E. Maclaren, J. Molloy, B. Goldwater. French—J. Molloy, P. McQuilkin, J. Woodley. Latin—P. McQuilkin, J. E. Maclaren, E. Sayegh. Algebra—J. Molloy, F. Bailey, P. McQuilkin. Geometry—J. M. Graham, J. Molloy, J. O'Rorke. Arithmetic—F. Bailey, J. Molloy, J. M. Graham. History—J. Woodley, B. Goldwater, J. E. Maclaren. Geography—B. Goldwater, P. McQuilkin, B. Hart. Agriculture—S. McLoughlin, A. Connery, T. Cotter. Science—J. Molloy, F. Bailey, B. Goldwater. Laboratory work—B. Goldwater, D. Palmer, B. Hart. Special prize for languages in Form V.—J. Molloy.

Form IV.—Aggregate—J. Ragkin, C. Johnson, S. Martin. Christian doctrine—F. Quinn, B. Weatherill, A. Ngakura. Good conduct—B. Weatherill, W. McCarthy, A. Ngakura. English—J. Rankin, C. McGovern, G. Johnson. Arithmetic—G. Johnson, D. Maclaren, R. Connop. Algebra—R. Connop, R. Pilling, T. Martin. Geometry—W. McCarthy, G. Johnson, T. Martin. Latin—T. Martin, D. Goldwater, B. Weatherill. French—F. Quinn, B. Wells, T. Martin. History—M. O'Shea, J. Reilly, J. Buxton. Geography—D. Goldwater. Science—W. McCarthy, J. Rankin, G. Johnson. Practical science—E. Lavery, B. Wells, G. Johnson. Agriculture—L. Quinn, E. Lavery, C. McGovern.

Form III.—Religion—H. McDonald, A. Scanlon, V. Cooke. Aggregate—H. McDonald, J. Butler, A. Scanlon. Good conduct—S. Martin, A. Cheater, J. Ryan. English—W. Kalaugher, J. Butler, H. McDonald. Arithmetic—A. Scanlon, J. Butler, H. McDonald. Algebra—J. Butler, A. Scanlon, C. Molloy. Geometry—A. Scanlon, W. Kalaugher, M. Dolan. Latin—J. Butler, H. McDonald, F. Bolger. French—G. Bay, V. Cooke, T. McLeod. History—F. Bolger, P. Gavin, F. Belchar. Geography—J. Carter, E. Hickson, F. Bolger. Book-keeping—V. Cooke, J. Prenter, M. O'Connor. Essay—H. McDonald, V. Mulgan, J. Butler. Science—P. Gavin, A. Scanlon, H. McDonald. Agriculture—A. Wright, P. Gavin, G. Colman. Practical science—O. Jackson, H. McDonald, J. Butler. Practical agriculture—C. McManaway, T. McLeod, J. Carter.

Standard VI.—Aggregate merit—Bernard Whittaker, James Lacy, Arthur Martin. Good conduct—Bernard Whittaker, Thomas Metford, Charles Tole, Horace Burke. Christian doctrine—Chas. Cuming, Bernard Whittaker, James Lacy. Arithmetic—Bernard Daws, Alf Clarke, Geo. Ryan. English—John Bray, James McLaughlin, Charles Tole. Essay—Bernard Whittaker, John Gawne, George Ryan. Reading—Charles Tole, Bernard Whittaker, Bernard Daws. Geography—Snowy Tehana, James Lacy, John Lobley. Writing—Arthur Martini, John Abrams, James Lacy. Woodwork—Lionel Limbrick, Frank Hurley, Victor O'Shea. Drawing—Charles Tole, John Abrams, John Lobley. Neatness—John Gawne, James Lacy, Arthur Martini. Spelling—John Gawne, John Bray, Bernard Whittaker. Recitation—Stanley Baster, Lionel Limbrick, Charles Tole. Application—Lionel Limbrick, Frank Hurley, Charles Cuming. Garden plots (practical agriculture)—John Abrams, James Lacy, Frank Meredith.

Standard V.—Aggregate—John Gray, Alfred Downs, Thomas Dyer. Christian doctrine—Vincent Devine. Conduct—Leo McGuire. Arithmetic—Daniel Donovan. English—Arthur Matthias. Composition—Francis Gibbs. Reading—Henry Pudney. Writing—William Bain. Drawing—William Kay. Spelling—Thomas Molloy. History—John Robb. Geography—Charles Owen.

Standard IV.—Aggregate—Patrick Lees, Fugh McKay, Walter Hewes. Christian doctrine—John Fitzpatrick. Conduct—Patrick Lees, John Fitzpatrick. Arithmetic—Rossiter Purcer. English—David Casey. Composition—Marcus Salter. Reading—Hugh McKay. Writing—Walter Hewes. Drawing—David Casey. Spelling—Patrick Lees. History—Hugh McKay. Geography—Rossiter Purcer.

ST. MARY'S CONVENT HIGH SCHOOL, PONSONBY

The annual entertainment prior to the Christmas vacation took place at St. Mary's Convent High School, Ponsonby, on Tuesday afternoon, December 12. The Right Rev. Monsignor Mahoney presided. The programme was interspersed throughout with instrumental items and elocutionary pieces, all of which were of a high-class character. An address in which reference was made to the absence of Right Rev. Dr. Cleary, and also containing a report of the work of the school, was read by Miss Louisa Harris.

The Right Rev. Mgr. Mahoney made a happy speech, in which he thanked the children for their pleasing entertainment, encouraged them on the progress made during the year, and referred particularly to the new science room which is to be opened early next year. The names only of the prize-winners were read, as the children had relinquished their gold medals and prizes on behalf of the Belgian children. At the conclusion of the reading of the prize-list, the visitors adjourned to the study hall, where a superb display of the pupils' work, consisting of plain and fancy needlework, oil, water, and pen paintings, dress-making, kindergarten work, and exhibits from the cooking class were much admired.

The prize list was as follows:—

Gold Medals.—Christian doctrine—E. O'Brien, Y. McVeagh. Conduct—boarding school, E. O'Brien; day school, Peggy Flynn. Music—Louisa Harris. Singing—Myra Johnstone. Diligence—Lizzie Murphy. General excellence—Y. White. Commercial work—Fannie Corbett. Domestic science—Kathleen Harris.

Class Prizes.—Form V.: Latin and mathematics, Nora Prendergast; English literature and French, Lizzie Murphy; science and geography, Nora Corbett. Form IV.: Christian doctrine, Peggy Flynn; English literature, Rosalind Lockwood; history, Peggy Flynn 1, Y. White 2; mathematics, R. Hyland 1, V. Sneddon 2; French, Y. White 1, Peggy Flynn 2; geography, Margaret Walsh 1, Rosalind Lockwood 2; commercial class—Christian doctrine, Fannie Corbett; general excellence, Kathleen Hazard; English literature and French, Louisa Harris 1, Alma Thompson 2.

Class VI.—Christian doctrine, M. Locke; general excellence, Marie Mackay; French, L. O'Connor; arithmetic and French, Du Flou; English, —Thorpe, D. Smith, K. Williams (equal); history, S. Martin; arithmetic, M. Clarke; drawing, K. Harris; geography, E. Kiely 1, M. Johnston 2; domestic science, Peggie Leslie; general proficiency, L. Somerfield, L. Williams, W. Reid.

Class V.—Christian doctrine, M. Gravatt; French, E. Giffard; general excellence, M. Gravatt; arithmetic, Elsie Chatfield; elocution, H. Leslie.

Class IV.—Christian doctrine, A. O'Connor; arithmetic, Eileen Chatfield; general excellence, M. Mackay, E. Harding; reading and French, I. Jones; general proficiency, R. Usher, E. Bimble.

Class III.—Christian doctrine, May Harris; English, Mamie McHugh and N. Gaw (equal); arithmetic, Marie White and Mona McNaught (equal) 1, Noni Buckley and Kathleen Wilkins (equal) 2; composition, Penelope Gabriel 1, Katie Gabriel 2; general excellence, Winnie Corley; French, Marie White 1, May Harris 2.

Class II.—Christian doctrine, Kathleen O'Connor; general excellence, Nora Flynn, Lena Casey; writing and French, Dorothy Mason; general proficiency, Ida Kiely; arithmetic, Victor Leger 1, D. Thorpe 2; composition, Cissie Harding; elocution, Hilda Stansfield 1, Addie Baster 2; reading, Charlie Russell; general proficiency, Kathleen McGovern.

Class I.—Christian doctrine, Pearl Isaacs; general excellence, Kathleen Molloy; reading and writing, Nina Ralph; arithmetic and reading, Margaret O'Connor; composition, Lily Thompson; arithmetic and reading, Molly Gifford and Marguerite Casey (equal); elocution, Peggy Leslie 1, Grace Parsonage 2; writing, Bessie Battersby; general proficiency, Rita McVeigh; drawing, I. Schofield; arithmetic, S. Gabriel; composition, B. Little; preparatory classes—Christian doctrine, Nancy McKane; reading, Marie Cunningham; writing, Florence Chatfield; reading and writing, Margaret O'Brien; number, Elva D. Ernest, Kathleen McKane; arithmetic, Lily Battersby; drawing, Ivan Leslie; writing, Jim McVeigh 1, Ola Baster; kindergarten work, M. Bellamy, Ray Isaacs; handiwork, Ada and Olga Somerville, and M. Stewart; drawing, Brian McVeagh, Marie Devereaux.

Special Prizes.—Theory of music, Eileen O'Brien 1, Gwennylen Good 2; painting, Noel Jones 1, F. Cobourne 2; art needlework, Kathleen Harris 1, Daphne Conourne 2; plain sewing, Gwennylen Good 1, Eva Harding 2; dress-making, Myra Johnston 1, Lenore Somerfield 2, Winnie

Reid 3; elocution, Y. McVeagh 1, Marie Casey 2, Lily Thorpe and May Harris (equal) 3; physical culture, Rosalind Lockwood 1, Mavis Grevatt 2; singing, Lily White 1, Marie Casey 2; games, Noel Jones, Fannie Corbett, Gwenyllen Good.

Music.—Certificate List, Trinity College Practical Associate Diploma—Ethel Sharpe, Louisa Harris, Eileen Bannon. Higher local grade—Eileen O'Brien (honors), Elsie Carran, Kathleen Hazard. Senior grade—Mario Casey, Noel Jones, Edna Gaw, Lizzie Kiely, Lenore Somerfield. Intermediate—Cora Broughton, Lily Thorpe. Junior grade—Colleen Peterson, Myra Johnston (honors, singing), Gwendoline Jew, Kathleen Williams (violin), Eva Harding, Lorna Jew, Kathleen Harris (violin), Maudie McHugh. Preparatory grade—McNaught, Edith Bankham, Katie Gabriel, Doreen Mason, and Master Victor Legor, honors. First steps—Doreen Williams. Theoretical rudiments—Alma McGregor (honors). Intermediate grade II.—Miss Eileen O'Brien (honors); I., Miss Lily White (honors). Kathleen Hazard, Beatrice Grafton, Sheila Kelly. Junior grade—Marie MacKay, Annie Bonichi (honors).

Associated Board, Practical.—Advanced grade, Gwenyllan Good. Higher division—Beryl Poulton, Helena O'Connor, Dorothy Smith, Marie Du Flou, Peggie Leslie. Lower division—Mavis Grevatt, Eileen Kiely, Millicent Graven, Enid Gifford. Elementary division—Freu Jones. Primary division—Nina Ralph, Pearl Isaacs, Kathleen Molloy. Theoretical rudiments—Gwenyllan Good, Vera Sueddon.

