

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS

- J. C. (Invercargill).—Manning was made a Cardinal in 1875, Newman in 1879.
- "A MOTHER."—Cheer up. Your boy will like our new serial. If not, buy *Jack and the Beanstalk* for him.
- A. C. (Te Mata).—No, not a Sinn Fein oath. The reference was to a Jesuit oath and a Hibernian oath—both forgeries.
- M. O'S.—General Robertson is an Englishman and a Protestant; born in Lancashire, we believe. Unless we are mistaken, some released prisoners have already arrived in England.
- "VOICE NO. 2 FROM THE WILDERNESS."—Give us a chance. You are only lazy, and have as much opportunity for hunting up such information as we have. Moreover, it will do you good. We don't mind searching for things that the ordinary reader could not be expected to lay his hand on by simply stretching it out. But when we are asked such silly questions as, How many times did Desert Gold get her shoes changed in Australia, or what sort of perfume Mr. Massey uses, we beg leave to go on strike for a bit. We also object to being asked one week to repeat things we have published during the preceding week or two weeks. Imitate "Voice No. 1." and have sense. A Happy Christmas, anyhow.

A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE.

Over the weary waste of sea
Your Christmas message came to me,
Linking the lonely leagues that part
A brother's from a sister's heart;
Only a whisper: "We shall meet
Before the Crib at Jesus' Feet."

I was so lonely that the tears
Their tribute paid to bygone years,
Faces passed in the fading fire,
And Thought made pact with vain Desire,
Time, that all other wounds can heal
But makes the parting pain more real.

Dreaming, the torture of the brain
(For dreams can never solace pain),
Saw I the scenes of long ago.
The Mass-bell called across the snow,
Bidding the people kneel in prayer
Before the lowly manger bare.

Fondly I scanned each well-loved face
That lingered in the Holy Place.
Peace did my weary soul pervade
Before the Crib where He was laid,
For I had heard your whisper brief,
And solace found for aching grief.

—Rev. D. A. Casey.

"TABLET" SUBSCRIPTIONS

13/- STRICTLY IN ADVANCE PER ANNUM. £1 PER ANNUM BOOKED.

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