

*Imitation!* This voice from a silent cell, a voice speaking across centuries, is more eloquent and more powerful than any other out of the *Inspired Book*, itself. The *Imitation* contains thoughts for all times. Its philosophy is founded on the immutability of the relations of the creature to the Creator, and conveyed to us by the words of a man who knew the clay of which we are formed intimately. There are little books of daily thoughts, and they are usually admirable books, but not one of them can compare to the old book that has thoughts for the strong and for the weak, for the sinner and for the saint, for the mourner and for the joyful. However small a Catholic's library may be there is always room for the *Imitation*, and no library is complete without it. Beside the Bible the place of honor is its by right divine. And, remembering Mr. Dooley, it would be wise to use them often as a bulwark against the attacks of Hall Gaine and Kipling and the other heathens who rage outside. Besides serving as a bulwark of that sort they will also serve as an antidote against the poison of so much modern books—a poison which is assimilated unconsciously unless one is fortified by such solid reading as the *Imitation* supplies. If you cannot appreciate the *Imitation* it is a sign that you are already poisoned and that you ought to see a doctor who will prescribe for your spiritual wants.

#### "He Who Fights and Runs Away"

In reply to Father Coffey's letter, which you published last week, the *Star* gave its readers a leader chiefly remarkable for its attempt to substitute alleged wit and no little abuse for argument. Father Coffey's notice of the editorial effort was brief and to the point. Dunedin wore a broad smile at the hasty retreat beaten by the champion of godless schools. On April 26 Father Coffey wrote the following brief letter to the *Star*:

Sir.—To accept the leader in your issue of the 24th inst. as a serious attempt to reply to my letter would be an insult to the intelligence of your readers, and I have too much respect for yourself to believe that you intended it as a serious reply. It consisted of personalities, camouflagé, proverbial sea-bearings of *praeterea nihil*. The personalities showed excellent taste. The camouflagé was worthy of a smoke expert who might find scope for his talents on the western front, but is not wanted here. The sea-bearings smelled too strong to deceive any person. I still await a reply, which I hope will come when you are in a less gurgling mood. There is neither sport, pleasure nor profit in aiming blows at a squirming acrobat. "To the mark without palaver or perturbation." I am, etc.

JAMES COFFEY.

The following was the editorial comment on the letter:—

"[This is obviously an occasion when one can afford to be generous to a perplexed and indignant disputant. Correspondence closed. Ed. *ES*.]"

Which being interpreted means the *Star* is "stouped."

#### A New Philosophy

In his editorial attack on Father Coffey, the editor of the *Star* lays down a new and illuminating principle. He tells us that as to suffer persecution for justice' sake is commended by the highest authority we Catholics ought not to complain. This from the *Star* which gave us on Anzac Day such a fine summary of the history of the Jews and such pathetic references to their persecutions is distinctly good. But perhaps it is not as good for Jews to suffer as it is for Catholics. That one piece of editorial impertinence was in keeping with the whole article, as it was a fair sample of the sweet reasonableness of the man who wishes to "strengthen the hand" of the Minister of Education by advocating that Catholic and Anglican children who win scholarships shall be deprived of them unless they take them out in anti-Christian schools. However the new philosophy will make things easy for all in future. When Howard Elliott tells us about Catharine

de Medici, instead of a historical refutation we can simply appeal to the *Star* philosophy and ask him has he forgotten that Catharine conferred a great benefit on the Huguenots if what is said about her is true. English Protestants will be able to defend Cromwell, and when we wild Irishmen speak of the women and children killed in Wexford by the gentle Oliver, they will be able to point out what a blessed thing for the women and children it was that Cromwell gave them such a splendid chance of suffering for justice' sake. And when we tell those who say that Ireland has no grievances now—the gentleman who writes for the Auckland *Star* out of his ignorance, for example—that English soldiers killed women and children in cold blood in Dublin in the August of 1914, they too can appeal sanctimoniously to the Dunedin *Star*. And with *Star* calling to *Star* across abysses of ignorance of Irish history and apparently of logic, what harmony we shall have to console us for the fact that we Catholics are robbed by the New Zealand Government to-day with the full approval of the supporters of the secular system.

#### DIocese OF DUNEDIN

Special devotions for the month of May are being observed each Tuesday and Thursday evening in St. Joseph's Cathedral.

Mr. A. G. Neill, an ex-student of Holy Cross College, Musgell, son of the late Mr. George Neill, St. Clair, Dunedin, has been notified that he has passed his final examination for admission as a solicitor.

The observance of the first anniversary of the death of Father O'Donnell, late pastor of Queenstown, will take place at St. Joseph's Church, Queenstown, on Tuesday, May 14, at which a number of the diocesan clergy are expected to participate.

The first euchre social of the present season, held on Tuesday in St. Joseph's Hall under the auspices of St. Joseph's Men's Club, and of the Christian Brothers' Association Football Club, was a pronounced success. Upwards of two hundred persons were present, and a very enjoyable time was spent. Songs were given at intervals by Miss Freda Kennedy and Miss Rena Bradshaw, and violin selections by Mr. Ray Kitchen. Miss Gwen Wilson was accompanist.

At 7 o'clock on last Thursday morning (Anzac Day) at St. Joseph's Cathedral, Solemn High Mass was offered for the repose of the souls of our Catholic soldiers who have made the supreme sacrifice, for the well-being of those still engaged in the stupendous conflict, and for a just and enduring peace. The Rev. Father Kaveney was celebrant, Rev. Father Ardagh organist, Rev. Dr. Kelly subdeacon, and Very Rev. Father Coffey, Adm. master of ceremonies. The incidental music was sung by the Christian Brothers' Boys' Choir, and there was a large congregation.

A revival of the old sport of Soccer football was evident on Saturday when the Greens placed on the field three splendid grade teams and five school teams, and the keenness of all was manifest in the manner in which the matches were played. On the form shown great hopes are entertained for the future. The games resulted as follows:—In First Grade, after a hard struggle in which both teams displayed excellent football, Greens were defeated by Maori Hill by 4 goals to 3. In Third Grade, Northern were victorious over our boys by 1 goal to nil; while the Fourth Grade had an easy victory over Y.M.C.A. by 4 goals to nil. The school teams upheld their records by registering three wins and two draws, the C eleven scoring 19 goals to nil against Maori Hill School.

#### NOTICE RE REMITTANCES

Will the senders of the amounts hereunder mentioned please notify us of their names and addresses:—  
Postal note 13/- (T. McKenna); stamps 7/6 (Lyttelton); 16/- postal note and stamps, received from Macleunan (no name).

# BROWNETTE BROS.

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