Auckland University of Music.—Senior grade—Rosalind Lockwood (honors). Intermediate—Margaret Walsh. Junior—Hazel Hallett (first class).

Music (Special Mention).—Eileen O'Brien, Rosalind Lockwood, Vera Sueddon, Lena O'Connor, Eileen Kiely, Susie Martin. Violin—Kathleen Williams and Kathleen Harris. Cello—Marie Casey.

Shorthand.—Speed, 80 words a minute, Beatrice Wharton. Advanced division, theory—Noel Jones, Lily White. Intermediate division—Fanny Corbett, G. Good, Kathleen Hazard, Cora Broughton. Elementary theory—Louisa Harris, Lizzie Kiely. Junior, theory—Louisa Harris, Kathleen Hazard, Cora Broughton, Frances Corbett, Alison Cooke, G. Good.

Book-keeping.—Advanced division, Noel Jones, Lily White. Intermediate division—Lily White, Noel Jones, Kathleen Hazard, Frances Corbett, G. Good, Cora Broughton. Elementary division—Louisa Harris, Lizzie Kiely. Junior division—Florence and Daphne Colbourne, Louisa Harris, Kathleen Hazard, Alma Thompson, Frances Corbett, Lizzie Kiely, Cora Broughton, Alison Cooke.

Typewriting.—Intermediate division—Lily White, Noel Jones. Elementary division—Noel Jones, Lily White, Daphne Colbourne, Nora Corbett, Kathleen Hazard, Louisa Harris, G. Good, Frances Corbett, Lizzie Kiely, Cora Broughton. Junior division—Nora Corbett, Louisa Harris, Kathleen Hazard, Florence and Daphne Colbourne, Frances Corbett, G. Good, Lizzie Kiely, Cora Broughton.

Public Service Examinations.—Intermediate—Misses Carrie Bell, Aileen Marlow, Nellie McDonnell, Monica McVeagh, Alma McGruer, May O'Brien, and Nora Prendergast.

Masterton

(From an occasional correspondent.)

December 18.

The following clipping from last Saturday's *Daily Times* speaks for itself:—The following is a list of winners in the British Empire Rhyming Trades Alphabet competition, Wairarapa edition, for which upwards of 2500 entries were received. The judge, Mr. J. M. Caughley, M.A., commented most favorably upon the specimens of handwriting submitted, stating that the writing of the Wairarapa children was equal to that submitted from any part of New Zealand. Of the 21 prizes offered, 15 were secured by children attending St. Patrick's School and St. Bride's Convent:—

Standards V. to VII.—Kathleen O'Leary 3, Cecil Wickens 3, Mary Kealy 4, Dorothy Frost 5, Elva McGrath, 6.

Standards II. and IV.—Edna Clune 2, Eva Wickens 5, Sybil Frost 7.

Standards I. and II.—Girly Emmett, 1, Edna O'Connor 2, Keith Eastwood 3, Veronica Price 4, Molly O'Regan 5, Victor Rinaldi 6, Valerie Howard 7.

Following are the results of Messrs. Hugo and Shearer's writing competition. All the winners attended St. Patrick's School:—

Standards V. to VII.—Mildred Sievers 1, Mary Sutherland 2.

Standards III. and IV.—Maggie Sutherland 1, Edna Clune 2.

Standards I. and II.—Ena O'Connor 1, Valerie Howard 2.

People We Hear About

The death occurred at Colway, Lime Regis, England, recently, of Mr. Orby Shipley, one of the last of the band of converts to the Catholic Church whose conversion is traceable directly to the Tractarian Movement. Both his great-grandfather, Dr. Jonathan Shipley, and his grandfather, William Davies Shipley, held high preferment in the Church of England, the former as Bishop, the latter as Dean, of St. Asaph, while his father, the Dean's fifth son, was Rector of Mappowder, Dorset.

It is rumored (says the *Sacred Heart Review*) that Count Albert Apponyi, of Budapest, is to be appointed Ambassador to America to represent the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy at Washington. Count Apponyi, though past his sixtieth birthday, is regarded as one of the most able statesmen of Europe. He was educated by the Jesuits, and is an orator of renown. Best of all, he is a devout Catholic, a daily communicant. We are told that in Budapest it is a familiar sight to see the Count with his wife and two children attending Mass in the Coronation Church.

Great Britain has named as one of the official members of its diplomatic family at Washington, Miss Violet Erskine, who becomes a secretary on the embassy staff (says the *Sacred Heart Review*). Miss Erskine is the first woman to have official standing in diplomatic service in this country. Miss Erskine is a sister of Thomas Erskine, British Vice-Consul at New Orleans, and has been with him until her recent appointment. Scannell O'Neill reminds us that Mr. Erskine and his wife were received into the Church several years ago. He is the son of an Anglican clergyman, while his wife is a daughter of the late Lieut.-General Robert Bruce, of the British Army, a brother of the first Lord Aberdare.

A staunch Home Ruler, Mr. Robert Lacey Everett, ex-M.P. for Woodbridge Division of Suffolk, has just died at the ripe age of 83. He was a pillar of Liberalism in the county, and he also took an active interest in agriculture and other causes, notably bi-metallism. Some of his best speeches in the House of Commons were on the currency question, which was then being very much canvassed. Tall, handsome, with a flowing white beard and a benign disposition, Mr. Everett was personally perhaps the most popular man in all Suffolk. The name of his brother, the late Professor Everett, of the Belfast Queen's College, was identified with a system of shorthand invented by himself. Professor Everett taught Physics in Belfast, and was the author of popular text-books on the sciences to which he devoted his career.

Cardinal Francis of Sales Della Volpe died on Sunday, November 5, after having been seriously ill for some time. He was born in Ravenna, Italy, on December 24, 1844, and was created a Cardinal by Pope Leo XIII. on June 19, 1899, although reserved *in petto* until the public announcement in the Consistory of April 15, 1901. He was the Archdeacon of the Church of Santa Maria in Aquiro, and was raised to the rank of Chamberlain of the Church in 1914, and also held the position of Arch-Chancellor of the Roman University, as well as that of Prefect of the Sacred Congregation of the Index. The Cardinal was also a member of various Roman Congregations, and was the Cardinal protector of different societies, among them the Pontifical Academy of Archaeology. Cardinal Della Volpe gained world-wide notice at the time of the death of Pope Pius X. by virtue of his office as Chamberlain. In his hands was the charge of Vatican affairs during the interregnum between the death of Pope Pius X. and the installation of Pope Benedict XV. He had also been mentioned prominently as a possible successor to Pope Pius X.

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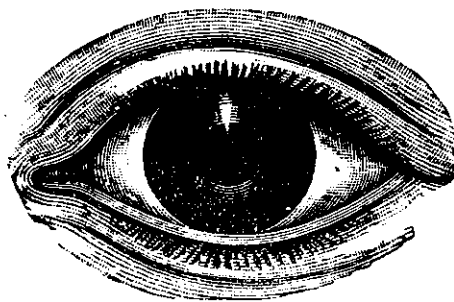


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ST. PHILOMENA'S COLLEGE, SOUTH DUNEDIN

There was a large attendance at the breaking-up ceremony in connection with St. Philomena's College, on December 14. An interesting programme was given. A spectacular item of a patriotic nature, 'Aboard a Man-o'-war,' was executed by some thirty little boys in midshipman uniforms. The patriotic song, drill, and figure marching of the junior girls was another popular item. Two juvenile efforts—'Little Colleens of Erin' and 'Bonnie Scotland'—given in the picturesque national costumes of Hibernia and Caledonia, were received with applause, and had to be repeated. 'The Rejected Protegee,' a serio-comic drama in three acts, filled the second part of the programme. The leading parts were sustained by Misses Sylvia Inder, Brigid Meade, Brenda Marlow, Rita Brown, Madge Rodgeron, Moana Poppelwell, Monica Rodgers, and Teresa Nelson. Other items were much appreciated.

The Rev. Father Delany, who presided, read the annual report which stated that the results had reached the highest expectations, and that the attendance, advancement in studies, and improvement constituted a fresh record. The conduct and working spirit of the students were entirely satisfactory. Mr. Gill (Government inspector) paid two visits, and in his report expressed himself well pleased with the organisation, the staffing, the comprehensive schemes of instruction, method of carrying them out, and the progress made by the seniors. In September the primary classes were examined by Inspectors Bossence and Don, whose report was an excellent one. In the examinations of the National Business College, Sydney, one student scored 100 per cent. for typewriting, and the gold medal awarded by the examiners. The results achieved in the School of Music were distinctly good. In the Trinity College examinations in harmony, pianoforte, and violin, 53 students were successful in the various grades, many taking honors. Prizes were again won in the senior and junior Navy League historical essay competitions. There had been no lack of interest in the domestic science classes, and this year many of the girls made Christmas cakes to present to their parents. In the winter term a gala was organised to aid the Belgian children and the dependents of the brave British sailors who lost their lives in the North Sea battle. As a result, the girls raised £208 13s. The work of the art studio was well up to the average, and studies of exceptional merit had been executed in oils. The needlework, too, was very good. The kindergarten department was in a flourishing state, and the numbers continued to increase.

The following is the honors list:—

Senior School.

Matriculation and Public Service Classes.—Christian doctrine and Bible history, M. M. Walsh; good conduct, K. McDevitt; advanced Latin, E. Tither; literature, K. O'Regan; higher mathematics, M. M. Walsh 1, E. Tither 2; history, A. Carroll; geometry, K. McDevitt; science, A. Carroll; geography, K. O'Regan. Commercial class: Typewriting, S. Inder; shorthand, A. Daly.

Intermediate Division.—Christian doctrine (silver medal), M. McMahon; English—M. Poppelwell 1, M. McMahon 2; practical science, N. Adamson; drawing, L. Carroll; essay-writing, P. O'Malley; mathematics, W. Harty; Latin—M. Poppelwell 1, A. Dyer 2; geometrical drawing—P. O'Malley 1, W. Harty 2; science, A. Dyer; general improvement, M. Burke.

Sub-intermediate Division.—Geography and writing, C. Noonan; good conduct, M. Daniel; geometry, M. Rodgers; mapping, P. Maloney; arithmetic, B. O'Malley; English composition, N. Kenny; history and civics, T. Nelson; botany, L. Murphy; brushwork, L. O'Connell; designing and object drawing, R. Gare.

Senior Class I.—History and geography, B. Meade; English and elocution, M. Rodgeron; botany, L. Meade; reading and comprehension, H. Atkinson; arithmetic, K. Neill; writing, B. Marlow; reading, M. Bradley; art needlework, M. Langford.

Senior Class II.—Christian doctrine, G. Faulks; botany and elocution, R. Brown; geography and regular attendance, M. Tylee; arithmetic, R. Bradley; freehand drawing, O. Otto; elementary science, K. Dyer; history, M. Harrison; spelling, N. Francis; general improvement, R. Stewart; handwork, M. Otto; English and drawing, M. Francis; writing, E. Neill; composition, H. Hamill.

Junior School.

Grade I.—General excellence in class work, M. Brosnan; class singing and regular attendance, S. Daniel; composition, D. Scully; reading, M. Dawson; geographical observation, M. McCarten; general improvement, N. Arthur; attention to studies, P. Stewart; neatness and diligence, E. Kennelly; comprehension, K. Golden; mental arithmetic, L. Pitfield; drawing, N. O'Kane; oral composition, M. Rigby; arithmetic, C. Meade; Nature study, H. Murray.

