

pure and simple; and the vigor and vim exhibited in the debate afford conclusive evidence that, whatever else the Society may lack, it is not wanting in vitality. In the end wise and moderate counsels prevailed, with the result that the atmosphere has been cleared, and matters placed on a settled and stable footing for at least some years to come.

The conference of the Federated Catholic Men's Clubs had also to face some difference of opinion regarding the location of the Federated Executive—it is, to a greater or less degree, a chronic trouble with all federations—but the matter was apparently settled without difficulty. The amendment to make the location of the Federated Executive movable was lost, and the executive is permanently located in Wellington. The report presented at the conference showed that there are 22 affiliated clubs, while a number of others are about to be admitted to the Federation. Perhaps the most pressing need for our young men's societies is a definite and tangible objective. The figures submitted at the conference show that there is no lack of 'steam' or motive power—what is wanted is that members should be given some practical outlet for their activity. We are glad to see that this was recognised by the conference, and that it was decided to support such eminently practical measures as the movement for the establishment of conferences of the St. Vincent de Paul Society and the Catholic Seamen's Conferences, and to help to increase the membership of the H.A.C.B. Society. We might gently hint that most similar societies also make the support of the Catholic press an important plank in their platform, remembering that in the Catholic newspaper we have the most powerful and effective weapon for the defence of the Catholic faith and cause. The next annual conference is to be held at Christchurch; and in view of the central situation of the city, of the handsome new club rooms established by the local club, and of the well-known enthusiasm of the Christchurch people for the young men's organisation, it is safe to anticipate that the gathering will be a conspicuous success.

A notable and entirely satisfactory feature of the conferences was the evidence—shown by fraternal resolutions and otherwise—of a tendency towards a closer union between the two societies. Both organisations—and the Church at large—stand to benefit by such a union. So far we have not, in New Zealand, any one general organisation of the Catholic laity. But our grievances are still unredressed; and in view of certain proposals, from time to time put forward, which would have the effect of increasing the hardships and injustice inflicted on Catholic children and the Catholic body, the day may come when it will be necessary for Catholics to organise in defence of their most important rights and their most vital interests. If such organised action should be called for, it is satisfactory to know that we have, in the two societies represented at the conferences which have just closed, the nucleus of an organisation which would be at once representative and effective, and which could be brought into being without difficulty and without delay.

## Notes

### On the Rank

In a recent issue *Punch* represents the driver of the Growler, saying: 'Yuss, you meets some queer cards. A nole lidy 'ires me by the hour last Sunday. You know 'ow we likes that, an' I does the usual funeral crawl, o' course. "Do 'urry up a bit," she says at last. "Cawn't," I says; "my 'orse don't funk it decent to be fast on Sundays." "All right," says the old geyser in a pet, "I don't mind. It'll only 'urt you. The hour'll take you all the longer!" Laugh—I thought I should ha' bust!"

### Unionists and Home Rule

*Apropos* of the Tory utterances, quoted elsewhere in this issue, on the Home Rule question, the following further expression of opinion—from an English Liberal paper—is interesting. 'There is no reason at all,' says the *Nation*, 'why Mr. Chamberlain should not embrace Home Rule. "I am in favor," he wrote in 1886, in a letter signed by his own hand which lies before us, "of the widest measure of Home Rule that can be granted consistent with the continued integrity of the Empire." As for English Liberals, all we can say is,' adds the *Nation*, 'that, while not one member of the party would consent to betray Free Trade, a Tory Home Rule Bill would be welcomed as warmly to-day as it would have been by Gladstone himself twenty-five years ago.'

### Husbands, Wives, and Holidays

The Anglican Bishop of London has been offering some advice to husbands and wives. He tells them that in order to be truly happy they should be separated at regular intervals. The happiness he foresees is to be the result of a sense of contrast following upon the separation, and of a reinvigoration by a change from routine.

The Bishop's testimony is confirmed by that of Mrs. Price Hughes, widow of the late Rev. Hugh Price Hughes, a very well-known Methodist minister. 'Experience of life,' says this lady in the *Daily Chronicle*, 'has taught me that it would often be a very good thing if husbands and wives could take their holidays separately. It is possible, even for people who are devoted to each other, to see too much of one another. We are all human, and a need for change is a human need. In a short separation for a holiday things can be seen in their true perspective.' This may be all true and sensible, but one can hardly resist the conclusion that it is not very flattering to the other partner in the firm.

### The Cause of the Paris Floods

We have already given some account of the extent of the Paris floods and of interesting incidents connected with the inundation. The following simple explanation of the cause of the disaster is supplied by the London *Daily Telegraph*.

France, as a whole, shelves away to the seas from the central mountain masses of the Continent. Over the Alps, and upon that Burgundian plateau throwing off rivers in all directions—which, as M. Hanotaux once said in a fascinating study, has been the geographical and therefore the historical heart of France—severe weather raged throughout last week. There were tempests of rain and great snowfalls. Huge avalanches cracked and thundered in their manner down the mountain sides, sending up clouds of light spindrift like the spray of cataracts.

Down below, the snowstorms piled up the flakes a couple of yards thick and more in the valley levels. Then this enormous discharge upon the central masses was soon hurrying down in flood by every outlet upon the country outside the Alpine fastnesses. At first Paris suspected no danger. The scenes elsewhere were desperate, but they seemed likely to affect only the region of France draining south. At Besançon the Doubs rose 20ft in its channel, and threatened to sweep away from its shores all the dwellings of men. At Lyons there was a mighty press of waters, and scenes of suffering and hardship, with considerable loss of life, had already excited the greatest sympathy in Paris, when, to the consternation of its people, the Seine showed unmistakable signs of raging in its turn.

By the end of last week there was every cause for excitement and apprehension, and, long after the deluge in the south had begun to subside the Seine, made wide and wild by the volumes of flood water sweeping down all its tributaries towards the main channel, was threatening a tremendous calamity. . . . The Seine was up at last to three times its usual height, and its roaring, surging breadth presented such a spectacle as no one who knows Paris had ever seen or imagined.'

### DIOCESE OF DUNEDIN

The parish schools and St. Dominick's College reopened after the Easter holidays on Monday.

There was Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at St. Joseph's Cathedral on Sunday from the last Mass until Vespers. In the evening there was the usual procession, followed by Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

The Hibernian Society intend to hold a euchre party and musical evening on Friday night in St. Joseph's Hall, the proceeds to be devoted to assisting a brother who has been seriously ill for some months, and who has a wife and several young children dependent on him. It is to be hoped that this very charitable and deserving object will be generously supported.

A section of St. Patrick's Young Men's Club, South Dunedin, journeyed to Lawrence and Milton during the Easter holidays for the purpose of giving a variety entertainment, which was given by them a few weeks ago in the South Dunedin Town Hall, in aid of the parish school renovation fund. The members were favored with large attendances in both towns, and the performances were received with much favor on both occasions. The company had a most enjoyable holiday.

The cricket season of 1909-10 is now finished, and once again the Christian Brothers' School is on top, their A team being champions for the present season. The record of the teams from the Brothers' School is as follows:—A

**J. TAIT, Monumental Sculptor**  
272 Cashel Street, Christchurch.

{ Just over Bridge } Manufacturers and Importers of Every Description of  
and opposite } Headstones, Cross Monuments, etc., in Granite, Marble,  
Drill Shed. } and other stones.