Grade II.—Writing and general improvement, L. Campbell; mental work, E. Meade; comprehension, W. Pettit; geography, E. Ward; general knowledge, E. Driscoll-Shaw; diligence and amiability, A. Penlington; reading, E. Walker; arithmetic, A. Murray; general excellence in class work, J. McKewen; elocution, L. Carroll.

Grade III.—Christian doctrine and Bible history, O. Rowland; number and recitation, E. O'Malley; comprehension, M. Tylee; writing, L. Stewart; arithmetic, D. Carroll; writing and order, M. Dee; handwork, E. Kennelly; good conduct and regular attendance, M. Rigby; sentence-building, E. Lemon; Nature-study, E. Otto; sight-reading, E. Harrison; home lessons, M. Ryall; reading, T. Quinn; tables, T. Silve; mental arithmetic, J. Faulks; number, I. Scully; geography, M. Kennelly; general excellence in class work, W. Meade; diligence, T. McKewen; general knowledge, J. McCarten.

Kindergarten.

Division A.—Catechism, Z. Dawson; good conduct, L. Cook; writing, E. Butel; neatness, K. Howard; crayon work and coloring, N. Kennedy; home studies, M. Meade; diligence, M. Monaghan; mental arithmetic, V. Murray; politeness, M. Pascoe; spelling, K. Robinson; reading and recitation, D. Samson; attention in class, G. Toomey; drawing, C. Dawe; general knowledge, L. McDowall; tables, N. Monaghan; arithmetic and physical exercises, O. Gare.

Division B.—Catechism, V. Cahill; tables, B. Scully; home studies, J. Delaney; attention in class, J. O'Connell; drawing and coloring, W. Haydon; Bible stories, G. Daniel; writing, A. Silve; recitation, C. White; diligence, M. Carroll; reading, F. Fox; pricking, J. Brown; word-building, W. Rodgeron; attention in class, L. Mee; politeness, R. Quinn; good conduct, E. Houston; number pictures, V. Robinson.

Division C.—Bible stories, J. Carr; B.B. drawing, L. Donnelly; block-building, L. Lemon; crayon work, M. Boyle; stick laying, P. Gye; attention in class, L. Barwick; drill and exercises, D. Murphy; reading, M. Henaghan; coloring, E. Fitzpatrick; observation, P. Murriff; modelling, C. O'Connell; mat weaving, J. Shaw; attendance, M. McKewen; number pictures, D. Samson.

The large statue of the Sacred Heart, presented by the Rev. Father Delany for regular attendance, was won by Miss Molly Tylee, whose record shows unbroken attendance for five years; Sylvia Daniel (silver medal), five years; Teresa Nelson, two years; Mavis Rigby, two years.

School of Music.

Trinity College of Music, London.—Theoretical: Higher local, Kathleen McDevitt.

Senior.—Katie Walsh (honors), Eileen Tither, K. O'Regan.

Intermediate.—Sylvia Inder (honors), Bessie Gibb (honors), A. Carroll, May Curtin, Monica Rodgers.

Advanced Junior.—Winnie Harty (honors), May Daniel, J. McDermott.

Preparatory.—Honors: Patricia O'Malley, Lettie O'Connell, Leila Campbell, Bessie O'Malley. Pass: Nellie Ferguson, Olga Otto, Molly Tylee.

Senior (Practical).—Kathleen O'Regan (honors), Muriel Johnson, Cecilia Noonan, Nellie Adamson, Sylvia Inder, May Curtin, Marie McMahon, Agnes Daly.

Intermediate (Practical).—Honors: Brigid Meade, Leila Campbell, Agnes Carroll. Pass: Rose Bradley, Mary Bradley, Agnes Pelett.

Junior (Practical).—Margaret Bourke (honors), May Daniel (honors), Jennie McDermott, Isabel Curry, Winnie Harty (violin), Lettie O'Connell, Monica Rodgers (violin).

Preparatory (Practical).—Olga Otto, Eileen Ward, Elizabeth O'Malley, Lyla Grant, Mollie Tylee, Gretta Faulks, Patricia O'Malley.

First Steps (Practical).—Margaret Rigby, James McKewen, Maisie Dawson.

Successes in Various Examinations.

Senior Free Place—E. Tither, M. M. Walsh.

National Business College (Sydney).—Shorthand (junior and elementary)—Agnes Daly 96, Sylvia Inder 95. Typewriting (junior and elementary)—S. Inder 100 (gold medal), Agnes Daly 94.

St. Patrick's School proficiency certificates—I. Fahey, L. Fahey, M. Roy, A. Thomas, J. Casey, A. Cousins, J. Drumm, J. Farrell, W. Reddington; competency—J. Davis.

ST. COLUMBA SCHOOL, AUCKLAND

The following was the programme given at the Marist Brothers' concert, at the Town Hall on Wednesday week:—Chorus, 'Massa's in de Cold, Cold Ground,' pupils; dumb-bell drill, junior pupils; class recitation, 'The Conquered Banner,' Standard V.; action song, 'Four Little Curly-headed Coons,' junior pupils; bar-bell drill, junior pupils; recitation, 'Jack and Jill,' T. Ruston; songs of Erin—'Ireland, My Ireland,' pupils; 'Mother Machree,' L. Stewart; 'Just a Bunch of Irish Shamrocks,' pupils; chorus, 'When the Boys Go Marching By,' pupils; vocal solo, 'Island of Dreams,' E. O'Donohue; drill, club swinging, pupils; parallel bars, junior pupils; dialogue, 'The Evil Adviser,' R. McKintorch (Frank's father), R. Fullarton (Frank), L. Walters (Evil Adviser); farce, 'The Doctor's Holiday,' in which the following took part—L. Sayers, L. Prendergast, M. Clarke, J. Flynn, T. Ruston, R. Cooke, J. McMahon; chorus, 'God Defend New Zealand.'

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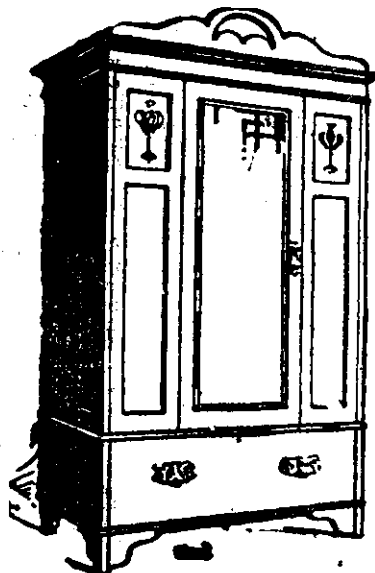
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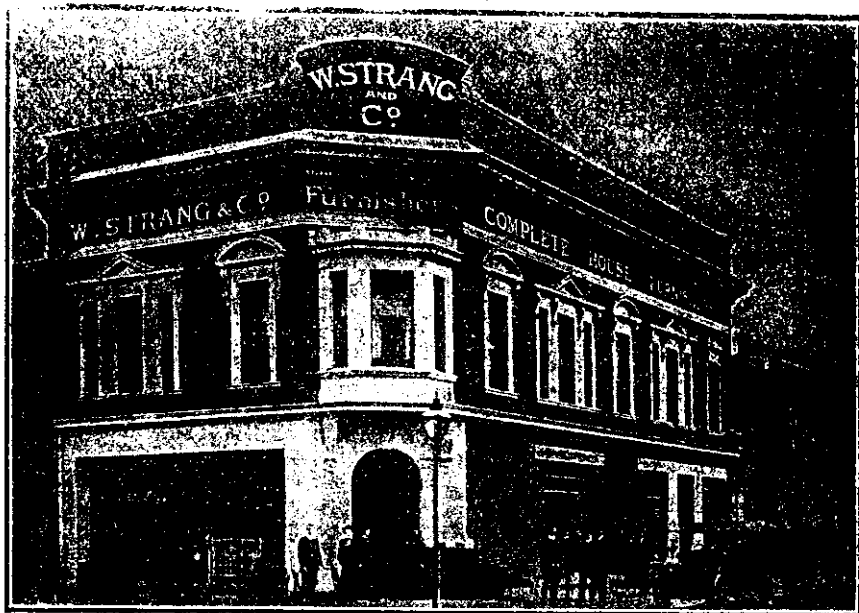
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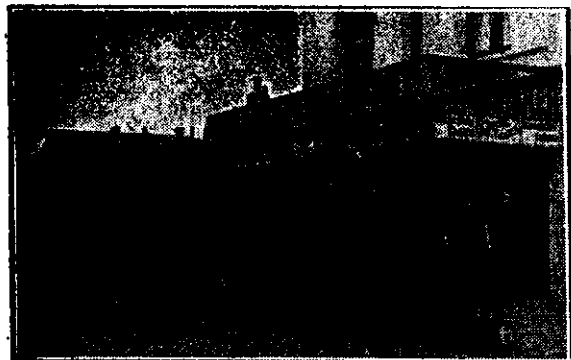
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ST. CATHERINE'S COLLEGE, INVERCARGILL

The following is the prize list:—
Secondary Division.

Dux of the College—N. Dowling.

Form V.—English and French, E. McGrath; Latin and science, R. Shepherd; history and geography, N. Dowling.

Form IV.—English and science, M. Kaveney; history and geography, C. McTavish; French and arithmetic, M. Timpany.

Form III.—English, S. Mahoney, M. Wells; arithmetic, Margaret O'Meara, M. Wells, A. Keaney; French, E. Looney, D. Smith, K. Lynch; Latin, M. Lister, A. Keaney, K. Lynch; botany, S. Mahoney, Margaret O'Meara, E. Looney.

Primary Division.

Standard VI.—Class prize, F. McDonald; arithmetic, A. Nisbet; English, K. Timpany; history, M. Hamill; improvement, C. Croxford.

Standard V.—Class prize, N. Meehan; arithmetic, N. Meehan; history, I. de Raza; reading, D. McClatchy; geography, L. De Raza.

Standard IV. (a).—English and drawing, C. Meehan; arithmetic, M. Matheson; composition and writing, Myra Cavanagh; geography, Ina Richards; history, T. Lavelle; reading, R. McClatchy.

Standard IV. (b).—Arithmetic and handwork, I. Collins, K. Woods; history and geography, M. Pasco, M. Mahoney; English and reading, M. Deegan, J. Timpany; Nature study, A. Pasco; arithmetic, A. Isaacs.

Standard III.—English, L. Vondersloot; history, R. Loughnan; arithmetic, M. Hanley; composition, M. Collins; geography, C. de Raza; reading, C. McLaren; nature study, K. Morton.

Standard II.—Class prize, G. Bastian; arithmetic, R. Furlong; composition, G. Bremner; geography, W. Staunton; reading, D. Pritchard; writing, M. Cavanagh; nature study, M. Holmes.

Standard I.—Christian doctrine, K. Condon; arithmetic, S. Cameron; reading, M. Blatch, N. Loughnan; good conduct, M. Fitzgerald; sewing, R. Lynch; gentleness and politeness, E. Bows, A. Lithgow; drawing, N. Hanley; improvement, L. Rutherford; nature study, M. Bremner.

General Prizes.—Christian doctrine (senior), M. Kaveney (gold medal); junior, M. Collins, R. Loughnan; preparatory, M. Cavanagh. Physical drill—M. Wells and G. Bastian. Needlework—T. Lavelle. Painting, M. Hamill (silver medal). Politeness—R. McClatchy. Attendance—A. Isaacs (silver medal). Music—Advanced, R. Biggins (silver medal), R. Shepherd; harmony, R. Biggins. Music—Junior, F. McDonald (silver medal); preparatory, L. Vondersloot and L. de Raza; harmony, I. Richards. Good conduct (boarders)—C. McTavish; (day pupils), M. Timpany.

The wreath awarded by the votes of the pupils to the most amiable girl in the school—Mona Lister.

Kindergarten.

Class III.—Reading, Joyce Croxford; sewing, Lila Crawford; religious knowledge, Nata Furlong; writing, M. Moloney; amiability, Nellie Fraser; reading, Sylvia Pritchard; drawing, Irene Ashley; counting, Kathleen Butler; singing, Gladys Broad; recitation, Gertrude Baxter; tables, Margarite Fraser; mental arithmetic, Angus Cameron; reading and games, Joe Hardy; drawing, Dan Walsh; word building, Noel Dwyer; reading, Willie Rutherford; plasticine modelling, Jack Norton.

Class II.—Nature observation, Maureen Gillies, Mabel Haigh; reading, Ellen Pasco; spelling, Mary Dwyer; counting, Kitty Rutherford; arithmetic, Greta Rilston; reading, Ellie Ryan; counting, Myrtle Sandri; reading, Cassie Walsh; stick laying, Nellie Derby; plasticine, Esmé Shepherd; reading, Vera Boyle; spelling, Lillias Boyle; counting, Reginald Baird; reading, Stafford Fraser; counting, Tom Gray; politeness, Hugh Scott; games, Dan O'Kane; drawing, Joe Hanning; writing, Albert Cuff; reading, James Scully; drawing, Lex Scully; reading, Eric Martin; counting, Bruce Martin; pictures, Bertie Dunne; counting, Mark Walsh; reading, Mary Loughnan; nature study, Dick Wills.

MUSIC EXAMINATIONS.

The following are the results of the examination held at St. Catherine's Convent by Mr. Myerscough, examiner for Trinity College:—

Higher Local.—Norah Marryatt, 82 (honors); Marguerita Biggins, 77; Rose Shepherd, 73.

Senior Division.—Nita Baird, 81 (honors); Ita Sheehan, 73.

Intermediate.—Linda McDonald, 76; Margaret O'Meara, 71.

Junior.—Frances Macdonald, 81 (honors); Mona Brown 80 (honors).

Preparatory.—Nina Hardy, 76.

The following are the results of the examination conducted by Mr. Arthur Hinton, examiner for the Associated

Board of the Royal Academy of Music and Royal College of Music:—

Elementary Division.—Myra Cavanagh, 118; Alice Gilfedder, 114.

Primary Division.—Lalla Vondersloot, 126; Louisa de Raza, 121; Ina Richards, 120; Marjorie Todd, 119; Rose Loughnan, 119; Mary Henley, 118; Moana Lister, 118; Violet Francis, 114.

The following are the results of the theory examination:—

Intermediate—Marguerite Biggins, 90 (honors); Rose Shepherd, 85 (honors).

Preparatory.—Ina Richards, 85 (honors).

ST. MARY'S SCHOOL, MANCHESTER STREET, CHRISTCHURCH

The annual concert given by the pupils of the St. Mary's Primary School, Manchester street, was held in the schoolroom on Thursday evening, December 14. The various items of the programme were well rendered, and compared favorably with performances of previous years, which have always been noted for their high order. This alone was sufficient to account for the very large audience, many having to be satisfied with standing room. His Lordship Bishop Brodie presided. The Very Rev. Dean Regnault, S.M., Rev. Fathers Aubry, S.M. (Waimate), Cooney (Lyttelton), Cronin (Darfield), O'Hare, Hanrahan, Murphy, Long (Cathedral), Gondringer, S.M. (St. Patrick's College, Wellington), Hoare, and Seymour, S.M. (St. Mary's) were also present. Each item on the programme was so well rendered that it would be impossible to individualise. The programme was as follows:—Prologue, Master Frank Roche; chorus, 'Welcome,' singing class; pianoforte duet, 'Japanese Fan Dance,' Misses E. and M. Ruck, L. Mulvan, M. Lelliot, E. Marriott, M. Lavery, E. Wooller, D. Handisides; vocal duet, 'When We were Two Little Boys,' Masters E. Dawn and Hugh McMaster; violin solo, 'The Alpines Farewell,' Misses J. Carter, E. Neate, C. O'Malley, M. Hardie, Masters W. Bernard, R. Young, H. Handisides, W. Foster; action song, 'We Red Cross Nurses,' pupils; vocal duet, 'You Mustn't,' Miss E. Ruck and Master B. Lawrence; dialogue, 'The Soldier's Return,' Masters C. Sisson and J. Sarrall; operetta, 'The May Queen,' in which the following took part: Misses E. Ruck, M. Haughey, L. Cowell, D. Handisides, B. Flood, V. Spackman, D. Shaw, M. Bradley, A. Gray, P. Wooller, M. Shaw; glee, 'Hail Smiling Morn,' senior pupils; pianoforte duet, 'Rendez Vous,' Misses D. Handisides, E. Wolfe, M. Dobbs, B. Kingan, Masters V. Holley, H. Day, N. Orchard, R. O'Mally; action song, 'Knit, Knit, Knit,' pupils; pianoforte duet, 'Valse Brillante,' Misses L. Timbrell, E. Cousins, B. Hoare, V. Haigh, D. Carter, E. Carter, M. Hartle, and T. Cosgrove; vocal duet, 'Our Farm,' Miss E. Wolfe and Master B. Lawrence; pianoforte solo, 'Romance,' Misses V. Haigh, C. White, N. Kelly, V. Dwyer; vocal duet, 'You Needn't Be So Stuck Up,' Misses M. Haughey and M. Dobbs; chorus, 'Let Erin Remember,' singing class; 'God Save the King.'

At the conclusion the Very Rev. Dean Regnault, S.M., thanked his Lordship for again coming to preside over their entertainment, and assured him of the love and loyalty of his St. Mary's people, to whom he had endeared himself by many acts of kindness and condescension.

His Lordship on rising was greeted with loud applause. He said he was pleased to be present, as many of his happiest hours were spent amongst the school children. He referred to the excellent results obtained during the year, and paid a high tribute to the devotedness of the Sisters, concluding with the words: 'May God bless the Sisters and their noble work.' He then presented to Miss Madge Haughey (dux) the gold medal presented by Miss Moir, and to Master Bobby Lawrence a gold medal presented by the Hibernian Society. The proceeds of the concert amounted to £13 18s, which will be devoted to the school alteration fund.

Westport

At the recent musical examinations held in Westport, the following pupils of Miss A. R. Payne, an ex-pupil of the Christchurch Lower High Street Convent, were successful:—

Trinity College (Practical).—Senior grade—Lena Ryan. Intermediate grade—Mary Dixon. Junior grade—Annie Lee, Winnie O'Neill. Preparatory grade—Kitty Rowe, William McGrath. First Steps—Vera Wall.

Trinity College (Theory).—Preparatory grade—Winnie O'Neill, Annie Lee.

Practical examination of the Associated Board of the Royal Academy of Music and the Royal College of Music.—Elementary Grade—Florence Dalkie. Primary grade—Eileen Shannon.

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THE CATHOLIC TRUTH SOCIETY. —

Everything considered, it was not a disadvantage that the silver jubilee of the Manchester branch of the Catholic Truth Society, which opened its sessions on October 6, was celebrated in war time (says the *Catholic Times*). On the contrary, it was a decided advantage, for matters of the greatest importance in connection with the conflict from the spiritual and social point of view were fully considered. The opportunities of discussing such subjects are few, for people's attention is so much absorbed by the struggle that they scarcely give sufficient thought to questions affecting religion in the present and the future. The work of the Catholic Truth Society is a fitting preparation for the examination of such subjects, and the jubilee programme naturally lent itself to a review of the circumstances that make for or retard Catholic progress. Indeed the proceedings, considering the attendance and the themes dealt with, seemed to attain the importance of a meeting of the whole society and not merely of a branch. The Hierarchy was very largely represented. It was the pleasant duty of the Bishop of the diocese, Right Rev. Dr. Casartelli, to welcome his Eminence Cardinal Bourne and a dozen other members of the Hierarchy—Archbishops and Bishops. The laity was also well represented, though of course many who would by their presence have shown their interest in the jubilee have sacrificed their lives in defence of their country or are actually supporting her cause at the front. Needless to say the papers and addresses proved very attractive. This was especially so when the authors touched on problems raised by the war; and it was generally agreed that many of the lessons drawn from current events by the lecturers were both timely and valuable. The public meeting in the Free Trade Hall was a grand Catholic demonstration, which afforded ample evidence of the vitality of the Church in Manchester and the neighborhood. The speeches were good and stimulative and the vast audience was quick to mark their approval of points upon which those who addressed them were happy and emphatic. The arrangements throughout were thoroughly satisfactory, and altogether the jubilee was commemorated in a way which the members of the branch and the visitors will long look back upon with pride and pleasure.

ROME

THE POPE AND THE EMPEROR.

There was an interesting ceremony at the Vatican a few days ago (says a Rome correspondent writing in the last week in October). His Eminence Jagoro Miura, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of the Emperor of Japan, was received in audience and handed to his Holiness an autograph letter from the Emperor thanking him for the autograph which Pope Benedict sent by Mgr. Petrelli, Apostolic Delegate to the Philippines, on the occasion of his Majesty's coronation. The Japanese Envoy was in full diplomatic uniform and was received with full honors, the Holy Father being seated in the throne room and surrounded by the noble court. The Envoy spoke the few words necessary to explain his mission in the language of diplomacy, French, and his Holiness, who speaks French as well as he speaks Italian and Spanish, replied in the same language, afterwards inviting his Excellency to accompany him into his private library, where they remained some time in private conversation. The customary visit to the Cardinal Secretary of State followed, and was returned by his Eminence in the afternoon. This was only a flying diplomatic visit, and Japan has no representative to the Holy See; nevertheless it has

among its representatives in Rome one—the naval attaché at the Embassy—a Catholic and a fervent one, and confident, too, of the progress of the Faith in his country. His Holiness has bestowed on the Japanese Envoy the Grand Cross of the Order of St. Gregory the Great.

RUMANIA AND ROME.

Rumania is represented at the Quirinal by one of her most brilliant diplomats, Prince Ghika, brother to Prince Vladimir Ghika, a recent convert to Catholicism, and one of the most striking personalities amongst Catholics in Rumania (says the *Irish Catholic*). Prince Ghika was Rumanian Minister at Sofia, and displayed his courage in the conflict between his country and Bulgaria on the question of the settlement of the frontier of Dobrudja, and was present at the conference at Petrograd which met to settle the dispute. The latest intelligence is to the effect that Rumania contemplates entering into a Concordat with the Holy See, with the consequent appointment of mutual diplomatic representatives. As we have already announced, it is said that Rumania is desirous of establishing a Concordat with Rome. This has been delayed up to the present for many reasons. Amongst them, we may assume, one reason was that the old Catholic King Carol, reigning over such a large Greek Catholic population, feared if he arranged such a treaty that he would be suspected of personal preference in religious matters, and the 70,000 Catholics, mostly of foreign nationality, living in Rumania were not strong enough to make the signing of a Concordat urgent. Nevertheless, when M. Bratiano, one of the present-day Ministers, went on a visit to Rome he could not remain completely ignorant of the fact that this city is the capital of the Catholic world, and that there are diplomatic representatives at the Vatican, as at the Quirinal Palace. Now King Ferdinand, nephew of King Carol, the second sovereign of his dynasty in Rumania, would be, in face of his people, in a more favorable position than his uncle, and would appear to be much less making an act of personal preference for Catholicity than his predecessor would.

UNITED STATES

CHARITABLE BEQUESTS.

A large number of bequests have been made to the Catholic Church in the United States in the last three months. Probably the largest was \$1,000,000, distributed under the will of the late Miss Eliza Jenkins of Baltimore. The bulk of an estate of nearly \$1,000,000 left by Miss Jessie Gillender, a daughter of the late Arthur Gillender, New York, was bequeathed to charitable purposes. The Missionary Society of St. Paul the Apostle receives nearly \$400,000. Mrs. Barbara Givernaud has given a mansion in New Durham, Hudson County, N.J., valued at from \$200,000 to \$250,000, to St. Joseph's Orphanage, Jersey City. Three hundred thousand dollars will go to the diocese of Detroit from the estate of the late Michael Caplis. The Church of the Holy Spirit, of Atlantic City, N.J., gets \$100,000 by a codicil to the will of Mrs. James Flaherty. The necessary funds for the library and gymnasium of the new \$500,000 Quigley Preparatory Seminary, Chicago, are to be provided by Misses Mary T. and Clara A. Cudahy, in memory of their father, the late Michael Cudahy. The Rev. William T. Doran, S.J., announces that the Michael Dinan gift of \$25,000 for an engineering building at the University of Detroit has been increased to \$100,000.

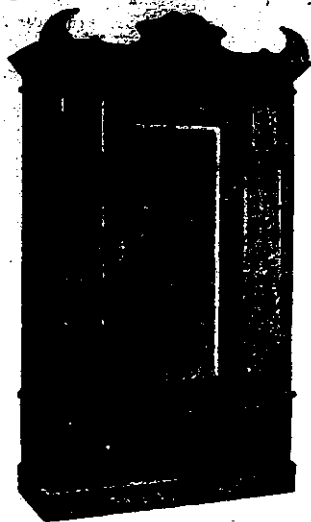
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ST. THOMAS' BOYS' PREPARATORY COLLEGE OAMARU.

On Tuesday afternoon, 12th inst., the distribution of prizes took place in the recreation hall of the college. Monsignor Mackay presided, assisted by the Rev. Father O'Connell. An appreciative audience of parents and friends assembled. A good programme was carried out with spirit by the 'Little Collegians.' The opening chorus, 'Adeste Fidelis,' hinted sweetly at the coming of Christmas. This was followed by a Latin play, 'The Duel,' in which the boys acted with admirable spirit, thoroughly identifying themselves with their respective parts. The march and rifle drill that followed were very fine. The precision with which the boys handled the rifles and the elan of the military march aroused enthusiastic applause. Then followed a French play, 'The Spoiled Photographer.' The boys seemed to speak the language fluently as they were driving the photographer to desperation. The stress on the study of elocution throughout all the grades was shown not only in the recourse of the plays, but in the fine recitation of the poem, 'A Leap for Life,' which concluded the programme.

Report.—The progress of St. Thomas' Preparatory Boys' College during the year has been very satisfactory. Thirty boys have been in residence. All attended the examinations of the Government inspectors and passed successfully in their various grades. Several won creditable marks from the music examiners of Trinity College and of the Royal Academy. The study of the violin has been taken up as well as that of the piano, and will probably become the more popular instrument with the boys. Manual training has taken the form of woodwork at the Technical School, and the pretty and useful models each boy has brought home illustrate the advancement made in this branch. The physical development of the boys has been helped by their marked progress under expert instructors in the Swedish exercises, military drill, dancing, and swimming. Picnics and outings, cricket, football, and games in due season have been well appreciated. The winter amusement of picture entertainments has been carried on well into the summer evenings, as the new magic lantern has proved an unfailing source of delight. Our thanks are due to Monsignor Mackay and other friends for the beautiful sets of lantern slides presented, and to the gentlemen who gave so many instructive and interesting lectures; also to the parents of the boys, and other friends, for their kind help in 'financing the venture.' The health of the boys during the year has been excellent, and their conduct all that could be desired, their marked docility, obedience, and loyalty rendering the task of training them light and pleasant.

In a few impressive words, Right Rev. Monsignor Mackay, having distributed the prizes, dismissed the boys for their holidays. He congratulated them on their successful rendering of a fairly trying programme. They deserved their holidays, for they must have worked hard to show such results. He hoped they would continue in their homes to act as young gentlemen. They were a bright, happy little family now, but some must necessarily drop off, and he hoped to see their places filled and the number increased. He wished them a happy Christmas, and emphasised a punctual return on the first Monday in February.

Following is the prize list:—

Grade V.—Christian doctrine (medal), Reginald Waldron; good conduct (medal), Humphrey Geaney; dux (medal), Antony Loughnan; arithmetic and French, H. Geaney; composition and recitation, R. Waldron; drawing and history, A. Loughnan; singing, A. Loughnan and R. Waldron; geography, H. Geaney; Latin, A. Loughnan.

Grade IV.—Class medal, Ignatius Loughnan; arithmetic and Latin, Tom Goodger; English composition and geography, Claude Buchanan; French, singing, and recitation, I. Loughnan.

Grade III.—Class medal, Paul Inkson; arithmetic, Ralph Usherwood and Frank Mangos; spelling, Harry Gallien, R. Usherwood, and F. Mangos; Latin, F. Mangos and Charlie Tulloch; writing, George Buchanan and C. Tulloch; reading, C. Tulloch; drawing and

brushwork, R. Usherwood, C. Tulloch, and H. Gallien; recitation, C. Tulloch, F. Mangos, and G. Buchanan.

Grade II.—Christian doctrine, Harry L. Kempston and Lennie J. Pavletich; class prize, H. Kempston; arithmetic, Bernie Inkson, Arthur Mangos; spelling, Tom Quirk, Frank McLaughlin; drawing and brushwork, Theo. Mackay, B. Inkson; writing, B. Inkson, F. McLaughlin; singing, A. Mangos, H. Kempston, B. Inkson, L. J. Pavletich; nature study, L. J. Pavletich, Tom Quirk; recitation, L. J. Pavletich, H. L. Kempston.

Elementary Grade.—Christian doctrine, Frank Crosbie; good conduct, Christopher Crowe; politeness, Leo Armstrong; modelling, Pat Kelligher, Jackie Crowe; drawing, Alister Mowat, L. Armstrong, C. Crowe, Rex Kelly; reading, Pat Mangos, C. Crowe, R. Kelly; writing, L. Armstrong, C. Crowe, Jack Kennedy, Frank Crosbie, Rex Kelly; singing, Ian Buchanan, Pat Kelligher; spelling, A. Mowat, I. Buchanan, J. Kennedy; recitation, R. Kelly, J. Crowe, P. Mangos; drill (prize awarded by drill instructor), Leo Armstrong, Chris Crowe; tables, I. Buchanan, P. Mangos.

General Prizes.—Politeness, Ralph Usherwood; physical exercises (prize awarded by drill instructor)—senior squad, I. Loughnan and C. Buchanan; junior squad, C. Crowe and L. Armstrong. Flower gardening, Paul Inkson, Tom Quirk; vegetable gardening, G. Buchanan, B. Inkson; games, R. Waldron, F. Mangos; woodwork—senior division, A. Loughnan; junior division, I. Loughnan; dancing, Reginald Waldron.

Music Prizes.—Elementary (Royal Academy), Claude Buchanan (medal); Preparatory (Trinity College), Ralph Usherwood; improvement in music, Reginald Waldron; theory, Humphrey Geaney; violin, Charlie Tulloch.

The Dominican Nuns desire to thank very cordially the parents and friends who have contributed so generously to the prize fund.

OBITUARY

MRS. McLOUGHLIN, PATUTAHU.

Death has taken into its bosom another of the good old school in the person of Mrs. P. McLoughlin, of Patutahi (writes a correspondent). Mrs. McLoughlin, who was a Wanganui girl, had lived a retired life, and her death was the cause of universal regret. She, being a religious lady, and living up to the sublime principles of Holy Church, which she always cherished, had set an example worthy of the greatest emulation. A woman of the noblest type, she worked unceasingly for the interests of her husband, family, and Church, to the latter of which she was always a generous benefactor. The late Mrs. McLoughlin had a large circle of friends, and she endeared herself to all with whom she came in contact. Death did not come as a great surprise, for her heart had shown grave signs of exhaustion for the past twelve months. She died as she had lived—a good and noble soul. Having her twelve children around her, and having been fortified by the rites of Holy Church, she passed unto Him Whom she had so faithfully served. Solemn Requiem Mass was celebrated in St. Mary's Church, Gisborne, for the repose of her soul by Rev. Father Lane. The rev. gentleman, who was an intimate friend of the deceased for the past 13 years, spoke in feeling language of the loss the Ormond parish has sustained through the removal of one of its best-known members. Father Lane conducted the burial service at the graveside. Much sympathy is meted out to Mr. McLoughlin and family for the great loss they have sustained.—R.I.P.

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GARDENING NOTES

(By Mr. J. JOYCE, Landscape Gardener, Christchurch.)

THE VALUE OF MANURES.

I take the following article from the *American Home and Farm Cyclopedia*:—When a farmer comes to know that a ton of farmyard manure properly applied to his soil represents dollars and cents in his pocket, then he is fit to be a farmer, and not before. That such is the case is just as certain as that a hundred cents make a dollar. The farmer who saves and applies the manure which accumulates in various forms upon his farm, saves absolute dollars, just as inevitably as two and two make four. Allowing manure to waste is so many dollars lost, which might have been saved. It is lost directly because it has not been converted into wheat, pork, or horseflesh as it could have been. It is lost indirectly to the farmer himself, and those who come after him in the diminished productiveness of the farm. He must be made to realise that when he takes twenty bushels of wheat to market he takes from the soil which produced it one thousand two hundred pounds of plant-producing material or manure converted into grain, which sooner or later must be returned, or his land becomes barren, and refuses to produce anything because of utter inability. These remarks are applicable to all soils, rich and poor, old and new. Any fertile soil, one apparently needing no manure, will in time become exhausted and not worth cultivating, unless its fertility is kept up by manuring. No matter how fertile it may be, it must in the very nature of things deteriorate just as surely as does the bin of wheat when ten bushels are taken from it; and this is the keynote to all farming. There is scarcely a limit to the productiveness of mother earth in the hands of an intelligent and practical manager. Were it not for manure, New England, and old England as well, would in a few years become first sterile and then depopulated.

Fertilisers have now become a commercial trade article. They may be bought for supplying any deficiency in the soil, supplying the missing element only or for general fertilising purposes, and in any quantity. Thousands of tons are imported annually. They are but common manures, with the unimportant bulky parts removed, and are ready for application to the soil when received by the dealer.

WHAT ARE MANURES?

Manure is any substance which is applied artificially to the soil to increase its ability to produce vegetable growth. Everything which produces this is manure, whether it be the droppings of animals and fowls, or any decaying vegetation or refuse from the kitchen. As manures act differently upon the soil they have been classified in the following manner:—

1st, Nutritive: Those whose ingredients being taken up by the roots of plants go to form a part of their structures.

2nd, Solvent: Those which give to water a greater power to dissolve the plant food already contained by the soil.

3rd, Absorbent: Those which add to the power of the soil to absorb the fertilising parts of other manures of the water, of rains and snows, and of the atmosphere circulating within it.

4th, Mechanical: Those which improve the mechanical character of the soil, such as clay on sandy soil,

sand or peat on heavy clays, and such as break the particles of soil and make it finer.

FARMYARD MANURE.

This is the universal fertiliser, and is a direct source of most valuable plant food. A familiar knowledge of it is indispensable to the successful farmer. In decomposing, it produces ammonia and other substances which not only feed the crop but add immensely to the solvent power of water in the soil. It rots, and its coarser parts become compounds which are very active absorbers of ammonia. By reason of its fibrous texture it loosens heavy clays and binds together the particles composing light soils; by decomposing, heat is produced which warms the soil, while its power of absorbing moisture from the air keeps it moist. With all these properties it is easy to understand that farmyard manure is invaluable, that it can be rarely applied amiss, and that its preservation for use becomes a subject of vital importance. It consists of that part of the animal's food not required in the growing, life-preserving, or fattening process discarded in the form of dung, and urine, of the straw; or whatever is used as bedding, waste food, litter, etc. This farmyard manure contains nothing which has not already formed a part of plants. It also contains every ingredient required by plants in growing. Hence the impossibility of using it where it will do harm. It may be improperly used—that is, put on in too large quantities, thereby burning up the crop; or it may be heaped up around trees and plants until they are injured rather than benefited; or it may be thrown away for a season by applying to the soil for the time being, rich enough, but a judicious use of stable manure is always in order.

I wish all my readers a merry Christmas and a very happy and prosperous New Year, with a plentiful supply of flowers and vegetables throughout the year.

In the first week of October the Franciscan Fathers, New York, celebrated the golden jubilee of the establishment of their Order in New York. The Franciscans went to that city in 1866 in response to the late Cardinal McCloskey's call for priests to work among the Italian immigrants, then beginning to arrive in large numbers. They founded St. Anthony's, the oldest Italian church in New York, and their monastery in Thompson street is now the mother-house of branches in other parts of the city and in Pennsylvania, Michigan, Utah, and Massachusetts. Father Ferdinand Parri, head of the Order in New York, received a letter from Rome conveying a blessing from Pope Benedict.

SYMPATHY.

If there is one person who deserves sympathy it is surely he who suffers from chronic colds. A sudden change in the weather or going out into the night air from a heated room, is quite enough to bring on the trouble. Usually the tendency to catch cold is due to a generally run-down condition, and the treatment should take the form of a tonic like BAXTER'S LUNG PRESERVER. It is pleasant to take, gives sure results, and is quite harmless; for children and adults you cannot find a better cough or cold remedy. 1/10 a bottle from all chemists and stores, or by post direct. J. BAXTER & CO. — CHRISTCHURCH.

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LONDON'S GRIM TOWER

SOME OF THE HORRORS OF ELIZABETHAN 'JUSTICE.'

It was principally in the reign of Queen Elizabeth that the Tower of London became the prison of those who professed the Catholic faith and refused to subscribe to the so-called reformed principles of religion (says the *Irish Weekly*). Many Catholics had been incarcerated in its dungeons in the time of Henry VIII., but their numbers were few when compared with those who forfeited their lives within its sinister precincts in the days of his daughter, Elizabeth. When Mary of Scotland was executed in 1558—her death took place at Fotheringay, in Northamptonshire—the event seemed to provide a signal for the filling of the prisons of the Tower, for eight Catholic priests were known to be immured there in 1561, while the number of Catholic priests who were allowed to die of disease or were secretly murdered will never now be known, since all Catholic churchmen were then at the mercy of 'common informers,' and summary imprisonment was invariably their portion. It is, however, certain that during the persecution ages, over three hundred priests and laymen and religious women lost their lives within the walls of the Tower. Certainly nothing in the barbarous history of the worst of the Middle Age tyrants can exceed, for rennment of cruelty and torture, the story of the Tower.

The history of the White Tower is gruesomeness itself. Here was the torture-chamber, and the holes in which the four posts of the rack were sunk are still to be seen. On this instrument Fathers Campion and Briant were (according to the boast of the rack-master, Norton) stretched a foot longer than Nature had intended them to be; while Father Gerard had his hands screwed into two iron rings, by which he was suspended to a column, so that his feet just touched the ground. Thrice he was subjected for hours at a stretch to this torture and that of the thumb-screws. He was one of the few priests who ever escaped from the place, two lay brothers, dressed as watermen, rescuing him at night through his cell window and rowing him down to Gravesend, whence he escaped.

Within the White Tower was a dungeon which was known as 'Little Ease,' and was so built that the prisoner could neither stand upright nor lie down at full length. A pipe connected this cell with the moat and admitted the water from the Thames at high tide, to the height of several feet, so that in addition to the torture of this plight, the unhappy captive was nearly drowned and even bitten by hungry river rats that swam in with the foul and slimy water. Here, too, in earlier ages, Jews were first subjected to the 'total darkness' torture in order to force them to part with treasure; and it is recorded that in the year 1580 there were one thousand prisoners who were kept there in durance, and daily gave their jailers practice in torturing. Most of these prisoners were Jesuits, and so revolting were the tortures that a Government inquiry was instituted to investigate the horrors practised. So fearful were the tortures inflicted on Father Southwell, that his father sent a petition to Elizabeth 'praying that his son might be either executed or treated as a gentleman!' Even Elizabeth relented.

Among the most illustrious prisoners was Philip Howard, Earl of Arundel, whose father, grandfather, and great-grandfather were also executed in the Tower. Howard died in his prison in 1595, and permission was refused him to see his wife or the son born to him when he had been but a few months in prison. He refused the Queen's pardon with its provision that he should become a Protestant, and never again saw either wife or son. Then there was the heroic Dr. John Store, who was also condemned for his Catholicity to be hanged, drawn, and quartered at Tyburn, now the north side of Hyde Park, or Marble Arch. Store was duly hanged, but was cut down before he was deprived of his senses, when, as the executioner was about to per-

form the horrible surgery of the sentence, the condemned man rose and felled him with a terrific blow. Store was then seventy years old.

Thomas Fitzgerald, son of the Earl of Kildare, once left the Tower with two of his uncles, and all were executed at Tyburn on February 3, 1537. Tower Green is now a paved square, but was formerly as beautifully laid out as a bowling green; in its centre was the scaffold, and here Lord Essex, Bishop Fisher, and Thomas More were executed. Close by the Green is the chapel, once known as that of St. Peter ad Vincula, but now closed. From this chapel a long procession of historic personages went their sorrowful way to the scaffold on the Green—More and Fisher, Queen Catherine Howard, Monmouth (as late as 1685), and several Dukes of Norfolk. Of this spot and its adjoining cemetery Macaulay writes:—

'In truth there is no sadder spot on earth than this little cemetery. Death is there associated, not as in Westminster and St. Paul's with genius and virtue, with public veneration and imperishable renown; not as in our humblest churches and churchyards, with everything that is most endearing in social and domestic charities, but with whatever is darkest in human nature and in human destiny; with the savage triumph of implacable enemies, with the inconstancy, the ingratitude, the cowardice of friends, with all the miseries of fallen greatness and blighted fame. Thither have been carried through successive ages, by the rude hands of jailers, without one mourner following, the bleeding relics of men who had been the captains of armies, the leaders of parties, the oracles of senates, and the ornaments of courts.'

Opposite Tower Hill stood the Conning Tower, where prisoners condemned to die were handed over to the civic authorities. It was here that the venerable Bishop Fisher awaited among other condemned his turn to be decapitated, and whilst the Sheriff delayed, he took out his Testament and asked our Lord to send him some words of comfort. He opened on the text: 'This is eternal life, to know Thee, the only true God and Jesus Christ Whom Thou hast sent.' That, he said, is enough to satisfy my soul.

Here, again, died Father James Fenn, who, being left a widower, had become a priest. When he was (February 12, 1587) on the way to the scaffold he looked up and recognised his little daughter, Frances, weeping bitterly as she stood in the crowd. He kept his habitual calm, and lifting his pinioned hands as high as possible, gave the little maid his last blessing, and so was borne away.

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Further replies by letter.

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Science Siftings

By 'VOL.'

How Baseballs are Made.

In the centre of the standard baseball, as used by the professional players, there is a globe of compressed cork covered with rubber. This globe is about an inch in diameter, and around it are wound a few layers of coarse twine. It is then sent to the winding room, where machines first wind on thick four-ply blue yarn. At frequent intervals the ball is soaked in a cement solution and put aside to dry. Many different workers have to do with the winding of the ball. Each workman tests it for size and weight before he passes it along. The machines insure tight and even winding, and there are different machines for different sizes of yarn. These machines are operated in secret in a locked room. When the ball has been wound to the proper size with blue and white yarn, and has been dipped in the solution, it is wound finally with smaller yarn. Thus the firm, rough centre is overlaid with finer and finer material until at last it is smooth and perfect, ready for the cover. The best horse hide obtainable is used for covers. The pieces are cut by hand and dampened and stretched. The ball is put into clamps and the cover sewed on with cotton thread, which has a greater frictional strength than linen or silk. Each ball is sewed by hand and then put into a machine that irons down the seams. The polishing is done by still another machine. Then, after being stamped and wrapped, the ball is ready for the market. A ball weighs five ounces and is nine inches in circumference. In the course of manufacture it is weighed and measured five times.

Growth of Our Nails.

It has been estimated by a scientist that in a lifetime of seventy years a man grows nails which, if it were possible to preserve them uncut, would reach the length of seven feet nine inches. Exactly on what argument this statement is based it is difficult to say, for a little observation will show that during the greater portion of a man's life he cuts his nails on an average once a week, and at each paring removes a sixteenth of an inch, or the equivalent of a quarter of an inch per month, working out at three inches a year. This would give him a growth of seven feet five inches during the thirty years he lives between twenty and fifty. In the other forty years, when the growth is less rapid, he would certainly produce four feet of nails, so that eleven feet is a better average for the nail-producing capacity of a man. It should be noted, however, that the growth of the nails on the right hand is, in most people, more rapid than of those on the left hand, and it may be that the scientist in question has based his argument on the slower growth of the left-hand nails. Another curious point is that the rate of growth of the nails depends directly on the length of the finger; thus, the nails on the two middle fingers of men grow more rapidly than those on the first and third fingers respectively, and these in turn are more speedy in growth than those of the little fingers.

Discoveries by Accident.

Felt-making, which has now attained such huge proportions, had a very humble origin. A man of substance, who suffered from cold feet, conceived the idea of lining his boots with wool. The moisture which the wool then contracted and the pressure to which it was subjected between foot and shoe, combined with the heat of the body, caused the fleecy substance to consolidate into a rude sort of felt. It was not long ere an intelligent and thoughtful genius conceived the idea of utilising it for the other extremity, and thus was evolved the hat.

The process of whitening sugar was discovered in a curious way. A hen that had gone through a clay puddle walked with her muddy feet into a sugar factory, leaving her tracks upon a pile of sugar. It was noticed that the sugar was whitened wherever her foot-marks lay. Experiments caused wet clay to be used for refining sugar.

Hamilton

(From our own correspondent.)

December 17.

A tennis match was played on Saturday, the 16th inst., between the St. Andrew's Club and the St. Mary's Club on the latter's courts. When the play commenced the day was warm and the games fast. The respective teams were well matched, and a most enjoyable afternoon was spent. It was unfortunate that a sudden shower of rain prevented the clubs from playing a full tournament match, but the result of the afternoon's play was a win for St. Mary's Club by 16 points.

On Monday last the Catholic Club held its final meeting of the year. It took the form of a 'Savage Evening,' when all members present were to contribute an item. The parishioners were invited, and there was a fairly large attendance in the clubrooms. Catholic clubs, like all others, have this year felt the constant drain made on them by so many of their members responding so loyally to the call of National duty. It has been a little more difficult to stimulate interest and to maintain former enthusiasm, but the Hamilton Catholic Club should be congratulated on the successful ending to their year's work. Amongst the items contributed during the evening were the following:—Pianoforte solo, Mr. Hopkins; recitation, Mr. C. Laferty; song, Mr. M. Ryan; violin solo, Very Rev. Dean Darby; extract from Dickens, Mr. Henry J. McMullin; recitation, Mr. McLoughlin; song, Mr. Hopkins; side-lights on astronomy, Mr. F. J. Pryor; boxing match, Messrs. H. Ryan and T. Patten; song, Mr. J. Fox; musical monologue, Mr. Frank Edmonds; humorous sketches, Mr. M. McCarthy; song, Rev. Father Duffy; 'God Save the King.'

The annual Catholic school children's picnic was held on Wednesday, the 13th inst., at the Lake Reserve. The weather conditions were perfect and were a material factor in the great success of the picnic. A children's Mass was celebrated at 9 o'clock by the Very Rev. Dean Darby at the Church of Our Lady of the Rosary, and after Mass the procession of children made its way from the church to the Lake Reserve. From their arrival at the lake till the time of their returning, the day was one of merriment for the 300 children present. The choice of the place was a fortunate one as the Reserve is one of the few places around Hamilton naturally adapted for the holding of a picnic. The choice of the day was still more opportune. Perhaps in this a departure has been made from the conventional idea that school picnics should be held on St. Patrick's Day, but experience here as in other centres has gone to prove that the weather at that time of the year is most unreliable. The holding of a school picnic about the middle of December has advantages which will outweigh conventional sympathies. It is at the end of the scholastic year when the children are freed from their studies, the weather is usually hot and dry, and, further, the time falls within the Octave of the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, a time wisely set apart for a children's feast. Great credit is due to the members of the committee, who worked so hard and were organised so well. No stone was left unturned to make the picnic a great success. Prizes and trophies were in abundance, and scarcely a child left the Reserve without some token as a happy reminder of the festive day spent by the lake. A first-class sports programme was gone through during the day.

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Domestic

(BY MAUREEN.)

SOME CHEESE DISHES.

Boston Roast.—One pound of cooked kidney beans, ½ lb grated cheese, breadcrumbs, salt. Pound the beans or put them through a vegetable mashing machine. Add the cheese and sufficient breadcrumbs to make the mixture stiff enough to be formed into a roll. Bake this in a moderate oven, basting it occasionally with butter and water. Serve with tomato sauce. The dish may be flavored with onion if it be liked.

Nut and Cheese Roast.—Eight ounces grated cheese, the same of chopped walnuts, and ditto of breadcrumbs, 2 tablespoonfuls chopped onion, 1oz butter, the juice of half a lemon, salt, and pepper. Cook the onion in the butter and a little water until tender. Mix the ingredients well together, moistening with the water in which the onion has been cooked. Put in a shallow baking dish, and bake in the oven until brown.

Cheese and Spinach Roll.—Two quarts of spinach, ½ lb grated cheese, 1oz butter, salt, and breadcrumbs. Cook the spinach for ten minutes; drain, add the butter, cook until tender, and chop. Add the grated cheese and sufficient breadcrumbs to make the mixture stiff enough to form a roll. Bake in a baking dish in a moderate oven until brown.

Cheese Souffle.—Two ounces butter, 1½oz flour, 1 gill milk (scalded), ½ teaspoonful salt, a pinch of cayenne, 2oz grated cheese, 3 eggs. Melt the butter in a saucepan, add the flour, and when well mixed add gradually the scalded milk. Then add the cheese and the seasoning. Remove from the fire and add the well-beaten yolks of the eggs. Cool the mixture and fold it into the white of the eggs beaten until stiff. Pour into a buttered baking dish, and cook for 20 minutes in a slow oven.

Cheese Omelet.—Cheese may be added to omelets in various ways. A thin cheese sauce may be served with an ordinary omelet, or grated cheese may be sprinkled over an omelet when cooked.

Cheese and Oatmeal. A pound of oatmeal, ½ lb grated cheese, 1oz butter, a teaspoonful of salt. Cook the oatmeal in the usual manner. Before serving, stir in the butter and cheese until they are thoroughly blended with the oatmeal.

The Best Disinfectant Known to Science.

A physician writes to *Farm, Field, and Fireside*, saying: 'The very best disinfectant known to science does not seem to be known to some people at all. I allude to boric acid, or, as some people call it, boracic acid. It is exceedingly efficient, safe, and economical. It is a white powder, and makes the best dressing for wounds that modern doctors have ever discovered. In using peroxide of hydrogen it is always necessary to remember that, while it is a disinfectant, it is not a healing remedy at all, as it is acid in reaction and stimulating rather than healing to wounds. Boric acid is mild and safe in its action, promotes rapid healing of wounds, can be used as a dressing-powder or, dissolved in water, as a cleansing solution. Boric acid in solution makes an excellent gargle for sore mouths or a lotion for sore eyes; and, as it is not at all expensive, a pound box of it should form part of the domestic supplies of every family. Always remember that boric acid is non-poisonous in any ordinary quantity usually used, while bichloride of mercury and carbolic acid are exceedingly poisonous. For disinfecting and deodorizing drains, the crude or unrefined carbolic acid is one of the best agents obtainable.'

Household Hint.

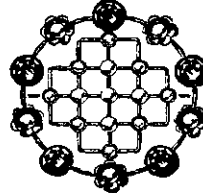
Tighten the cane seats of chairs in this way: Turn the chair upside down and wash the cane well with soap and water. Leave in the open air to dry, and, provided the canes are not broken, the seat will be quite as firm as when new.



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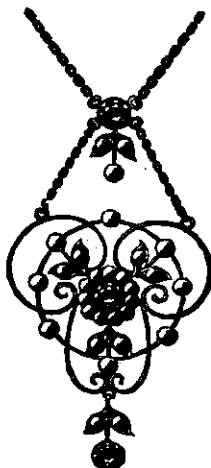
H 9902—Dainty Gold Circle Brooch, set with 18 Pearls and 6 Aquamarines, £2 Set with Pearls and Garnets or Turquoise, 35/-



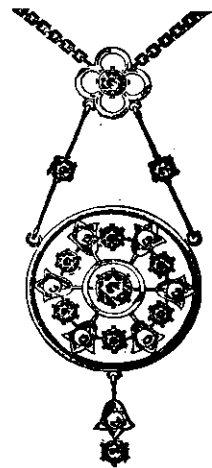
J 2636—15ct. Gold Brooch, set with 5 Peridots and 18 Pearls, £4 With Aquamarines and Pearls, £4 10/-



H 3064—9ct. Gold Amethyst and Pearl Brooch, in Morocco case, 21/-



O 2666;1—Pretty 9ct. Gold Necklet and Pendant, set with 31 fine Pearls and 3 Peridots or Garnets, £3 10/-



P 7538—9ct. Gold Necklet and Pendant, set with 7 Pearls and 8 Peridots and 3 Garnets, £3 3/-

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On the Land

WEED ERADICATION.

The eradication of the troublesome weeds which infest a large number of our farms is a problem which faces the New Zealand farmer. The high prices now paid for agricultural lands necessitates the thorough working of every acre of land on the farm, in order to make it produce a maximum crop, whether it be a grain crop or a forage crop (says a writer in the *N.Z. Farmer*). There are many farms with at least ten per cent., and in some cases a great deal more, that is covered with twitch, and in many other cases with Californian thistle. Many devices have been tried, and the problem has been studied by some of the most prominent members of our farming community. In dealing with twitch, the plough and cultivator are most commonly used. The method of cultivation varies according to the amount of twitch in the land. If there are only a few patches which do not cover a very large proportion of the land, these patches may be worked separately, thus saving a deal of time and labor, as in this case only a comparatively small area will need extra working. If, however, a large proportion of the field is covered with twitch, it is usually better to take the whole field in hand so as to make sure of getting to the bottom of it all.

In dealing with grass land that has been down for a number of years, the favorite method of killing twitch is to first plough from 2½ to 3 inches deep, and after the furrows have been allowed to thoroughly dry through, to cross-plough the same depth so as to simply turn over the furrows in blocks. That is to say if ploughed ten inches the first time and then cross-ploughed the same width, the blocks will be 10 inches by 10 inches. This is a convenient size, as these blocks will go through the ordinary cultivators. The blocks should be kept as intact as possible during the early stage of working, or until the twitch down to this depth has been thoroughly killed. A great mistake many farmers make in the early stages of twitch killing is to try and get the surface soil worked down to a fine state as soon as possible. This is exactly contrary to what we should endeavor to do, for if we want land to dry out quickly we leave the surface as rough as possible so as to allow the sun and drying winds to penetrate. On the other hand, if we want the soil to retain moisture we work it down fine. Therefore, the rougher the surface is left the better chance there will be of the turf turned over by the plough to dry out. In my opinion, according to experience, the better and surer way to kill twitch at this season, when ploughed out of leaf, is, to plough about 5 inches in dry weather, for if ploughed a good depth when the land is dry the sun and drying winds will go far towards killing it without much further cultivation. The advantage of deep ploughing is that the furrow slice being deep, all this depth will dry out, as the connection between it and the subsoil will be severed. No doubt the deep ploughing necessitates correspondingly deep cultivation, which increases the draught on the team, but it is certainly more effective in killing twitch than singly ploughing and working the top 2 or 3 inches. I have taken large fields in hand that were one mass of twitch, ploughed the land at the end of November, or early in December 5 inches deep, when the land was hard and dry. After being ploughed it was left in the bare furrows until the middle of January, and by this time the twitch was practically all killed. The only cultivation necessary was to level the land so as to have it in a fit state for the crop to follow. This work was chiefly done during intervals in harvest, when the teams were available.

If, however, the former method is adopted a few practical hints may prove useful to those engaged in the work of twitch-killing. Firstly, in the skim ploughing, the skeiths and shares should cut clean, and not break

the furrow slice, which should be turned completely over, allowed to lie a few weeks, and then cross-ploughed the same depth. Care should be taken not to go deeper for fear of creating too much mould, which would have a tendency to retain moisture. To do this the skeith should be set well forward, and well down below the bottom edge of the share. By doing so the furrow will be cut clean through by the skeiths before the shares disturb it, thus leaving it in square blocks. This allows the sun and winds to penetrate the furrow. After the second ploughing the land may be grubbed with a heavy grubber or spring-tined cultivator. If the latter is used it may be necessary to remove some of the tines to prevent blocking; also undue pulverisation. Some prefer to plough the land a third, and even a fourth time instead of putting the grubber on it. In this case the skeiths or coulters should be removed after the second ploughing to prevent cutting the blocks up too fine, which should be avoided until the twitch is all thoroughly killed.

Many devices and experiments have also been tried for the eradication of Californian thistle. Different chemicals have been tried, and some of these have been fairly successful, but in most instances the cost of treatment has been too great, and can only be practised when the patches are few and far between. Another disadvantage of using chemicals that will prove effective in killing the weeds, is that their application is more or less disturbing to other plant life. Therefore if applied to the thistle, the soil where the chemicals are used will not grow anything for a number of years, so that after paying for the chemicals and applying them and allowing for the loss of the land until the poison has become exhausted and the land restored to its natural fertility, renders this method of treatment prohibitive. The cheaper and surer way of killing this troublesome weed, that is on land that can be ploughed, is to plough the patches, or if necessary the whole field, and to keep it continually ploughed or cultivated until the plants fail to show above ground. The ploughing should be done at regular intervals, and should be done each time before the plants reach the surface. It should be borne in mind that the plants cannot grow for an indefinite period unless allowed to make green leaves. If these are continually cut below the surface the plants will gradually die at the roots.

SUCCESS OF BASIC SLAG.

The immense success of basic slag has, in the opinion of a writer in *Farm, Field, and Fireside*, been mainly due to its special power of improving a particular class of poor grass lands on clay. The soils of these clays are lacking in both phosphoric acid and carbonate of lime, and when they have been long down to grass they become covered with a thin, poor herbage of bent grass, which creeps along the surface in straggling tufts and affords very poor grazing for any kind of stock. Farmyard manure, and almost any form of nitrogenous fertiliser, have no good effects, often an injurious one; but the summer following a dressing of basic slag, the whole pasture becomes covered with white clover, small plants of which have previously been living stunted beneath the 'bents.' Stock now graze the land with great relish and the vegetation improves year by year, the bent grass giving place to clovers and other grasses of better character.

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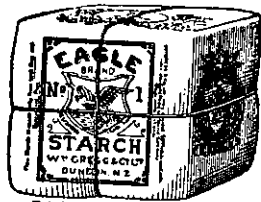
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The Family Circle

THE OLD PLAYGROUND.

Our school days they come to us
Like shadows through the haze;
We view the kindly faces, and we
Mind the kindly ways
Of all the little boys and girls
We played with long ago,
Upon the old school playground,
Those curly heads of tow.

And, too, the bright and laughing eyes
Are looking through the mist,
The years have flung about us,
That we'd forget I wist;
But all the old-time friendships
Learn to linger, if to say,
'T'd love to take you romping
Out upon that ground to-day!

I'd love to take you romping out
Upon the old board walk,
I'd fain go with you arm in arm,
To have an old-time talk;
I'd like to see you hustle at
The tap of recess bell,
A topsy-turvy one and all—
I'm weary as I tell.

A sad old sight 'tis some would make
Upon that ground to-day,
With blear old eyes and memories
That lead them far away;
Of home ties sadly torn, alack;
The world were none too kind
I'd walk with you and tell it all,
If you, old chum, don't mind.

How many paths that led away
From that old hurtling spot;
How many faces die in mist,
How many joys forgot!
How dear to us 'twill ever be,
The feast that youth had spread;
Alas! how many of our throng
All silent, now lie dead!

The Columbian.

A MODERN SANTA CLAUS.

It was Christmas Eve. The lights were beginning to gleam through the windows of happy homes and trace tracks of brilliancy over the snow. Around a little shanty on the outskirts of the city were grouped a number of rough-looking laborers who were employed during these days in making a cut for a new railroad. They were being paid off now, and many of their faces already glowed with the anticipated pleasures of the approaching night. Though most of them were powerful men physically, there was one who towered above the rest and showed a breadth of shoulder that marked him out.

He was evidently a rough character. In spite of his poor clothing, he did not seem to mind the cold or snow of that December evening. He leaned carelessly against a telegraph pole, just out of the circle of light from an arc lamp, with his collar turned up and his soft hat pulled down well over one eye. I had passed that way by chance and became interested in the process of paying off; but in watching this individual I soon forgot the other. His companions, I knew, were a wild and turbulent set—hard workers all of them, but hard drinkers too when occasion offered, and full of untamed animal spirits. Looking at the deep chest, bull's-neck, and harsh features of this specimen, as he stood apart and watched his fellows receive their wages, I thought I saw before me six foot-two of recklessness and depravity.

In groups of three or four the crowd began to move up the street. A pair of brightly lighted windows belonging to a dispensary of cheering beverages held out an invitation that most of them accepted at once. Almost to a man they poured into the place, and their hoarse, loud laughter and snatches of song soon told the tale of increasing jollity. The fellow I had been watching came slowly up the street after his companions. He was counting his money over again and seemed lost in thought. Just before reaching the doors that had swallowed up the others, he stood irresolutely. There was uncertainty written all over him as he alternately glanced at the money in his hand and at the glowing windows. Then resolutely thrusting both hands into the pockets of his coat, he passed the place hurriedly. A few yards beyond he paused and looked back. Would he return, I asked myself, and throw away his few hard-earned dollars on drink and a night of revelry? I felt it was a decisive moment on which hung the happiness of that Christmas for him and for his family, if he had any, and I breathed a prayer that the good Mother of God would give him strength to win the battle. He came back a step or two, stopped again, then crossed over to the opposite side of the street, and stood surveying the scene and listening to the coarse laughter and the spasmodic attempts at song. It was too much; with a gesture of despair he rushed across the street. His hand was on the door, when once more he turned and actually ran away.

Whispering a thankful prayer, I followed him unobserved. He did not dare look back, but slackening his pace into a fast walk he went on till he came to a small store combining the offices of a grocery and dry-goods shop. This he entered. I watched through the window and saw him lay out almost his last penny on edibles and clothes. When he came out I accosted him, though doubtful of my reception.

'You're one of the men from the new railroad, aren't you?'

'Yes,' he said a little gruffly, as he eyed me suspiciously.

'Quit early to-night?'

'Yes; it's in honor of Christmas. They let us off early.'

'Well, pardon me, but I noticed you going in here and thought you must be preparing to make this a merry Christmas for some one.'

He laughed nervously.

'I've tried the other track many a time, too. It's bad. It's hard to get off it once you've started that way.'

'Going home?'

The ice was broken. He thawed completely and really grew enthusiastic.

'Home? Yes, that's it. I'm going home. Over at Albion—that's six miles from here—my old mother's waiting for me. We've always been together at least on Christmas Day. I've got a few new duds for her here, and something for a Christmas dinner. It'll make the old woman happy. I'll be her Santa Claus.'

'Well, good-bye—and "Merry Christmas."'

'Merry Christmas.'

And he was off in the darkness, starting on his long tramp to make glad the heart of his aged mother. It was another victory for the spirit of Christmas, and I am sure that when the angels that night sang 'Peace to men of good will' their blessing fell abundantly on the heart that beat so warmly under that rough exterior.—*Father Dunne's Newsboys' Journal.*

A BARBED QUESTION.

A certain newly-rich young man, assuming great airs, was neatly squelched a few days ago by a member of one of our oldest families. The pompous young man had somehow managed to obtain membership in a select club, where he assumed a certain attitude and remarked, in what he imagined to be the proper tone:

'It's deucedly disagreeable, don'tcheknow, to associate with one's inferiors.'

'Ah,' said the other, 'how in the world did you find that out?'

YOUR OWN PHOTOGRAPH

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GETTING RID OF THE CHINESE.

A county council teacher tells the following tale with much gusto:

'I was giving a geography lesson on China the other day, and mentioned its vast population—over 400 millions. To present some idea of what such a stupendous number implied, I explained that if we calculated what must be the corresponding number of deaths among the Chinese, there must be at least two persons die every time we take a breath. The illustration somewhat startled the boys, and an involuntary gasp showed that it had been appreciated. During the morning I noticed a little fellow who appeared very uncomfortable. His face was flushed with exertion, and he was puffing and wheezing like an asthmatic steam-engine.

"What is the matter, Tommy?" I inquired, with alarm: "what are you doing?"

"Killing Chinamen," he answered, laconically.'

THE HUSBAND SCORED.

Mrs. Micklehan: 'If woman were given the credit she deserves I don't think man would be quite so prominent in the world's history.'

Mr. M.: 'I think you are right. If she could get all the credit she wants he'd be insolvent!'

CORRECT MEASUREMENT.

Some years ago there lived in the city of X. a rather eccentric old man, remarkable for his shrewdness, who kept a pork shop. Three young fellows, thinking to have some fun with him, entered his shop one night, and asked what his pork was a yard.

The old man promptly replied, 'Five shillings.'

One of the young men then said: 'I'll take a yard.'

'Where is your money?' said the old man.

The five shillings were laid down, which the old man quickly pocketed, and then produced three pig's feet, with the remark: 'Three feet make one yard.'

NO MEANNESS ABOUT HIM.

Mr. Newrich went the other day to a high-class restaurant with his wife and two friends. Mrs. Newrich, who had been brought up better than her husband, whispered to him: 'Ask for a menu.'

'One menu only?' responded her husband. 'Certainly not: I intend to do the thing well. Hi, waiter! I say, menus for four, and see that they are done to a turn!'

NOT IN STOCK.

Lady (to dog dealer): 'I live in a lonely house in the country, and I want a good house-dog.'

'Yes, marm.'

'But I don't want one that will keep me awake at night barking at nothing.'

'No, marm.'

'He must be very strong and fierce, yet as gentle as a lamb with us, you know.'

'Yes, marm.'

'And he must pounce upon and drive every tramp away that comes to the house.'

'Yes, marm.'

'But he must not interfere with any honest person coming along.'

'No, marm. Anything more?'

'Yes; if a burglar comes, the dog should attack him instantly.'

'Yes, marm.'

'But he must not molest anyone who makes a friendly call at any time.'

'No, marm.'

'And, of course, he must not interfere with any persons who may have to come to see my husband, for he is a doctor, and so a great many people call.'

'No, marm. I quite see what you want. You want a thought-reading dog.'

'Yes; I suppose so. Can you send me one?'

'Very sorry, marm, but I am quite out of the kind you want.'

A BRAVE GIRL.

'Do you think your sister likes me, Tommy?'

'Yes; she stood up for you at dinner.'

'Stood up for me! Was anybody saying anything against me?'

'No; nothing much. Father said he thought you were rather a donkey, but sis got up and said you weren't, and told father he ought to know better than judge a man by his looks.'

THEN THEY ALL ROARED.

Two members of the 'Night-Owl Club' bore the same name—Timson. This chance similarity in cognomens was the cause of much hilarity one night.

The usual business of the club was in full swing. Enter Timson No. 1.

'Timson!' cried somebody. 'There's a letter for you over there.'

Timson No. 1 opened the envelope and then looked round.

'This is not for me,' he said. 'It is a tailor's bill for the other fellow!'

Carefully the envelope was sealed up again and replaced upon the mantelshelf.

Enter Timson No. 2. He espied the letter upon the mantelshelf and proceeded to read the contents of it. All the members were watching him. Then, in a tender way, he murmured:

'Silly little girl!'

A VACCINATION ANECDOTE.

During a recent discussion on the subject of vaccination, when its supporters and opponents had fairly exhausted their arguments, one of the company, who had not hitherto spoken, volunteered his opinion that, far from being a benefit to the human race, the precaution was both dangerous and unnecessary.

'I will give you a proof,' he said. 'The son of a friend of mine, as healthy a little fellow as you would wish to see, was vaccinated by the advice of an idiotic medical man who attended the family, and what was the consequence? He died two days after the operation.'

Here the speaker paused for a moment, evidently gratified by the impression he had made on his hearers.

'Yes, gentlemen,' he continued, 'the poor lad, who was as active as a squirrel, was in the act of climbing a tree, when, a branch giving way, he lost his hold, and was killed by the fall. Don't talk to me of vaccination after that.'

A BIT OF THE STAGE.

Heavy Tragedian (at a local hotel): 'Prithee, landlord, dwells there within the precincts of this hamlet a machinist?'

Landlord: 'A machinist? Yes, sir.'

Tragedian: 'Then take to him this bird of many springs. Bid him wrench asunder these iron limbs, and then, for our regalement, to chisel slices from its unyielding bosom, for we would dine soon. And, pray you, do it quickly. You peas you need not carry, for those, with dextrous management, we can swallow whole. Away!'

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